

# Anthropology *News*



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## Greetings from the Chair

**G**reetings, and welcome to the 2020 issue of the Anthropology Department newsletter! To say that the 2019-2020 academic year was unusual, challenging, and unpredictable would be an understatement, but it would also be a mistake to overlook the creative work that continued despite the massive rewiring of our community and globe. In many ways, it was a tale of two halves, with the fall semester playing out as expected, while the spring semester demanded quick adaptation to a changing world. COVID-19 stole the headlines, but the Anthropology Department – its faculty, staff, and students – persisted and excelled in this new reality. There were changes to instructional modalities for spring courses, new ways of doing business remotely, and creative efforts to overcome the challenges and struggles of isolation and distance between colleagues and students. Yet, through it all, there were also advances in scholarship, award winners recognized for their academic excellence, innovative changes to degree programs, and a new mastering of technology that will most certainly serve the Department well in a post-pandemic world. There was also a new beginning in September 2020 – students entering college for the first time, those returning to continue their undergraduate studies, and those entering graduate programs of study to further their professional development. Our mission to bring Maine to the world, and the world to Maine continues!



College of  
**Liberal Arts  
and Sciences**

**Gregory Zaro, Chair of Anthropology**



The Anthropology Department holds a faculty meeting in May, 2020

## Anthropology Faculty

### Social/Cultural Anthropology

Christine Beitzl, *Associate Professor*

Kreg Ettenger, *Associate Professor*

Cindy Isenhour, *Associate Professor*

Lisa Neuman, *Associate Professor*

Darren Ranco, *Associate Professor*

### Archaeology

Bonnie Newsom, *Assistant Professor*

Daniel Sandweiss, *Professor*

Gregory Zaro, *Associate Professor*

### Geography

Samuel Hanes, *Associate Professor*

Stephen Hornsby, *Professor*

### Biological Anthropology

Marcella Sorg, *Research Professor*

### Cooperating Faculty

Teresa Johnson, *Marine Sciences*

Alice Kelley, *Earth Sciences/CCI*

Timothy Waring, *Economics*

### Faculty Associates

Pauleena MacDougall, *Folklife Center*

Karen Miller, *Folklife Center*

### Faculty Emeriti

Henry Munson, *Anthropology*

Paul "Jim" Roscoe, *Anthropology*

## Award Winning Department



Brittany Kucera, Anthropology and History Double Major

**2020 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Outstanding International Senior**



Abby Mann, Quaternary and Climate Studies graduate program

**2020 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Outstanding Graduate Student in Interdisciplinary Research**



Dom Piacentini, Anthropology and Environmental Policy graduate program

**2020 Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society Graduate Research Grant; Project: "Pickers, pipelines, & plants: Legal and ecological anthropology in West Virginia's north central highlands."**

Leela Stockley, Journalism and Anthropology Double Major

**2020 McGillicutty Humanities Center Fellowship; Project: "Ethical implications of the protest paradigm on marginalized communities: Examining the portrayal of social justice movements in mass media based on lines of class and race."**

Brittany Woods, Spanish and Anthropology Double Major

**2020 Roger B. Hill Scholarship Award in a Humanities Field of Study**

## Faculty In The Spotlight



Dr. Bonnie Newsom

**D**r. **Bonnie Newsom**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Cooperating Professor in the Climate Change Institute, was awarded a fellowship to conduct research in Acadia National Park as part of Second Century Stewardship. This is an initiative of the National Park Service, Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park, and the National Park Foundation to support park stewardship, public engagement with science, and to pursue solutions to critical issues for parks and society.

Newsom will analyze existing archaeological collections from shell midden sites in Acadia National Park to document past occupation and generate a baseline data set for future studies of Indigenous peoples and their connections to the region. This project is supported, in part, by a grant from the National Park Foundation through a generous donation from the David Evans Shaw Family Foundation.

## New PhD lands faculty position at James Madison University



Jamie Haverkamp

**C**ongratulations to **Dr. Jamie Haverkamp** (2019 Ph.D., Anthropology and Environmental Policy, University of Maine), who accepted an assistant professor position in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at James Madison University! In her role, Jamie also collaborates with Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies (IdLS) faculty at JMU. Her research focuses on understanding the contemporary climate crisis and its articulation with social inequality using post/decolonial, political, ecological, and STS approaches. During the 2020-2021 academic year, she will be teaching courses on the "political ecology of climate change" and "race and racism in education."

## Student In The Spotlight

**A**s a first year student during the 2019-2020 academic year, **Elwin Moss** came to the University of Maine to study Anthropology. By seeking opportunities to work more closely with faculty, he soon found himself working in the department as a student research assistant for Professor Sam Hanes. Throughout the course of the year, Elwin conducted archival research for Professor Hanes' project on early state environmental law. As part of this work, he helped to compile a list of all state legislative acts between 1800-1860 by using an online database to find, record, and take notes on such laws. As Professor Hanes notes, "Putting these all in one place creates a unique data source for my research, and it was impossible to do that before they digitized these archives." Elwin now serves as an undergraduate teaching assistant in Professor Hanes' GEO100-World Geography course.



Elwin Moss

## Darren Ranco gives Maine Heritage Lecture

**D**r. **Darren Ranco** gave the 2019 Maine Heritage Lecture titled “Protecting Wabanaki basketmaking traditions threatened by an invasive pest: Addressing ‘wicked problems’ through collaborative research.” In this public talk, Ranco discussed his work with tribal basketmakers and other key stakeholders to prepare for the arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive pest from China first found in North America near Detroit in 2002. Wabanaki (Micmac, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot) tribal basketmaking traditions use brown ash trees as their primary source material, which are now threatened by the EAB. Ranco and his colleagues use both sustainability science and indigenous research methods to conduct investigations that are inclusive, relevant, impactful, and culturally appropriate for the research partners. The annual Maine Heritage Lecture showcases research and creative work about the state of Maine, with an emphasis on its sense of place, history, and diverse cultures.



Dr. Darren Ranco, Associate Professor of Anthropology; Chair of Native American Programs

## Dan Sandweiss begins term as President of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society

**D**r. **Dan Sandweiss** (Professor of Anthropology and Climate Studies) began his two year term as the national President of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, which was founded at UMaine in 1897 and now has over 300 chapters in the United States and the Philippines. Phi Kappa Phi recognizes excellence in undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff. Each year, the Society awards over \$1,000,000 in competitive grants and fellowships. Sandweiss began his service to Phi Kappa Phi as president of the Maine chapter. He has been on the national Board since 2014, serving previously as Northeast Regional Vice President, Vice President for Chapter Development, and President-Elect.



Daniel Sandweiss

Photo credit: H. Weiss

## The Department welcomes five new graduate students



Julia Hiltonsmith

**Julia Hiltonsmith**, PhD program in Anthropology and Environmental Policy

Julia graduated from the University of Memphis in 2019 with a BA in Anthropology and a BA in English literature. Her research interests include climate change literacy and integration through moral reframing, as well as the use of storytelling to form cross- and intercultural relationships.

More specifically, she is interested in how such storytelling

empowers individuals to partake in cross-cultural resistance and can be used to generate empathy or prosocial action.



Sarah Dennison

**Sarah Dennison**, MA program in Anthropology and Environmental Policy

Sarah graduated from Wheaton College, Massachusetts, with a Bachelor's Degree in English. At UMaine, she is interested in the intersection of environmental justice and Indigenous rights, and supporting Indigenous sovereignty.



Anna Olsen

**Anna Olsen**, MA program in Anthropology and Environmental Policy

Anna graduated from the University of Maine with a BA in Anthropology and minors in Biology and International Affairs. She is interested in the intersection of culture and ecology as a defining relationship in the world's past, present, and future. Her focus lies in using this field of study to interpret, understand, and address current issues involving space, landscape, and culture change, and how it can be sustained, maintained, and improved.

**Christophe Mbuyi**, MA program in Anthropology and Environmental Policy

Christophe earned a Bachelor of Law (LLB) from the University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, and a Master of Law (LLM) from the University of South Africa in Pretoria.

His research broadly explores the intersections of human dimensions of climate change, indigenous peoples, and climate change refugees. He is particularly interested in the ways in which indigenous peoples in the Democratic Republic of Congo can participate in climate change adaptation and mitigation in the tropical forest by using indigenous knowledge.



Christophe Mbuyi

**Matthew James**, MS program in Quaternary and Climate Studies

Matt graduated from the University of Maine with a BA in Anthropology. As an archaeologist, his research aims to better understand, from an interdisciplinary standpoint, the environments in which indigenous ceramics were crafted and used in Maine. While working

with the Holmes Point assemblage in 2018, Matt found voids within some sherds that were later determined to be the impressions of Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*) needles. At the graduate level, Matt plans to continue this research to determine if this practice was temporally and geographically limited to just the Holmes Point area. This data can also be used to corroborate the presence and historic range of *Abies balsamea* across Maine, and as a proxy for the climate, flora, and fauna that may have been present during the Ceramic Period.



Matthew James

## Creativity in the Classroom



Using Virtual Reality in ANT476-Ancient Maya

The Anthropology Department prides itself on experiential learning opportunities for students. This has traditionally been most visible in our field programs of study, whether it be international research and education programs in Croatia, student research opportunities in Peru, archaeological field schools in Machias, Maine, or ethnographic field studies across our State. More recently, Anthropology faculty are finding creative pathways for experiential and active learning in the classroom. During the Fall semester, Professor Zaro utilized a personally owned Virtual Reality (VR) viewer with standard smart phone technology to better engage students with Maya cultures and landscapes in his course on Ancient Maya. He then wrote a small grant for the Department to purchase fifteen headsets for classroom use, which



Team debates in ANT250-Conservation Anthropology

he was able to employ in his Spring interdisciplinary course on Mediterranean Landscapes.

Elsewhere, Dr. Jamie Haverkamp utilized structured, team debates in her course on Conservation Anthropology in order to promote active learning. During the Fall 2019 semester, students participated in one of three teams ("1/2 Earth", "New Conservation", and "Convivial"), each of which represents a different conservation ideology. The Oxford-style debates provided a platform for students to present key points and concepts from each conservation paradigm and to actively engage in the counter-points and critiques confronting them.

## Under the hood: Human Dimensions of Climate Change

Climate change is one of the leading environmental and human problems facing the world today. Melting glaciers and rising oceans with landward-moving shorelines are one side of the issue, and shifting temperature and moisture patterns and the responses of Earth's biota to these changes add to the dilemma. The other side of the problem is the human dimension, both with regards to impact and response. Solutions to the many problems arising from climate change will only be found with an understanding of the processes that govern both climate and human culture. Successful policy decisions to mitigate climate change will therefore be rooted in both the environmental and social sciences.

In 2014, the Anthropology Department launched a new and innovative degree program in the Human Dimensions of Climate Change (HDCC). From its onset, the HDCC major has required core coursework in Anthropology and the physical sciences, and the choice between one of two tracks: Earth Sciences or Marine Sciences. In 2020, the Department expanded the HDCC program through the creation of a new major track in Ecology and Environmental Sciences, as well as a new minor program of study. The new interdisciplinary minor in HDCC will be attractive to a

broad range of students, and it offers sociocultural and archaeological tracks, which will permit students to tailor the minor more closely to their interests.

Graduates of this program generally seek positions in private business as well as in state, national, and international institutions that deal with policy decisions related to the human dimensions of climate management and change, environmental protection, and resource conservation.



South Stevens Hall, home to the Anthropology Department

## Department Publications

**Beitl, C.M.**, W. Chávez Páez, W.F. Vanegas Redondo, E.L. Carvajal Cañarte, G.A. Zambrano Mohauad, K.R. Ramírez Alfonso, J.A. Jama López, and D.E. Gortaire Díaz (2020). Cambios ambientales, alimentación y sustento en una comunidad rural del manglar. *Investigacio: Research Review*. 13: 89-102.

Daigle, J.J., N. Michelle, **D.J. Ranco**, and M. Emery (2019). Traditional lifeways and storytelling: Tools for adaptation and resilience to ecosystem change. *Human Ecology* 47(5): 777-784.

**Isenhour, C.** and **B. Berry** (2020). "Still good life": On the value of reuse and distributive labor in "depleted" rural Maine. *Economic Anthropology* 7(2): 293-303.

**Newsom, B.D.**, and **M. James** (2019). Beyond grit and shell: Evidence of Conifer Needle temper in archaeological ceramics from Maine. *Archaeology of Eastern North America* 47: 135-155.

O'Reilly, J., **C. Isenhour**, P. McElwee, and B. Orlove (2020) Climate change: Expanding anthropological possibilities. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 49: 13-29.

Prieto, G. and **D.H. Sandweiss** (2020). A historical perspective on the studies of Andean maritime communities. In *Maritime Communities of the Ancient Andes*, ed. by G. Prieto and D.H. Sandweiss, pp. 1-35. University of Florida Press, Gainesville.

Rick, T.C. and **D.H. Sandweiss** (2020). Archaeology, climate, and global change in the age of humans. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 117(15):8250-8253.

**D.H. Sandweiss**, C.F.T. Andrus, **A.R. Kelley**, K.A. Maasch, E.J. Reitz, and **P.B. Roscoe** (2020). Archaeological climate proxies and the complexities of reconstructing Holocene El Niño in coastal Peru. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 117(15): 8271–8279.

Sinha K., and **M.A. Baten** (2020). Regulating ecosystem services: Enhancements through sustainable management. In: Leal Filho W., Azul A., Brandli L., Özuyar P., Wall T. (eds), *Life on Land*. Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Springer, Cham.

**St. Amand, F.**, S.T. Childs, E.J. Reitz, **S. Heller**, **B. Newsom**, T.C. Rick, **D.H. Sandweiss**, and R. Wheeler (2020). Leveraging legacy archaeological collections as proxies for climatic and environmental research. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 117(15): 8287–8294.

**St. Amand, F.**, **D.H. Sandweiss**, and **A.R. Kelley** (2020). Climate-driven migration: Prioritizing cultural resources threatened by secondary impacts of climate change. *Natural Hazards* 103: 1761–1781.

**Zaro, G.**, K. Gusar, and M. Čelhar (2020). On the edge of empires: Exploring an Ottoman legacy on the Venetian frontier. *Journal of Field Archaeology* 45(3): 188-208.

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The Annual Fund is an opportunity for Alumni, Parents, Friends, and Faculty/Staff to play an important role in UMaine'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.

You can make a gift online, [our.umaine.edu/anthropology](http://our.umaine.edu/anthropology), or by contacting the University of Maine Foundation at 207.581.1148 or toll-free 866.578.2156.

Remember, it isn't about how much you give, but the fact that you give that makes a real difference.

Thank you for your consideration and support.