

ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS



Bringing Maine to the World and the World to Maine

Issue 4

Summer, 2011

Hello from the Chair!

This past year has seen a number of transitions in the department. The Board of Trustees officially approved our *PhD in Anthropology and Environmental Policy* in January and we excitedly anticipate admitting our first students soon, and our *B.S. in Climate Change and Culture* is at the final stages of approval. This fall we welcome **Catherine West** to our faculty, congratulate **Lisa Neuman** on earning tenure and promotion, and mark the sad passing of our colleague **Alaric Faulkner**. We also welcome incoming chair, **Paul “Jim” Roscoe**, who will guide the department in our numerous collaborative endeavors and in engaging our students in the analysis of all aspects of the human condition. It has been a privilege to work with such wonderful colleagues over the past five years, and I will reflect often on the department’s strong collegiality and productivity as I move to being full time Associate Dean for Research and External Affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences here at UMaine. Anthropology will continue to have a very positive impact on students and a bright future.

Hasta la vista!

Kristin Sobolik

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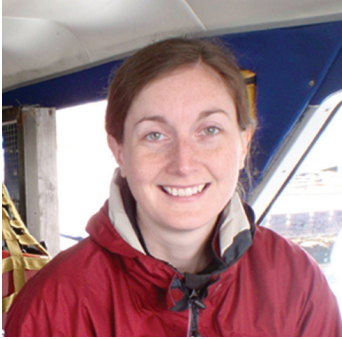
La Milpa, Belize



Walter Beckwith and Greg Zaro at the top of the Caana Pyramid at the ancient Maya city of Caracol, Belize.

Greg Zaro and a colleague from Texas Tech University received a grant from the National Geographic Society to fund their continued research into the abandonment of one of the many great ancient Mayan cities – La Milpa, Belize, to determine intensity of occupation during the city’s final decades, and to better understand the nature of urban life just prior to abandonment. This research holds implications for our understanding of the growth and decline of ancient Maya city-states and the conditions surrounding the collapse of Classic Maya civilization. **Walter Beckwith** (B.A. Anthropology, UMaine 2011) accompanied Dr. Zaro in the field. Already trained in archaeological field methods, Walter helped to supervise excavations among several buildings in the southern portion of the city, including the investigation of a dense deposit of ceramic fragments, whistles, figurines, obsidian blades, and other finely crafted items. His participation was supported by the Getty Archaeological Study Fund and the Churchill Exploration Fund. Walter will begin graduate studies in UMaine’s Climate Change Institute in the fall 2011 semester, with a concentration in archaeology.

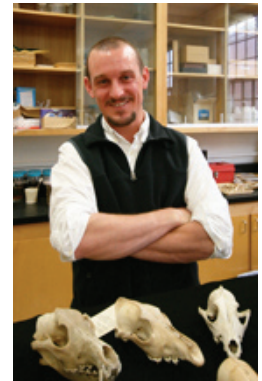
Catherine West Joins Faculty



Catherine West has been hired in a joint position with Anthropology and the Climate Change Institute as an Arctic/subArctic archaeologist. Catherine earned her PhD in Anthropology from the University of Washington and just finished a postdoctoral fellowship in the Archaeobiology Program at the Smithsonian Institution. Catherine uses zooarchaeological and stable isotope data from northern, island environments to address issues of climate and environmental change and prehistoric human adaptation. She plans to continue research in the Gulf of Alaska and initiate analyses in the Gulf of Maine where people have made significant use of the marine environment for thousands of years. We warmly welcome Catherine to the department!

Oldest Domestic Dog Evidence

Samuel L Belknap III, a recent Master's graduate in the Climate Change Institute and Anthropology, has discovered the oldest evidence of domestic dog in the New World. Working with fellow graduate student **Robert Ingraham** and Advisor **Kristin Sobolik**, Sam made the discovery of a small skull bone fragment in a prehistoric human paleofecal sample dated to roughly 9,400 years ago. The bone was identified as dog both visually, by the UMaine team, and genetically through collaboration with colleagues at the University of Oklahoma's Molecular Anthropology Laboratory. These findings went viral and were distributed around the globe in newspapers, online websites, magazines, and in scientific venues such as *National Geographic News*, *Science News*, and the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.



Department of Anthropology

Paul B. Roscoe, Chair
228B S. Stevens Hall 207.581.1896
paul.roscoe@umit.maine.edu

Shelley M. Palmer, Administrative Asst.
106A S. Stevens Hall 207.581.1894
shelley.palmer@umit.maine.edu

5773 S. Stevens Hall
Orono, Maine 04469-5773

<http://www2.umaine.edu/anthropology/>

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Paleonutrition Research Continues

Kristin Sobolik has been analyzing prehistoric diet, health, and nutrition for over two and a half decades. Most recently she teamed with colleagues to look at the role of fiber in promoting the growth of positive microbiota, the kind that helps prevent diseases, in the human gut. In the past, most human diets included much larger amounts of fiber than today, fiber that provided a good substrate for the growth of positive bacteria. Today we are trying to add positive bacteria back into our diet through prebiotic or probiotic foods, such as yogurts, but the easiest solution would be to increase our fiber intake. This research was published in the *British Journal of Nutrition* and can be found in *UMaine Today* at:

<http://umainetoday.umaine.edu/past-issues/fall-2010/modern-human-diet-affects-us-today/>.

Neuman Earns Tenure and Promotion

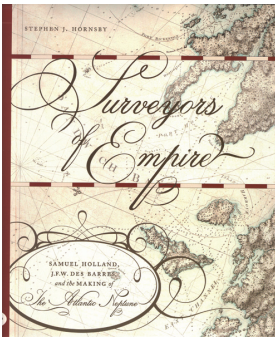


Assoc. Professor Lisa Neuman (r) with Chair Kristin Sobolik at the Liberal Arts & Sciences Award Ceremony.

Lisa Neuman earned Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor of Anthropology and Native American Studies starting in Sept. 2012. Congratulations, Lisa! Lisa conducts research on American Indian education as well as new avenues involving Wabanaki tribal sovereignty and

economic enterprise. She is writing a book, which is under contract with the University of Nebraska Press, entitled *Indian Play: Indigenous Identities at Bacone College*. The book deals with the period between 1927-1954 at Bacone College, a Baptist school for American Indians in Muskogee, Oklahoma, that offered a liberal arts preparatory and collegiate education to Indians in Indian Territory. In this work, Lisa examines the images of Indianness created in Bacone's fundraising strategies, curriculum, and ultimately the peer culture. Lisa's book should be published in 2013.

Hornsby Publishes New Book



Based on research in American, British, and Canadian archives and museums, **Stephen Hornsby's** new book, *Surveyors of Empire*, traces the British military surveys and mapping of the coast from Quebec to Newport, Rhode Island, in the years before the American Revolution. This was "big science" at the time. Samuel

Holland and J.F.W. Des Barres, the two lead surveyors, were highly trained and experienced; indeed, Holland trained James Cook in surveying and mapping before Cook sailed for the Pacific in 1768. The surveys produced more than a hundred maps at different scales. The maps were collected together to form a massive four-volume atlas known as *The Atlantic Neptune*. The maps stand as a monument of European Enlightenment Science and British imperial endeavor. They are still being used today to provide a historical record of sea-level. Stephen's book is lavishly illustrated in color with historical maps, thematic maps, and images. Matthew Edney, director of the University of Chicago's History of Cartography Project, has praised the book as "an outstanding work of scholarship."

Mobilizing to Fight an Invasive Insect



Darren Ranco is leading a research team, funded by Maine EPSCoR's Sustainable Solutions Initiative, that brings together diverse groups to try to prevent, detect and respond to the threat of the invasive emerald ash borer, which have destroyed millions of ash trees in 14 states and two Canadian provinces. The insect, which jeopardizes the livelihoods of Maine's Indian basket makers, who rely on the tree for their time-honored craft, is expected to arrive in Maine, where it will cost municipalities millions of dollars to remove and replace ash street trees, and where it has the potential to affect the transportation of harvested ash from forest to processor.

Ranco's team, which includes Theresa Secord and Jennifer Neptune of the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance, is collaborating with tribes, state and federal foresters, landowners and others to develop one of the nation's first proactive, coordinated responses on a statewide level. The team is continuing to develop solutions by mapping Maine's ash tree populations, learning how to identify a borer attack, educating the public and establishing a seed bank should the beetle strike. Their findings will lead to new strategies for protecting Maine's three species of ash trees, inform public policy and establish effective methods to bring together diverse groups to address threats from invasive species.

Munson in UMaine Today



Henry Munson wrote the feature article in the recent *UMaine Today* stressing that militant Islamic movements often articulate nationalistic and social grievances as well as strictly religious ones. The United States has often

failed to recognize this, just as during the Cold War it often failed to recognize the nationalistic and social grievances that induced people to support communist insurgencies. To weaken extremist movements, one needs to undermine their ability to recruit members and supporters. This entails understanding the various reasons why people join and support them. American foreign policy has often been counterproductive because it has not been based on such understanding. Check out the full article at:

<http://umainetoday.umaine.edu/past-issues/summer-2011/9-1110/>.

Sorg and Students Developing Regional Taphonomic Standards



Marci Sorg and her undergraduate student assistants have had a very busy and productive year. **Jamie Wren, Tamara Labanowski, and Marissa Lopez** have been working on Marci's taphonomy research

grant, which focuses on decomposition and scavenging in the Maine woods. Marci and Jamie co-authored a poster presentation, "*Taphonomic Impacts of Scavenging in Northern New England*" at the annual conference of the National Institute of Justice in Arlington, Virginia. He and **Kyia Bryant** (above) attended the conference. Also presented was a project DVD demonstrating the activities of the "scavenger guild", animals involved in consuming and scattering remains in northern New England.

Tamara, Marissa and Jamie all participated in regular data collection visits to two field research sites where pig cadavers are being monitored. They also provided independent presentations at the interdisciplinary project workshop on taphonomy in June.

Tamara has been constructing and refining a database to compare pig cadavers at different locations and time frames, including their stage of decomposition. She and Marci are working on an article for publication comparing accumulated degree days and decomposition between bodies in the open and under heavy forest canopy.

Marissa has been constructing a computer image da-



Jamie Wren, Josh Richie, Marci Sorg and Tamara Labanowski (l-r).



Marissa Lopez with UMaine Archaeologist Brian Robinson.

tabase to archive and link the thousands of photographs taken at the research sites and photographs from the forensic case comparison dataset. Data in spreadsheets are electronically linked with index images to document stages of decomposition. Last summer, **Emily Yenco** helped begin this part of the project by setting up the image scanning routines.

Jamie has been working over the past year to develop an EndNote taphonomy library which was utilized for an invited chapter reviewing forensic taphonomy research, by Marci and Bill Haglund, on which Jamie is also a co-author.

The students have also assisted Marci in the forensic lab and at two outdoor forensic recoveries recently. **Josh Richie** has been cleaning and measuring two crania that eroded out of an unmarked historic grave, and Tamara has been drafting a report about that recovery effort. Marissa and Jamie are also working on the human osteology teaching collection (in their spare time)!

Outstanding!



We held our Annual Anthropology Award Ceremony on April 6, 2011 and honored our majors who attained Dean's List status for the year. We also awarded Outstanding Graduating Senior to **Walter Beckwith** and Outstanding Graduate Student to **Sam Belknap**. They each received engraved Marshalltown Trowels and bookstore gift certificates.

New Ph.D. and B.S. Degrees



We are excited about our two new programs that focus on engaging students with some of the most pressing issues facing our global planet today. Our *PhD in Anthropology and Environmental Policy* was approved by the Board of Trustees in January, and is the only program of its kind in the nation. We are eager to work with other faculty and programs across campus to engage students in cutting-edge research on the social and cultural implications of environmental policy decisions at both local and international scales. Details of the program can be found at:

<http://www2.umaine.edu/anthropology/PhD.html>.

Our new undergraduate program, the *B.S. in Climate Change and Culture*, that we are offering in conjunction with Earth Sciences, is in its final stages of approval and we hope to admit our first cohort next fall, 2012.

New Course Offerings



We have two new courses that are helping expose students to the richness and diversity of Anthropology. This fall **Constanza Ocampo-Raeder** is offering *ANT 212 The*

Anthropology of Food to a full roster, supported by a College Curricular Innovation Fellowship. The course discusses food as the most direct and meaningful connection people have with the environment, a connection that addresses both biological and cultural needs, and as a way to understand human origins, behavior, and cultural diversity.

Greg Zaro taught *ANT 140 Cities of the Ancient World* online this past spring, supported by a Continuing Education grant. The course explores ancient urbanism in a global context. It includes theoretical approaches to the concept of 'city' and weekly explorations of urban landscapes among ancient civilizations of the world.



Alaric Faulkner 1945-2010



Ric Faulkner surrounded by his student field crew at Fort Pentagoet, Castine.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Alaric Faulkner** this past winter. Ric retired in 2008 and was awarded Emeritus Professor status due to his 30 years of exceptional service to UMaine. Ric's expertise was the Anglo-Acadian frontier, 17th century Maine and the Maritimes, and colonial archaeology. With his colleague and wife, **Gretchen Faulkner**, Ric wrote *The French at Pentagoet* which is listed as one of the top 100 books on Maine. Ric directed an extensive field research program almost every summer and trained over 35 graduate students and countless undergraduates in historical archaeology. His excavations in and around Maine have helped to record and preserve some of the rarer and more important archaeological sites in the country, such as Fort Pentagoet and San Castin's Habitation, both in Castine, Maine, and which are now National Historic Landmarks due to Ric's tireless efforts and research. Ric was the consummate, well-rounded scholar, and he will be greatly missed.



THE ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT

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Orono, Maine 04469-5773**

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Invest in Anthropology at UMaine

A lot is going on here in Anthropology at UMaine and we need your help! We are strengthening the program by adding a Ph.D. in Anthropology and Environmental Policy and an undergraduate program in Climate Change and Culture with the Department of Earth Sciences. The number of our majors is increasing, and we want to provide field and research experience support for as many as possible. While some students are funded through faculty grants, many more opportunities can be made available if some basic expenses are met. Please help us by sending your donation to the Anthropology Department. You can earmark your donation for student field and research opportunities in archaeology, cultural anthropology, or just for general anthropological support. Your donation is tax deductible and we appreciate your support!

Yes, I want to invest in Anthropology at UMaine! Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation for:

- _____ Student support for Archaeological Field and Research Experience
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Shelley Palmer
Department of Anthropology
5773 S. Stevens Hall
University of Maine
Orono, ME 04469-5773