

Bates Anthropology

Number 5

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009

Compiled by Victor Babatunde '11
Edited by Alisa Hamilton '11



Anthropology Faculty and many of the 2008 Graduates

Back row: Kira Stewart, Emily Maistrellis, Loreal Scott, Carolyn McNamara and David Miller.
Middle row: Kristofer Jönsson, Emma Arenstam, Tasha Rosener, Martin Laurita, Michelle Sisco and Thomas Burian.
Front row: Stephen Kemper, Heather Lindkvist, Bruce Bourque, Elizabeth Eames and Loring Danforth.

Letter From the Chair

Elizabeth Eames

Welcome all, to the next installment of our Bates College Anthropology Department Newsletter, first produced in 1995, then again in 1999, 2002 and 2005. As you will see from the faculty's personal updates included here, since 2002 we have been a relatively stable, but very busy, crew. We still have a steady stream of students in our introductory and middle level courses, while the number of majors varies regularly around a mean of 12 (+/- 6). But what our alumni then make of their lives has no "average," no "mean," as you will see as you read along.

The biggest change in the functioning of our department pertains to the establishment of our very own endowment fund, for which we are deeply grateful to Andrew Hamill '05. *The Hamill Fund for Fieldwork in Anthropology* enables us to support student research in new ways. Since its inception, The Hamill Fund has supported original ethnographic fieldwork in India, Tanzania, and Maine. We look forward to awarding it again this March. As you will read below, in addition to the Fieldwork Fund, we now are able to award *The Hamill Senior Thesis Prize*, officially acknowledging the most outstanding research work of our graduating seniors.

As Stephen Kemper will be on leave next year, we are in the process of hiring a professor for the four-course replacement position.

Alumni Updates

Kate Brown 2008

Since graduating I have found myself drawn more and more into education. I have been fortunate to explore the field in three different settings. This past fall I worked as an instructor for New York City Outward Bound. Commonly known for its adventure trips, OB has expanded its expeditionary approach to transform schools. I essentially worked

week-long new student orientation programs with the nine affiliated schools - taking the students camping, hiking and facilitating other team building activities. At season's end I returned home to Maine to take an online TEFL class and volunteer in an ELL classroom while awaiting my departure for Chile. I was fortunate to work in a beginners ELL classroom at PHS under a thoughtful, experienced teacher with whom I talked a lot about the theory, practice, politics and future of education.



In late February I flew down to Chile and am currently working at DuocUC, a professional college system, teaching English. I am enjoying my time down here, exploring this incredible country and improving my Spanish. In my first few weeks I was experiencing small bits of culture shock here and there. I was entertained because I found myself recording things and trying to understand them through some kind of anthropological lens. Yeah, Bates anthro!

Email: katelizabeth.brown@gmail.com

Emily Maistrellis 2008

Emily is currently a program coordinator at Jhpiego in Baltimore, which is a public health organization affiliated with John Hopkins University. Specifically Emily supports Jhpiego's programs in Afghanistan, Botswana and the Philippines. Her job has introduced her to contracts management, finance, business development, general administration/logistics and technical programming. Emily writes: "While my job mainly concerns the first three (this is basically an admin job), I am constantly learning about the medical innovations

that are going on in the field, who we are helping, why and how. Everyday I am in communication with people in the field and travel is a possibility, which I am really excited about. In Afghanistan, Jhpiego is working on improving the quality of health services across the board, growing community health work and community involvement, examining gender and integrating gender awareness into health, women's health in particular, and growing the nation's midwifery program as well...to name a few things. Honestly the program still feels too big to get a handle on; the budget for this year alone is around 16 million! I have gotten to learn a lot about the midwifery education programs, which I am really interested in, and I'm hoping to join a working group here on gender.



Soraya Nelson, NPR
Midwife trainee
Salima studies.

"The Botswana programs are all related to HIV/AIDS, and they are mostly research based too, both qualitative and quantitative. These are much smaller programs so I am doing a lot more work. But that is also a really great thing, because I have gained a lot of responsibility and some authority as a result. There is even a trip for me in the budget!

"The Philippines takes up the least amount of my time because we aren't the primary implementers of the project over there; we have been subcontracted by another organization. The program is similar to that in Afghanistan, in that it is strengthening the healthcare system as a whole. But in the Philippines, the health care system is very much tied to the government, so the approach is different."

Kira Stewart 2008

After graduating, Kira spent two weeks in Japan with her Father working on Eco tourism projects in conjunction with the Kodo group. She has started working as a Therapeutic Support Worker at the Counseling Service of Addison County in Middlebury, VT. Kira hopes to attend a graduate program that specializes in American Sign Language. She writes: "I hope to end up either at Gallaudet University in D.C. or in one of the programs located in Boston or Chicago. Ever since taking that American Sign Language summer course at UVM and writing my thesis on Deaf Culture, I have had an urge to become an interpreter and go back for graduate school."



Megan Birmingham 2007

Megan is working in New York City at Lord & Taylor in the merchant offices as an Assistant Planner in contemporary dresses.

Email: meganbirmingham@gmail.com

Jeff Addis 2006

Jeff is a graduate student working towards a degree in teaching history at Bard College in the Hudson Valley. After obtaining his MA and license in teaching, he plans to look for a placement at an international school in Southeast Asia. Jeff adds: "My knowledge of anthropology, particularly the concepts of ethnicity, group identity and cultural difference, has provided a unique skill set for me to examine and present topics in history to a class. For example, I recently used Appadurai's definition of 'cultural,' involving the mobilization of group

identity, to analyze the actions of rioters in Antebellum Philadelphia.”

Email: jeffrey.addis@gmail.com

Lindley Brainard 2006

After graduating, Lindley took a 5-month road trip through which she learned about the cultures and people of individual regions all over our country. After the road trip she settled in New Hampshire,



where she currently lives and works. Lindley got a job as a clinical research coordinator for Simbex: a small biomechanical research and development company. She runs a concussion research project involving Brown, Dartmouth and Virginia Tech Football and Men's and Women's Ice Hockey teams.

Email: lindleybrainard@gmail.com

Jess Celentano 2005

Jess is working for the Global Fund For Women Organization. She writes: “I started as a program associate for Africa (in the organization).... While I am no longer directly working for the Africa team, I continue to be involved in the grant making, research, analysis, and French translation for the francophone region. It is really exciting work.”

Email: jesscelentano@yahoo.com

Andrew Hamill 2005

Since graduating, Andrew has worked at organic farms, including his family farm in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, at a legal service center for immigration clients from Central America in Cambridge, Massachusetts, at a fly-fishing outfitter in Montana, and for Putney Student Travel (a community service trip for high school students in Grenada, West Indies). For the last nine months, he has worked on homework at the Fordham MBA program. Andrew adds: “Anthropology has

affected me through my time after graduation in other ways as well. Since going to Tonga for my senior thesis work and really getting to know people from a different culture I have continued to enjoy learning from individuals from different backgrounds. This is part of what led me to work in immigration legal services. I also think that I am often viewing my MBA experience, although it sounds corny, from outside of the box. Many people become so immersed in the details of how best to make a profit that they don't think about the effects of their business. I just finished a course called *Management and Sustainability*, and being open to new ideas, like having a tax on carbon emissions, may just be a result of being ‘anthropologized.’”

Email: andrewhamill1@gmail.com

Meg Helms 2004

Meg is currently working as the Personnel and Operations Associate for a mid-sized law firm in downtown Boston. She is also starting a consulting company with a co-worker. The company is called Launch Boston and provides personalized service to help college graduates successfully transition into the next phase of their lives. Meg adds: “We will be working with grads in the Boston area to provide education and guidance in all areas of the transition; jobs, finances, apartment, and community. My Anthropology background definitely helps in my world view and how I relate and work with people - especially being in the human resource field.”

Email: meghelms@gmail.com

Robert Miles Loomis 2004

Robert is attending the Master of Arts in the Social Sciences Program at the University of Chicago on a full scholarship. He is enrolled in an interdisciplinary program that encompasses the whole social sciences divisions, which would allow



him to select the courses he wants to take and areas of inquiry/methodology he wishes to focus on.

Email: miles.loomis@gmail.com

Cresa Pugh 2004

In 2004 Cresa moved back to her hometown of Nashville, TN to accept the position of Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator for Hospital Corporation of America, the nation's largest privately owned for-profit hospital company in the U.S. Her team was responsible for cultural competency training in healthcare for the company's hospitals as well as developing a workplace diversity program for the company's offices. In 2007, Cresa relocated to Boulder, CO to play in the mountains.



She continued doing contract-consulting work with HCA for the year, and is now working with an investment management and financial consulting firm. She also works part-time at Anthropologie clothing store because of her love of clothes and irony. In September, Cresa moved to Thailand to teach English in a primary school for 10 months. She plans to apply to graduate school for Medical Anthropology with the intent to enroll in the fall of 2010.

Valerie Wicks 2004

For the past three years Valerie has been working as a 1st and 2nd grade teacher in the New York City public school system. The first two years were in a school in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, through the program Teach for America. Next year, she will be starting her first year at the University of Michigan Law School.

Email: valerie_wicks@yahoo.com

Sara Montrone 2003

Sara graduated with an interest in political anthropology but after leaving the confines of academia, her concern has shifted to issues of environmental sustainability. She is interested in the way people prioritize their money and how that limits sustainability. Sara writes: "I want to know, for example, why so many people consider it reasonable to spend say \$100 a month on cable television yet balk at paying \$3.99/lb for organic locally grown tomatoes. I'd like to see people start making policy that is not based on the idea that our economic market is an independent force but a social construction that we have the power to change." In exploring this topic, Sara worked on a small organic farm in Virginia for a season to learn more about sustainable production. She is now in DC working for the Greenpeace organization. Sara hopes to pursue her interests in graduate school.

Email: sara.montrone@gmail.com

Wit Davis 2000



Wit in India with 3 orphaned elephants

Wit has been very busy these past several years primarily through her work with IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) where she has traveled far and wide initially supporting international projects that improve companion animal welfare and more recently responding as part of the Emergency Relief team to situations where animals are involved in disasters such as hurricanes and oil spills. Wit writes: "Most of my

work has been exciting and stimulating but it has also helped me develop and reinforce my current belief that animal welfare will not dramatically improve without simultaneously addressing issues of human welfare.” Wit has been accepted into the Tufts University's Masters in Public Health Program. She is also applying to medical school for the fall of 2009.

Email: wdavis@ifaw.org

Jeremy Poore 1999

Since graduating, Jeremy has undertaken a journey into learning about the natural world and our ways of relating to everything around us. Most recently, he became the Program Director for Stone Mountain School, a hybrid wilderness boarding school for ADD and NLD boys. His Priority is to build the culture of the school and staff but that has not deterred him from building his own Teahouse, creating a private practice in Spiritual Counseling and Energy Healing, and managing a Therapeutic Wilderness program. Jeremy writes: “Dream big as anthropology begs you to dig into the 'why?' behind everyday activities. You might find that you are not what you do, but something much bigger that has free will to make any decision. If you accomplish this, you will have achieved the ability to design your own way of living with or without the bigger culture around you. This is a magical gift. Enjoy.”

Email: jeremypoore@gmail.com

Courtney Marshall 1998

Since graduating, Courtney has volunteered with AmeriCorps, graduated from Yale University with a



MS in Nursing, and has worked as a midwife for the past four years as a faculty member at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. She

traveled to Greece, Denmark, UK, France, Spain, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, & Guatemala, took up belly-dancing, completed a Century ride (100 miles on a bicycle), delivered over 200 babies, learned how to shuck oysters and how to make one mean mojito.

Courtney adds: “Currently, I live with my wonderful boyfriend and am also headed back to school for a Post-MS in Psychiatric Nursing and a degree in human sexuality for a second career in sex therapy. I definitely think my experience with anthropology has helped shape me into the compassionate and holistic health care provider that I am today.”

Email: cmarshall37@gmail.com

Karma Foley 1997



As of the last Anthropology newsletter (2005), Karma was living in Boston and working with ethnographic filmmaker John Marshall on the film series "A Kalahari Family." She then headed back to Maine to study photography for a year. In 2004, Karma moved to

Washington DC and began working as a freelance image researcher. Karma writes: “My current job has brought me back to the field of Anthropology. I am now a film archivist at the Human Studies Film Archives (HSFA).” The HSFA is part of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History and is closely linked with the National Anthropological Archives. In addition to her day job, Karma is working on a documentary film of her own – a biography of John Marshall. She traveled to Namibia last fall to spend some time in the Kalahari and conduct interviews with several Ju/'hoansi who were very close with John. Karma adds: “Even outside of my professional life, Anthropology has a way of cropping up. Last September, I married a former Anthropology major from Lewis & Clark.”

Email: karmafoley@yahoo.com

Deborah (Cantor) Kirschner 1997

Deborah graduated in mid-May 2008 with her masters in communication disorders from William Paterson University in New Jersey. Deborah writes: “As a speech pathologist (and out of the working world of speech pathology) I interact with a wide

variety of other professionals and frequently work with clients from all different backgrounds. I need to be aware of cultural and linguistic backgrounds so that my clients are never identified as having a language 'disorder' when in fact they may just have a language/dialect 'difference.'"

Email: Kof17@aol.com

Rana Ozbal 1997

After Bates, Rana went to Northwestern University in Evanston Illinois where she received her MA in 2001 and her PhD in 2006 in anthropology. Rana writes: "Two years ago I returned to Istanbul, where I was from, and have since been teaching archaeology and anthropology here at a local university. I also co-direct an excavation in northwest Turkey with my husband. We are expecting our first child in May 2008!"

Erica Smith 1997

Erica frequently makes trips to Indonesia inspired by her Anthropology short term course in Bali, Indonesia 14 years ago. In 2005, she attended a summer study program in Indonesia with the US-Indonesia Society (USINDO) while finishing her Master's Degree in International Affairs at the Elliott School at George Washington University. Erica returned to Indonesia in late 2006 and has since been working as a Program Officer for The Asia Foundation in the Jakarta office. Although, she has been involved in many programs, her primary involvement has been with the Aceh team working on women's empowerment programs.

Email: erica_jean_smith@yahoo.com



Kathleen Bowes 1996

After a pre-med post-baccalaureate at the University of Maine, Kathleen graduated from medical school

(Drexel Univ. in Philadelphia) in 2003. She is now a primary care pediatrician working for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia at the "Kids First" satellite office in Newark, Delaware. Kathleen adds: "I certainly think my anthropological perspective is

invaluable to my practice of medicine. It affects many of my interactions with patients. Since primary care involves a lot of anticipatory guidance some of my 'advice' has a lot of cultural implications - sleep, feeding, nurturing, meanings of ailment and illness, education, etc. I also have a multi ethnic patient population and my non-American patients seem to appreciate my sensitivity to their cultural needs and often 'ask for me' for appointments."

Email: kab151@gmail.com

Maura Tukey Clark 1996

After Bates, Maura moved to Massachusetts, and spent the better part of the last 12 years there, working in book publishing, and then returning to graduate school to get a Masters in social work at Smith College. For the last 5 years she has lived in Pittsfield, MA working as an outpatient psychotherapist in a community mental health center, and as a nursing



home social worker. Maura writes: "My husband and I (Justin Clark, '96) relocated back to Maine in June 2007, to pursue more time with our families who live here, for Justin to work at St. Mary's as a physician, and to live out our dream of residing in the country! I recently started a job as the new oncology social worker at St. Mary's, wonderfully close to dear Bates!"

Email: maurablair@yahoo.com

Nancy Monahan Green 1996

Shortly after graduating from Bates, Nancy entered a nursing graduate program for non-nurses, earning her second BS as well as her MS in Nursing. She got married in 1999 and worked as a Family Nurse Practitioner before realizing that she wanted to focus her practice on working with patients with complicated and/or chronic wounds and ostomies. Soon, Nancy became a certified Ostomy and Continence Nurse and has been doing this for the past seven years. She currently works for a home

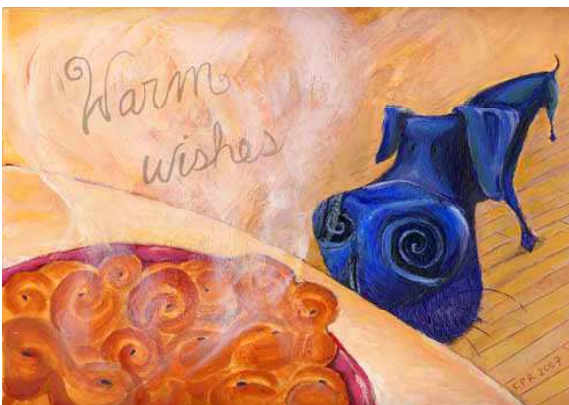
care agency in Massachusetts. Nancy writes that: "although I don't work directly in the field of anthropology, I find that a deep understanding of different people and their personal surroundings and culture allows me to provide care on a more intimate level."

Email: nursenan@comcast.net

Jeffrey Smith 1994

After graduating from Bates, Jeffrey left for Osaka, Japan. He recalls that Osaka was full of constant adventures that eventually culminated in marriage, children and housing. He writes: "While in Japan, my work life took up most of my time. I was a teacher for the federal government, then the local government and then for myself. I worked for a Japanese ISP similar to Earthlink and eventually started my own business. My wife Chizuko and I had a daughter, Haruka, and then another daughter, Kei, in 2000 and 2001." Jeff returned to Chicago in 2005, finding the post 9/11 US looking strange to him. Jeff still speaks Japanese everyday with his family. He worked as a Sales Rep. in the Midwest for Ricoh for six months. Currently, Jeff is the Chief Operating Officer for Collier Lock and Security in Chicago while engaging on an internet based start-up with his brother. Jeff writes, "I will always value the Anthropology degree for the training to accept differences and the type of thinking that requires."

Email: jeffsmithchicago@yahoo.com



Katie Parke-Reimer 1992

Katie Parke-Reimer 1992

After being out of the workforce for more than 8 years raising her two daughters, Kate is starting a new career in illustration. She writes: "It has crossed my mind that perhaps I should have cut to the chase and gone to art school twenty years ago instead of majoring in anthropology at a liberal arts school. But although I have seen a lot of technically good visual artists at the Minneapolis School of Art and Design where I've been studying in recent years, I really think a liberal arts education, and even my anthropological studies, have given me an enormous advantage. A lot of what an illustrator does is conceptual, and my background helps me think outside of visual clichés and consider creative approaches to visual storytelling."

Email: kparkereimer@msn.com

Website: www.katieparke.com



Fourth-graders at Reiche Elementary School

Laura Graves 1990

Laura is teaching English Language Learners at Reiche Elementary School in Portland, Maine. Laura writes: "There are over 20 languages spoken in her school and about 30% of our students are learning English. My children, James 7 and Lena 10, are enjoying their own multicultural learning experience on the other side of the peninsula at the East End School. While studying at Bates I didn't truly believe that I would be using my degree during my work day, but each day I'm either speaking Spanish, negotiating with Somali parents or encouraging a respectful Cambodian student to

speak out. And I thought it was just a great excuse to travel during college!"

Email: gravel@portlandschools.org

Peter Muise 1989

Peter obtained a Master's Degree in Anthropology from Brandeis in 1996. He is currently in charge of the reunions for the MIT Alumni Association. Peter adds that: "When I was an undergraduate, I enjoyed planning parties and social events, so my current work is actually a continuation of something I learned at Bates, although not in the classroom. I still enjoy reading folklore and mythology, and a couple textbooks from Loring Danforth's 'Myth and Folklore' class remain on my bookcase."

Email: pmuise@MIT.EDU

Lauren Walsh 1989

After Bates, Lauren traveled in Europe and Central America, became a lawyer, and volunteered and worked for a number of museums and arts-related nonprofits. Lauren writes: "[Anthropology] gives you an invaluable holistic perspective, regardless of whether you go into anthropology as a profession."

Email: beckwithwalsh@yahoo.com

Anna Megyesi 1988

Anna teaches virtual classes in Spanish for the West Virginia Department of Education's Virtual School. Anna comments that: "Anthropology and my studies at Bates clearly influence my work. I love teaching and try to keep up with research and practice in the world of applied linguistics. I am currently stretching my theoretical knowledge to the limit—applying language acquisition theory to the virtual world and my curricula is great fun!"

Email: annamegyesi@hotmail.com

Trish Parker 1988

Trish completed her Masters degree in Classical Archeology studying the Aegean Bronze Age at the University of Texas at Austin in 1996. Since then she has worked in bookstore management and spent 6 years working as a freelance copyeditor. Trish is working now at a local community college on the pre-requisites for their nursing program. She plans

to complete the program in about three years. Her short-term goals include working at a local hospital, possibly in obstetrics. Trish's long-term goal is to work again overseas on providing culturally appropriate health care to people in the developing world.

Email: Trish_Parker@att.net

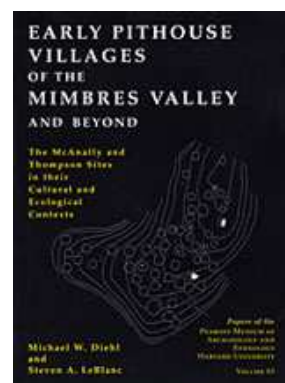
Jonathan Green 1986

Jonathan has now been living in the greater Seattle area for nearly 9 years. For 8 of those years he worked in Head Start; the last year he worked as a family child care home licenser for the State of Washington, Dept. of Early Learning. Jonathan writes: "Even though I was an Anthropology major, I seem to have ended up working in the field of early learning and as a social worker! However, my anthropology training and perspective has come in handy as I work with diverse people here in the Pacific Northwest. In fact, I license many Somali childcare providers, as Seattle is a hub for their resettlement in America. I have kept up with what is happening in Lewiston and know that there is a thriving Somali community there as well. Wherever I go in my work, anthropology seems to be right there with me!"

Email: Jonathansgreen@aol.com

Mike Diel 1985

Since the last Anthropology Alumni Newsletter, Mike has edited several books and been the senior co-author on a book put out by Harvard U Press, and written chapters in several other books and articles in numerous journals. Samples of his latest:



Books:

Diehl, Michael W., and Steven A. LeBlanc
2001 *Early Pithouse Villages of the Mimbres Valley and Beyond*. Papers No. 83. Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Diehl, Michael W. (editor)

2000 *Hierarchies in Action; Cui Bono?* Occasional Papers No. 27. Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL.

2005 *Subsistence and Resource Use Strategies of Early Agricultural Communities in Southern Arizona.*

Anthropological Papers No. 34. Center for Desert Archaeology, Tucson, AZ.

Some Chapters in Books:

Diehl, Michael W.

2007 Mogollon Trajectories and Divergences. In *Zuni Origins*, edited by David A. Gregory and David R. Wilcox, pp.146-164. University of Arizona Press, Tucson, AZ.

2006 Material Differences and Social Differentiation in Mimbres Mogollon Prehistory. In *Mimbres Society*, edited by Valli S. Powell-Marti and Patricia A. Gilman, pp.177-188. University of Arizona Press, Tucson, AZ.

Articles:

Diehl, Michael W.

2005 Morphological Observations on Recently Recovered Early Agricultural Period Maize Cob Fragments from Southern Arizona. *American Antiquity*, 70:361-375.

Email: mdiel@desert.com

Madeleine Pappas 1984

After Bates, Madeleine completed an MA in anthropology at UVA, and then worked for ten years as a historian on cultural resource management projects in 17 different states, most in the mid-Atlantic region. Madeleine then worked as a consultant for the World Bank on a loan granted to the Romanian government to restore and preserve heritage sites while also improving community socio-economic conditions through sustainable tourism and small business development. Later, Madeleine served as executive director of a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing awareness in Greek culture, and supporting preservation projects in Greece. In 2003, Madeleine completed a certificate program in documentary filmmaking at George Washington Univ. Later that year, she moved to Athens, Greece (the city where she grew up) and worked on several historical documentaries while being employed as a

news editor and translator. Since returning to the US last year, Madeleine has been working part-time as a scriptwriter and editor. In the midst of a career change, she is now living in San Diego, CA.

Madeleine has just been accepted to Azusa Pacific University's accelerated nursing program and has spent the last eight months taking all the natural science prerequisites. Madeleine adds: "My goal is to become a nurse practitioner with additional training in integrative medicine and to work with culturally-diverse populations. I'm excited about learning the science behind our bodies, disease and treatment, as well as the cultural beliefs and practices about health and healing."

Email: mpappas07@gmail.com

David Nelson 1974



David is the Director of Transit Planning for Jacobs Edwards and Kelcey (JEK), a leading transportation planning and engineering firm that has successfully completed scores of transit projects across the country and around the world over the last 60 years. Mr.

Nelson is nationally known for his expertise in public transportation planning. His Boston-based practice focuses on transportation and urban planning, feasibility studies, operations planning, and the development of innovative and practical solutions to transit questions. With nearly 30 years experience, he brings a pragmatic transportation-centered perspective to a wide variety of projects.

David is the long time chair of the Committee on Self-Powered Rail Car (SPRC) Technologies for the Transportation Research Board in Washington and has conducted numerous feasibility, planning and operational studies concerning the use of self powered diesel passenger cars for a variety of corridors in the North America. He recently completed two federal studies concerned with exploring the business case for increased federal support of light rail transit systems that share track with freight operations. His current portfolio of

work also includes DMU service planning studies in Pennsylvania, Ontario, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, and Florida. Over the years he also conducted DMU planning studies in New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Maine.

Prior to joining EK, Mr. Nelson was Director of Transportation Systems Analysis for KKO and Associates, LLC. He came to KKO from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, where he was Assistant Director of Planning and managed rail feasibility studies, investment analyses, and service performance evaluations. Before joining the MBTA, David was Manager of Planning and Administration for the Boston and Maine Railroad's Commuter Service Division.

David holds a Masters Degree from Harvard University's Graduate School of Design and a bachelor's degree from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine.

Email: David.Nelson@jacobs.com

John Sherblom 1972

A few years after graduating from Bates, John obtained his MA and PhD in Human Communication. He has been teaching at the University of Maine since 1987 and has just completed a six-year term as Chair of the Communication and Journalism department. John writes that: "My undergraduate education in Anthropology provided an outstanding basis for my



graduate work and had a strong influence on developing my research and academic teaching interests. I have published two books and refereed numerous journal articles. My current research interests lie in studying identity, self-presentation, ritual, and culture in on-line virtual communities such as Second Life."

Email: john@maine.edu

Faculty Updates

Bruce Bourque

My research focuses upon the Archaeology and Ethnohistory of Northeastern North America. My current fieldwork is in the Merrymeeting Bay area and in Penobscot Bay. Currently my research involves participation in multidisciplinary teams that use archaeological data in the assessment of long-term human impacts on marine ecosystems. My most recent publication (University of Washington Press, in press) is titled "Uncommon Threads: Wabanaki Textiles, Clothing and Costume."



Charles Carnegie

I am in the early stages of a book project on The Making and Unmaking of Civil Society. The project involves historical and ethnographic research on a program of rural social and economic development that was started in Jamaica in the 1930s. Without precedent internationally as far as I can tell, the program was run by a Jamaican non-governmental organization with funding negotiated from two multinational corporations. Although free from state control in its early years, the program was gradually taken over by the state and its model of development from the bottom up altered to become far more top-down and centralized. In conjunction with this research, I am



offering a new course, starting in winter 2009, on The Development of Underdevelopment.

Loring Danforth



I continue to enjoy teaching and trying to encourage undergraduates to think anthropologically. In addition to my usual courses, I have resumed teaching the short-term unit that offers students a

chance to do fieldwork in the Lewiston-Auburn area. Two years ago, as part of that course, I did some English tutoring with Somali immigrants at the Adult Learning Center. I enjoyed it so much I began teaching a class and have continued doing so ever since. I have been working on a book, with a coauthor in Greece that deals with the life histories of refugee's children from the Greek Civil War. The fieldwork for the book has taken me to Northern Greece, the Republic of Macedonia, Budapest and Toronto. We hope to have it done by the end of the year. I have also written some articles about the Macedonian minority in northern Greece and the conflict between Greece and Macedonia over the recognition of the Republic of Macedonia under its constitutional name. Last summer I had a wonderful trip to Botswana to watch birds and mammals. I never stopped being an anthropologist, however.

Elizabeth Eames

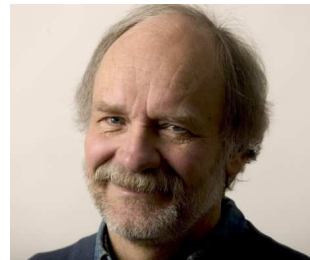
My second term as chair of the department will conclude at the end of the next academic year, whereupon I will resume my Gender Relations in Comparative Perspective offering, which has been "on hiatus" in recent years. I continue,



though, to teach Comparative Economics, Contemporary Africa, and Cinema courses. Since the release of our last newsletter, I have added South Africa, Ghana, Kenya and Ethiopia to the

roster of nations in which I have had first hand experience. Locally, I volunteer in various capacities to assist resettled refugees and immigrants, and am currently overseeing a community-based research project on Somali employment trends in Lewiston/Auburn. My son, Nimal, is a high school junior, already a young adult and all I did was blink!

Steve Kemper



When the department put out the newsletter last time, I had big plans for doing research on the National University of Singapore's program to bring the liberal arts to undergraduates at the

university. The project was going to give me an opportunity to understand an example of the globalization of education and the incongruity between liberal arts skills and a society with little exposure to class discussion, argument, and individual opinion. The project fell apart when the university refused to let me pursue the project, confirming the assumptions that prompted my interest in the first place.

Because I had been working on Anagarika Dharmapala at the same time, I moved on to this second research interests with a sharper focus. Dharmapala (1864-1933) was the Sinhala Buddhist reformer whom Sri Lankans and scholars alike credit for the rise of Sinhala nationalism (and what quickly became ethnic chauvinism). Much of his career in Sri Lanka is fully-researched and pretty much established; very little of his life abroad has been studied and the 90% of his adult life was spent living in Calcutta, Sarnath (where the Buddha preached his first sermon), and London. Abroad Dharmapala fought for the Buddhist cause—struggling for control of Bodh Gaya (where the Buddha achieved Enlightenment), editing a journal intended to create a global community of Buddhists, and building Buddhist temples in Calcutta, Sarnath, and London, and propagating Buddhism among

non-Buddhists. In these circumstances he was a genuinely cosmopolitan character, and I am trying to understand how the two sides of his life project fit together.

Heather Lindkvist



I continue to thrive as a scholar and teacher with the support of my colleagues in Anthropology. I offer courses in medical anthropology, gender and sexuality studies, Islam, transnational migration, and ethnographic methods. In addition to my teaching, I am the Bates College site director

of the New England Consortium on Assessment and Student Learning, a longitudinal, mixed-methods study of the Class of 2010. Seven colleges across New England participate in this consortium, including Bowdoin and Colby. This project considers how students make decisions about their academic, social, and personal lives, and how institutional practices shape their learning experiences. Several anthropology students contribute to this project as interviewers.

Currently, I am finishing my dissertation about the Somali migration to Lewiston (University of Chicago, Department of Comparative Human Development). My research examines how Somali refugees establish and (re)imagine a sense of community based on their ethnic and religious identity. An ongoing aspect of my ethnographic research with the Somali community considers access to culturally appropriate reproductive health services. I have published a book chapter on the cultural accommodations made for Somalis in the Lewiston public schools (see below).

My daughter, Aurelia, continues to enliven department functions with a song and dance!

Publications 2008: The Reach and Limits of Cultural Accommodation: Public Schools and Somali Muslim Immigrants in Maine. In *Just Schools: Pursuing Equal Education in Societies of Difference*. Martha Minow, Hazel Markus and Richard Shweder, Eds. Pp. 164-203. New York: SSRC/Russell Sage Foundation.

Recent Honors Abstracts

2008-2009

Amy L. Lareau

Advisor: Elizabeth A. Eames

Education Reform: Policy, Practice, and Cultural Consequences in Rural South Africa

Rebounding from a long history of segregation and consequent disparity, the post-apartheid government in South Africa has made great efforts to restructure educational planning. Without consideration of the embedded disparity, however, blanket policy change may have disempowering effects for groups previously disadvantaged by the system. New policies must acknowledge cultural and imposed historical difference in order to ensure equal benefits and equal levels of agency for all. My own ethnographic fieldwork in a rural community of KwaZulu-Natal will be analyzed in conjunction with related research on the topic, policy statements, and historical accounts to assess the degree to which curriculum changes in South African schools effectively inform and recognize culture. By drawing connections between the immediate realities of this community and the removed, theoretical policies constructed afar, I will reveal the power of policy change to construct a culture of schooling while deconstructing pre-existing cultures of the home.

Julia T. Merriman

Advisor: Loring M. Danforth

Envisioning Communities: Perceptions of Somali and Somali Bantu Diasporas through Photography

I examine the politics of representation and the construction of identity in museums. I analyze two art exhibits, *The Somali Diaspora: A Journey Away* and *The Somali Bantu Experience: From East Africa to Maine* and discuss the discourse on curatorial consulting in creating cultural exhibitions. I examine historical and contemporary issues of appropriation and “othering” in museums’ exhibits, as well as identity in diaspora communities. I discuss the historical background of the ethnic Somali and Somali Bantu communities and their migration to Lewiston, Maine and the transition they have made to life in Lewiston. What do these exhibits mean to the different communities? Finally, I ask: How do these exhibits represent different cultures and identities? Using these exhibits as case studies, I explore the new ways in which museum exhibits engage communities and can construct and reflect on identities through photographic representation.



Jacob D. Nudel

Advisor: Charles V. Carnegie

Visions of Development

Anthropologists have developed an extensive critique of the concept of development. Many scholars argue international institutions—states, corporations, and NGOs—have invoked “development” to justify infringement on post-colonial economies and resources. During the summer of 2008, I conducted ethnographic research in a village near Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania with the Minjeni Women Group Trust, a small NGO. My

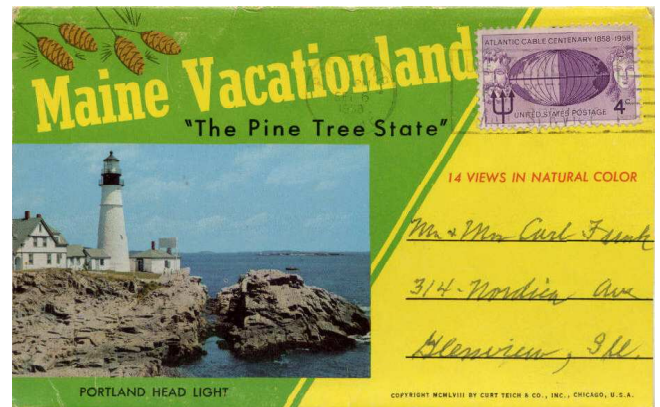
research demonstrated that Tanzanians have distinct notions of what development is and what their future should look like. I show how these visions of development arose in response to Tanzania’s history as a nation-state, especially under Julius Nyerere’s African Socialist regime and the subsequent transition to open-market liberalism. Furthermore, in the context of an increasingly interconnected world, individuals and groups of people act in complex and often competitive ways as they attempt to assert their own interests in the development process. I include reflections on the roles of volunteers and researchers in developing countries. *Jacob’s research was supported by the Hamill Fund for Fieldwork.*

2007-2008

Kristofer T. Jönsson

Advisor: Charles V. Carnegie

The Way Life Should Be? Negotiating Maine as “Vacationland”



This thesis investigates what Maine means to the people who live there, as well as to visiting tourists. In particular, it asks three pertinent questions: How has the “Vacationland” slogan risen to prominence as Maine’s alternative state motto? How does Maine perpetuate the image of untouched wilderness when, in fact, the vast forests have a long history of management and settlement? Why is tourism a political issue in many Maine communities? To answer these questions, this thesis

draws on a case study of the Plum Creek Corporation land development proposal for Moosehead Lake as well as ethnographic fieldwork conducted in and around Greenville, a town in Piscataquis County, Maine. It then applies anthropological scholarship to provide a framework for studying tourism in Maine as an anthropological subject. Specifically, the analysis is informed by Michel Foucault's idea of the medical gaze, which is applied to tourism by John Urry, and Dennison Nash's and Valene Smith's respective scholarship on the anthropology of tourism. The intended purpose of this project is to connect the tourist encounter in Maine, local concerns regarding tourist development, and anthropology in order to understand how Mainers and tourists alike negotiate the notion of Maine as "Vacationland." *Kristofer's research was supported by the Hamill Fund for Fieldwork.*

Emily A. Maistrellis

Advisor: Heather L. Lindkvist

Creating Healthy Moms and Healthy Babies through Childbirth Education

Since the introduction of Lamaze in the 1970's, childbirth education (CBE) classes have become a normalized stage of childbirth preparation for many expectant mothers in the United States. Furthermore, many CBE classes in the U.S. are produced by medical institutions, placing authoritative birth knowledge under the domain of biomedicine. As such, biomedical practice carries the potential to influence women's expectations of labor and delivery in a hospital setting. This thesis utilizes the conceptual frameworks of authoritative knowledge, embodiment, and the body politic in an examination of the production of authoritative birth knowledge and how it shapes childbirth as an object of culture. I employ participant observation at local CBE classes and interviews with CBE instructors, cultural brokers, and women's healthcare providers in order to analyze how "native" and foreign born expectant mothers access resources about childbirth in the hospital setting, and in turn how hospitals facilitate CBE, labor, and delivery for these women.

Based on extensive literary research and an analysis of course materials and popular literature on childbirth, I contend that once integrated in the biomedical setting, CBE curriculum produces knowledge and regulates the process of birth, managing women's expectations and embodiment in the birth setting.

David M. Miller

Advisors: Loring M. Danforth and Sonja K. Pieck

Common Property and Contentious Values: A Political Ecology of the Management of Sea Turtles in Isla Cañas, Panamá

In this thesis I examine the struggles and interdependence between turtles and people both fighting to survive on Isla Cañas, Panama. The beach of Isla Cañas serves as a critical nesting site for olive ridley sea turtles, and the sale of turtle eggs has been essential to the community's



economy. Since 1975, the Panamanian government and local community have co-managed a project to commercialize as well as conserve the eggs. I examine values and power struggles at local, national, and transnational scales as they are negotiated by local people directly involved in the turtle project. Ethnographic fieldwork conducted on Isla Cañas in 2006 and 2007 creates a base for understanding local realities within a global context. Focusing on conceptions of ownership and practices of management, I present an anthropologically grounded political ecology that teases apart the complex meanings, values, and ethics behind consumption and conservation of sea turtle eggs.

By understanding the values behind power struggles in Isla Cañas, I hope to inform more effective policy. I conclude by situating the Isla Cañas case study within the context of global conservation and poverty, showing how this unique case puts into clear relief the complicated tensions between conservation and development worldwide. *David was one of the 2008 Hamill Thesis Prize winners.*

Michelle B. Sisco

Advisor: Steven E. Kemper

“They Sing Only for the Widow and Not for the Man”: Oppari Crying Songs as a Subversive Discourse to Tamil Hierarchies of Gender and Caste

With the support of the Hoffman Research Support Grant and the Hamill Prize, and with the assistance of a non-profit organization, the National Folklore Support Centre (NFSC), I was able to research South Indian performance from a feminist perspective in the Tamil city of Chennai, India. As a non-paid intern working for the NFSC, I spent my eight weeks in Chennai conducting ethnographic fieldwork with low-caste widows, who lived in a small fishing village on the coast of the Bay of Bengal. My research centered on Oppari performance, a ritual lament sung by dalit widows at funerals and other death-related ceremonies.



My primary informants were four professional Oppari singers whose livelihood depended on invitations to perform at funerals in the area. Under the guidance of Professor Steve Kemper and the

Bates Anthropology department, I began to write my year long honors thesis for Anthropology, which examines Oppari performance as a form of subversion to patriarchal and brahminical ideologies.

2006-2007

Sara H. Gips

Advisor: Heather L. Lindkvist

The Commodification of Guatemalan Women's Bodies: The Production of Children for Inter-country Adoptions

Recent news reportage criticizes intercountry adoption between Guatemala and the United States, suggesting that babies are sought out or produced for the "adoption market." This honors thesis examines the validity of such assertions by



considering an ethnographic case study of the production of "adoptive children" in Guatemala and how the Guatemalan female body becomes commodified through this process. This thesis employs extensive literary research as well as direct participant observation and interviews both in Guatemala and the United States. Through adopting a critical cultural relativistic position and using a conceptual framework based on feminist theories from medical anthropology and studies of reproduction, this thesis examines to what extent political, economic, social, and inter- and intracountry powers influence the adoption process in Guatemala. By focusing on the production of Guatemalan children for the benefit of intercountry adoption, this thesis seeks to ascertain whether the current adoption system in Guatemala serves the children's and the biological mothers' best interests or whether these interests are subordinate to the

interests of American parents who hope to adopt Guatemalan children. *Sara was the 2007 winner of the Hamill Thesis Prize.*

Hannah R. Kusinitz

Advisor: Gerald F. Bigelow

Tilapia, It's What's for Dinner! The Impacts of an Invasive Fish on Rural Creole Culture in Crooked Tree Village, Belize

The rural village of Crooked Tree, Belize is located within a lagoon, and most villagers regularly fish in the lagoon for subsistence and economic purposes. Throughout the village's 300-year history, fishing has been crucial in defining the culture of the Creole people who live there. However, in the past decade, the foreign fish tilapia has escaped from a nearby aquaculture facility and invaded the lagoon. As a result of this invasion, the indigenous fish species are hard to find, and tilapia is nearly all that villagers catch. Many changes in the local culture seem associated with this event. This thesis addresses how cultures adapt to changes in environmental conditions by examining the case study from Crooked Tree. Located within the field of cultural ecology, this thesis takes an event-focused approach to studying how human cultures respond to environmental changes. The character of cultural adaptation to events depends greatly on cultural and economic arrangements as well as the history of change in a culture. Because of economic generalization and flexibility, as well as a history of dealing with significant changes, Crooked Tree villagers quickly adapted to tilapia's invasion and integrated the fish into their rural Creole culture.

The Andrew Hamill Thesis Prize in Anthropology

The Andrew Hamill Thesis Prize in Anthropology is awarded annually to one or more graduating seniors who, by vote of the faculty of the Department of Anthropology, have demonstrated exceptional achievement in the senior thesis. The award is funded by an endowment established by Oliver L. Hamill in honor of his son, Andrew, a 2005 graduate.

Awardees 2007: Sara Gips '07

Awardees 2008: Emily Maistrellis '08, David Miller '08

Hamill Family Fieldwork Fund

Endowed by Andrew Hamill '05, the Hamill Family Fund for Fieldwork in Anthropology supports ethnographic or archaeological inquiry, prioritizing declared majors' need-based travel assistance for thesis research purposes. The fund is designed to enable those with little financial support to engage in life-altering, research-based, cultural encounters.

Awardees 2007: Kristofer Jönsson '08, Miki Sisco '08

Awardees 2008: Jacob Nudel '09

Short Term 2008

Photographs taken by Anne Kemper at the Lewiston Adult Learning Center during Short Term, 2008. Students enrolled in Anthropology S10, *Encountering Community: Ethnographic Fieldwork and Service Learning*, tutored adult Somali immigrants in English.



***Corey Harris '91,
Macarthur "Genius" Grant Recipient,
Visits Bates***



Associate Professor of Anthropology Elizabeth Eames introduces Harris to students in her course on contemporary Africa and to students in a music theory course taught by Assistant Professor of Music Gina Fatone.



Corey Harris, seen here with family and friends at his Commencement in 1991, graduated with high honors in anthropology. He received an honorary Doctor of Music in 2007 and returned to campus as a learning associate in late February 2008. Photograph by David Wilkinson.



In Eames' and Fatone's combined class, Harris describes the role of the West African griot who maintains community tradition and memory through storytelling, music and dance.



Student guitarists join Harris on stage in the concert hall as interested observers watch from the audience. From left, North Yarmouth Academy freshman Jeremiah Murphy, Lewiston High School sophomore Nimal Eames-Scott, Harris, Sarah Charley '11, Nate Witherbee '08 and Greg Waters '08.