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Summer 2010

## **Anthropology Newsletter**

Department of Anthropology

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# ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS



Bringing Maine to the World and the World to Maine

Issue 3

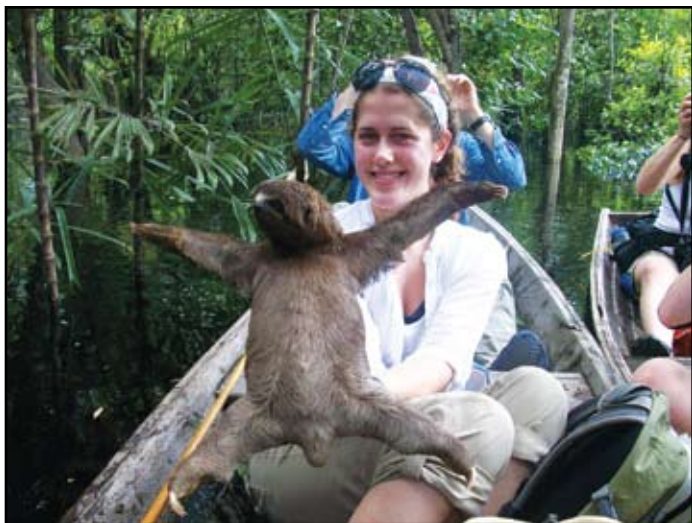
Summer, 2010

## *Hello from the Chair!*

Another full year has quickly gone by as we welcome new students, say good-bye to graduates who have become our colleagues, develop new programs for the future, and assess the diverse implications of the human condition through time and across the globe. Many of our students and faculty have earned awards, we have renovated and revitalized some of our facilities, and have expanded our programming. Many of us have also traversed the far reaches of this planet while some have kept the home fires burning. We are most excited about our two new programs: the Ph.D. in Anthropology and Environmental Policy is at the Board of Trustees which is the final stage of approval, and the Climate Change and Culture undergraduate program, offered in conjunction with Earth Sciences, is in the middle of the long approval chain. We hope to see both programs on board in the Fall, 2011. We have also formed the Cultural Anthropology Research Fund for student engaged research and hope that you can support such important work.

*Kristin Sobolik*

## **Kristen Kuhns - Peru**



*Undergraduate Kristen Kuhns holds a sloth on the Amazon, Peru.*



## **Issue Highlights:**

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While in Peru I had the opportunity to engage in an amazing cultural and ecological system! I was selected to be part of a Tropical Ecology class through the university that spent two weeks, during our spring break, in an Amazonian lodge about three hours downriver from Iquitos on the Tahuayo River.

Every day we had multiple activities we participated in that included forest hikes in the Terra Firme, anaconda and caiman hunting, survival camping, weaving, story telling and bird hunting. We also had the opportunity to participate in Carnival, a celebration of good and evil that El Chino, a village downriver, celebrates every year!

I spent a good portion of my time working on a research project focused on health and treatments in the rain forest! It was a fantastic experience I will never forget, and it was so exciting to apply all my anthropology training from the past four years!!

**Study Abroad stories continued on page 2.**

## Our Undergraduates Study All Over the World

### Alissa Dubois-Ilo, Peru



The Atacama Desert is arguably the driest desert in the world, and this is where I chose to spend the better part of the Spring 2010 semester helping **Dr. Greg Zaro** with his research. The project was stationed along the northern extent of the Atacama Desert in Ilo, Peru, a town about the size of Bangor. From Ilo we drove an hour and a half north along the Pacific coast on unpaved roads to reach the 700-year-old Chiribaya site of Cola de Zorro “Fox Tail”. It turns out that “Fox Tail” is an appropriate name, as native Andean foxes regularly visited the site to eat the string delineating excavation units and to pull out our datum nails.

We did extensive mapping of the site and excavated 21 units within domestic compounds, shell middens, corrals, and a cemetery.

A primary goal of the project was to test models of subsistence organization along the Andean coast and investigate human responses to large-scale environmental events like El Niño-related floods and volcanic eruptions.

The Getty Archaeological Study Fund and the Dan and Betty Churchill Exploration Fund graciously supported my involvement in the project.”

### Anthony Jabar III-Beijing, China

Beijing China’s Peking University is where I studied during the Spring 2010 semester, in CIEE’s Intensive Language Program. Beijing is a city that both welcomes and loathes its many visitors. During my stay, I visited many of the culturally rich and historical sites Beijing has to offer including the Forbidden City, The Great Wall, Summer Palace and Temple of Heaven.

One of the most unforgettable experiences I had during my stay was traveling with two of my friends to

the village of Anyang, a city of 500,000 people that has one of the largest steel factories in the world, and is in the process of transitioning from a rural agricultural community to an industrialist

society. I had the opportunity to practice my language skills sitting down with a few elderly men who were wearing their communist party armbands, telling us of their experiences during China’s Cultural Revolution and the growth and change China has seen since as a society in transition, attempting to hold on to its old traditions while accepting and creating new ones.



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### Amy Marchessault-Santiago, Chile

During the spring 2010 semester I attended La Universidad de Chile in Santiago, Chile. I went through UMaine’s direct exchange program. The seasons are opposite, so while you were all enjoying the warm weather, it got colder there every day... on the way into winter.

I spent time exploring the countryside of Chile which consists of mountains, ocean, farmlands, desert... you name it, Chile has it. It’s absolutely beautiful! I improved my spanish, traveled to Argentina and Peru. My

*continued pg. 3*



*Amy Marchessault, continued*

favorite part of my time there was learning about a culture's reaction to natural disasters. Being involved in the fourth strongest earthquake on record helped shape my experience there and allowed me to become instantly connected with the people! I arrived February 23rd, just four days before it occurred.

In addition, I learned a lot about the indigenous population, the "Mapuche." One of my courses at the University was all about their culture and language (which is really difficult to learn) and I loved it! I had a front row seat I had the Andes to look at every time I stepped out of my apartment! They had just started to become snowcapped and more snow fell on them every day...they're so beautiful!

### **Belle Hilmer- Perth, Australia**

Living and studying in Western Australia for the Spring 2010 semester was a remarkable experience. I studied at Edith Cowan University in Perth through the UMaine direct transfer program.

Even though Australian society is much like that of America, I found enjoyment in distinguishing what sets us apart. My major focus was to observe and study indigenous issues, but it became much more than that. Throughout the semester I fell in love with Australia, especially the bush lands, beaches and nightlife! I went on a few adventures such as camping in Margaret River, a road trip throughout the southwest, a flight to Rottnest



Island, exploring an ancient cave, and seeking out wild kangaroos in the bush!

Few indigenous people live traditionally here in Australia. Most who live in urban areas suffer significantly socially as well as economically. Indigenous Australians lack a sense of belonging, and struggle with their identity. Displacement has had a

damaging affect on these people, and will continue to for decades. However there is positivity among Aboriginal people, and there are non-indigenous Australians who are understanding, and strive to help.

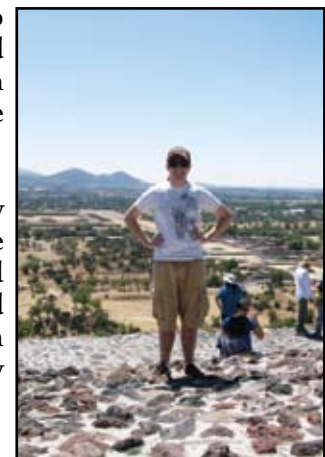
### **Jamie Wren-Puebla, Mexico**

This past Spring Break I had the opportunity to travel to the Universidad de las Americas, in Puebla, Mexico. The travel-study program, offered through the College of Education and Human Development, was aimed at giving students a view into the system of Higher Education in Mexico; as well as introducing us to Mexico's rich history and culture. While staying at the University we were able to develop our own perspectives on contemporary Mexican culture, and build meaningful friendships with students and administrators.

As part of our cultural experience we visited a variety of indigenous archaeological sites, including the ancient city of Teotihuacán. The

enormity of the site was hard to imagine, that is until we climbed atop the Pyramid of the Sun (*right*), and were able to view the entire expanse of the ruins.

My time in the Anthropology Department has instilled in me a strong sense of wonder and appreciation for archaeology, and being able to visit Teotihuacán was an experience that I am truly grateful for!



## Graduate Student Research

### Sky Heller - M.S. Candidate Zooarchaeology



**M**y research focuses on the use of bone histology (the microscopic structure of tissues) for the identification

of otherwise unidentifiable archaeological bone. The vast majority of bone recovered from archaeological sites in New England consists of small burnt or calcined fragments due to highly acidic soils throughout the area. With a few diagnostic exceptions, these fragments are largely unidentifiable using the techniques common today. The ability to identify these fragments would provide valuable insight into a wide range of archaeological questions and a broader understanding of sites of great antiquity where little currently identifiable faunal evidence is available. My specific research goal is the identification of bone and bone tools recovered from the Bull Brook and Morrill Point Mound sites in Massachusetts.

### Robert Ingraham - M.S. Candidate Zooarchaeology



**M**y research for the last two years has been centered on the animal bones recovered from a shell midden site in Machias Bay, Maine. The site, a roughly 3,000 year old Passamaquoddy and early French beach occupation, has produced intriguing patterns in the distribution

and ratios of the bones from select species, which may be indicative of deeper relationships between hunters and prey species, and certainly indicate a behavioral pattern that is not common elsewhere along the Maine coast. Data for this research has been provided by four field seasons of the University of Maine Archaeological Field School, directed by **Brian Robinson**, aimed at establishing effective and ethical excavation techniques to UMaine students in a field excavation setting.

### Samuel Belknap III - M.S. Candidate Archaeology-Paleonutrition



**I** am working with **Kristin Sobolik** on paleonutritional studies to better understand the diet, health, and nutrition of prehistoric populations and to assess the potential role that climate change had in driving subsistence change through time. My research involves the analysis of botanical, faunal, and DNA remains from paleofeces of the Lower Pecos

Region of southwestern Texas. I am also heavily involved in the archaeological field school directed by **Brian Robinson** where I run geophysical mapping surveys and instruct students on field techniques. I have also been a Teaching Assistant for our large section Introduction to Anthropology courses, and this year I will assist **Gretchen Faulkner** with many interactive displays and educational tours at The Hudson Museum.

### Kurt Rademaker - PhD Candidate Quaternary Geoarchaeology



**M**y research takes me to the high Andes of southern Peru. This summer, I am continuing my field investigation of the earliest inhabitants of the region, who may have been the first people in the world to live at such

high altitude (over 15,000 feet above sea level). In previous years, I found and chemically identified the local highland sources of obsidian, a volcanic glass that was highly prized for making stone tools on the coast as early as 13,000 years ago. This year, my team and I are excavating cave sites and collecting artifacts from the surface of ancient landforms to test computer models of the best travel routes from the coast to the obsidian quarries. I expect to complete my dissertation this coming year.

## Hudson Museum Renovated



Barry Dana is seen carving a dragonfly motif into the wigwam he built for the Museum's permanent collection.

The Hudson Museum owes its origins to **Richard Emerick**, UMaine's first anthropologist, who started a museum in the early 1960s in the attic of S. Stevens Hall. Over the years the Museum's collections grew, and in 1986 moved to the Maine Center for the Arts, now the Collins Center for the Arts. With each new incarnation, new exhibitions and programming developed to support the Museum's use by the UMaine community, the general public, elementary and secondary schools and even Senior College. **Gretchen Faulkner** has been the Director for the past seven years and just oversaw the reinstallation of the Museum in its newly renovated space.

The Museum collaborates with Anthropology faculty bringing cutting edge research to the public and

showcasing faculty and graduate student research, and many Anthropology faculty are Cooperating Curators. Last fall the Museum hosted two climate change lectures, one with Thomas McGovern, an archaeologist from CUNY, on the impact of climate change on the collapse of Norse Greenland, and the other with **Dan Sandweiss** on El Nino and ancient Peru. The series will continue in Spring, 2011, with Mike McCormick, a historian from Harvard, whose research focuses on volcanic events and the collapse of the Roman Empire, and **Paul Mayewski**, director of UMaine's Climate Change Institute, who will wrap up the series by discussing the role humans play in climate change.



Archaeologist Greg Zaro examines a classic Maya cylinder vessel

We invite you to explore the new Hudson Museum! The Museum is open M-F from 9-4 and Saturdays from 11-4; it is closed Sundays and holidays.

## New Lab Renovation



Graduate student Sky Heller and Forensic Anthropologist Marci Sorg at work in the new laboratory.

collection, and space for medicolegal death investigation and training students in human skeletal anatomy. Other potential uses, which we haven't yet decided on, include space for teaching/training in statistics, GIS, mapping, and applied, medical, nutritional, or environmental anthropology. We do know that the lab will be used for student research. The renovations were generously funded by the President's Office.

We are very excited about renovations of the second floor laboratory space to include a wet lab, analysis space, a wall for an additional office, and small classroom seating for a variety of purposes. One of the uses will be to house the Forensic Anthropology Lab, human skeletal

## Forensic Research

Students **Jessica Sleeth**, **Kaileigh Deacon**, **Jamie Wren**, **Rebecca Morton** and **Kyia Bryant**, assisted forensic anthropologist **Marcella Sorg** in a search for human remains as part of a cold case investigation. Although no remains were found, students worked with Sorg, archaeologist **Brian Robinson**, and Climate Change Institute botanist **Ann Dieffenbacher-Krall** improving protocols for regional forensic taphonomy data collection.



Anthropology majors Kaileigh Deacon and Kyia Bryant sift soil samples for human remains.

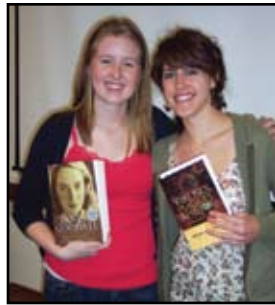
## Anthropology Honors Day



We honored a large number of our students at the Third Annual Anthropology Honors Ceremony held in South Stevens Hall in April. Sixty six of our majors earned Honor Roll status this past year and were feted with cake, punch, and laughter. **Jessica Fish**

(above) received the Top Graduating Senior Award. She is attending graduate school at Oxford University next year to study medieval archaeology.

**Rebecca Morton** (left) and **Kristen Kuhns** (right) received book awards for their excellent service, research, and academics. Each book reflected their particular interests and was signed by the Anthropology faculty. Rebecca, who was a teaching assistant in Forensic Anthropology and World Geography, was awarded *Jane Goodall: The Woman Who Redefined Man*. Rebecca will be attending graduate school at Simmons College to study library and information sciences. Kristen, who will be attending graduate school at the University of Georgia to study medical anthropology, was awarded *Viruses, Plagues, and History*.



## Other Student Honors

This past year six of our majors graduated with Honors by writing Honors Theses on independent field, laboratory, or literature research. The topics were exciting and diverse! **Christine Davis** wrote on *MDI: Growing, Shrinking, Changing* under the direction of **Stephen Hornsby**, **Ben Wooden** analyzed *Group Formation and Parochial Ethnicity* with **Jim Acheson**, **Margaret Libby** wrote a creative thesis entitled *Once Upon a Quest* with Honors Faculty **Tina Passman**, **Kristen Kuhns** researched *H1N1: A Case Study of Concepts and Prevention* with **Ann Acheson** and Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center Director **Linda Silka**, **Rebecca Morton** analyzed *Africa: Climate Change, Cosmology, and Consequences* with **Jim Roscoe**, and **Jessica Fish** synthesized research on *The Peopling of the Americas: The Characters, Crackpots, and Cold Hard*

*Facts of the Debate* with **Brian Robinson**. In addition, two of our majors were recipients of the Maine Studies Undergraduate Research Award: **Victor Doyle** for his Capstone paper on *Down East Maine Fish Shacks: History in Peril*, and **Heather Omand** (right) for her research on *Seventeenth Century Passamaquoddy and French Occupation in Machias Bay* which she also presented at the Undergraduate Research Conference.



## Archaeological Field School

We had another very successful archaeological field school in Machias, Maine in June of 2010. It is a great season when good students, enthusiastic evening speakers, exciting archaeology, and the ever unpredictable weather all cooperate for a whole month. This was our third year on Machias Bay and each year has gotten more interesting. We are on the bay working with the Passamaquoddy, adding archaeological background to the remarkable concentration of petroglyphs (rock art in the form of animals and human figures) on Machias Bay. The Passamaquoddy are the caretakers of the largest petroglyph site, representing thousands of years of Wabanaki ritual continuity.

We concentrated on identifying the subtle traces of a French building from the mid 1600s and evidence that Native people may have used the same building during or after the French occupation. The petroglyphs were produced into the 1600s but this year we also found the first undisturbed deposits from 2000 years ago, the age of the earliest petroglyphs at the site. Evening speakers included **Donald Soctomah**, **Mark Hedden**, **Bonnie Newsom** and **Pauleena MacDougall**. Research continued later in the summer with UMaine students **Natalie Dana** and **William Longfellow** working with Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Donald Soctomah to record interviews about Passamaquoddy seal hunting, a prominent activity at the Holmes Point site. The Passamaquoddy, UMaine students, landowners, and Machias Bay residents are gratefully acknowledged for care and assistance as the remarkable ritual landscape of Machias Bay petroglyphs continues to unfold.



Foreground: Tamara Labanowski, Middle: Sky Heller, Nyasha Millard. Background: Jada Moulton, Natalie Dana.

## Faculty Awards

Our own **Paul “Jim” Roscoe** was awarded the Presidential Outstanding Research and Creative Achievement Award, one of the top four honors given to UMaine faculty, due to the importance of his research to understanding The Human Condition. Jim’s research focuses on some of the most pressing issues facing society today: warfare, climate change, environmental policy, evolution of states, incest taboos, and gender roles. Jim is an internationally recognized scholar at the very pinnacle of his profession whose research is published in the very top journals of the field. Jim spoke at the Graduate Recognition Ceremony and compared a researcher to a “psychopathic moron”. Read his humorous John Cleesesque speech at <http://www2.umaine.edu/anthropology/index.html>.



**Brian Robinson** earned Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor this past year. Brian has been a most welcome addition to the department given his diverse research and his positive teaching and interaction with students. Of significance is Brian’s active, multi-dimensional research program which includes the analysis of the Bull Brook Paleoindian Site, the largest Late Pleistocene site currently known in the western hemisphere. Brian, and **Lisa Neuman**, also received Maine Academic Prominence Initiative (MAPI) renewed funding for the coastal archaeological fieldschool, conducted in conjunction with the Passamaquoddy Petroglyph Project, illustrating the success of this community-engaged research. Congratulations to Brian!



**Kristin Sobolik** received the Rexford St. John Boyington Memorial Walking Stick (the cane) from **Dan Sandweiss** in a caning ceremony for the publication of her book on *Paleonutrition*. The book was written with co-authors Mark Sutton and Jill Gardner and published by Arizona University Press. You can see her walking sedately and artistocratically up and down the halls of South Stevens with said stick.



## It’s a Shellebration!!

The students got together this spring and put on a “Shellebration” in honor of their favorite person, Administratiave Assistant, **Shelley Palmer**. The students (and faculty!) appreciate how much time and energy Shelley puts into making their lives easier. She always has a smile, a joke, and either a pat on the back or a kick in the rear, depending on what is needed. We are very lucky to have Shelley!!!



*A few of the attendees were: front (l-r): Káileigh Deacon, Shelley Palmer, Amanda Prescott, Candra Glenn, Michael Kelley. Back(l-r): Heather White, Susan Appleby, Heather Omand, Jamie Wren, Robyn Honaker.*

## Farewell

### Edward D. “Sandy” Ives

Sept 4, 1925 –Aug. 1, 2009

Maine and the world recently lost a wonderful man, folklorist **Edward D. “Sandy” Ives**. Sandy was the face of folklore for thousands of University of Maine students. He left a legacy of songs, stories and cherished memories among the countless people whose lives he touched as teacher, researcher, writer, and friend.

Sandy first began teaching during the 1950’s in the Department of English at UMaine and there he founded the Northeast Folklore Society, which would later become the Maine Folklife Center.

Sandy later founded the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History to preserve folklore and oral history collections from our region. This collection has grown over the years to include thousands of tape-recorded interviews, transcripts, photographs and associated documents. In 2007 a collection of Sandy’s recordings were inducted into the National Recording Registry at the Library of Congress.







# THE ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT

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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 working on 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
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student support for Cultural Anthropological Field and Research Experience
- \_\_\_\_\_ General Anthropological Support

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