Dear UK Anthropology Alumni and Friends,

It’s been a long time since you’ve seen a newsletter from the department, and we are happy to revive this tradition. We have a lot to celebrate and we want to share all the good news. We plan to make the newsletter biannual, to capture more of the departmental details and activities that occur during the year. This inaugural issue can’t begin to cover the many changes since our last newsletter issue, so if you haven’t seen what’s going on with UK Anthropology in a while please look at our website and catch up with all the developments www.anthropology.as.uky.edu/. We had a visit from a very noteworthy alumna and colleague, Martha Rolingson, this fall. It was an absolute treat to celebrate her impressive career and show her and her family around Lafferty, the Museum and the campus (see page 11 for our alumni spotlight).

The faculty has grown enormously over the past decade, and we are thrilled with the new courses we teach, and the areas of research in which we now have expertise (see pages 3-5 to learn more about our faculty). We are especially excited about the ways we have been able to give students hands-on learning—through internships in the Webb Museum of Anthropology, through a variety of community engagement opportunities, through individual faculty research programs, and of course the immersive Archaeology summer field school.

One of the very exciting moments of the past year was when two of our department colleagues won the UK Provost’s Teaching awards. Shannon Plank, our newest faculty member, and Jasper Waugh-Quasebarth, one of our excellent Ph.D. students, both won this prestigious and competitive university honor (see pages 4 and 8 for the details). We were so glad to have the excellence of our colleagues recognized, both for them and for the department, which is made up of passionate, caring and creative teachers. A success for one is a success for all.

We have also had great success over the past decade, with many faculty winning prestigious research grants, fellowships and awards. Faculty travel to field sites almost every summer to conduct research (often taking students), and upon return they engage in the challenging and detailed activities of analysis and writing. Our faculty regularly win book awards and honors for the impacts of their research. In short, UK Anthropology faculty are energetic and excellent scholars AND teachers.

The department celebrated its 90th birthday last year and in honor of this milestone, the Museum launched an exhibit on the history of the department in time for the Spring 2017 Awards Ceremony. The exhibit is still up! If you are in the area, come by Lafferty to see the exhibit, and to say hello. With best wishes,

Dr. Lisa Cliggett, Department Chair
Reneé Bonzani was able to go to Jilin University in Changchun, China in May to teach “The Origins of Civilization on the New World” and continued to work on the analysis of botanical remains from numerous archaeological sites in the midwestern United States as well as on a site in Veracruz, Mexico.

Lisa Cliggett survived (and enjoyed the challenge of!) her first year as Chair of the Anthropology Department. In spring 2017, she won a new NSF grant for field work in Southern Zambia on “Roads, Resources, Livelihoods, and Politics: an exploration of the new ‘Bottom Road’ in Zambia’s Gwembe Valley.” She’ll be heading to Zambia for fieldwork in 2018, taking a few anthropology students with her.

Scott Hutson was promoted to full professor in the spring. Over the summer, he had a short but productive season of excavation in Mexico and then had the privilege of seeing Glacier National Park with family.

In April, the second edition of Hsain Ilahiane’s Historical Dictionary of the Berbers (Imazighen) was released; in July, Hsain published “Morocco’s Rif Revolt: Only a Democratic Response is Sufficient,” an article on the Berber Revolt in Northern Morocco, in Informed Consent.
Supported by a research grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Richard Jefferies returned to Sapelo Island, Georgia this summer to continue his investigation of Spanish Mission Period activity on the Georgia coast. This summer’s investigation included Tyler Stumpf’s ground penetrating radar survey of a large part of the project area. The goal of his work was to identify subsurface anomalies that may be associated with structures or other kinds of cultural features dating to the Mission Period occupation. Excavation efforts focused on several Mission Period shell middens to determine the time and duration of their use.

Sarah Lyon is conducting ongoing research on the gendered dynamics of certified coffee value chains in Southern Mexico and the United States. At UK, she continues to develop the College of Arts and Sciences Careers Beyond the Professoriate program, which provides resources and support to humanities and social science Ph.D. students at the University of Kentucky who are interested in exploring diverse career paths.

Congratulations to Kristin Monroe, who received tenure this spring. Kristin has been conducting follow-up research on ecotourism in Lebanon for PoLAR (Political and Legal Anthropology) Virtual Edition that will provide updates on past articles about the environment. Over the summer, she headed off to Georgetown University, Qatar, to begin a year as a research scholar exploring the impact of new genetic and reproductive technologies on the Islamic conceptualization of the nuclear family.

Together with her East Africa research colleagues, Monica Udvardy continues to work with and to coordinate efforts to encourage Kenya to lift the tariff it has levied on the return of vigango, the Mikijenda memorial statues that are the lead in her research on the illegal traffic in African art/artifacts, and which continue to be stolen almost as soon as they are erected in order to be sold abroad.

Mark Whitaker received an NSF and a Wenner-Gren grant to run a workshop on innovative religiosity in Sri Lanka. More about this in our Spring newsletter!

Shannon Plank Wins Provost’s Teaching Award

The end of the spring semester brought recognition to Dr. Shannon Plank as she received a 2017 Outstanding Teaching Faculty Award. Plank was one of only six winners of this competitive, university-wide award. In nominating Dr. Plank, department chair Lisa Cliggett said, “she is simply a profoundly talented instructor,” who plays a vital role in the life of her students and colleagues.

Dr. Shannon Plank (left) celebrates her Outstanding Teaching Faculty Award with her mother. Photo Lisa Cliggett
Archeology Publication Chronicles Chris Pool’s Work in Tres Zapotes

This summer, Dr. Chris Pool returned to the Olmec site of Tres Zapotes, Mexico, to continue his study of this ancient city and its citizens. “We now believe that the citizens of Tres Zapotes may have shared the power, not among each individual in that society, as in a democracy, but at least among several different factions in the city,” Pool said, in a recent interview with UKNow. He continued: “It appears that Tres Zapotes may have survived centuries after other Olmec capitals collapsed because its cooperative government allowed it to adjust to changing times, to survive.” Pool’s extensive study of this culture is featured in a recent issue of Archaeology, a publication of the Archaeological Institute of America.

Emeritus & Alumni News

Crooks Receives 2017 Franz Boas Distinguished Achievement Award

Emerita associate professor of Anthropology Dr. Deborah Crooks has been recognized by the Human Biology Association for her research. Crooks received the highly prestigious Franz Boas Distinguished Achievement Award for 2017 for her outstanding contribution to human biology in science, her professional service, and her scholarship. Crooks, a greatly valued member of the faculty, joined the Department of Anthropology in 1993. She taught for 22 years until her retirement in 2015.

Arcury and Quandt Named Defenders of Justice

UK Anthropology alumnus Dr. Tom Arcury and former faculty member Dr. Sara Quandt were named as the 2017 Defenders of Justice in Political Research and Advocacy by the North Carolina Justice Center. Both now work as faculty at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, where their research emphasizes farm worker health issues.
In late March, the Department of Anthropology hosted Dr. Annapurna Pandey, Dr. Triloki Pandey, Dr. Chinmayee Satpathy, and Black Bear Stephen LaBoueff as part of the College of Arts & Science’s Year of South Asia program. Prior to their panel on the topic of “‘Indians’ and Indigeneity,” our guests joined faculty and students for the opening of a new museum exhibit, “Odisha: An Unbroken History,” featuring artifacts kindly loaned by Dr. Triloki Pandey and Dr. Annapurna Pandey. During their visit to UK, Dr. Pandey and Dr. Pandey hosted a public screening and discussion of The Road to Zuni, a documentary about Dr. Triloki Pandey’s 50-year career. The Odisha exhibit, curated by Dr. George Crothers, can be seen in the Atrium of Lafferty Hall.

Department Celebrates Students and Faculty

The end of the semester saw the traditional departmental Honors and Awards ceremony, celebrating the achievements of both faculty and students. This year’s guest speaker was Dr. Daniel R. Reedy, Professor Emeritus of Spanish and Dean Emeritus of the Graduate School, who spoke on the theme “Reflections on the Past with an Eye to the Future.” Among the achievements celebrated were Dr. Shannon Plank and Jasper Waugh-Quasebarth’s Vice President for Research Outstanding Teaching Awards; Vanessa Hanvey’s Arts and Sciences Outstanding TA Award; and Pathmanesan Sanmugeswaran’s Margaret Lantis Award for Research. Professor Emerita Susan Abbott-Jamieson joined the celebration, recognizing this year’s winners of the Susan Abbott-Jamieson Awards. This year’s ceremony was particularly significant as 2017 marks the 90th anniversary of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Kentucky.
The Susan Abbott-Jamieson Awards provide support for graduate students in their investigation of field sites for dissertation research, exploring the potential for archival and archaeological collections, and engaging in summer language training. This highly competitive award was made possible by a generous gift from UK alumna Ashley Judd, and is named for Professor Emerita Abbott-Jamieson, who taught Judd in cultural anthropology courses. This year, five of our pre-dissertation graduate students received the award: Anahid Matossian, Dayton Starnes II, A. Lee Sutton, Mauri Systo, and Ashley Whitten.

HENRY BUNDY received a Dissertation Enhancement Award

ANNA MARIE CASSERLY was inducted into Lambda Alpha

CHELSEA CUTRIGHT received a Graduate Student Service Award and a Critical Language Scholarship

TAMMY CLEMONS received the UK Women’s Club Fellowship and the Berea College Olive Ruth Russell Fellowship

GAVIN DAVIES received an O’Dear Award and a 2016 Legacy Fund Career Development Award

M. RUTH DIKE received a SAG Academic Excellence Scholarship

MICHAEL FLYNN received an O’Dear Awards and a LACLS Summer Research Grant

VANESSA HANVEY received the A&S Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, the William Y. Adams Award for Teaching, and was inducted into Lambda Alpha

DANIEL JOSEPH received an NSF DDRIG Award, a Dissertation Enhancement Award, and an International Student Scholarship

BARRY KIDDER received an NSF DDRIG Award and a 2016 Lambda Alpha Research Grant

CHHIAYA KOLAVALLI received an NSF DDRIG Award

CÉLINE LAMB received a 2016 Legacy Fund Career Development Award

GOEUN LEE received a UK Confucius Institute Graduate Research Travel Grant

SHAYNA LINDQUIST received an O’Dear Award

VERONICA MIRANDA received a Graduate Student Service Award

BRIANA MOORE received the Donald L. & Marie E. Hochstrasse Scholarship

AKLILU HABTU REDA received a Food Connection Summer Opportunity Grant

PATHMANESAN SANMUGESWARAN received the Margaret Lantis Award for Research and a 2016 Lambda Alpha Research Grant

DANIEL VALLEJO-CÁLIZ received a LACLS Summer Research Grant

ASHLEY WHITTEN received an O’Dear Award

ANTHROPOLOGY

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION 2017

President: A. Lee Sutton
Vice President: Mauri Systo
Secretary: Anahid Matossian
Treasurer: Alex Brown
DLC Chair: Anna Casserly
GSC Representative: Aklilu Habtu Reda
Mary Beth Schmid Wins Eric R. Wolf Prize


Schmid’s theoretical attention to conceptualizations of time and kinship in relation to binational agricultural enterprises is a contribution recognized nationally through this competitive paper prize. Schmid is studying binational Latin@ family agricultural enterprises in Mexico and the southeastern U.S. (by Gail Hairston for UKNow).

This year, Jasper Waugh-Quasebarth was a recipient of the 2017 Provost’s Outstanding Teaching Award, a highly competitive campus-wide recognition of exceptional teaching by a Graduate Teaching Assistant. Jasper also won a grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for his continuing research, “Musical Instrument Makers, Appalachian Forests, and the Reenchantment of Livelihood and Material in West Virginia.” Last year, Jasper was the recipient of a Lambda Alpha National Honor Society Graduate Research Grant. Jasper spent the summer conducting ethnographic research as an apprentice tonewood cutter and archival research concerned with the intersections of craft production and forest history in West Virginia.

Ph.D.s awarded in Spring 2017

Britteny Howell
“Healthy Aging in the North: Sociocultural Influences on Diet and Physical Activity among Older Adults in Anchorage, Alaska”

Megan Maurer
“To Nurture Something that Nurtures You: Care, Creativity, Class, and the Production of Urban Environments in Deindustrial Michigan

Tony Milanzi
“Living on the Edge: Smallholder Grower Responses to a Changing Tobacco Economy”

Veronica Miranda
“Reproducing Childbirth: Negotiated Maternal Health Practices in Rural Yucatan”

Julie Shepherd-Powell
“Beyond the Coal Divide: The Cultural Politics of Natural Resource Extraction in Central Appalachia”
Bachelor’s Degrees awarded in Spring 2017

Kathryn Elizabeth Anderson  
Michael James Anderson  
Kelsey Ann Ard  
Maryann Kristen Bandy  
Harleigh Beth Barnett  
Brittany Renee Bernhagen  
Abigail Taylor Boone  
Essence Carter  
Ava Zhilie Corwin  
Haley Alexis Donohoe  
Kelsey Andrea DuLaney  
Alex Roy Duncan  
Kayla Marie Edwards  

Alyza T. Finley  
Taylor Anderson Greene  
Emily Grace Halmi  
Daniel Howard Hedges  
Holly M. Holland  
Nicole Lee Horsem  
Zachary Joseph Kenton Jones  
Katilyn A. Kinser  
Jocelyn Lanham  
William Reilly Mulholland  
Morgan Elizabeth Nation  
Ahmad Miran Nawaz  
Caitlin Rose Rauch  

Aaliyah Shivers  
Hope Alexa Speedy  
Richard Mckenzie Spradlin  
Michael Braden Steenken  
Erin C. Suidikas  
Jeremy G. Wakefield  
Phoebe Carter Wallace-Smith  
Kelsey Jordan West  
Kyle J. Wilkerson  
Ethan Lane Williams

Undergraduates Recognized for Exemplary Scholarship and Service

Five of our undergraduate students were recognized for their exemplary scholarship and service at this year’s Honors and Awards Ceremony. Samantha Carlson, Craig Davis, Alex Duncan, Zachary Jones, and Elise McConnell all received the Distinguished Undergraduate in Anthropology Award after having been nominated by faculty. This award includes a cash prize and a student membership to the American Anthropological Association. Dr. Richard Jefferies, Director of Undergraduate Studies, remarked, “these award winners reflect the high quality of our Anthropology majors and the success that hard work and dedication can achieve.”

These awards were made possible through the generosity of donors to the department.

Kaitlin Henning Earns World Affairs Council Scholarship

Kaitlin (Katie) Henning earned a 2017 David Hershberg Scholarship from the World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana toward her summer Spanish-immersion research experience in Oaxaca, Mexico, focused on social and environmental justice. Katie is a double major in Anthropology and International Studies with a focus on Latin America.
Ashley Judd Returns to Campus

In early December, UK welcomed back alumna Ashley Judd. Judd made time to meet with emerita professor Dr. Susan Abbott-Jamieson and current anthropology graduate student Chelsea Cutright. During her time at UK Judd was an anthropology student, subsequently creating the Susan Abbott-Jamieson Dissertation Research Fund in Anthropology in order to provide financial support for graduate students in the early stages of their dissertation research. Chelsea was one of the five 2016 recipients of the Susan Abbott-Jamieson Dissertation Research Fund in Anthropology, using the funds to carry out preliminary fieldwork in Tanzania for her dissertation on youth and women’s organizations.

Race from the Perspective of Biological Anthropology

Dr. Heather Worne

As part of the “Keys to our Common Future” series of events, Dr. Heather Worne will give a public lecture on the topic of “Race from the Perspective of Biological Anthropology.” Dr. Worne’s lecture will take place in Whitehall Classroom Building 106 and will be followed by a reception in Lafferty Hall.

2018 Distinguished Lecture Series:
The Creative Species: Imagination and Collaboration in Human Evolution

Dr. Agustín Fuentes

Dr. Fuentes is Professor and Chair of the University of Notre Dame Department of Anthropology. His recent research on the role of imagination and cooperation in human evolution, as well as his work to educate the public about popular misconceptions of biology and “race” will undoubtedly stimulate interest and attendance beyond the Department of Anthropology. In addition to the keynote event the Distinguished Lecture Series committee will host a reception and a brown-bag event for anthropology students.

In the spring semester, we are hoping to host Syrian architect and artist Mohamad Hafez. Hafez, whose work has been featured in the New York Times, the New Yorker, Medium, and the Global Citizen, proposes to talk on the topic of Art as a Means of Advocacy.

We’ll share more details as soon as we have them. In the meantime, more information about his work can be found on his website: www.mohamadhafez.com
Alumni Spotlight: Martha Rolingson

Exemplar of Long-Term Archaeological Research

by Julie Wrinn

In 1968 Martha Rolingson (Ph.D. ’67, M.A. ’60) arrived at the Arkansas Archeological Survey where a site known as Toltec Mounds would become her life’s work. At 100 acres, Toltec Mounds is one of the largest archaeological sites in the lower Mississippi River Valley, and a brief excavation there in 1966 recovered enough pottery and stone tools for it to be included on the National Register of Historic Places.

Toltec Mound is actually a misnomer: in the 1800s the mounds were attributed to the Toltecs and Aztecs of Mexico, and not until 1883 did the Smithsonian Institution find evidence that the mounds were built by ancestors of local Indians. According to an entry authored by Rolingson in www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net, Toltec Mounds was occupied by native Americans in 650–1050 A.D., and during this period, 18 mounds were built around two rectangular open spaces. Today one mound is 49 feet high, another is 39 feet, and another is 13 feet; their original heights are unknown. Some were used as platforms for ceremonies, others as residences for religious leaders, and one has been identified as a burial mound. Several mounds were positioned to line up with the sun on the horizon at sunrise and sunset on the equinoxes and solstices. Inhabitants were farmers of maygrass, little barley, amaranth, and cenopodium; hunters of white-tailed deer and turkey; fisherman; and gatherers of nuts and wild plants. Their way of life cannot be identified with any of the tribes who lived there by the 1700s, however, and so they are referred to as “Plum Bayou Culture.”

Rolingson directed research at Toltec Mounds until 2005, working with several state and federal funding agencies. She was a resource person for public programs, exhibits, and park development at Toltec Mounds State Park and has published extensively on Arkansas archeology. She taught undergraduate and graduate classes at three universities with research interests in archeology and prehistory of the Midsouth region and Lower Mississippi Valley, particularly farming cultures, community planning, and material culture.

One of her students was George Crothers, associate professor of Anthropology at the University of Kentucky and director of its William S. Webb Museum of Anthropology. “Martha Rolingson gave me my first job in archaeology at Toltec Mounds in the hot and humid Arkansas summer of 1980,” recalls Crothers fondly. “That summer I learned field methodology from one of the finest research archaeologists working in the Southeastern U.S.” Her final report, Toltec Mounds: Archeology of the Mound- and-Plaza Complex (2012), analyzed 30 years of research.

Martha Ann Rolingson was born in Wichita, Kansas, and graduated from high school in Denver. She became interested in archeology on family vacations in the southwestern states and earned a B.A. in anthropology and education from the University of Denver. After one year of teaching middle school, she was accepted into the graduate program at the UK, earning her M.A. in 1960 and working as a curator at UK’s Webb Museum. She continued at UK as Research Associate in 1960–1963, conducting research supported by a NSF grant. She published “Late Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic Manifestations in Western Kentucky” in 1966, co-authored with Dr. D. W. Schwartz, then director of the museum. Rolingson completed her dissertation on hunter-gatherer cultures of the Middle Green River Region, Kentucky (Ph.D., 1967) and, while at UK, carried out several archeological projects as well as serving as acting director of the Webb Museum.

Rolingson retired in 2005 and moved near Houston to be close to her family. She has remained active as president of the Alvin Library League and enjoys Native American basketry, genealogy, travel, needlepoint, and reading. She was inducted into the UK College of Arts & Sciences Hall of Fame in 2017, a well-deserved honor according to Prof. Crothers. “Nearly 40 years later in the profession, I still consider the Toltec Mounds archaeology program to be an exemplary model on how to conduct long-term research,” he remarked. “The profession would do well to emulate Dr. Rolingson’s approach to scientific archaeology and public education.”

Pictured above: Martha Rolingson in the Webb Museum in Lafferty Hall, 1967. Photo: Martha Rolingson
Support the Anthropology Development Fund

The Department of Anthropology offers students opportunities to learn about the diverse people of today’s world, as well as about their biological and cultural origins. With a strong reputation for research speaking to core debates in academic, policy, and private spheres, the department trains students to become professional anthropologists who can engage in both academic and nonacademic settings, with strong foundations in theoretical and substantive areas.

Your gift to the Anthropology Development Fund will provide critical resources to respond to student needs, attract world-class faculty, and provide innovative opportunities to enable our students to compete in the global marketplace.

You can support the Anthropology Development Fund at www.as.uky.edu/givetoas. If you would like to give to another fund that is not listed, please use the search box in the upper right of the page and type in the desired fund to make your gift.

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For questions, please contact Laura Sutton (lsutton@uky.edu) or (859) 257-3551

We are grateful for your support!