Fall 2019

Anthropology Department Annual Newsletter

Department of Anthropology

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Greetings from the Chair

Welcome to the 2019 issue of the Anthropology Department’s newsletter. It has been a wonderful year for the department with many exiting initiatives on the horizon. After a year on sabbatical, I return to the Chair position with renewed energy and commitment. Professor Darren Ranco served admirably as Acting Chair during the 2018-2019 academic year, and both the Department and I are deeply grateful for his efforts, particularly since it came alongside his regular roles as Anthropology faculty member and Chair of Native American Programs.

I want to congratulate Professors Christine Beitl and Sam Hanes, who were promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure. This is a major professional achievement, and both are well-earned! In other news, award-winning faculty member Jim Roscoe moved to full retirement at the end of 2018 but will continue his program of research as Professor Emeritus. Thankfully, he plans to maintain a regular presence around the department.

Finally, several new student-engaged field programs were developed this past summer. Professor Bonnie Newsom renewed the UMaine Archaeological Field School in Machias, Maine, while Professor Cindy Isenhour launched the inaugural running of the UMaine Digital Ethnography Field School. Professor Christine Bietl also had a busy summer and fall laying the foundation for an integrated field research and education program in Ecuador. These are all very exciting projects that promote experiential learning and offer students opportunities for essential field training. They also provide unique ways for student-faculty collaborations to put Anthropology into action.

Gregory Zaro, Associate Professor and Chair of Anthropology
Professor Daniel Sandweiss

President Recognition Award from the Society for American Archaeology for his role in founding the SAA’s Climate Change Strategies and Archaeological Resources committee.

Brieanne Berry

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Excellence in Research and Creative Activity Award, the Edith Patch Award, the Dean of the Graduate School Undergraduate Mentor Award, and an award for Innovative Sustainability Research Conducted by a Graduate Student.

Frankie St. Amand

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Outstanding Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Award
New Graduate Students

**Haley Albano** is a student in the Ph.D. program in Anthropology & Environmental Policy. Haley has a B.A. in Anthropology from Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts, and an M.S. in Ethics and Public Policy from Suffolk University in Boston. She is focused on the anthropology of policy, concentrating in Maine, Canada, and the Maritimes. Her research interests include the contestation of natural resource policies in First Nation communities, the use of languages in contestation, ethnographic landscapes of political and transcultural memory, marine resource co-management, protest and dissent, alterity, and political investments in racialized categories. She hopes that her research will contribute to contemporary environmental policy and civil rights discourse in both Canada and the United States.

**Heather Landazuri** comes to the University of Maine from a small town on the central coast of California. She attended undergraduate school at U.C. Santa Barbara and was taken under the wing of Dr. Lynn Gamble. While there, she was involved in research and field excavations on Santa Cruz Island on a large midden site referred to as “el Monton.” This experience led to her interest in environmental archaeology and human eco-dynamics. At UMaine, she will be working with Dr. Sandweiss to investigate historic and prehistoric El Niño events (specifically ENSO-Modoki and COA El Niño) on the coast of Peru.

**Mohamed Abdul Baten, or Baten,** is a Bangladeshi national and first-year Ph.D. student in the Anthropology & Environmental Policy graduate program with interests in policy dimensions of natural resources management. He previously obtained a Master’s degree in Ecosystems, Governance, and Globalization from Stockholm Resilience Center, University of Stockholm, where he researched how poorly defined property rights could lead to degradation of Indonesian mangrove commons. He earned Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Forestry from the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh, where he focused on the human dimensions of forest resources management. For his graduate research, he plans to explore his interests in trans-boundary commons such as mangroves, lakes, and pastures, and developing a model for governing trans-boundary commons from both developed and developing country perspectives.

**Natalie Dana Lolar** is a Passamaquoddy/Penobscot tribal member by heritage and ancestral lines. She grew up on Motahkomikukh – Indian Township, Maine. In 2013, she graduated from the University of Maine with a B.A in Anthropology and minor in Native American studies. She has held an interest in archaeology since her first field school with the Abbe Museum at age 16, which only grew stronger after amazing experiences participating in MAPI field schools 2008-2014 under the direction of the late Dr. Brian Robinson. Her passion is for the Passamaquoddy people, their history, and their future understanding of archaeological importance around indigenous voice and presence. Natalie is also a multigeneration artist. She was recently awarded the Abbe Museum’s New Artist Fellowship Award.

**Steven Golieb** comes to the University of Maine with a B.S. degree from Excelsior College in Social Science with a concentration in Environmental Studies, a Master’s degree in Natural Resources from Virginia Tech, and a graduate certificate in Global Sustainability from Virginia Tech. He is a town councilor in Millinocket, ME, where he also chairs the Sustainability Subcommittee. He is entering the Ph.D. program in Anthropology and Environmental Policy with an interest in researching potential correlations between sexuality/gender and attitudes toward the natural world.

**Elizabeth Leclerc** graduated from the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs with a B.A. in Anthropology and a minor in Geography and Environmental Studies. Elizabeth is entering UMaine’s Quaternary and Climate Studies Master’s Program after spending a decade in cultural resources management. Elizabeth travelled widely during her CRM career and most recently worked in the Northern Mariana Islands where her team incorporated legacy LiDAR into cultural resource inventories. Elizabeth’s work in the Marianas, also involving community consultation and heritage interpretation, has developed into a lasting interest in the region. Elizabeth’s broad range of research interests center on human interactions with the environment and cultural responses to climate change, particularly from the perspectives of historical ecology and landscape archaeology.
ResourcefulME is a three-year research project designed to explore the social, environmental, and economic value of Maine’s vibrant reuse economy. From road-side flea markets and high-end antique stores, to Uncle Henry's circulars and church thrift shops, the signs of Maine's tradition of reuse are hard to miss. Using a unique combination of in-depth, on-the-ground conversation with folks across the state, archival research, and spatial economic modeling, the project aims to learn more about the historical construction, contemporary relevance, and future potential of second-hand economies in Maine.

In May 2019, students and faculty headed out across the state of Maine to take a deep (if short) dive into ethnographic research methods and Maine's culture of repair and reuse. The class visited city planners, transfer stations, charity thrift shops, cobblers, used book stores, antiques sellers, and Uncle Henry's.

Through this ethnographic field experience, students learned important lessons about how to conduct ethical research, how to build trust, where to hold the microphone, when to suppress our urge to say “uh-huh” and how to work as part of a research team. Students and faculty alike also learned a lot about how second-hand markets work, about the people that participate in the hard work of salvaging value from existing products, and about the love and care that people invest in each other, their community, and the environment through their efforts to save, repair, and reuse things.
This summer, University of Maine Anthropology students (under the direction of Dr. Bonnie Newsom) returned to the Machias Bay area to conduct the 7th season of coastal archaeology field work in this region. Over the course of a 4-week field school, students were immersed in experiential learning that blended archaeological fieldwork with experimental archaeology and cross-cultural community engagement.

The fieldwork centered on one of Maine’s most fragile shell middens (an area of discarded shells that contains both material remains of past peoples and long-term paleoenvironmental data). The site is threatened by severe erosion, and field school students worked to help preserve irreplaceable data sets.

Consistent with past field research at the site, this year’s excavations produced both Indigenous and Euro-American material culture. Students recovered stone tools, ceramics, and faunal materials, took soil samples, and documented features at the site. Careful excavations by this year’s students also revealed what appears to be a post mold. Post molds are features that mimic the outline of a post and suggest the presence of structures at the site.

The Machias Bay area is an important cultural space to the Passamaquoddy people and a UMaine/Passamaquoddy partnership has been a consistent element of the field school since its inception. This year, the field school students worked with Passamaquoddy speaker Dwayne Tomah to create language videos designed to support community language learning. Additionally, Donald Soctomah, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, hosted field school students at the Indian Township museum and assisted with field work and community engagement. Several guest speakers, including Natalie Dana-Lolar of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Dr. Gabe Hrynick of the University of New Brunswick offered evening lectures.

Experimental archaeology was another feature of the field school. To understand the technologies of past Indigenous peoples living at the site, students participated in evening sessions where they learned the basics of Indigenous stone tool and ceramic manufacture through hands-on lessons.

Data recovered during the field school will be processed this year, and analysis and interpretation of materials will occur as part of the Anthropology Department’s spring semester course on archaeological lab methods. The University of Maine's Northeast Archaeology program will offer a similar field experience during the summer of 2021. This research is supported by funding from the University's Maine Academic Prominence Initiative.
Graduate Students

**Suman Acharya** is a second-year Ph.D. student in the Anthropology and Environmental Policy graduate program at the University of Maine. He earned a degree in Forestry from the Institute of Forestry at Tribhuvan University, Nepal. He is broadly interested in climate adaptation, carbon accounting, and ecosystem-based mitigation. Suman is focusing his research on human dimensions of climate change with a particular interest in climate change adaptation in rural livelihoods in Nepal. Previously, Suman worked as a District Climate Change Specialist for the Adaptation for Smallholders in Hilly Areas (ASHA) project in Nepal.

**Brie Berry** successfully advanced to candidacy in 2019 and began her fieldwork on the meaning and value of reuse economies in Maine over the summer. She is conducting ethnographic research in Old Town and neighboring communities and expects to continue her project through the 2019-2020 academic year. Brie is currently the Legislative Policy Fellow for the Maine Chapter of Scholars Strategy Network. In 2019, she earned the Graduate Student Excellence in Research and Creative Activity award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Edith Patch Award, the Dean of the Graduate School Undergraduate Mentor Award, and an award for Innovative Sustainability Research Conducted by a Graduate Student.

**Emily Blackwood** spent the past year splitting her time between finishing her M.S. research and starting her doctoral research. Having just graduated in August with her M.S. in Quaternary & Climate Studies, she has been pulling double-duty since being accepted into the I.Ph.D. program this past January for the start of the Spring semester. Her doctoral research is focused on reconstructing archaeological sites using virtual reality to create an immersive, interactive, and informative 3D simulation using available site data. She is using data she collected in the summer of 2018 from the Ostra Collecting Station, a mid-Holocene site located in Peru, to achieve this goal and has presented preliminary findings at the SAA’s where she was a Session Chair, and at the Climate Change Institute’s Borns Symposium. The start of the 2019-2020 academic year marks the beginning of her 10th year here at UMaine.

**Sky Heller** is continuing her research on Archaic Period faunal remains in the Gulf of Maine. Additionally, she spent last year developing and teaching a Zooarchaeology course for the department and working with collections at the Hudson Museum.

**Sara Lowden** has been in the field collecting data for her dissertation research in the Arizona-Sonora borderlands. Her research explores the historical and contemporary relationships between humans, agaves, and nectar-feeding bats. These relationships have developed over thousands of years throughout Mesoamerica and are changing rapidly in the face of climate change and economic pressures, including the harvesting of agave for mescal bacanora, a regional alcoholic beverage. Her research explores the cultural and natural encounters of multispecies relationships as they unfold in a transboundary context. The Chase Distinguished Research Assistantship and the Graduate Student Government Summer Research Fellowship provided the necessary support to pursue this community-engaged research across the US-Mexico border.
Graduate Students

Abby Mann completed her first year of the M.S. program in Quaternary and Climate Studies, exploring dog burials at the Holmes Point West site in Machiasport, Maine, for evidence of human-canine interactions. This research has been supported through her Graduate Assistantship at TRIO Student Support Services and funding from the Maine Academic Prominence Initiative (MAPI). In May and June of 2019, she assisted Dr. Bonnie Newsom with the MAPI Field School, excavating the shell midden site at Holmes Point West. During her second year, she will complete stable isotope analyses for information about past diet, a major component of her master’s research.

In May 2019, Dominic Piacentini graduated from the M.A. program in Anthropology and Environmental Policy; in May 2019, he also entered the Ph.D. program in Anthropology and Environmental Policy. He participated in the department’s digital ethnography field school, “Exploring Maine’s Cultures of Reuse,” as a field coordinator in Farmington, ME.

In June and July of this year, he also began pre-dissertation field work in West Virginia, conducting interviews and collecting wild foods & medicines with people who love plants across the North Central Highlands. This research was supported by the Rhoda Halperin Memorial Fund for the project “Foraging and Property Negotiation: Economic Entanglements in Appalachia.”

Dominic begins his third year as a grant and contract administrator with the University of Maine’s Office of Research Administration, where he assists in the review of grant and contract offers from federal, state, and private sponsors.

Alex Rezk is entering his third year of the Ph.D. program in Anthropology and Environmental Policy. His research focuses on the neoliberal operationalization of resilience as a guiding concept in the realm of climate disaster and risk management in coastal population centers throughout the northeast, and how these narratives are carried to international climate negotiations. Alex attended COP24 in Katowice, Poland, last winter as a member of the UMaine Delegation, and hopes to attend again in the future. He is preparing to defend his thesis proposal this semester. In addition, Alex is currently working with the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center staffing a number of research initiatives, including working with the National Violent Death Reporting System, conducting an ongoing needs assessment of Hancock County’s Volunteer Fire Service, and assisting in the implementation of Maine’s first naloxone distribution initiative.

This past year, Frankie St. Amand earned her M.S. degree in Quaternary and Climate Studies from the Climate Change Institute, and was awarded the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Outstanding Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Award for 2019. Frankie was also awarded the Dan and Betty Churchill Exploration Fund, a Phi Kappa Phi (PKP) Love of Learning Grant, and a PKP Graduate Research Grant to conduct dissertation fieldwork in Peru and to share her research at the Society for American Archaeology annual meeting. She is continuing in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program with a focus on El Niño proxies in the archaeological record. Frankie will spend most of the fall semester conducting fieldwork in Peru.

Fragment of a stone spear point or arrowhead recovered during 2019 MAPI field school.

Dominic Piacentini

Frankie St. Amand

Abby Mann

Alex Rezk

Frankie St. Amand
This summer, Christine Beitl collaborated with Ecuadorian researchers and graduate students to gather data for a longitudinal cross-cultural study designed to advance understanding about how social networks (i.e. social ties among family, friends and communities) may contribute to wellbeing and the emergence of wealth inequalities. Wendy Chavez, a prospective AEP Ph.D. student, along with six students from the Master’s Program in Rural Development at Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (ESPOL), were selected to participate in her Anthropological Field Methods course. Students gained valuable field experience in a mangrove-dependent coastal community while learning interview techniques to gather data on demographic variables and information about food security, dietary diversity, social networks, and household wealth. The team spent four weeks in Isla Costa Rica, one of 30+ communities worldwide that was selected for the ENDOW project (Economic Network Dynamics and the Origins of Wealth) led by Jeremy Koster and others (NSF-IBSS #1743019). In addition to interviews, Beitl and students developed workshops for the community to share their knowledge and expertise on a variety of topics ranging from sustainable horticulture to English language and communication for the community’s youth. Chavez developed a series of workshops for community leaders (the Junta Parroquial) to share her expertise on Ecuadorian laws and political participation based on her years of experience working with government municipalities. In their free time, the team enjoyed exploring the region’s cultural heritage and biodiversity. Beitl hopes to include participation by UMaine students in this field school in the near future.

Sam Hanes’ first book, The Aquatic Frontier, came out this year, which tells the story of how American oystermen developed a complex conservation and property rights system in the nineteenth century. Despite intense pressure from industrialization and growing markets, the nineteenth century oyster fishery was one of America’s great unsung environmental success stories (https://www.umass.edu/umpress/title/aquatic-frontier). Continuing his interest in the evolution of early American environmental policy, Sam started work this year on a book about the first natural resource protection laws passed by state legislatures in the early nineteenth century. He also wrapped up his involvement with SEANET, a National Science Foundation-funded project on sustainable aquaculture, where he studied the history of why shellfish aquaculture is popular in the Damariscotta but contested in Blue Hill Bay.

Stephen Hornsby is currently working on a couple of book projects, one of which required field research in West-Central France and Newfoundland this summer. He also presented a paper at the International Conference on the History of Cartography held in Amsterdam. The photo shows him at a sixteenth-century Basque whaling site on the north shore of the St. Lawrence.
Faculty News

After three years of partial retirement, Jim Roscoe fully retired from the Anthropology Department at the end of 2018. He continues as Emeritus Professor of Anthropology and is using his time to work on multiple books and articles related to his research on the anthropology of war, the human dimensions of climate change, New Guinea society, and war and political centralization in ancient Peru. This year, he was lead author of an article on New Guinea leadership that appeared in Human Nature, he authored an entry on “Positivism” in The Wiley-Blackwell International Encyclopedia of Anthropology, and he published a book review for the Journal of Anthropological Research.

After completing an interview with the manager, Isenhour toured the Portland Gear Hub as part of the May Term Ethnographic field school.

In the 2018/2019 academic year, Cindy Isenhour taught Economic Anthropology, The Anthropology of Food, and Anthropological Dimensions of Environmental Policy. She also continued to work on her research project "ResourcefulME"; to explore the social, economic, and environmental potential of Maine’s vibrant second-hand markets. That research project was also the topic of a new Digital Ethnographic Field School held during the 2019 May term (for more information see www.umaine.edu/reuse/field-school/). Isenhour attended the United Nations climate negotiations in Katowice, Poland, in December to research international efforts to address the climate impact of internationally traded goods.

Lisa Neuman spent her Fall 2018 sabbatical researching, acquiring, and producing two creative achievements: a Suitcase of Native American Stereotypes and a Suitcase of African American Stereotypes. Both are literally suitcases—one is decorated with a Pendleton Blanket design signifying Native Americans, the other with the South African flag—and both are part of her efforts to bring anthropological and Native American studies theory to K-12 schools in Maine. She foresees a larger project here (one that extends beyond Maine) and is developing an educational web site as well as two printed accompanying books that contain photos of most of the items in the (respective) suitcases and analyses of their origins, uses, and implications. In 2018, she also set up a 3D printing lab in her Anthropology office, which she uses in cultural preservation and education projects.
Dan Sandweiss spent the first half of the summer on a visiting fellowship at the University of Grenoble, France, working with tectonic geologist Laurence Audin on a paper on the role of the deep geologic history of the Peruvian coast in prehistoric cultural development. He spent the second part of the summer in Peru, first visiting Cecilia Mauricio (UMaine I.Ph.D., 2015) together with Alice Kelley as part of Cecilia’s 2-year project to study human and environmental risks to cultural heritage in that region. Dan, Alice, and Joe Kelley then went to the Chinchua Valley, Peru, to begin work on their NSF-funded project on “The Ecological Context of Complex Society Emergence,” which is collaborative with Charles Stanish at the University of South Florida. Earlier in the year, Dan received a Presidential Recognition Award (his third) from the Society for American Archaeology for his role in founding the SAA’s Climate Change Strategies and Archaeological Resources committee.

In addition to directing the Northeast Archaeology Field program, Bonnie Newsom spent much of her summer working on a manuscript to document the WWII German POW camp at Indian Township near Princeton, Maine. Newsom was awarded a fellowship by the American Association of University Women to develop a publication based on previous archaeological work at the POW camp site. She is working with Donald Soctomah, Passamaquoddy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, to revise the archaeology report and create a publication for a broader audience. Material remains recovered from the site reflect the region’s logging history, former structures on the site, and horsemanship activities.

Gregory Zaro was on sabbatical during the 2018-2019 year and spent most of it in Mexico, Belize, and Croatia. During this time he completed his work on an edited book titled *Landscape in Southeastern Europe* and an article concerning a sixteenth century Ottoman legacy along the Venetian frontier. He also began work on several new manuscripts and advanced two field research programs – a new collaborative project to map and test the newly recorded archaeological site of Tikin Ha, Belize, and a continuation of his joint research program in Croatia centered on urbanization and landscape change in northern Dalmatia. Among many rewarding activities throughout the year, one of his most memorable came during his six-month stay in Mérida, Mexico, where he served as a science fair volunteer at his children’s primary school, Colegio Iberoamericano de Mérida, over a six week period last fall (see photo). He returns to the University of Maine refreshed and energized for the year ahead!
Department Publications


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.

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