

Adam Kevin Benfer

920 Maine Street, Apartment 8
Lawrence, Kansas 66044
785.565.8219
abenfer@ku.edu

EDUCATION

B.A. Latin American Studies Center of Latin American Studies 5/2009
The University of Kansas Lawrence, KS

GPA 4.00

B.A. Anthropology Department of Anthropology 5/2009
The University of Kansas Lawrence, KS

GPA 3.87, with Departmental Honors

Honors Thesis: "Travel by Land, River and Sea in
Pre-Colonial Costa Rica"

Advisor: John Hoopes, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Anthropology

Total GPA: 3.74

Financed 90% of tuition by competitive scholarships

Relevant Coursework: Shamanism Past and Present (Spring 2009)
Indigenous Traditions of Latin America
Ancient American Civilization: Central Andes
Music and Identity in the Andes
Music in World Cultures (Spring 2009)
Language and Society in Latin America, Honors
Quechua I, II, III, & IV
Colonial Latin American History
Modern Latin American History

Study Abroad: Universidad de Costa Rica, San José 1/2008 – 7/2008

Social and Cultural Change in Costa Rica I
Introduction to Economic Anthropology

CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

Socio-Ecology and –Economics of Kansas Farmers
Isthmo-Colombian Archaeology
Precolonial Road Networks
Remote Sensing & Mapping
Andean Archaeology
Quechua languages and cultures
Indigenous Societies of Latin America

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Volunteer Ceramic Analysis	Archaeology Lab The University of Costa Rica (UCR)	4/2008 – 7/2008 San José, Costa Rica
	Analyzed ceramics from Sitio Cardal with UCR graduate students María Ramírez and Carolina Cavallini Illustrated ceramic shards and lithics. Photographed diagnostic artifacts.	
Archaeology Field School	Excavated at Sitio Santa Rita B Metropolitan State College of Denver (MSCD)	Summer 2006 Chao Valley, Perú
	Directed by Prof. Jonathon D. Kent of MSCD with Teresa E. Rosales Tham and Victor F. Vázquez Sanchez of the <i>Centro de Investigaciones Arqueobiológicas y Paleoecológicas Andinas "ARQUEOBIOS."</i>	
	Led an excavation team. Mastered excavation techniques. Analyzed ceramics, lithics, bones and organics. Wrote 20-page field report.	

WORK EXPERIENCE

Professor's Assistant	Prof. Devon Mihesuah American Indian Health & Diet Project Global Indigenous Nation Studies, KU	7/2009 – Present Lawrence, KS
	Researched traditional Native American diets Wrote encyclopedia-like entries for website Organized bibliographical data	
Video Rental Clerk	Checkers Video Department Checkers Grocery Store	7/2009 – 8/2009 Lawrence, KS
	Operated pay station and video rentals Answered phones and made appropriate referrals Provided customer service and information	
Desk Assistant/Security Monitor	Lewis and Templin Resident Halls KU Department of Student Housing	2007 – Present Lawrence, KS
	Operated at a 24-hour information desk Helped maintain security for the building Provided customer service and information Answered phones and made appropriate referrals Sorted mail and packages	
Farm Hand	Part-time, long-term job Benfer Hog Farms	1997 – 2005 Longford, KS
	Raised hogs from birth to market weight	

Feed hogs, cattle and other animals
 Maintained farm efficiency and sanitation
 Maintained annual vegetable garden

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILL

Spanish Advanced reading, writing and speaking ability

Kechwa (Ecuadorian Quechua) Intermediate reading, writing and speaking ability

ACTIVITIES AND LEADERSHIP

Chair, Social / Member	Undergraduate Anthropology Association (UAA) The University of Kansas	2005 – Present Lawrence, KS
	<p>Planned gatherings and cultural events. Cultivated relationships amongst anthropology students. Increased member count.</p>	
Secretary	Latin American Solidarity The University of Kansas	2007 – Present Lawrence, KS
	<p>Organized lecture series on current events. Planned fundraisers for local scholarship fund. Educated the community about social injustice and inequality.</p>	
Participant	Preparing for International Careers KU Thematic Learning Community	2005 Lawrence, KS
Participant	Youth Peace Conference The United Methodist Church	7/2005 Washington D.C. & NY
	<p>Learned about and visited the United Nations Discussed solutions to global violence Explored non-violent answers to conflict Lectured to community on peace studies upon return</p>	
Participant	Department of Culture American Legion Boys' State of Kansas	6/2004 Manhattan, KS
	<p>Organized a mock government office Passed or denied funding requests</p>	
Vice-President / Member	Conference Council on Youth Ministry United Methodist Kansas West Conference	2003 – 2005 Wichita, KS
	<p>Planned summer camps and retreats. Organized statewide meetings.</p>	
Member	Longford Bethel United Methodist Church	1999 – Present Longford, KS
	<p>Participated actively in local community.</p>	

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteer Worker	Alternative Spring Break Proyecto Abrigo	3/2006 Juarez, Mexico
	Constructed two houses for poor Mexican families who formerly lived in tarpaper and wooden crate houses.	
Volunteer Librarian	Longford Bethel United Methodist Church	2004 – 2005 Longford, KS
	Organized book collection.	

HONORS AND AWARDS

Memberin Course	Phi Beta Kappa – Alpha Chapter of Kansas The University of Kansas	2009 – Present Lawrence, KS
Certification	Global Awareness Program The University of Kansas	5/2009 Lawrence, KS
Award	Residents Hall Assistant of the Month HRHH, The University of Kansas	2/2009 Lawrence, KS
Scholar	National Society of Collegiate Scholars The University of Kansas	2006 – Present Lawrence, KS
Scholarships	Spreer Family Scholarship (\$20,000) Clay County Educational Endowment Association	2005 – Present Clay Center, KS
	John, Alma, John A. and Mary H. Erickson Memorial Scholarship (\$5,000) Clay County Educational Endowment Association	2005 – Present Clay Center, KS
	Ernest Tolin Scholarship (\$400) Clay Center United Methodist Men	2005 Clay Center, KS
	Art Society Scholarship (\$100) Clay County Community High School	2005 Clay Center, KS
Art Awards	Fine Arts Medal, Sculpture: “Sputtering Existence” Judges Choice, Sculpture: “Sputtering Existence” Judges Choice, Painting: “The Forgotten Path” Student Choice, Painting: “The Forgotten Path” North Central Kansas League (NCKL) Art Show	2005 Abilene, KS
	Judges Choice, Ceramic Mask: “Olmec” NCKL Art Show	2004 Clay Center, KS
	Fine Arts Medal, Painting: “Frog in the Water” Faculty Choice, Painting: “Frog in the Water” NCKL Art Show	2003 Concordia, KS

REFERENCES

Anita Herzfeld
Professor
Center for Latin American Studies
University of Kansas
(785) 864-4213
herzfeld@ku.edu

John W. Hoopes
Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology
University of Kansas
(785) 864-2660
hoopes@ku.edu

Nina Kinti-Moss
Lecturer
Center for Latin American Studies
University of Kansas
(785) 864-4213
martina@ku.edu

Brent Metz
Assistant Professor
Department of Anthropology
University of Kansas
(785) 864-2631
bmetz@ku.edu