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**UP IN SMOKE: THE END OF THE FEDERAL TOBACCO PROGRAM AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR KENTUCKY TOBACCO FARMERS**

By Don Stull

Bluegrass horse farms may define Kentucky's agricultural image to outsiders, but tobacco has been the foundation of the commonwealth's agricultural economy throughout its history. Kentucky produces one-fourth of the tobacco grown in the United States. In 2003 it ranked second in total production among the 16 tobacco-producing states and first in burley, the main ingredient in cigarettes.

Tobacco is much more than the state's principal cash crop. For all its good and bad, tobacco has

been the heritage of Kentucky's small farms and the people and communities they have supported. Wendell Berry (2004:16) summarized the crop's significance in *Tobacco Harvest: An Elegy*:

"After the Civil War, . . . burley tobacco . . . became the staple crop of . . . our region's small farmers. It also became a sort of agrarian passion, because of its beauty at nearly every stage of production and because of the artistry required to produce it. As a year-round crop, highly

valued, much talked about, and the lifelong study of its producers, it was a major shaping force of the local culture, of which it was in turn a product."

Tobacco marks the seasons for those who grow it. Traditionally, they prepare plant beds in February; sow its tiny seeds in March; transplant and set the seedlings in May and June; remove ("top") its blooms in July; "cut," "spike," and "house" the mature plants in August and Sep-

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**LIVING LAO: RETURN FROM THE FIELD**

Kristin Lundberg is a doctoral student in our KU anthropology department, recently returned from sixteen months of dissertation research fieldwork in Laos, funded through a pre-doctorate fellowship from the National Institute of Health. Kristin used weavers and their families as a microcosm by which to study the social reproduction of health of lowland Lao society. Her interest is how weavers, within the context of family and society, use resources of relationships, infor-

mation, and material goods to establish and reproduce well-being. Health is more than a biological phenomenon. To a large degree, health occurs because of the interactions of people and their commitment to resources affected by historical, ideological, political, social, and economic forces. The social reproduction of health perspective considers disease, illness, and injury but focuses on health created, maintained, and perpetuated

through multiple and interconnected ways. Emphasis is on the everyday realm of people's lives where practical knowledge operates, self-reliance is evident, and self-sufficiency is visible.

The reproduction of society and that of health is more than just producing babies of the next generation. It is about the work of caring for those individuals already living. It refers

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Look for Part II of the 2004 *KU Anthropologist* Linguistic Anthropology article "Endangered Languages and Linguistic Anthropology" online at [http://www.ku.edu/~kuanth/news\\_index.shtml](http://www.ku.edu/~kuanth/news_index.shtml)

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## UP IN SMOKE

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tember. Tobacco cures throughout October and into November on sticks in vented barns, or more recently on "scaffolds" in the fields because barns are in ever shorter supply. Its leaves are then "stripped" from their stalks, sorted according to stalk position, quality, color, and length, then baled. Beginning the Monday before Thanksgiving, farmers take their tobacco to the nearest warehouses, located in a score of communities around the state, where it is auctioned according to the grade assigned by federal inspectors. By February, most tobacco sales are over, and the cycle begins again.

Whether tobacco growers or not, Kentuckians know much about the crop. When crews are in the tobacco patches or housing it in the curing barns--iconic features of Kentucky's rural landscape--passersby pull off the road to "talk tubacah." After all, even city kids (a relative thing in a state of only 4 million people, where most towns are small) have often earned summer wages in its fields or auction warehouses, gathered with family or friends in its stripping rooms on winter evenings to listen to Wildcat basketball on the radio as they prepare another crop for sale. In an age when mechanization has made most farm work solitary, work in the tobacco patch or barn is still done by hand and highly social, a remnant of bygone days when cooperative effort and swapped labor characterized farming.

Unlike corn and soybeans, the price of tobacco is stable. Thanks to the U.S. tobacco program, established under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, the supply of tobacco is restricted. Each year the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates how much tobacco can sell at prices above the year's price-support rate. This estimate is used to establish an overall quota, adjusted to align available supplies with price-support levels. Quotas are allotted to individual farms

according to production patterns at the time the program was established. "By the time the tobacco program went into effect under the New Deal . . .," says Berry (*ibid.*), "much of the state had a highly developed tobacco-growing economy that supported not only thousands of farm families but also the commercial economies of the small towns and cities. The crop and its producers were accorded a conventional acceptance and respect."

Tobacco is grown in 119 of Kentucky's 120 counties, and Kentucky is the nation's most tobacco-dependent state. There is even a town named Tobacco in Kentucky. Netting 20 times the cash return on an acre of corn, no other major (legal) crop brings as much money per acre as tobacco. And in mountainous eastern Kentucky, there is not enough flat land to grow much else.

In 1998, I began a study of tobacco and poultry growers in Webster County, Kentucky, where I was born. In that year, 60,000 Kentucky farmers averaged \$12,000 income from tobacco. And as Frank Thornberry, who had been growing tobacco for more than 50 years, told me, "Take away . . . tobacco and you might just as well forget about Kentucky." But late in that same year, the tobacco industry reached a \$246 billion Master Settlement Agreement with the attorneys general of 46 states to compensate for tobacco-related health care costs and curtail industry advertising.

In February 1999, the Farm Service Agency dropped the national marketing quota for burley by almost 30 percent, costing tobacco growers \$230 million in lost revenue. Falling domestic tobacco consumption and increasing industry reliance on foreign tobacco have resulted in even more dramatic reductions in the tobacco quotas since then. For example, the burley quota on a typical western Kentucky farm--mine--plunged 65 percent between 1997 and 2000. Dramatic and

continuous decreases in the quotas that determine how much tobacco farmers can grow made the 2003 crop the smallest in the United States since 1874.

When I was growing up, children and grandchildren, cousins and neighbors swapped labor to put out and bring in a crop. But by the time I returned to western Kentucky to begin my research in 1998, that system was all but gone. The biggest concern of tobacco growers that summer was not the looming master settlement, but where to get enough workers to cut and house their crop. "Dunks, dopeheads, cripples, and old men is all you can get to he'p you these days," one of the county's biggest growers told me, only half in jest. Increasingly, farmers turned to migrant workers from Mexico and Central America, paying \$6:00-\$8.00 an hour. It was against this backdrop that the dismantling of the tobacco program, and with it the cultural and economic system it has undergirded, began.

On October 22, 2004, President Bush signed the American Jobs Creation Act (PL 108-357), which contained an amendment entitled Fair and Equitable Tobacco Reform. It charges the USDA with administering the Tobacco Transition Payment Program (TTPP). Beginning in 2005, this program, commonly called the tobacco buyout, ends the federal tobacco marketing quota and price support programs, as well as planting restrictions. Funded by assessments on tobacco companies at a cost of roughly 5 cents on each pack of cigarettes, TTPP will provide \$9.6 billion to tobacco quota owners and active growers to be paid in 10 annual installments. Kentucky will receive one-fourth (25.6%) of the TTPP payments, projected to be \$2,469 billion over ten years. But these payments will not begin to replace lost tobacco income, and tobacco farmers will suffer from the sudden dismantling of what has been called the "most successful commodity program ever administered by

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## LIVING LAO

(Living Lao, Continued from page 1)

to the attitudes and actions, behaviors and emotions, obligations and relations of everyday life. This kind of work is the maintenance of life in day-to-day existence. The provision of food, clothing, and shelter, the socialization and physical care of children, the regard for the less capable, the incorporation in family and society of the elderly, and the organization in society of gender determine the creation, maintenance, and reproduction of health.

Kristin feels it is premature at this time to make definitive statements on the social reproduction of health in Laos since she is at the stage of organizing data and beginning analysis. However, she shares a glimpse of that everyday life that is so important within the social reproduction of health in Laos with the following ethnographic vignette.

## LIVING LAO

By Kristin Lundberg

The rooster wakes me at 3 AM. I hear then the other roosters in the distance, across town or even down the street but they did not wake me. It is still dark outside. There is no inkling of light. He crows right under the window of the room in which I sleep. There is no glass in these windows. The openings have rebar spaced to keep out larger animals and birds and humans. Khamla walks around the house after it is dark and closes the shutters against intruders but mostly against the bugs attracted by the electrical lights. The wood shutters also keep out the mosquitoes since there are no screens on the windows. It gets hot in the evening as soon as the shutters are closed but we turn on portable fans to stir the air. It is a restless sleep and then the crowing jars me. Is this necessary? We are in the city, after all. And it is too early even to get up and make the first batch of sticky rice for the day. But this is my "welcome" to living Lao.

There were other noises that woke me in the night. On certain mornings when the air was still or the wind blowing our direction, I could hear the sound of the drum from the *Wat* (Buddhist temple) in our village calling the monks and novices to wake and attend their first meditation of the day. It is a pleasant sound of a low rhythmic beat for about 15 minutes. On some nights, I could hear the *tae-kek* of the large gecko living in our house. The small ones seldom left the walls that they clung to so well with their suction-like feet. The big guy didn't either, but I still didn't trust him to stay put. About 12 inches in length, he usually hung out behind the door leading from the living room into the back room with Khamla's loom and the refrigerator and the bathroom. That door was always left open and so his space was seldom disturbed. Yet we knew he was in the house by his noise. And he ate insects. No one else minded his presence.

As part of my dissertation research, I lived with a Lao woman and her family over the course of a year and within Laos for the duration of a year and a half. Khamla is a weaver of silk. She weaves in her own home, as does her 19-year-old daughter, Manilay. The 21-year-old son, Jhoy, works in a large Singaporean run garment factory, in the order department, carrying large bolts of machine made fabrics to the area where women, mostly in their twenties, cut and sew garments that ship to Europe. The 22-year-old niece, another Jhoy, lives with us also. She weaves on the loom outside and to the back of the house. During the afternoon and evening, she travels 30 minutes one way by local bus to the tourist area of the



Khamla and Kristin together at Khamla's loom

city to work in one of the hotels as a housekeeper. Khamla is married but there is no husband in this house and there has not been since the two children were very young. He left for the United States 20 years earlier, taking his girlfriend with him, whom he then married and with whom he had more children. He wanted Khamla to come with him (and the girlfriend) but she declined.

Life has been hard raising the children on her own, with no financial or otherwise help from the children's father but other resources provide this family with benefits that place them in Lao society above the impoverished. Life can always be better but life is not bad either. Khamla earns more than a government worker does in a month by her handweaving. She owns the house that is only 3 years old, her children had a basic education through high

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the USDA.” Ironically, the end of the federal program of supply control and price supports is expected to result in an increase in tobacco production and encourage consolidation of production on fewer but larger farms--those that can produce the highest yield and the highest quality leaf at the lowest cost.

Recognizing that no one crop can take the place of tobacco in Kentucky's economy, the state has invested half of its tobacco settlement money in programs to encourage agricultural diversification. Small grants are available to help tobacco growers shift to new crops, such as fruits and vegetables, aquaculture and apiculture. In 2002, the Kentucky General Assembly established an agritourism advisory council and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture launched a marketing program for food products called Kentucky Fresh. But, according to noted tobacco economists Will Snell and Stephan Goetz, while the “profit potential of other ‘alternative crops,’ such as fruits and vegetables, may rival tobacco income in some years, . . . these crops generally have much greater price and income volatility compared to tobacco.” And as more and more farmers raise fresh produce and other alternative agricultural products, their prices are likely to decline.

Tobacco has been an ideal crop for Kentucky precisely because it can be grown profitably on small plots. For those with large farms and big allotments, located mostly in the central and western part of the state, the buyout will bring a financial windfall. But what of the vast majority of the 40,000 farmers who depend on tobacco to keep them and their families on their farms? And what of the communities that have long been sustained by tobacco?

I began my research on the decline of tobacco growing in western Kentucky in the summer of 1998. Approval of the Master Settlement Agreement came toward the

end of my fieldwork, and the dramatic changes outlined above were still in the offing. To begin to answer the questions posed above, I will spend the summer and fall of 2005 conducting new ethnographic research on the dramatic decline in tobacco farming in the wake of the 1998 settlement and the 2004 tobacco buyout, and I will explore the alternative forms of agricultural production that may be emerging in tobacco's place.

Tobacco has been the foundation of Kentucky's agricultural economy since the 1770s, when the first Euroamerican settlers brought it with them across the Cumberland Gap to what was then Kentucky County, Virginia. And thanks to a partnership between growers and government that provided equitable prices and assured growers a market for their crop, it helped stem the exodus of families from Kentucky's small farms in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The highly successful federal tobacco program has now been dismantled by government and industry, leaving Kentucky farmers at a crucial juncture.

The challenges facing Kentucky's tobacco farmers are emblematic of those facing farmers and ranchers throughout the nation, challenges that will only accelerate under the U.S. agreement in the latest round of WTO talks to reduce its farm subsidies by 20 percent and the likely passage of the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), despite strong opposition from the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

Most Americans don't smoke, and most don't give a damn about tobacco farmers. Most don't know about the federal tobacco program, and among those who do, most misunderstand it. Of those Americans who do know of its demise, I suspect most applaud an end to the apparent hypocrisy of a federal tobacco program in an age when public tobacco use is prohibited in more and more communities, despite increasing government dependency on tobacco taxes. But if small farmers cannot find agricultural alternatives that enable them to save their farms and their way of life, the very food supply and food security of all Americans will be at risk.



Don Stull (seated in center) was recently named president of the Society for Applied Anthropology at the 2005 meetings in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Congratulations!

## LIVING LAO

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school, she has a younger brother and sister-in-law living in the next town on whom she can depend in times of need, she has traveled to Japan and lived there for three months to teach a woman how to weave Lao and now she has an anthropologist living with her, giving her board and room money the match of what guesthouses charge. Khamla has an interest in things outside her own society and perhaps the anthropologist helps keep her from being alone, a concept important in Lao society.

We live in Ban Nongtha Neua, a vicinity in the capital of Vientiane, like other neighborhoods, identified by its original village name and governed locally but within the parameters of districts (ours is Chanthabouly) and provinces (we are part of Vientiane). Calling it a village (which is the correct translation for *ban*) seems a misnomer these days, or at least for Westerners, because we associate village with *rural* and *countryside*. Ban Nongtha Neua, for all intent and purposes, is a suburb of Vientiane, the capital of Laos with a population of about 500,000 people, a country of about six million people, 85 per cent of whom live in the countryside and practice subsistence agriculture.

Ban Nongtha Neua occupies both sides of a mostly asphalted two way narrow road that is a main spoke out of the center of Vientiane. On one side, and separating our village from one across the water, is a long lake that is very full of water during and immediately after the rainy season of July through September. The lake provides fish to eat. Men and boys use nets and lines to catch the fish, either from narrow, one-man-wide, shallow-wood boats or by casting nets from small pier platforms built into the shallow lake. Hand-tended gardens along the sides of the lake provide an abundance of vegetables, mostly leafy green varieties, picked daily for the local market that is one town up and a 20 minute Lao-paced walk (slow

by a Westerner's standards) from Ban Nongtha Neua.

Falling back into a fitful sleep induced by the hot and humid air and the hum of a floor fan, oscillating back and forth, I wake to the sound of the clack-clack of the heddle pulled by the hand to pack the silk threads against each other. The *kasouey* (shuttle) carries the silk thread, wound on bobbins, through the warp threads running lengthwise within the wood loom structure. Its noise is subtle but unmistakable once heard—a soft wish with an almost inaudible click as the wood shuttle is laid on the bench upon which the weaver sits or propped in the 3 inch nails jutting out of the side board, slanted and bent to create a holder in which the shuttle rests. The women in the house are weaving. One of them has already started the cooking fire in the ceramic holder outside in the cooking shed, taken the soaked rice, rinsed it, put it in the foot-high and eight-inch-wide wood barrel pot, and set it over the boiling water to steam. In about 30 minutes, the rice will be cooked, removed from the barrel, set on a two foot hunk of plastic tarp, mixed with a wood stick to let some of the steam out of it (to keep it from being too sticky), and then rolled into a ball and put in the rice basket to keep it hot for another two hours until breakfast time.

The women, mother and daughter, weave for about two hours, stopping about 9 AM to eat some breakfast. It is cool and quiet and for the older woman; her back, legs, or eyes do not hurt yet, so soon after the rest of the night. Khamla tells me she plans her weaving time carefully, a couple of hours, sometimes three hours at a stretch, with an hour rest in between. This timing lets her weave at a reasonable pace and yet have some breaks so she “does not get ill”. The daughter weaves very fast and weaves more intricate pieces than her mother, a skill attributed to her younger eyes and her inherent ability. Manilay, like most Lao girls, learned to weave

around the age of nine or ten. Some girls begin weaving as young as six years of age although usually they are still learning by watching at that point. The daughter does not stop weaving if a friend comes by to visit. They sit on low bamboo stools while Manilay works the threads. This is work, this is the income upon which this family depends. The women plan in their heads how much they must get done, how many centimeters need to be woven today, calculating how many pieces will be taken to Phaeng Mai, the employer with whom they have their agreement to weave. Manilay can weave ten place-mats in a day, will be paid the equivalent of 50 cents to a dollar for each one. Khamla can weave a shawl a day and will be paid approximately \$2.50 for her work. The silk is supplied to them, although sometimes they will have to dye it. And always they have the labor of preparing the warp and the bobbins (involving several steps that take hours to complete). One warp (the threads running lengthwise on the loom) upon which the weft (or crosswise threads) travels up and down through, will take a whole day to prepare. Enough bobbins are wound for the entire project which usually makes 10 to 12 shawls. This will take a whole day to prepare as well. Compensation is by the piece, not by the hours spent.

The schedule works well for preparing meals or other tasks needing to be done around the house. Clothes get washed by hand once a week, outside on the cement slab of the septic tank. Because the climate is hot most of the year, one washes early in the day. Sitting or standing over the black plastic wash tubs, filled with soapy water, scrubbing the clothes by rubbing one pant leg against the other, and then rinsing them thoroughly, takes strength and is hot if the sun has crested over the house next door. Better to get it done early. And then the clothes can dry as well all day, arranged on hangers, twirling in the

(Living Lao, Continued on page 10)

## THE 2004 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

### Introduction

*Shannon Ryan*

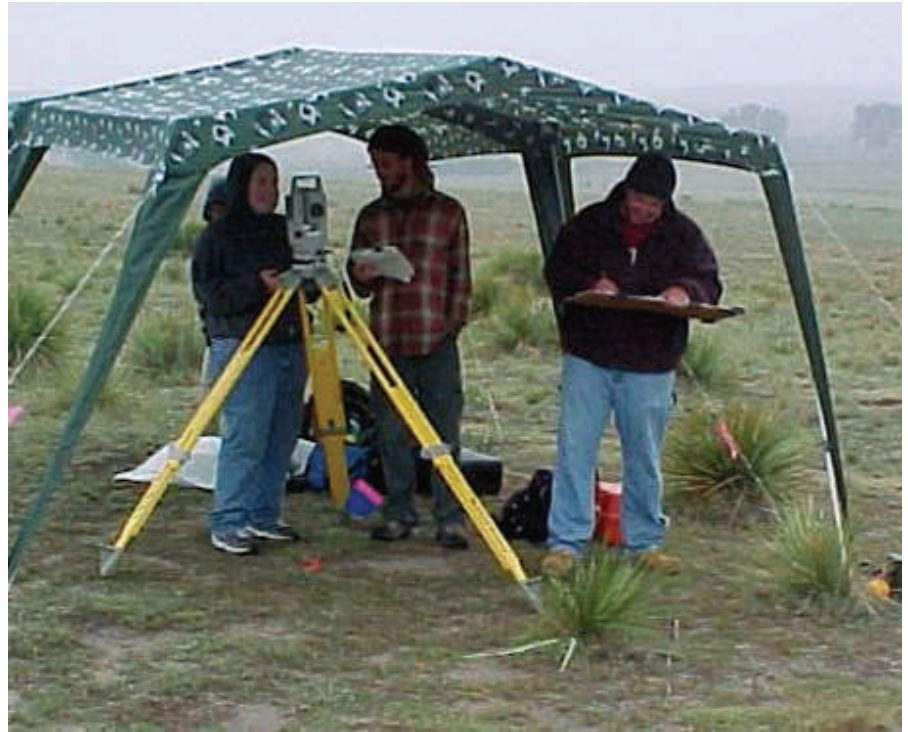
In 2004 Dr. Jack Hofman led a six week archaeological field school to three sites in eastern Colorado and western Kansas. Seven students, a number of volunteers, and two teaching assistants were involved in field school excavations at the Westfall, Laird, and Busse Sites. In addition to these excavations students visited a number of area sites. Despite rain and sometimes cold weather, the 2004 field school participants succeeded in bringing many boxes of material back to the university for processing, curation, and study. This past fall most of the processing was completed and analysis was begun. At the 2004 Plains Anthropological Conference in Billings, Montana posters were presented on each of the sites excavated during the field school. Here are short synopses of the current state of knowledge about the three sites excavated.

### The Laird Site

*Jeannette Blackmar & Jack Hofman*

The Laird site (14SN2), located in northwestern Kansas, was discovered in 1990 by Rod Laird and Dan Busse, both avocational archaeologists. Investigations have included repeated surface collections and excavations in 1995, 2001, and 2004 by University of Kansas students and volunteers. Excavation and research has been supported by the 2004 Department of Anthropology archaeological field school and funds from the Carlyle Smith and Carroll Clark awards. The age of the Laird site remains to be established, but a radiocarbon date on a long bone fragment provided what is considered a minimum age of 8,495+/-40 radiocarbon years before present (CAMS-82397).

The site was initially recognized as a small dense concentration of faunal remains about three by six meters in size. Initial analysis indicates that the Laird fauna consists exclusively of bison. The exca-



Meredith McMohan, Mike Stites, and Chris von Wedell use the total station to record the location of artifacts at the Laird site.

vated units yielded 1,085 mapped pieces, concentrated in nine 1x1m units. A minimum number of individuals (MNI) of five is indicated by  $M_3s$ . A total of 48 chipped stone artifacts have been found in the bonebed or nearby. Of these, 41 are unmodified flakes including retouch flakes and small core reduction flakes. Surface finds of a Flattop end scraper and knife tip 25m south of the bonebed, an area which also yielded a few flakes and pieces of fire-cracked cobbles, suggest a possible processing area which might be associated with the bonebed.

Two projectile points were also recovered. One of these, interpreted as a Dalton projectile point, is of particular interest because of the limited occurrence of Dalton artifacts in the High Plains. The primary geographic region for the Dalton cultural complex is in the Southeastern United States and extending west into the stream valleys of eastern Kansas. Occasional finds of Dalton artifacts are documented throughout the Plains and

into the Rocky Mountain Region. To date, however, excavated Dalton assemblages have not been documented in the Plains and the potential relationships between these materials and those further east remain unresolved and of considerable interest. The age of the Dalton cultural complex in the eastern Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas region is between 10,200 and 9,200 radiocarbon years ago. Investigations at the Laird site are in part intended to shed further light on the nature of Dalton activities in the High Plains region.

### The Busse Site

*Chris von Wedell*

The Busse site (14SN1) represents a lithic tool cache of unknown age and function. Discovery of the site in Sherman County, northwestern Kansas, was made by Dan Busse and his father in 1968. The cache consisted of

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90 lithic artifacts that included 13 large bifaces and numerous tools made on blades and flake refits.

Although the University of Kansas visited the site in 1995 to conduct soil tests and dig test pits, only a limited number of artifacts were recovered. In 2004 the field school was able to recover 39 artifacts. These artifacts represented small, retouch flakes, manufacture debris, and several flake refits.

Materials recovered since 1968 have been added to a growing database of information and were presented in part at the 2004 Plains Anthropological Conference. Currently, all of the artifacts and site history information is being reviewed and included in a Senior Honor's Thesis to be completed in May 2005.

#### The Westfall Site

*Shannon Ryan & Emily Williams*

The Westfall Folsom site was discovered in 1999 by Grayson Westfall and is located in the Black Forest area of eastern Colorado (Elbert County). The site is an upland area of 13,600 square meters

where wind erosion has exposed artifacts. Since its discovery the site has been consistently and systematically collected, and in 2003 test excavations were undertaken. In 2004 two small block excavations were undertaken. To date more than 2300 pieces of chipped stone and dozens of historic artifacts have been recorded from the site.

The chipped stone assemblage shows Westfall to be a multicomponent site. There is a Paleoindian (Folsom) component, at least one other prehistoric component, and an historic component. The majority of artifacts from the Westfall assemblage are made of Black Forest Silicified wood (95.9%). This is not surprising as Westfall is located near the source of this material. Other lithic materials represented at Westfall include Alibates, Flattop Chalcedony, and Quartzite.

The Westfall site was not used for initial reduction of stone artifacts. Most of the flakes in this assemblage are small unmodified pieces of Black Forest silicified wood that lack cortex. Intensive firing of a limited portion of the assemblage suggests the presence of hearths rather than natural fires. The number of channel flakes ( $n=44$ ), failed preforms

( $n=14$ ), and early stage biface failures ( $n=11$ ) suggests the preparation of Folsom projectile points was an important activity at Westfall.

Future field work at Westfall may enable the definition of hearth areas based on the presence of localized distributions of burned lithic pieces. This fieldwork may also expose other kinds of activity areas. Also, Westfall provides an important opportunity to study the use of Black Forest Silicified wood at its source. Its presence in a large number of artifacts at Westfall will help us understand its usage by Folsom peoples in other areas of the Central Plains. From a regional perspective, the use of this material is of special interest as Black Forest Silicified wood apparently was not used often during the Folsom time period (10,800-10,200 years ago).

#### Acknowledgements:

Thanks to the 2004 KU Field School students, volunteers, and teaching assistants. We would also like to acknowledge the land owners and tenants of each of these sites. Chris von Wedell processed the materials from the 2004 Field School season.



Field school participants pose for a photo. From Left to Right:

Cassandra Sandidge, Meredith McMohan, Hai Huang, Tina Rigdon, Mark Volmut, Chris von Wedell, Melinda Hickman, Dean Stites, Mike Stites.

## CHASING MAMMOTHS, PLEISTOCENE CAMELS, AND OTHER STRANGE THINGS...TRAVELS WITH THE ODYSSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH TEAM



By Chris Widga

After two field seasons at a number of Paleoindian sites, it is time to re-

view the activities of the Odyssey Archaeological Research Program. Established in 2003, the Odyssey program is an endowment created to fund research into the earliest inhabitants of the Great Plains. In two years, six localities with potential for early evidence of the earliest human migrants to the central US have been tested or investigated to varying degrees. Additionally, tens of miles of geoarchaeological and archaeological survey have been performed, we've cultivated relationships with collectors/landowners and undertaken numerous educational and public outreach projects. After a busy two years, it is time for some reflection. What have we accomplished and what has yet to be done?

In 2003 we spent most of our time at three sites with the potential for early deposits, the Claussen, Kanorado and Vincent-Donovan sites. Claussen is a deeply buried, multi-component locality near Paxico, KS. For these excavations we joined forces with the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) and the Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA) to investigate both the early and more recent occupations at Claussen. An early Holocene component dating to around 9000 BP showed that Paleoarchaic hunter-gatherers used the locality only briefly, leaving behind stone tools made of materials that could be found locally, discarded mussel shells, deer and turkey bones. The perspective on Paleoarchaic lifeways offered by Claussen is very different from other early occupants of the Great Plains. During the time Claussen

was occupied, hunter-gatherers in western Kansas were heavily dependent on bison and ranged over a much wider area (as is evident by the lithic materials they used). Along the western edge of the Ozarks, people were also locally based, but unlike the Claussen inhabitants, do not show much evidence for the use of aquatic foods such as fish or mussels. The analysis of the Claussen materials is almost complete and it occupies a unique place in our understanding of how early Holocene inhabitants of the eastern Plains utilized local landscapes.

The Vincent-Donovan site is located near Medicine Lodge at the edge of the Red Hills, in Barber County, KS. While known to local collectors for decades, this locality was only recently brought to the attention of professional archaeologists. There are actually three different time periods represented at Vincent-Donovan: a Folsom campsite, mammoth remains in possible association with chipped stone materials and a late Holocene bison, perhaps part of a multi-animal kill (now destroyed by pipeline operations). The primary focus of Odyssey involvement was the Folsom locality. Unfortunately, natural processes had heavily affected this site after its occupation by Folsom groups. Despite this, we were able to make some interesting observations about the chipped stone assemblage. Folsom groups are known for their sophisticated taste in lithic materials and in many cases, the Folsom points made from certain exotic materials are found hundreds of miles from the place where they were quarried. The Folsom hunter-gatherers at Vincent-Donovan however, utilized local materials extensively, even making large choppers out of local quartzites.

The Odyssey team has been involved with research conducted by the Denver Museum of Nature and Science at the Kanorado locality for both field seasons of its existence. In 2003, we investigated three localities, all of which we now know date before 10,500 years ago. In 2004, the number of interesting localities increased to four and added some more detail to the time-period succeeding Clovis (and possibly pre-Clovis) occupation, including two middle to late Holocene bison localities (5000-200 BP). Last year we also found the strongest evidence yet for pre-Clovis Kansans in the Great Plains in the form of a small flake associated with mammoth remains dated ~12,250 BP.

The Odyssey team also investigated the Jameson site in southwestern Missouri last summer in conjunction with the Center for Archaeological Research at Southwest Missouri State University. In addition to a well-represented surface occupation dating 3000-5000 years ago, we investigated an earlier component radiocarbon-dated around 8000 BP. The technological and cultural implications of these collections continue to be explored by Janice McLean.

A final locality showing potential for an early occupation of the Great Plains is the "Chalk Rock" site in eastern South Dakota. Odyssey's involvement in 2004, along with Michael Fosha of the South Dakota Archaeological Research Center, yielded Clovis aged materials in association with a single, young mammoth.

While the Odyssey Archaeological Research Program has a mandate to locate the earliest occupants of the Great Plains, public outreach and education is also an important aspect of the Odyssey

*(Odyssey, Continued on page 9)*

## EXPLORATIONS IN ARCHAEOLOGY KICKS OFF!

By Jeannette Blackmar & Jack Hofman

The 2004-2005 academic year witnessed the beginning of a new lecture series entitled, *Explorations in Archaeology* (EIA), initiated by Museum of Anthropology staff and Department of Anthropology faculty. The primary purpose of EIA is to provide an informal public venue for undergraduate and graduate students conducting archaeological research to share their findings and gain constructive feedback. A secondary goal is to encourage interaction between professional archaeologists and students with professional archaeologists also participating in giving lectures as part of the series. Each semester a lecture is given by a "distinguished archaeologist".

A total of 15 presentations have been part of *Explorations* ranging from individual presentations on a specific research topic to panel discussions. Topics have included Great Plains archaeological research, European Paleolithic and Mesolithic research, an overview of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation (NAGPRA) law, traditional care of anthropological collections, developing collaborations with indigenous peoples, archaeomagnetic research, research on Pre-Columbian ceramics curated in Spooner Hall, and

research conducted by the Department of Anthropology's archaeological field-school and the Odyssey geoarchaeological program. Seven anthropology undergraduate majors also presented their ongoing research for senior honors' theses covering topics from Neanderthal mandibular traits in modern *Homo sapiens* to analyses of lithics from Paleoindian age sites in North America.

Presenters have included individuals affiliated with the Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas State University, Kansas Anthropological Society, United States Bureau of Reclamation, Statistical Re-

search Incorporated, and Loyola University Department of Anthropology. Over half of the presentations have been given by a combination of faculty and students from the Department of Anthropology and the Center for Indigenous Nations Studies.

The fall 2005 *Explorations in Archaeology* schedule is currently being drafted. Any individual is welcome to be a presenter or be involved by attending EIA. Look for the schedule in August. We hope to see you at *Explorations!*



Undergraduate anthropology majors present their senior honors theses as part of *Explorations in Archaeology*. From Left to Right: Chris von Wedell, Brynn Davis, Michael Stites, Brendon Asher, Kate Maher, Veronica Harper, and Kelly Scott

## ODYSSEY

(*Odyssey*. Continued from page 8)

mission. In keeping with this, we helped to coordinate the Kansas Archaeological Training Program at the Claussen site in 2003 (along with the KSHS, KAA and numerous volunteers). During the upcoming field season Rolfe Mandel and Art Bettis have organized a geoarchaeological field-school, and we will again help to coor-

dinate the KATP this time at the Kanorado localities.

In its first two years at the University of Kansas, the Odyssey program has laid the groundwork for long-term investigations into the earliest human occupants of the Great Plains. The upcoming field season will see further work at the Kanorado, Chalk Rock, and Big Eddy (MO) sites. Both Kanorado and Big Eddy show high potential for human occupations that pre-date Clovis.

\*Odyssey personnel from the Anthropology department over the past two years include: Rolfe Mandel, Jack Hofman, Shannon Ryan, Kale Bruner, Janice McLean, Chris Widga, Bob Perkins, Melinda Hickman, Becky Fritsche, and Elizabeth Beavers. However, almost all activities have been undertaken with the extensive involvement of other institutions and, at times, scores of invaluable volunteers.

## LIVING LAO...

(Living Lao, Continued from page 5)

wind on the bamboo pole laid in the crook of the tree and secured to the edge of the cooking shed or laid on the hedge at the side of the yard. One keeps a wary eye out for the curious cow that nibbles on clothes or goats in the yard (I lost a sock this way). And one watches the weather for the cloudburst, so one can grab everyone's clothes and bring them inside or under the overhang if need be.

In the hot season, Lao people bathe twice a day and sometimes more frequently. It is a way to cool off for the majority of people who "live with nature". Only the very elite have air conditioning in their houses. Yet the bathing is about cleanliness as well. What it means to be healthy as well as an underlying determination of what a good person is are those individuals and families who *ghin saa aat, u saa aat, nan saa aat* (eat clean, live clean, sleep clean). The World Health Organization introduced the three cleans concepts in countries worldwide in the late 60s but the Lao have always practiced cleanliness in their everyday life. Laos is a tropical climate with two main season, the dry season, running from November to May, and the wet season which is from June through October. Humidity runs at least 80% for most of the year. The temperature will average in the 90s. Four months of the year are temperate, November, December, January, February. The Lao think it is cold in Vientiane when the temperature runs in the 60s and are amazed at foreigners not needing to wear jackets or even sweaters. The weather is a cause for people becoming sick. The change in seasons explains colds and fevers although a few people voluntarily shared that they knew that one should not share the towel or glass of another who had cold symptoms.

Most Lao are fastidious of washing



Kristin in line at a Buddhist temple, wearing a skirt typical of those that are woven by Lao weavers

their hands before eating. Restaurants supply a pan of water with a towel hanging nearby. The host at a house will set a pan of water on the floor for guests to wash their hands before they eat. Eating is communal, putting your hand into the rice basket, taking a hand full of rice, pinching off a small ball which one then uses as a scoop for the cooked vegetables or sauces or fish that are also on the table. During the meal, I had to get used to the idea that the person with a bad cold was dipping their hand in the same basket of rice as me and hope my immune system was strong.

Breakfast and lunch are foods left over from the night before, eaten cold or freshly cooked. Khamla and Manilay weave for a few more hours after lunch and then break. Khamla stretches out on the hard cement floor on a thin plastic mat and a kapok stuffed pillow for her head. This helps her back and her legs that hurt from the occupational hazard associated with sitting for long periods of time on a wood bench where she is bent over a few degrees or with the back part of her thighs press against the wood slab

bench edge, cutting off circulation or pinching nerves that run down the leg. Manilay joins friends outside on a mat under the trees where a gentle breeze provides relief from the afternoon heat. Khamla will join neighbors for the gossip after one or two hours of resting her back.

Around 5 PM, Khamla, like her neighbors, walks to the Talat (open air market) that is in the next village. Finding our way through narrow paths through grass and along neighbors' homes, we walk out onto the main road, walking along the edge of the pavement with our backs to what traffic comes behind us. As we walk along, acquaintances call out "pie sai?" (where are you going?) and we respond "pie talat" (go market), even though it is obvious to all what our destination is at this time of the day. It is a form of greeting, much like Americans who ask "how are you" in automatic mode. Walking to the talat provided me with lots of smiles and "sabaidiis" (hellos) and the days I didn't go to the market with Khamla, she was asked about my absence. Women waved plastic bags tied onto thin bamboo poles

(Living Lao, Continued on page 16)



## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE LBA

### FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

During this academic year the LBA has been involved in a number of field investigations in various regions of the world:

We have continued research on the genetic/environmental interactions involving lipids (total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, and triglycerides), variation in the transport system (Apolipoproteins), nutritional patterns, activity estimates and CHD in Mennonites of Kansas. The latest research involved the Old Colony Mennonites relocated from Cuahatemoc, Mexico, to the Garden City, Kansas area. Teams consisting of graduate students, post docs and the director of the LBA, have been working with Mennonite communities in Central and Western Kansas.

Rohina Rubicz and Dr. Crawford, as part of a NSF grant renewal, have returned to three of the Aleut islands, namely: St. Paul, St. George and Unalaska. Mechanical problems with airplanes and inclement weather precluded research on Atka Island this year. This summer, Mark Zlojutro and Aleut cultural graduate student from Idaho State University, Liza Mack, will accompany Dr. Crawford to three communities in the Eastern Aleutian region.

Chris Phillips Krawczak, a Ph.D. candidate in the Genetics Program, K.U., initiated a "return to St. Vincent Island and Punta Gorda, Belize". During the 1970s and 1980s, the LBA had established a research program on the diaspora of the Black Caribs (Garifuna) and traced their origins to St. Vincent Island and the coast of Middle America. However, in those days only blood groups and proteins were available for the analyses of admixture and origins. Chris was able to obtain blood samples from St. Vincent populations and from Belize (with the help of Kathryn Staiano Ross, a medical anthro-

pology graduate from the Department of Anthropology).

Professor Crawford has initiated a research program with the Anatomy Department of Ross Medical School in Dominica, Eastern Caribbean Islands. This island contains the last Reserve of Carib Native Americans in the Islands. Blood specimens were collected from a sample of the Kalinaga Natives of Dominica. In addition, a letter of understanding has been signed between Ross Medical School and the LBA for two research projects: The reconstruction of the peopling of the Caribbean based on DNA markers and a project on biological aging and longevity of Afro-American populations of Dominica.

We are currently awaiting news from National Institute of Aging about possible funding of a grant for mapping genes, using genomic scans, involved in differential biological aging. This is a 5-year collaborative program with the Genetics Department of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio, TX. Former LBA member, Ravi Duggirala is the PI for this project.

### VISITORS

Dr. Lorissa Tarskaia Nichols, an MD and Ph.D. in genetics from the Institute of Medical Genetics in Moscow and originally from the Sakha Republic (formerly known as Yakutia), has been conducting laboratory research at the LBA. She has brought a collection of DNA and blood samples from an assortment of populations from Siberia and is sequencing mtDNA and analyzing CD4 haplotypic markers. Dr. Tarskaia gave a presentation on the "Genetics of the Yakut" on April 22 at the Kansas Union.

### PRESENTATIONS

The symposium: "The People of the Aleutian Islands: Origins, Cultural and Genetic Variation," was originally organized by MH Crawford and DH O'Rourke for the American Anthropological Association meetings in San Francisco, CA., to be held in November, 2004. Because of a strike of hotel workers at the Hilton hotel, this meeting was relocated by the Executive Committee of AAA to a non-union Hilton Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. These American Anthropological Association meetings were rescheduled for December, 2004, during the final examination period of universities that are on a semester system. As a result, we cancelled our symposium in Atlanta and rescheduled it instead for the Alaskan Anthropological Association Meetings (AAA), Anchorage, March 10-12<sup>th</sup>.

Two presentations were made by the LBA researchers at the AAA meetings: "Molecular genetic and demographic consequences of a historically founded isolate: Bering Island, Russia," by M.H. Crawford, Rohina Rubicz, R Deka, R Devor and V Spitsyn, and "Molecular evidence for the peopling of the Aleutian Islands" by Rohina Rubicz, M Zlojutro, and MH Crawford. This symposium on the Aleuts, edited by Dennis O'Rourke and Michael Crawford, will be published as a volume in the University of Utah, Arctic Series.

During the Human Biology Association Meetings in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, April 5-7<sup>th</sup> Rohina Rubicz won the outstanding student poster award. She received recognition and a check at the association luncheon. This is the second year in a row that a member of the LBA received an award for the outstanding



## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE LBA

(LBA, Continued from page 11)

paper at a national professional organization. Last year, Mark Zlojutro received a check and award from the American Association of Anthropological Genetics.

Genetic architecture of a small, isolated Aleut population: Bering Island, Russia, Rubicz, R., G Sun, E Devor, V Spitsyn, R Deka and MH Crawford. Abstract: *American J. Hum. Biol.* 17 (2): 254.

Evidence for a sex-specific influence of adiponectin on HDL variation: The Kansas Nutrition Project. Mosher, MJ, AG Comuzzie, K Jett, K Melvin, R Rubicz, M Zlojutro, and MH Crawford. Abstract: *American J. of Human Biology* 17 (2): 250-1. American Association of Physical Anthropology, April 7-10<sup>th</sup>, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Molecular perspectives on the origins of Chibchan speaking populations from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia. Melton, PE, SS Papiha, I Briceno, J Bernal, R Devor and MH Crawford, Abstract: *American Journal of Physical Anthropology Supplement* 40:151.

STR variation in four provinces of the Basque country. K. Melvin, AG Apraiz, R Deka, and MH Crawford, Abstract: *American J. Physical Anthropol. Supplement* 40: 151.

Honors undergraduate student Ellen Quillen made her professional "debut" at the AAPA meetings by presenting a poster: Genetic differentiation in Newfoundland outports. Quillen, E, T Kortvelyessy, C Jenkinson and MH Crawford. Abstract: *Amer. J. Phys. Anthropol. Supplement* 40: 168-169. Ellen has accepted a fellowship from Penn State University, where she will be entering the Ph.D. program this Fall.

Phil Melton's poster, "Mortality trends in a Mennonite community from central

Kansas," was selected for an outstanding research contribution award at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Graduate Student Research Competition at the University of Kansas. The primary criteria for this award were the impact of this research on the researcher's field of study and its direct impact on the state of Kansas.

Professor Crawford gave an invited lecture, entitled "The Biology of Aging," to the Ross Medical School, Dominica, West Indies, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, Phil Melton had successfully defended his MA thesis on the "Molecular Perspectives on the Origins of Chibchan populations from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia".

### PUBLICATIONS

**Crawford, MH** 2004 History of Human Biology (1929-2004). *Human Biology* 76 (6): 805-815.

**Zlojutro, M, R Rubicz, V Spitsyn, V Makarov, and MH Crawford** 2005 Genetic structure of Aleut and Circumpolar populations: A synthesis. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* In Press.

Reddy, BM, DA Demarchi, S Bharati, V Kumar, and **MH Crawford** 2004 Patterns of dermatoglyphic variation in the Indian subcontinent: Geographic, ethnic and linguistic heterogeneity. *Human Biology* 76 (2): 211-228.

Mitchell, RJ, BM Reddy, D Campo, T Infantino, M Kaps, and **MH Crawford** 2005 Genetic diversity within a caste population of India as measured by Y chromosome haplogroups and haplotypes: Sub-castes of the Golla of Andhra Pradesh. *American J. Phys. Anthropol.* In Press.

**Crawford, MH** 2004 Review of book *Human Population Dynamics*. (Mcbeth and Collinson) Cambridge University Press. IN: *American Anthropologist* 106 (2): 415-6.

During the past two years Professor Crawford has been working on an edited volume entitled "*Anthropological Genetics: Theory, Methods and Applications*." He was asked by the executive committee of the American Association of Anthropological Genetics to edit a volume that defines the field and could serve as a textbook in the classroom. This volume is going to press in August, 2005, published by Cambridge University Press. The chair of the Department, **Jim Mielke** (together with Alan Fix, U-C, Riverside) has a key chapter on historical demography. **Michael Crawford** is involved in three chapters: (1) an introduction to the volume tracing the history of anthropological genetics; (2) Fieldwork in anthropological genetics; (3) DNA markers and their application to the field, with **Phil Melton and Rohina Rubicz**. Other former LBA graduates and their academic offspring have provided chapters on: ancient DNA by **Dennis O'Rourke**; the use of quantitative traits in the characterization of the genetic structure of human populations by **John Relethford**; **Genetic Epidemiology** by **Sarah Williams-Blangero and John Blangero**, and the partitioning of genetic variances in human populations and race by **Lorena Madrigal** and Guido Barbujani.

### Assortment of Publications by LBA Grads

Lehman, DM, **Arya, R, R Duggirala** et al 2005 A single nucleotide polymorphism in MGEA5 encoding O-GlcNAc-selective N-Acetyl-beta-D glucosaminidase is associated with type 2 diabetes in Mexican American. *Diabetes* 54(4): 1214-21.

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## FACULTY NEWS

**Kathleen Womack** joined our office staff in January. Welcome!

Congratulations to **Judy Ross**, who won this year's Outstanding Woman Staff Member award! Judy was honored at a reception held April 19th in the Union Ballroom.

Socio-cultural Anthropologist **Brent Metz** will join the Department in the Fall of 2005. Metz undertook his graduate work at U-Michigan and SUNY-Albany, and has taught on full-time, non-tenure track contracts at Western Michigan U., Central Connecticut State U., Grinnell College, Temple U., and KU's Center of Latin American Studies, where he is Assistant Director and Graduate Advisor (2001-2005). He has done research on religious festivals in southern Spain, on the intersection of culture, power, and law among Latino farmerworkers in Michigan, and on ethnic transformation in the Ch'orti' Maya region of eastern Guatemala, western Honduras, and northwestern El Salvador. Since 1990 he has devoted his energy to the history and changing cultures and identities of the peasant populations in the Ch'orti' region, where he has learned the Ch'orti' language and become an advocate/researcher in the Ch'orti' Maya Movement. Besides publishing articles on the Ch'orti's, he has co-authored a book on Ch'orti' culture(s) entitled *Primero Dios* ("God Willing") and has another historical ethnography, *Borderline Indigeneity*, coming out with New Mexico Press in 2006. Currently, Metz is analyzing the video and audio data from recent Fulbright-Hays research for his next book on ambiguous indigeneities and ethnographic representation in northern Central America. He's also the principal editor for a multidisciplinary volume (19 contributors -- ling, archeo, history, botany, ethnog) on the Ch'orti' region. As a journeyman academic, Metz has taught a variety of courses (18 preps) over the

years and is open to suggestions about which would best meet the needs and desires of the students.

We are also excited to welcome Biological Anthropologist **Alan Redd** from the University of Arizona to the Department in the Fall of 2005! Dr. Redd will teach "Topics in Biological Anthropology: Genetics and Human Evolution" this fall.

**Darcy Morey** has a recent publication: Morey, D. F., E. A. McClellan, N. Lindor, G. Kellogg, and R. Lindor. 2004. Why some people recover better from traumatic brain injury than others: The ambidexterity theory. *Journal of Cognitive Rehabilitation* 22(3): 12-19

**David Frayer** spent most of 2003-4 on sabbatical in Italy, working on various projects with colleagues in the Pigorini Museum and the City University of Rome. These included a study of *in vivo* drilled teeth and what are apparently erosional (corrosional) surfaces in teeth (shown below) dated to the early Neolithic of Pakistani (9000BP).

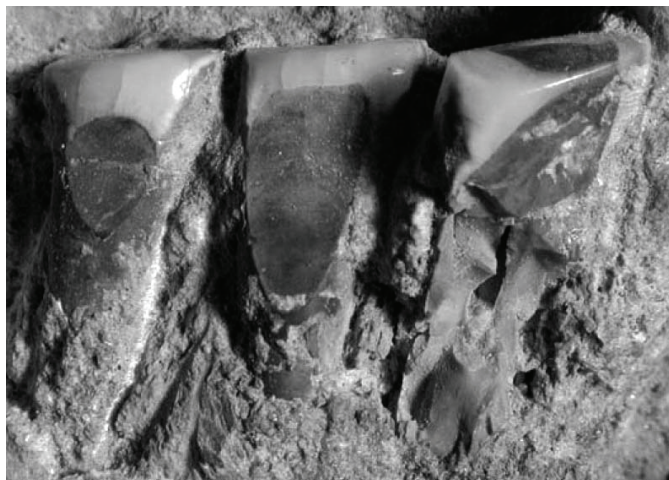
He also was invited to participate in the Buia research team and in June 2004 went to Asmara (Eritrea) for a week to work on the fossil, his first trip to Africa. He is currently working up the description of a pubis found at the site which shows that the sequence of changes on the symphyseal face

(not necessarily the timing) appeared in the human fossil record by 1mya. When examining the original, he found that the exact same features used to age forensic cases today could be applied to this fossil.

Other parts of David's leave were spent in Zagreb (Croatia) where he continued to compile entries in what has become a massive bibliographic documentation for the Krapina Neandertal site. There are now more than 2800 references and at least 1000 images. He hopes to finish it this summer and find another 200 references to round off the list at 3000. Finally, while in Croatia he participated in the filming of a National Geographic show called *Krapina Cannibals*, a 1/2 hour show in the *Tales of the Dead Series*. It has been airing in Europe and is scheduled to run in the USA in 2005. This research with Jill Cook (British Museum) and Jakov Radovcic (Croatian Natural History Museum) was featured in *Science News* 167:244.

**Allan Hanson** has been completing work on his research project on the social consequences of automated information technology. Following that he plans to return to the issue of cultural relativism, as seen in the light of devel-

(Faculty News, Continued on page 14)



Erosional (corrosional) surfaces in teeth dated to the early Neolithic of Pakistani (9000BP), studied during David Frayer's 2003-2004 sabbatical in Rome.

## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

**Phillip Melton** presented a poster at the Physical Anthropology meetings in Milwaukee entitled "Molecular Perspectives on the origins of Chibchan-speakers from Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia," and won one of 2 \$500 awards for Outstanding Graduate Research at the First Annual Graduate Student Research Competition held at KU for a poster entitled "Mortality trends in a Mennonite community from Central Kansas."

**Jennifer Rack** has been working at The Beach Center on Disability, which is running focus groups in North Carolina, Kansas, New York, and Maryland to learn what the disability communities' concerns and expectations are concerning genetic research and the Human Genome Project. She will present preliminary findings of her research at a conference in September in Washington, D.C.

**Rohina Rubicz** presented a "Genetic architecture of a small, isolated Aleut population: Bering Island, Russia" by R. Rubicz, G. Sun, E. Devor, V. Spitsyn, R. Deka, and M.H. Crawford at the 30th annual Human Biology Association Meetings in Milwaukee, WI in April, and won the student presentation award for it. She also gave a podium presentation at the 37th annual Alaska Anthropological Association meetings in Anchorage in March, entitled: "Molecular Genetic Evidence for the Peopling of the Aleutian Islands" by R. Rubicz, M. Zlojutro, and M.H. Crawford.

**Emily G. Williams** is pursuing a doctoral degree in Archaeology. Last fall she presented a poster at the Plains Anthropological Conference in Billings, Montana. She presented her master's thesis work, on whooping cough among Western Cree and Ojibwa fur-trading communities, at

the Explorations in Archaeology series held in the KU Museum of Anthropology this spring. Her primary interests now include North American Plains Archaeology, Paleoindians, and gender in archaeology.

**Kristin Melvin** presented a poster at the 30th annual meeting of the Human Biology Association in Wisconsin:

STR variation in four provinces of the Basque country. K. Melvin, A.G. Apraiz, G. Sun, R. Rubicz, R. Deka, M.H. Crawford. 2005.

**Chris Widga** visited the University of Wyoming as a visiting scholar in October to analyze materials from the Vore Buffalo Jump (funding provided by a Frison Grant). He also presented papers at the AMQUA meetings in Lawrence last summer, and at the Southeastern Archaeological Confer-

(Graduate Student News, Continued on page 15)

## FACULTY NEWS...

(Faculty News, Continued from page 13)

opments in postmodernism and the rise of absolutism in the Roman Catholic Church, other religious organizations, the culture wars, and political life in this and other countries. His recent and forthcoming publications, all but the first of which relate to automated information technology, are:

Symmetry for Itself, for Culture, and for Practice. In *Embedded Symmetries:*

Natural and Cultural, Dorothy Washburn, ed., pp. 145-159. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2004.

The New Superorganic. *Current Anthropology* 45:467-482, 2004.

Culture against Society. *Society*, forthcoming.

From Classification to Indexing: How Automation Transforms the Way we

Think. *Social Epistemology*, in press.

A book manuscript, *The Trouble With Culture and the Automation of Information*, has been submitted to a publisher.

The past year has been kind to **Don Stull**. In May 2004, he received the Wally and Marie Steeples Faculty Award for Outstanding Service to the People of Kansas from KU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He published two articles in 2004: "Activism, Poultry Production, and Environmental Justice in Western Kentucky," which appeared in the journal *Sustain* (10:41-47), and "The Future Lies Ahead, Or Does It?" published in the final issue in Don's six-year term as editor-in-chief of *Human Organization* (63:511-512). This special issue (Winter 2004), guest edited by Robert and Beverly Hackenberg, is concerned with the future of applied anthropology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and includes articles by Michael Agar, Craig Janes, Conrad Kottak, Louise Lamphere, and Roger Sanjek. In January 2005, Don delivered

the Kansas Day Lecture to the Center for Kansas Studies, Washburn University, Topeka, and in April he gave the First Distinguished Lecture in Applied Anthropology at the University of California, Riverside. Suspecting little overlap in the two audiences, and being a true believer in the Principle of Economy of Effort, Don lectured on "Meatpacking and Mexicans on the High Plains: From Minority to Majority in Garden City, Kansas," to both audiences. Lest you think too ill of him for such double-dipping, his lecture in Riverside marked his maiden voyage on the good ship PowerPoint.

On April 8, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Don Stull began his two-year term as president of the Society for Applied Anthropology. His presidential address, "Will You Still Need Me When I'm 64?," appears in the May 2005 issue of the *Society for Applied Anthropology Newsletter*. Don will be on sabbatical in Fall 2005, conducting research on the impact of the end of the federal tobacco program on Kentucky farmers (see "Up in Smoke" in this issue).

## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

ence meetings in St. Louis in the fall. Together with Matt E. Hill, he organized the poster symposium "Current Perspectives on Bison Paleoecology and Archaeology" at the Society for American Archaeology meetings in Salt Lake City.

**Kale Bruner** and **Jessica Craig** are abroad right now on Fulbright Scholarships.

**Ginny Arthur**, third year MA cultural student, presented a paper based on her qualitative research at the Santa Fe SfAA Conference. The project is an ethnographic study of the independent living space of a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC). She completed 55 interviews of 80 and 90 year old residents and five staff members over a 10 month period and looked at how individuals of the oldest cohort in the context of an independent living facility construct logical, coherent, and satisfying meaning in old age.

**Kristin Lundberg** won an award for Best Poster at the SFAA meetings for her poster on Lao weaving. Congratulations!

**Shannon Ryan** completed her MA in December of 2004. Her thesis was entitled Boatstones and Bannerstones on the Central Great Plains: Summary, Analysis and Possibilities. Also in Fall 2004, Shannon, graduate student **Emily Williams** and **Dr. Jack Hofman** presented a poster, "Recent Research at the Westfall Folsom Site, Colorado", at the Plains Anthropological Conference. In January of 2005 Shannon began research for her dissertation about childhood archaeology.

**Quincy McCrary** presented a paper, "Media Influences on the Construction of Homeless People's Cultural Heritage in Lawrence, Kansas" at the Society for Applied Anthropology meetings in Santa Fe. He was chair of the session. He will be conducting fieldwork in Lawrence this summer in the local homeless community,

looking at how theory concerning poverty influence the way shelters are operated.

**Anne Kraemer** completed her 2nd year of Masters work in Archaeology. She has been collecting reaserch and data for her thesis on Community and Collaborative Arcahaeology in Guatemala and hopes to finish in 2005. She will spend the summer in Guatemala researching her thesis. She will be the Project Ethnographer at the site of Chocola for the Proyecto Arqueologico Chocola in Suchitepequez, Guatemala. She will also spend time in Tecpan and Antigua. Her recent publications include:

2004 "Who's Book is It Anyways" (with Michelle Anderson, Sarah Bricker, Eric Efaw, Michelle Johnson and Carrie Kissel) "Anthropology News". American Anthropological Association. October.

2004 "Getting a Living" (with Michelle Anderson and Ashley Moore), and "Engaging in Community Activities" (with Michelle Anderson, Sarah Bricker, Elizabeth Campbell, Jarrod Dortch, Mia Fields, and Ashley Moore) in *The Other Side Of Middletown: Exploring Muncie's African American Community*, edited by Luke Eric Lassiter, Hurley Goodall, Elizabeth Campbell, and Michelle Natasya Johnson. Walnut Creek, CA. AltaMira Press.

**Melinda Hickman** presented a paper at the Annual Plains Anthropological Conference in Billings, Montana this year:

2004 Hickman, Melinda and Jack L. Hofman The Smoky Folsom Site at the 62nd Annual Plains Anthropological Conference, Billings, Montana.

**James Herynk** received a FLAS to study Q'eqchi' in Guatemala this summer.

**James Herynk** and **Kelsey Needham** presented a poster in February, "Suspended Personhood and the Bio-Puzzle of Anemia: Forming an Inclusive and Effective Approach to Health Among the Poqomchi' Maya of Guatemala," at the

UCLA Conference *Four Dimensions of Childhood: Brain, Mind, Culture & Time*, a multidisciplinary conference sponsored by UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute and The Foundation for Psychocultural Research.

**Kelsey Needham** completed her first year of Masters work in Biological Anthropology. She attended the Kansas African Studies Center 2005 Teacher Summer Institute, *Africa from the Pyramids to the Cape of Good Hope*. She plans to attend the Mid-America Alliance for African Studies Conference, *Memory & Identity: African Cultures in the Face of Globalization*, at SMSU in September, where she will present preliminary data from her work on alcohol consumption among the Karimojong.

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## ALUMNI NEWS

**Christina Bolas** will soon begin working as an anthropologist for Sprint in Kansas City. Christina worked with Don Stull and received her M.A. at KU in the Fall of 2003.

**John Massad**, Spring 1989 graduate, serves as Senior Research Associate and Project Director for LTG Associates, Inc., in Takoma Park, Maryland. He specializes in research design and implementation, applying anthropological analysis to program design, program evaluation, and policy development. He has recently served as Project Director of the Genetics Literacy Research Project for LTG, and also serves as Regional Project Director for the *Storyteller Project, Capturing the Stories of Families in Poverty* at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Dr. Massad was awarded his B.A. and M.A. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Kansas and his Ph.D. from Northwestern University.

We like to know what you are doing! Please send news submissions for the next issue of *KU Anthropologist* to the editor at [kneedham@ku.edu](mailto:kneedham@ku.edu).



## DINNER & DISCUSSION: A CONTINUING TRADITION

By Melinda Hickman

This year the Graduate Students in Anthropology held three successful Dinner and Discussions, highlighting the interdisciplinary nature of the study of anthropology. Speakers were also invited from outside the department to share and discuss their personal research.

In the fall semester, **Norma Strate-meier**, a graduate student in biological anthropology, gave an informative presentation on her experiences at the forensic archaeology field school through Mercyhurst University. She gave an informative lecture on excavating crime scenes and the evidence that it can produce.

In mid February faculty member in Anthropology Arienne Dwyer hosted **Dr. John Younger** from the department of Classics to discuss his research on the artists of the Parthenon Friezes. Based on discontinuities in the pattern of the progression of the continuous frieze Dr. Younger examined the idea of artist or artisan.

In March, **Dr. Brent Metz** who is affiliated with Latin American Studies and the department of Anthropology presented his long-time research on the Chorti Maya in Central America. He discussed his interest in the Chorti self identity, how they label themselves and how this relates to indigeneity.

This year, as in the past, the dinner and discussion gave students and professors the opportunity to discuss current research, socialize and relax for a few hours. These meetings are a continuing tradition and as always furthered the aims of sharing knowledge and fostering community within the department. We hope to see you next year at Dinner & Discussion!



### LIVING LAO...

(Living Lao, Continued from page 10)

about two feet long, keeping flies somewhat off the freshly butchered beef, fish, pork, or chicken. Small prearranged piles of chilis, limes, and green onions lay on blue tarps spread in front of a woman or often a teenage girl, sometimes a boy. Scales nearby each person weighed the amount and prices bargained. Buying daily food took about 20 minutes, and then we would walk back along the road which now was busier with people returning home from their jobs in the center of Vientiane.

Dusk was coming on as were the mosquitos. Once home, bathing began with Khamla usually taking the last bath after she had prepared dinner. Preparation of dinner takes one or two hours because there are no packaged foods. Fish must be gutted, vegetables thoroughly washed and then cut up and then cooked. Cooking over one apparatus means one dish at a time is prepared. Food placed

on the bamboo low tray table is eaten with the hands and fingers for the most part, with the television turned to Thai news, sometimes the Lao station news, and always the Thai soap opera. Some food was put in the refrigerator for the next day's noon meal.

Khamla and Manilay would weave for another hour or two depending on orders and time pressures. Sometimes Manilay left with friends to "pie linn" (play). Adults use the word *play* whenever they go somewhere for rest and recreation. Khamla would watch another favorite Thai soap opera, laying on the floor and joined by anybody else in the house. Once the seven-year-old niece came from the countryside to live with us; Phu would lay against her aunt, watching TV and falling asleep. Or nieces or a nephew would stay the night and do likewise. By 10 or 11 PM, lights would be turned out and people go to sleep. The son would sometimes return in time for some dinner, often not come home until late, in time to make up his mat out in the living room and hang the mosquito net for

sleeping. If we had a grilled fish, we saved the fish head for him to eat. Occasionally his friends would come to our house and the music would blare as young people listen to music much the same way as they do in America.

Tomorrow will be the same with some variation for *bouns* (celebrations, many Buddhist in origin but also those marking life events), the neighbor woman giving birth during the night at home, a visit from relatives from a distance, a village meeting called by the *naiban* (headman or mayor), or a trip to the big market in the center of the capital or a trip to the post office. For now, we sleep. All too soon, the rooster will crow or the sounds of weaving will wake me up for the next day. I much prefer the alarm bell of the weaver.

Kristin V. Lundberg Ph.D.(c)

March 25, 2005

## UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

### **KUUAA...KUUAA, KUUAA, KUUAA!!!**

Fresh back from “the best field trip ever”, in the jungles of Collinsville, Illinois and Cahokia, it is time once again to write the annual KU Undergraduate Anthropology Association year-end wrap-up. What can I say; this year has been a HUGE success, with only promise of even bigger better years to come.

To begin with, the highly successful social events added to creating one of the most tight-knit UAA years ever (or at least from what I know, which we all know isn't much!!). Big events we held this year were the very successful Anthropology Department Halloween Party, and recently Brad Logan's lecture on the White Rock site.

Big news, Webmaster and All Around Cool Guy Gabriel Krieshok got our website (<http://www.ku.edu/~uaa>) up and running with all new features including a photo gallery, so members can keep up no matter where in the world they are. Photos for the recent trip will be up shortly (well, most likely after finals).

Notable members worth mentioning this year are Chris Von Wedell for his presentation of a poster *The Busse Cache: Excavations, Artifacts, and Questions* to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Plains Anthropological Conference in Billings, Montana, and Kate Maher for her poster presentation, *Neandertal mandibular features in modern Homo sapiens*, at the biological conference in Milwaukee this past spring.

Fundraising was a gigantic leap from past years. From illegal bake sales to ‘lawn

redecorating’ the club has firmly filled its coffers, and for once in many a year have enough seed money to take on more ambitious projects in up coming years.

On a sadder note, the club bids farewell to five of it's cherished members, Veronica Harper, Chris Von Wedell, Mike Stites, Jenny Wurtz and yours truly Jason Flay as we will become part of the select few, alumni of the anthropology department class of 2005.

Despite this, the UAA has a lot of promising new and current members ready to bear the torch, arms, and anything else they want to ‘bare’, to continue the fine traditions of academics, excellence, and socializing for years to come.

Jason C. Flay

Benevolent Dictator/ Co-President

### **FROM THE LBA...**

(LBA, Continued from page 12)

Butte, NF, **AG Comuzzie** et al 2005 Genetic and environmental factors influencing fasting serum adiponectin in Hispanic children J. Clin. Endocrinol Metabol. April 12 (electronic prepublication)

Hassan, MO, **AG Comuzzie** et al 2005 A family study in Oman: Large, consanguineous, polygamous Omani Arab pedigrees. Community Genet. 8(1): 56-60.

**Martin, Lisa** et al 2005 The relationships of adiponectin with insulin and lipids are strengthened with increasing adiposity. J. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab. May 3

**Martin, LJ** et al 2004 Bivariate linkage between acylation-stimulating protein and BMI and high-density lipoproteins. Obes. Res. 12(4): 669-78.

**North, KE** et al 2005 Evidence for a gene influencing fasting LDL cholesterol and triglyceride levels on chromosome 21q. Atherosclerosis 179(1): 119-25.

Lewis, CE, **KE North** et al 2005 Sex-specific findings from a genome-wide linkage analysis of human fatness in non-Hispanic whites and African Americans: The HyperGEN Study. Int. J. Obes. Relat Metab Disord. April 5.

Best, LG, **KE North** et al 2004 Genetic determination of acute phase reactant levels: The Strong Heart Study. Human Heredity 58 (2): 112-6.

**Williams, JT** and J Blangero 2004 Power of variance component linkage analysis-II. Discrete traits. Anns Hum. Genet. 68(6): 620-32.

**Lorena Madrigal** has a new volume coming out this year, published by Cambridge University Press. She is synthesizing the history and human biology of Afro-American populations of the Caribbean.

Foreword to this volume is by Michael Crawford.

### **New Graduate Students at the LBA, Fall, 2005:**

Two new graduate students are entering the Ph.D. program at the University of Kansas and will be conducting research at the LBA. They are:

**Jay Sarthy**, a GTA in the Genetics Program, comes from Northwestern University. He received his undergraduate training in Human Biology, under the guidance of Professor William Leonard (sabbatical at the LBA in the 1990s). Jay is interested in examining telomeric attrition and its relationship to biological aging.

**Marion Mealey-Ferrara**, Boston University, BA and Harvard University, MA. She is currently the senior coordinator of lab safety at KUMC. She is interested in disentangling the origins of Celtic peoples based on DNA evidence.

## INCOMING GRADUATE STUDENTS

The University of Kansas Department of Anthropology is proud to welcome fourteen new graduate students in the Fall of 2005. They join us at KU from a variety of universities and programs. We look forward to working with this diverse group of individuals.

Welcome to KU!

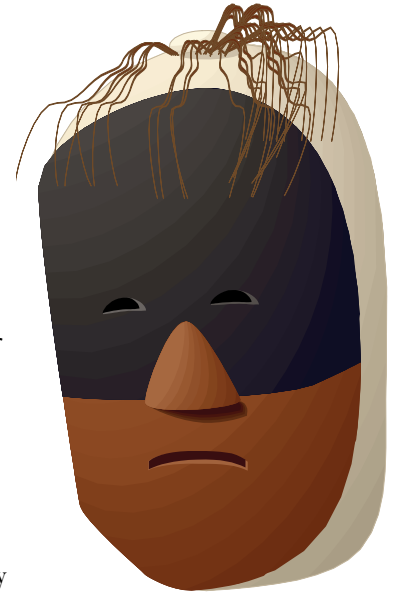
Kristine Beaty, MA, BIOL	Wei Ma, MA, CULT
Kimberly Collins, MA, ARCH	Marion Mealey-Ferrara, PhD, BIOL
Steve Corbett, PhD, BIOL	Naomi Muha, MA, ARCH
Rebecca Crosthwait, MA, CULT	David Robles, MA, CULT
Molly DesBaillets, MA, CULT	David Unruh, MA, ARCH
Michael Doveton, MA, CULT	Kerry Vanden Heuvel, MA, CULT
Allison James, MA, CULT	Lane Volpe, PhD, BIOL

## LETTER FROM THE GSA PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone,

Thank you for a wonderful year full of amazing events, hard classes, and relaxing gatherings. Thank you to the faculty and graduate students in supporting the Graduate Students in Anthropology (GSA). We had many successful events this year including four wonderful dinner and discussions and three department parties, and Mrs. Judy Ross was named Outstanding KU Staff woman of the Year! For business news as graduate students we attended all of the department meetings, successfully picked the new faculty member the graduate students wanted, created great input on the curriculum, graduate, and undergraduate committees, as well as extended Graduate Teaching Assistant time for PhD students. A great big thank you to the 2004-2005 GSA officers Quincy McCrary, Nancy Erickson Lamar and Melinda Hickman. Due to your hard work we have accomplished a great deal. Lastly, thank you to Kelsey Needham for the hard work on this newsletter!

A huge welcome to the 12 new graduate students for Fall 2005. We look forward to working with this diverse group from all subdisciplines and backgrounds. These new students are sure to bring a host of new ideas and worldviews to better our discipline of anthropology. Another huge welcome to our two new professors for fall, Dr. Alan Redd (genetics/biological anthropology) from the University of Arizona and to Dr. Brent Metz (Socio-cultural anthropology) from Latin American Studies at KU, we are all excited to have you. Yet, we will also miss our dear friends that are moving on to new schools or have graduated. Thank you for your wonderful memories and good luck with the amazing futures each of you has. Congratulations to the new officers for 2005-2006 Nancy Erickson Lamar and Heather Meiers, I look forward to working with you and know this next year will be wonderful as well. Have a great summer and thank you for all of your support!



Saludos, Anne

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## NEW GRADUATES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

### AUGUST 2004

**Karla Kral, PhD**

Women, Kinship, and Transnationalism in the Mexican Borderlands: A Case Study of Chihuahua, Mexico

Committee: Donald Stull, Chair; Gwynne Jenkins; Danny Anderson (Span. & Port.); Shirley Harkess (Soc.); Mehrangiz Najafizadeh (Soc.)

### DECEMBER 2004

**Jessica Craig, MA**

Dedication, Termination and Perpetuation: Evidence for a Continuum of Ritual Behavior at San Bartolo, El Peten, Guatemala

Committee: John Hoopes, Chair; Ivana Radovanovic, William Saturno (Univ. of NH)

**Brian Garavalia, MA**

Why Retirees Pursue Educational Activities at a Florida Continuing-Care Retirement Community: A Wellness Perspective

Committee: Donald Stull, Chair; Allan Hanson; David Ekerdt (Soc.)

**Brian W. Lagotte, MA**

Because We Said So: Educational Reform in Occupied Japan

Committee: Akira Yamamoto, Chair; Donald Stull; William Tsutsui (Hist.)

**Shannon Ryan, MA**

Atlatl Weights on the Central Great Plains: Analysis, Patterns and Possibilities

Committee: Jack Hofman, Chair; John Hoopes; Ivana Radovanovic

**William E. Banks, PhD**

Toolkit Structure and Site Use: Results of a High-Power Use-Wear Analysis of Lithic Assemblages from Solutre (Salone-et-Loire), France

Committee: Anta Montet-White & Ivana Radovanovic, Co-Chairs; Brad Logan (K-State), Marvin Kay (Univ. of Arkansas); Leonard Krystalka (Nat. Hist. Mus.)

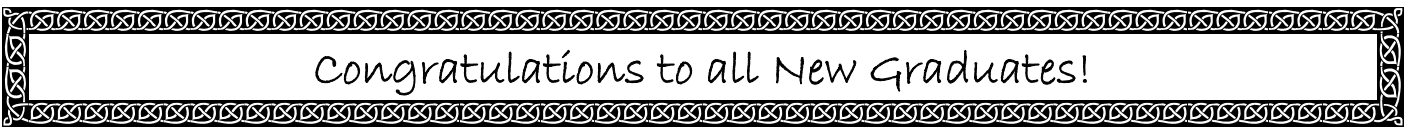
### MAY 2005

**Phillip Melton, MA**

Molecular Perspectives on the Origins of Chibchan Speaking Populations from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia

Committee: Michael Crawford, Chair; James Mielke; Deborah Smith (Ecology & Evol. Biol.)

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*Congratulations to all New Graduates!*

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### Statement of Purpose

To increase awareness and circulate information about the Department of Anthropology at the University of Kansas. To inform graduate and undergraduate students, alumni, and other institutions of ongoing research, publications, grants, and scholarly endeavors in which the faculty, staff, and students in the Department of Anthropology are involved.

### **KU Anthropologist**

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kneedham@ku.edu.

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<http://www.ukans.edu/~kuanth>

### **Graduate Student Web Address:**

<http://www.ukans.edu/~gsanth>

### Comments?

We welcome letters from our readers. Please send your comments, complaints, suggestions, or praise to the editor at the Department of Anthropology or via e-mail. Thank you.

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