



# ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT

## Alumni News



*Bringing Maine to the World and the World to Maine*

[umaine.edu/anthropology/](http://umaine.edu/anthropology/) • Orono, Maine • Special Alumni Issue 1

From the chair...

### ***What can you do with a degree in Anthropology?***

The domain of Anthropology is one of the broadest and most diverse of the social sciences. It is the study of human cultures, societies, and behavior in all parts of the world and throughout time. Indeed, we study the entire spectrum of human existence, from approximately 8 million years ago to the present. Anthropology provides a well-rounded education that enhances wide career choices and provides students with the ability to critically evaluate theories, options, and actions that affect humankind. A background in Anthropology is useful in any career in which an understanding of people or the societies in which they live is important.

In recent years, our majors have pursued careers in anthropology, archaeology, public health, law, social work, business, theology, library science, writing, museum work, nursing, computer programming, clinical psychology, education, economic development, and tribal historic and

cultural preservation. We reached out to them to learn more about the career paths they have taken beyond UMaine, asking three basic questions: *What degree(s) did you earn at UMaine? What career path did you take following graduation? and What value or role does anthropology play in your life, either in your chosen profession or general outlook?*



In this special alumni issue of our department newsletter, we are pleased to present a few of their stories. Go Blue!

—Gregory Zaro,

Associate Professor and  
Chair of Anthropology

*Anthropology Department, South Stevens Hall*





## Elizabeth Havener

Class of 2007

*B.A. in Anthropology*

After graduation, I worked at a local hospice. Two years later, I began graduate school at the Boston University School of Public Health, where I earned my Master of Public Health in 2011 with

a concentration in Health Policy and Management. I now work for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, where I happily spend my days designing and executing studies to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of federal health programs.

Although I initially wanted to begin graduate school immediately after finishing my undergraduate degree, my college adviser wisely recommended that I work for a few years first to gain experience and better understand what I wanted for a career path before enrolling in a graduate program. That is probably the most valuable advice I could have received. Everything I experienced on the job helped me to learn more about myself, what types of opportunities were available to me, and, ultimately, the career path I feel most passionate about.

My absolute fondest memories of UMaine are the days I spent studying animal bones in Dr. Sobolik's lab with my *Physical Anthropology* classmates. I was perfectly happy to spend weekends there cataloging (non-human!) bones from Dr. Sorg's office. Still shocking to me as a reformed math-hater is that Dr. Roscoe's course *Numerical Methods in Anthropology* is one of my all-time favorite courses, and actually the most relevant to the work I do today. And, even though it makes me seem old, I'm proud to report that I was enrolled in a young Professor Zaro's inaugural course on *Mesoamerican Prehistory* – just another of many highlights of my time in the Anthropology Department.



*Havener visiting Alcove House, Cliff Dwellings Trail, in Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico.*



## Alissa Lalime

Class of 2011

*B.A. in Anthropology with a double major in International Affairs*

After graduation, I initially volunteered at the Heifer International learning center at

Overlook Farm in Massachusetts. I provided experiential education programming focused on hunger and poverty, sustainable development, and cultural understanding. A few years later, I now work as a resettlement case manager at Refugee and Immigration Services (RIS) through Catholic Charities Maine. RIS is the final step of the international refugee resettlement program with the ultimate goal of client self-sufficiency. I will be leaving my post soon, however, to pursue a master's degree in Conflict Resolution at Georgetown University.

My education in anthropology has been invaluable to my ability to serve my clients in a culturally sensitive manner. The most valuable perspectives that I gained at UMaine are to always seek multiple sources of information, to respect another person's worldview, and to accept that I can never know a person better than they know themselves.

*Lalime working on a bicycle project that she conducted with her clients.*





# Alumni News - Anthropology

## Louis Fortin

Class of 2006

*B.A. in Anthropology*



After graduating from UMaine with a degree in Anthropology, I immediately entered the master's program in Quaternary and Climate Studies in UMaine's Climate Change Institute with a focus on geoarchaeology in southern Peru. Upon completion of my M.S. degree in 2008, I moved across the country to begin the Ph.D. program at Washington State University, where I did research on stone tool retouch and small-scale network analysis of the Wari culture in southern Peru. While at Washington State University, I worked in the Geoarchaeology laboratory analyzing sediment, was a teaching assistant for a stint, taught their *Great Discoveries in Archaeology* class for a couple of years, and got married. Near the completion of my research, I worked part-time in the field of cultural resource management (CRM). Since completing my degree in 2015, I have been working full-time with the same CRM firm as a project archaeologist. The majority of my work involves cultural impact assessment of a variety of construction projects. My job gives me the opportunity to travel a bit, hike across beautiful landscapes, and generally evaluate the extent and integrity of archaeological sites in advance of a variety of construction projects. During my free time, I have been putting together material for publication.



*On the job in eastern Washington.*

it was because of their passion and encouragement that I continued within academia. Even now while holding a CRM position, the skills that I learned from hands-on fieldwork, environmental archaeology, and geology come into practice on a daily occasion.

If there is anything I can say regarding one's outlook on life, it's what has been said a hundred times before: Find whatever is your passion, or sub-field, or niche that makes you happy and go for it. While I know that I may not stay in my current town at my current job, I know I am happy and that is what matters.

My UMaine experience is one that I have always looked back on fondly. The Anthropology Department was always extremely supportive and helpful, and

## Anthropology Faculty

### Social/Cultural Anthropology

- James Acheson (Research Professor)
- Christine Beitzl (Assistant Professor)
- Cindy Isenhour (Assistant Professor)
  - Henry Munson (Professor)
- Lisa Neuman (Associate Professor)
- Darren Ranco (Associate Professor)
  - Paul "Jim" Roscoe (Professor)

### Archaeology

- Brian Robinson (Associate Professor)
  - Daniel Sandweiss (Professor)
- David Sanger (Emeritus Professor)
- Gregory Zaro (Associate Professor)

### Geography

- Samuel Hanes (Assistant Professor)
  - Stephen Hornsby (Professor)

### Biological Anthropology

- Marcella Sorg (Research Assoc. Professor)

## Cooperating Faculty

- Teresa Johnson (Marine Sciences)
- Alice Kelley (Earth Sciences/CCI)
  - Timothy Waring (Economics)

## Faculty Associates

- Ann W. Acheson (Anthropology)
- Marcia-Anne Dobres (Anthropology)
- Pauleena MacDougall (Folklife Center)
  - Karen Miller (Folklife Center)
- Kurt Rademaker (Anthropology)
- Kristin Sobolik (Wright State University)



## Joshua Desrosier

**Class of 2013**

*B.A. in History with a double major in Anthropology*

After obtaining my degree in 2013, I went on to earn a master's degree in Later European Prehistory (focused on technology, subsistence, and social interaction from the Mesolithic to the end of the Bronze Age) at Newcastle University, graduating with

distinction. I conducted my thesis work on the functionality of Bronze Axes, testing if the change in shape and hafting style was related to an increase in efficiency (from Early Bronze Age flat axes, Middle palstave axes, and Late socketed axes). This was accomplished through a rigorous experimental field test and use-wear analysis. Soon after, I received a job offer to work at the University of Tubingen in Germany, sorting and categorizing finds from the Vogelherd cave site, which contains the oldest known figurative artworks



*Desrosier testing the functionality of axes.*

(carved mammoth ivory figurines). I recently returned to the U.S. to pursue a position in archaeological fieldwork, laboratory analysis, or teaching. In the meantime, I'm helping to plan my wedding, which is rapidly approaching!

UMaine was one of my greatest experiences to date. I was offered a wide range of interesting topics taught by welcoming, open-minded and challenging lecturers. I discovered my enthusiasm for archaeology after taking Anthropology 101, *Human Origins and Prehistory*, realizing that I wanted to pursue a career in archaeology. Anthropology, and the way it is taught at UMaine, has allowed me to excel in my studies and workplace, and it has helped me understand why we, as humans, are the way we are. It is a fascinating topic, and I cannot express how grateful I am to the lecturers at UMaine for introducing it to me!



## Kalie Hess

**Class of 2012**

*B.A. in Anthropology French and Spanish minors*

Following graduation, I completed a summer position with AmeriCorps working to provide occupational

safety information to migrant farmworkers in Maine, mostly among those working in the broccoli harvest in Aroostook County. After the summer, I started the graduate program in Public Health at the University at Albany School of Public Health, where I focused on Social Behavior and Community Health. I graduated with a Master of Public Health in December of 2013 and began coordinating substance abuse prevention efforts. I now

work as a lead project officer for the Healthy Maine Partnership initiative at the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, supporting the public health infrastructure in Maine.



*Hess at Chaco Culture National Historical Park, New Mexico.*

I often tell people that an anthropology degree gives you a great frame of reference through which to apply to any job or further education you wish to pursue. Recognizing that everyone has different factors playing into their cultural conditioning has been illuminating in both my professional career and personal life. I loved my experience with the UMaine Anthropology Department and would highly recommend others to consider pursuing anthropology in their life, in whatever way they can!



## Featured Alum

### Heather McInnis

Class of 1995

*B.A. in Anthropology*

I obtained my B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Maine (1995), a M.S. in Quaternary Studies from the Quaternary Institute (now the Climate Change Institute) at the University of Maine (1999), and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Oregon (2006). While pursuing my M.S. degree at the Quaternary Institute, I traveled to southern coastal Peru as part of an interdisciplinary research team (led by Dr. Daniel Sandweiss) charged with excavating the remnants of an early fishing encampment dating to the end of the last Ice Age (ca. 13,000-11,000 years BP). My analysis of zooarchaeological remains recovered from the Quebrada Jaguay site helped identify the earliest evidence for maritime adaptations in coastal South America: the results were published in *Science* (*Science* 281:1830-1832). My doctoral research expanded upon the Jaguay record to assess the relationship between land and resource use strategies, regional climatic fluctuations, and local environmental conditions at the Pampa Colorada, a coastal desert plain located adjacent to the Jaguay site that was occupied periodically over the last 10,000 years.

After completing my doctorate, I took a position as Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at DePaul University in Chicago where I taught undergraduate and post-graduate courses in environmental anthropology and archaeology, and served as Faculty Adviser and Sponsor to several student organizations and honorary societies. Teaching undergraduates to



apply the scientific method to anthropological questions highlighted the value of integrating the problem-oriented, collaborative research paradigm I learned from my early interdisciplinary training at the Quaternary Institute with teaching methodologies.



*McInnis in Peru*

In 2011, I left academia to take a project management position with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Research Competitiveness Program, a fee-for-service branch of the AAAS dedicated to increasing the research capacity of clients engaged in scientific research, development, and innovation in the US and around the world. Much of my work involves

designing and leading peer review assessments of institutional and programmatic activities, scientific and technical advances, and public policy concerns to inform and foster strategic planning, portfolio development, interdisciplinary collaboration, and community discussion. My clients are engaged in research initiatives focused on such diverse topics as food science, biomedical science, ecosystems services, marine science, renewable energy, water resources management, high energy physics, and public policy. I credit my ability to analyze wide-ranging scientific topics and provide programmatic assessment and guidance to my Quaternary Institute training, and my comfort engaging with and leading diverse stakeholders to the support and exemplary professionalism and mentorship of the UMaine Anthropology and Quaternary Institute faculty.



*Field work in Peru.*

## Thomas Fenn

**Class of 1992**

*B.A. in Anthropology  
 (Archaeology subfield)  
 Geology minor*

I had the good fortune of working in archaeology for a number of years before and during my undergraduate degree program at the University of Maine, and I continued to do so after graduation. While at UMaine, I worked in the field with Drs. Alaric Faulkner and David Sanger, and even conducted glacial geology research in Antarctica within a program overseen by Dr. George Denton. After graduating from UMaine, I spent four months doing archaeology in the Eastern Mediterranean before returning to the U.S. and ultimately settling in New Orleans. There I worked in cultural resource management (CRM) archaeology all over the Southeastern United States and Caribbean, while also continuing my education with a Master of Science degree in Geology (minor in Anthropology/Archaeology). I went on to earn a Ph.D. in Anthropology (Archaeology subfield) with a minor in Geology at the University of Arizona, Tucson, during which time



I had opportunities to conduct archaeology in the Southwestern United States, northern Mexico, Greece, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger.

A common thread throughout much of my education and career has been the integration of archaeology and science, and now much of my research focuses on the study of ancient pyrotechnologies, such as ceramics, metals and glass. This research examines the invention, innovation, development, and spread of ancient technologies and technological knowledge, as well as the movement of raw materials and finished goods. The overarching goal is to better understand the anthropology of ancient technology. Today, I am director of a research institute at Yale University, the Center for the Study of Ancient Pyro-Technology, dedicated to these very goals.



*Cleaning starting block in ancient stadium in Greece*

My time at the University of Maine was the launching point for my intellectual and career development. I gained so much experience in the classroom, laboratory, and field, and the faculty were so welcoming and supportive. The debates and dialogues with faculty and my fellow students were dynamic and stimulating. As a university faculty member in a Department of Anthropology, the value of my UMaine degree in Anthropology cannot be overstated. However, had I chosen a different career path, I feel the degree and experiences at UMaine prepared me for any number of possibilities. So for all of that I say “Fill the steins to dear old Maine, and Shout ‘til the rafters ring!”



*Conducting pXRF analysis of beads in his laboratory.*



# Alumni News - Anthropology



## Ariel Bothen

**Class of 2014**

*B.A. in Anthropology  
B.A. in International Affairs/  
Political Science  
Minors in Spanish and History  
Honors College*

**A**fter graduation, I moved to Washington, D.C. to intern for

Senator Angus King, Jr. I spent most of my time helping the Legislative Assistants for energy, the environment, and education. It was an excellent experience and gave me the foot in the door I needed to find work in Washington. I left my internship in February of 2015 to accept a position as a recruiter in USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives, which works in countries experiencing a political transition to develop activities that promote democratic principles and civic engagement.

My time at UMaine studying anthropology has given me a solid foundation for thinking about development/assistance projects in other countries. While I am not engaged in project design currently, I hope to be someday and my anthropology background has heavily influenced the way I look at it. Among other things, it has helped me understand the need for not only local buy-in, but also local leadership throughout the entire activity lifecycle.

*Bothen enjoying a conversation with a monk in Lhasa, Tibet.*



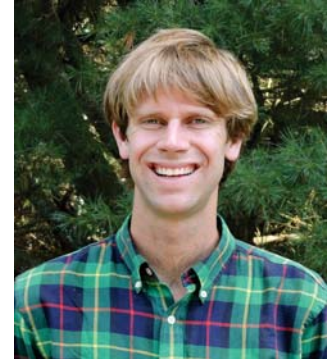
## Adam Goode

**Class of 2005**

*B.A. in Anthropology with a  
double major in Philosophy*

**I**mmediately after graduation, I directed a door-to-door field canvass opposing a plan to privatize social security, helping me understand the importance of

public policy in allowing seniors to retire with dignity and respect. I became a full time community organizer in the fall of 2005, and stayed in my hometown of Bangor, Maine. In 2008, I was elected to the Maine House of Representatives and have been re-elected 3 times. I continued working as a community organizer until 2011, when I enrolled in the Master of Social Work program at UMaine. I am currently serving my second term as the House Chair of the Taxation



*Goode speaking at a press event in 2014 for a bill he sponsored concerning U.S. corporations and offshore tax havens.*

Committee in the legislature, work as a clinical social worker, and coach the cross-country team at Bangor High School.

Majoring in Anthropology was very helpful in my personal and professional development. I was unsure of the best career path for myself, and the instructors and coursework helped me prioritize my interests, which I continue to develop today. The program helped me understand how to interact with different types of people, how to build power and movements, and to expand my view of how small groups and society can be organized. A willingness to learn new things and be around new people has been a consistent trend I can count on, and my experience at UMaine was a big part of cultivating that skill.

## Gabe Hrynick

Class of 2009

*B.A. in Anthropology*

After graduating from the University of Maine in 2009, I completed a master's degree at the University of New Brunswick

in 2011 and completed my Ph.D. at the University of Connecticut in 2015. In the following August, I began as a lecturer in anthropology at Bates College.



*Hrynick working in the field.*

While an undergraduate at UMaine, I became interested in aboriginal domestic architecture on the coast of Maritime Peninsula while enrolled in Dr. Brian Robinson's field school at Machias Bay and completing

my capstone project on quantifying the components of a dwelling feature. Maritime Woodland period architecture in the coastal Northeast continues to be my primary research project, but I also work on riverine transport and ritual and am involved in various coastal archaeology projects in the region. I've also worked in Cultural Resource Management (CRM) in the Maritimes, New England, and the mid-Atlantic.

UMaine provided me with numerous opportunities and a strong and broad foundation in general anthropology. I remain especially grateful to the faculty while I was there, who invariably were generous with their advice, encouragement, support, and knowledge.

## Morgan Brockington

Class of 2012

*B.A. in Anthropology  
 Pre-Medical Studies minor*

After graduating from the University of Maine, I moved to Atlanta, Georgia,

and worked as the Development Coordinator for the U.S. Diplomacy Center. Following my time in Georgia, I returned home to Maine and worked as the Development Assistant for Preble Street, a non-profit organization that empowers people experiencing homelessness, hunger, and poverty in Portland.

During the summer of 2013, I traveled to Guatemala to attend the NAPA-OT Field School, which teaches emerging leaders in applied medical anthropology and occupational therapy to promote social justice in their fields. While there, I studied Spanish and Public Health and conducted ethnographic research on the surgical referral process in rural Guatemala.

I currently work as the Outreach Health Educator for the Vital Village Network at Boston Medical Center (BMC), a non-profit committed to maximizing child, family, and community well-being in the three lowest income neighborhoods of Boston. I split my time between BMC and Codman Square Health Center in Dorchester, MA, where I am collaborating with a team of providers to create a trauma-informed curriculum for group well-child care for moms and babies. In the future, I hope to attend medical school and continue working with underserved and immigrant populations as a primary care physician.

My time at UMaine and my experience as an anthropology major instilled in me the importance of cross-cultural understanding and opened my eyes to the social and cultural determinants of health. Through my studies, I learned how to communicate with people of all backgrounds in a culturally sensitive way, and I aim to put those skills into practice in the medical field.



*Volunteering at a medical clinic in Sumpango, Guatemala*



## Heather Omand

Class of 2010

*B.A. in Anthropology and Psychology, Studio Art, and Art History minors*

After graduation, I immediately began working with the Penobscot Indian Nation as a field archaeologist under Bonnie Newsom, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer at the time. My job was to conduct Phase 0 archaeological survey on areas of their 150,000 acres across Maine that had been highlighted by aerial survey as having potential for archaeological significance. I traveled all over Maine on hundreds of miles of very remote logging roads to dig test pits, sometimes hiking or canoeing to reach these locations.

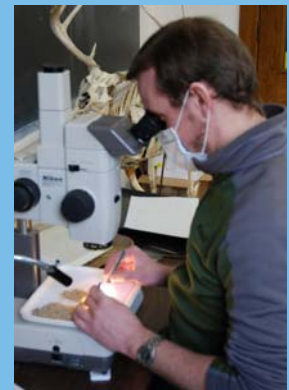
Once the project ended, I returned to UMaine to pursue an MBA with a concentration in Business and Sustainability, driven by my passion for sustainable agriculture. I graduated with that degree in May of 2014 and soon after found my current job working with Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association as their Organic Marketing and Business Coordinator. I work with certified organic farmers on business planning, marketing strategies, and other aspects of business management in Maine. My husband is a permaculture designer and together we are selling our permaculture homestead with the intent of starting a permaculture farm.

I have always held my experiences at UMaine in the highest esteem. I received the most amazing one-on-one attention from professors, and the quality of teaching was always fantastic. Of the various degrees I either earned or explored (Art Education, Psychology, Anthropology, and Business), my course work in anthropology had the most profound impact on my life. It radically altered the way I view the world and my thought patterns regarding the boundaries

*Omand and her husband at their greenhouse.*



between the self and the world at large. I learned, in my time in the Anthropology department, to only claim my own reality and to question my culture and assumptions persistently. That major philosophical change has impacted everything I have done since: from painting houses seasonally while in college, to advocacy for low-income access to healthy local food, to farming and interacting with farmers and other diverse populations across Maine, to business management, to my position as Co-Chair of the Bangor Area Food Council. While in business school, I found that I often held a very different perspective from my colleagues, but one that made significant contributions to discussion.

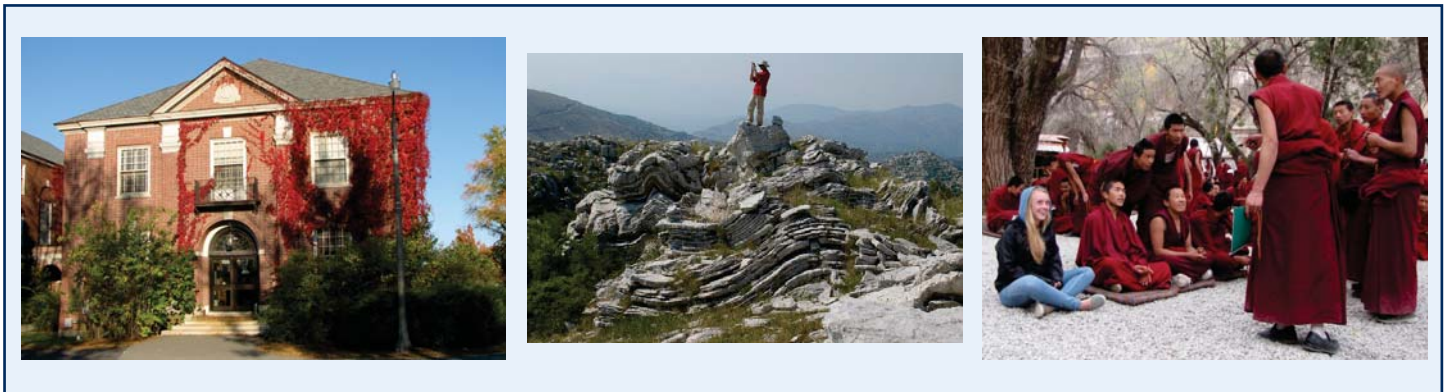




The Anthropology Department  
5773 South Stevens Hall  
Orono, Maine 04469-5773

[umaine.edu/anthropology/](http://umaine.edu/anthropology/)

*The University of Maine does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, including transgender status and gender expression, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in employment, education, and all other programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, 101 North Stevens Hall, 581.1226, [eoinfo@umit.maine.edu](mailto:eoinfo@umit.maine.edu).*



The Annual Fund is an opportunity for those closest to the University of Maine, our Alumni, Parents, Friends, and Faculty/Staff, to play an important role in the university's present and in its future. Last year, with Department of Anthropology gift funds, we helped students travel abroad to participate in research projects. This hands-on experience is invaluable. Our

main objective is to ensure there are funds available to allow us to respond quickly and appropriately to the areas of greatest need within the Department of Anthropology. Your donations, combined with those of others, make a significant and immediate impact on the quality of the "UMaine Experience" for our students.

We invite you to become an active part of this campaign by making your gift on behalf of the Department of Anthropology to the Annual Fund, either by visiting us online at [umaine.edu/give](http://umaine.edu/give), or by calling 207.581.1148 or toll-free at 866.578.2156. Remember, it isn't just about how much you give, but the fact that you give that makes a real difference. For more information about The Annual Fund, contact Christina Caron ([christina.b.caron@maine.edu](mailto:christina.b.caron@maine.edu)), Director of Annual Giving, at 207.581.1157.

Thank you for your consideration and support.