THE SEEDS OF THE GARDNERS

Remember the Gardners? Beatrix and Allen Gardner are the pioneering couple who initiated innovative studies on communication in cross-fostered chimpanzees beginning in the late 1960's. As part of the Alumni week series, we were fortunate enough at the University of Kansas to be the host of this unique and knowledgeable couple.

Do chimpanzees, our closest relatives, use language? This has been a question academics have asked for nearly 60 years. It was also the same question the Gardners had in mind when they began their studies of cross-fostered chimps**. The most famous of these chimps was Washoe, the Gardners' first participant. Washoe came to the Gardners in her 10th month of life. Their goal was to immerse her in everyday human life and within this daily routine, Washoe would be taught American Sign Language (ASL), a non-verbal language for the deaf. The climate in which the Gardners found themselves was ripe for this type of study. Prior to their work, another couple, the Hayes, tried to teach spoken language to chimps. After several unsuccessful attempts, people began to realize that chimps simply lacked the vocal anatomy to produce certain sounds. With this in mind, the Gardners thought that if chimpanzees had the capacity to "do" language, but couldn't vocalize it, surely they could sign it with ASL.

The advantage of using ASL was that many deaf people were proficient users of this language. More importantly, it was used by deaf children, making it an effective comparative tool. Although certain nuances of the language had not been worked out at the time of the study, it was salient that they were using an existing language. Their reasoning: if one cannot even define language, how can one invent it? To teach Washoe a known language under the conditions in which a human child would learn it seemed the most obvious and best way to determine apes' capacity to learn this form of symbolic communication; they wanted to "tap into something that was already there."

In total, Washoe spent five years with the Gardners, where she lived as many Western human children would. She played, ate, brushed her teeth, and had several human companions. In addition to this informal learning, she was also subjected to structured teaching and testing. It was from this combination of consistent sign use and experimental testing that the Gardners obtained fascinating and vital data.

Although they have often incurred the wrath of many harsh critics, they went on to

Continued on page 4
From the Desk Of:

The Chair:

This is my last contribution to "From the desk of..." since I am taking a year's sabbatical leave and stepping down as chair beginning in August. I am pleased to report that the next author of this column will be Don Stull who has recently been elected as interim chair for the coming academic year. Next year a permanent chair will be selected, so it is time to reflect a bit on the recent past. When I began as chairman in 1989 the department was in an entirely different state than today. Bob Squier had just retired and left for Portal (Arizona) with O'Leary and Seana. I drove the chase car to Arizona helping them in the move and, when I returned to Lawrence a few days later, I really did not know what to expect as I started as chairman. We were off to a good start since the department was fortunately able to "replace" Bob; John Hoopes arrived shortly after my return from the desert. Since we had been unsuccessful for nearly a decade in replacing the position vacated by Carlyle Smith in 1981, that first summer I wrote letters to all the MA and PhD Plains prehistory alums to solicit support in convincing the administration to hire a Plains archaeologist. Thanks to all the letters from many different people, we received permission to recruit in Fall 1989 and eventually hired Jack Hofman. A year later, we were fortunate to add Jane Gibson-Carpenter and Sandra Gray, filling fundamental areas in sociocultural and biological anthropology. These four scholars have injected a new enthusiasm in the department with their fresh perspectives and research foci, their involvement in undergraduate and graduate activities, and their families and personal interests. Coupled with the continual contributions of the veterans in the department, our image and reputation has been significantly enhanced and the department is clearly an improved place compared to five years ago. There have also been some important (but still not enough) additions in the number of GTA lines, as well as crucial upgrades in equipment and remodelling of space. In these respects the past five years have been rewarding times for me. None of the accomplishments could have happened without the support of Dean James Muyskens and former Associate Dean Kathleen McCluskey-Fawcett. It has been a pleasure to work with them and the others in the College Office, especially Erin Spiridigliozi. Another part of the department's new image is related to the re-emergence of this newsletter under the instigation of present and past editors Kathleen Fuller, Chris Nicolay, Bill Ranney, Amy Terstiep, Kelly Jaggers, the faculty advisors, and all the other undergraduate and graduate student contributors. It takes substantial effort and persistence to assemble each ab origine, a task only remunerated by nontangible rewards, and this bi-annual newsletter is a significant contribution to the health of the department. Thanks are also due Glenn and Elizabeth Kappelman and the other patrons who originated the Mark Kappelman Fund in the department and Foline Eppstein Gartside who set aside a portion of her estate for setting up the Carroll D. Clark Fund for departmental enhancement. There have also been some alumni donors and we appreciate their financial support. Finally, the office staff has been exceptional and nothing positive could have happened without their efficiency and dedication. Judy Ross has very effectively handled the undergraduate and graduate records and provided gentle stability in dealing with students and faculty needs/demands. Carol Schweda, the real boss of the department, has over and over shown her skill in handling departmental financial and organizational details. Without Carol, I never would have made it through the past five years and thank her for all the capable, reliable work she has done for me and this department. I look forward to my leave, but suspect I will sometimes miss being chairman. In any event, I truly appreciate all those who helped me over the past five years in what for the most part was a pleasant, academically rewarding job.

David Frayer

May 1994
From the Desk of: The GSA Co-Presidents

Over the last two semesters, the Graduate Students of Anthropology have been pleased to sponsor several speakers with wide-ranging ideas in anthropology. In January, Dr. Lawrence Todd of Colorado State University presented a lecture entitled "Rethinking Context: Archaeology, Taphonomy and Paleocoeology." In March, Dr. Robert Hitchcock of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was our second guest lecturer. His topic was "Human Rights, Conservation and the Future of Indigenous People in Africa." In April, the GSA co-sponsored David Maybury-Lewis with the Departments of Anthropology and Latin-American Studies. His lecture was entitled "The State and Indigenous Autonomy in the Americas." Our final sponsored lecture of this semester was given by Preston Miracle, a graduate student at the University of Michigan. His lecture was entitled "Economic Intensification Among Late Glacial Foragers? Sea Levels, Seasonality, and Subsistence Strategies in the Adriatic Basins." Along with these lectures, the GSA has also organized many Brown Bag lunches to provide a format for the exchange of ideas between students and faculty. It is hoped that this tradition will continue in the years to come.

Currently, the GSA is attempting to line up speakers for the fall who will address various aspects of anthropology. Suggestions are welcome for possible speakers. Anyone with an interest in anthropology is welcome to attend these lectures as well. We would also like to extend an invitation to all anthropology graduate students to become involved with Graduate Students of Anthropology. We want to hear your voice and input on issues confronting the anthropology graduate student. Meeting times and places for GSA are always posted on the 6th floor of Fraser Hall and at the lab at Spooner Hall, usually well in advance.

Todd and Susan Butler
expand their study. After Washoe left, four new infant chimpanzees, Moja, Pili, Dar, and Tatu, arrived at the lab, all only a few days old. Setting up this second study was facilitated by the nature of its position as the second program of its kind. Kinks and quirks from the first study could be dealt with from the onset. Also new to the second study was the presence of several chimps growing up together. This project also lasted five years.

The amount of significant information produced by these studies is truly endless, but some points, which were highlighted by the Gardners during their visit to KU, should be noted. First, statistical compilations of the data show that if the chimps had been able to remain with the Gardners beyond five years, it is most likely that their communicative abilities (using ASL) would have developed even further. What might the chimps have accomplished? Unfortunately, this is an unanswerable question since funding ran dry.

Second, and most fascinating to me, is the presentation of “artwork” done by some of the chimps. Often, the chimps would be given paper and several colors of markers or chalk. One of the chimps, Moja, was an especially adept artist. After placing pen to paper and drawing a few deliberate lines, Moja was asked what she just drew. She signed “bird.” Interestingly enough, this pattern was repeated again and again during other drawing sessions. Her portfolio also included berries (drawn in red) and flowers (many different colors) which always were drawn the same way. The drawings do, in an abstract way, resemble their referent. The meaning behind this, however, is unclear.

Third, and most important- as it was stressed more than once- our notions of classifying “language” into categories (especially that of human versus non-human and language versus non-language) is only inhibiting our understanding of the fundamental nature of language. To the Gardners, language is not a black and white issue, there are many shades of gray (and even some primary colors). According to Allen Gardner, we are stuck in Aristotelian ways of viewing the world. Categories and classifications are arbitrary designations used by us, the scientists, in order to facilitate discussion about groups of things. Language doesn’t work this way: there are many gradations, and in order to understand it, we must shed our traditional dichotomous conceptions of the world.

Currently, researchers all over the United States are establishing projects which build on the knowledge triggered by the Gardners’ work. One of these studies is being done by Duane Rumbaugh and Sue Savage-Rumbaugh at Yerkes Regional Primate Center in Atlanta. The star of the show is an 11-year-old male bonobo named Kanzi. Kanzi is communicating to his caretakers via computerized lexigram boards using a language called Yerkish and is getting rave reviews from the anthropological community. How-
ever, Kanzi has yet to impress Allen Gardner. He feels that using an invented language of icons is merely "a step backwards" to the days before Project Washoe.

In all, this reporter (and anthropologist) learned a great deal from the Gardners' visit. Surprisingly, the knowledge I gained was not entirely about chimp language/symbol use, but rather of a philosophical nature. To me, they presented an admirable framework in which to do science, and a fresh, new perception of the mechanical ticking of our natural world. Their presence was appreciated and not forsaken. In fact, I think it was Shakespeare who once said, "Listen to the chimpanzeologists, for they are the ones who laugh with the apes." He had a point.

*T*Technically, the Gardners weren't trying to answer that particular question. They simply wanted to see what might happen if our closest relative was raised in a human environment with a language accessible to them, if they chose to use it.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Friends of Washoe, write to the following address:

Friends of Washoe
Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute
Central Washington University
400 East 8th Avenue
Ellensburg, WA 98926-7573

Article by Kiersten Fourshé
CARLYLE S. SMITH

Carlyle S. Smith died in the course of heart surgery on December 13, 1993 at the age of 78. Born and raised in Great Neck, Long Island, Smith attended Columbia both as an undergraduate and graduate student, and was most influenced by Ralph Linton and William Duncan Strong. Service in the US Army Air Force interrupted his graduate studies, but after the war he returned to Columbia, completed course work in 1947 and received his Ph.D. in anthropology in 1949.

In 1947 Smith accepted a position at the University of Kansas to teach half time in the Sociology Department and to be Curator of Archaeology in the Museum of Natural History. At that time he was the only anthropologist in the university and, indeed, in the entire state. Smith was instrumental in the development of anthropology in Kansas. He acquired and organized collections and designed exhibits for the museum, undertook annual archaeological fieldwork in the state and region, single-handedly introduced and undergraduate major in 1950 and played a leading role in the establishment of a separate doctoral degree granting department in 1964. He remained at the University of Kansas for his entire career, retiring in 1980.

Smith's specialties were North American prehistory, Polynesian prehistory and the evolution of firearms. He conducted numerous excavations in Kansas and South Dakota between 1947 and 1980. In 1955-56 he served as archaeologist with the Norwegian Archaeological Expedition to Easter Island and the East Pacific and returned to Polynesia for further fieldwork in the Marquesas Islands in 1963-64. His interest in firearms led to research in France and Italy in 1960 and 1964. His numerous publications appeared in American Antiquity, American Anthropologist, Plains Anthropology and elsewhere.

Although his original research and publications were primarily in archaeology, Smith's outlook on the field was broad and he always insisted that he was a general anthropologist. He redeemed that claim by regularly teaching courses on North American Indians, world ethnology and general anthropology. One of his particular gifts was the capacity to make anthropology live for nonspecialists. He put this ability to good use as a frequent consultant and lecturer on anthropologically oriented tours to Easter Island and many other parts of the world sponsored by Lindblad Travel, Norwegian America Line, Prudential Lines and Royal Viking Line. The archaeological laboratories at the Nassau County (New York) Museum of Natural History bear Smith's name as a tribute to his pioneering archaeological work in the area, and the University of South Dakota granted him an honorary degree in recognition of his contribution to the archae-
ology of that state. In 1990 he was awarded the J C Harrington Medal by the Society for Historical Archaeology. Smith is survived by Judith Pogany Smith, his wife of 51 years, their two children and three grandchildren. (F Allen Hanson)


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Selected Bibliography of Carlyle S. Smith


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American Anthropological Association

Ted Hamann:

Last November, four anthropology graduate students separately made their ways to Washington, D.C. for the AAA annual conference. Laura Hobson-Herlihy presented a paper on the roles of Miskito women in the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve on the North coast of Honduras. Barbara Tsatsoulias-Bonnekessen, just months short of earning her PhD, intrepidly networked in an effort to identify job openings. Ken Erickson and Ted Hamann furthered their connections with members of the Council on Anthropology and Education (CAE). Both also took advantage of the Washington location to make a visit to the National Clearinghouse on Bilingual Education (NCBE).

Judging by the number of sessions, gender issues and feminist anthropology were the most popular conference themes. But the conference was so huge and chaotic, resembling a bazaar more than anything else, that no two people could have had like experiences. Indeed, comparing notes at the end of the day, it seemed like participants were at different conferences. Fortunately, all characterize the meeting as productive.

Laura Hobson Herlihy:

To write about last year's AAA meetings, I returned to my bible and best ally for those few hectic days in Washington D.C.—my trusty 1993 program. Opening the creased cover, scribbled notes and addresses with crumpled business cards fell onto my lap like souvenirs that took me back to that space, that place...It was my first national meeting of anthropologists.

The first time I looked out over the crowd in the Hilton Towers Lobby, the dress and manner of the 90's anthropologist surprised me: No longer did they wear the faded and exotic garb from “the field”, as if they no longer cared to exoticise the other. The international high gloss look was in. Anthropologists of all types resembled Basque anarchists dressed in black, clad with beret or existential glasses. The less daring majority wore business suits, they seemed to move in unison—like herds of yuppies shaking hands, hunting name tags, and exacting careers. I thought to myself, when did anthropologists start wearing business suits?

In last fall's “Social Organization” seminar, John Janzen challenged Ted Hamann and me, the only two members of the class who would be going there, to consider what would be the AAA meeting's three “hot topics”. Looking at this assignment through post-modern humanistic lenses, I decided to ask this question of other anthropologists. I thought maybe I could even ask a well-known anthropologist, who the class would all recognize. My brush with fame came on Friday night. I was waiting in line at the cash bar following the Distinguished Lecture in Cultural Anthropology by Ernestine Freidl entitled “Sex the Invisible.” I was face to face with the quintessential cultural materialist himself, Marvin Harris. Seizing the moment, I asked him: What were the meeting's three hot topics? Peering over his bi-focals, down

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his nose, and across his cocktail glass he replied, “sex, sex, and sex.” What did he mean? Was he only referring to Freidl’s talk or did he really mean the AAA’s three main themes were, indeed, sex, sex and sex? Wow, I thought, are all the gods dead?

Many scholars with whom I spoke, especially archaeologists, wondered if cultural anthropology had maybe gone too far over the edge, into what was too soft, too interpretive. A sense of this came from my own session, “Economy, Gender, and Native Ethnographers in Central America.” There was a presentation by a latina woman from Matagalpa, Nicaragua, entitled “Theater, Gender Identity, and Revolutionary America.” Following her presentation, she suddenly threw a tantrum, screaming into the microphone, “God is shit and that shit that god shits is man, thank you very much,” and sat down. Shocked still in my seat, someone had to nudge me to remind me that I was up next. After this, my descriptive piece on the role of Miskito women in conserving the culture of a Honduran protected area seemed quite out of place among other presenters. On the way to the microphone, I thought that in comparison to her paper, maybe kinship charts weren’t so bad after all.

Talking with other graduate students at the meetings, we celebrated, if ever so sarcastically, the new jargon and buzz words we heard in our sessions of preference. Three favorites emerged: “implosion,” “boundaries/margins and border zones,” and “the emblematic of the problematic.” We voted on our favorites, and as post-post modernists, we chose implosion. It was our favorite because it went past post-modernism’s collapsing boundaries and into the realm of spontaneous decompulsion; peripheries would now implode on themselves. As children of the global village, we chose “boundaries/margins/border zones” because they seem to help deconstruct petty state boundaries that constrain our conception of the world and its peoples. After all, we thought, the boundaries/margins and border zones are where “peoples” really live. We liked the phrase “the emblematic of the problematic” because it was just plain fun to say, but none of us knew what it meant. We welcome any information as to its meaning in our quest for fluency in the discourse of modernity.

Central States Anthropological Society

Betty Cook:

I attended the conference of the Central States Anthropological Society, which met in Kansas City, Missouri March 16 - 20. The Central States Anthropological Society held their meeting jointly with the National Association for Ethnic Studies. The theme of the conference this year was Ethnicity: Global Perspectives. Barbara Tsatsoulis-Bonnekessen presented her paper “Drawing the Line: The Bi-Cultural Acculturation of Development Personnel”, which gave her a chance to present her dissertation work. The CSAS Distinguished Lecture was “Animal Categories and Ethnic Abuse” given by Raymond Fogelson of the University of Chicago. He discussed the widespread use of animal categories, as well as the use of Native

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The American Association of Anthropological Genetics meetings (AAAG) took place on Tuesday and the presentations were very good. I especially liked Dr. Devor's talk on the Polymerase Chain Reaction. However, what was more important (about AAAG) was that I got a chance to talk with Dr. Schanfield, who is one of the co-authors of a paper I am writing. Unfortunately, one of the statistical tests I used in the paper has recently (in the last few months) come under contention. Worse yet, I was using the test as part of my talk on Thursday and Dr. Schanfield warned me to be wary of the test results. Thus, I went home on Tuesday night and revised much of my talk. By some strange coincidence, the value of Kinko's stock also rose several points.

I arrived the next day at the Human Biology Council meetings. Oddly, the receptionists were discussing the genetic relationships of the Siberians to the American Indians when I walked up. I feigned ignorance on the topic, but was caught when I admitted the paper I was presenting was on the genetic structure of Siberian populations. Cornered, I pulled out my overheads and began to answer questions. Several hours later I managed to make an escape on the pretense that I was stricken with plague and needed to see my witch doctor. The rest of the day I hid among the posters, trying to avoid the reception stand.

The evening was equally exciting. Dr. Schanfield had hired a double-decker bus to transport people from the AAAG conference to a reception in south Denver. Unfortunately, I was driving home to Fort Collins (an hour and a half drive) and had to skip the bus ride. One of the meetings for Human Biology Council was running over and several of the reception guests, including Derek Roberts, were still inside the auditorium. Dr. Schanfield and I decided that it was best to get the
bus off, and I got to drive Dr. Roberts and his wife to the reception.*

I got home fairly late from the reception and began to practice my speech a few more times. That night I remember dreaming about being spitted and slow roasted over a pyre made of my overheads.

To me, the AAPA meetings were unremarkable because I was too nervous to really absorb anything. Though nervous, I stayed through the entire symposium on population structure and DNA markers because all of the authors were asked to remain to the end. Somewhere in the middle of this symposium I presented a paper on Variable Number Tandem Repeat ** variation in Siberian populations.

I'm told that my paper went over pretty well. I have also been told that I was pretty calm. However, my recollections about the presentation are more dream-like because my body was in adrenal overdrive. I vaguely remember getting up on the podium and presenting the paper. I also remember realizing, about half-way into the presentation, that I was surrounded by the experts who define my field. Luckily, the only (slight) criticism was from Dr. Chakraborty about the error rate on the my VNTR fragments. Hopefully, next time I present a paper I won't be quite so nervous.

Afterwards, I went to the Plenary Session by G. Armelagos on “Race, Racism and Anthropology.” The woman next to me kept giving me odd stares because I kept saying the quotes that Dr. Armelagos was about to read. Afterwards she asked me if I had written the speech for him. Actually I had just read all the same articles a week before...

That night, I managed to talk to some of my old high school friends who I had earlier shunned because I was preparing for the paper. I quickly realized (in horror) that about half of my old friends are smokers and also own cats. On the other hand, they probably believe that I'm addicted to allergy pills. I did find out that one of my friends had submitted my poem “Exploding Poodles” to a local magazine and that it is in publication (sometime in the distant future).

David P. and I drove back to Lawrence on Friday because I had to grade papers. For entertainment, we took a side trip to Levant to examine occipital buns in the indigenous people (unfortunately, the trait has apparently vanished from the population).

* Note to Non-Physical Anthropology Majors: think of a figure who has played a major role in shaping your field. Then imagine driving that person to a reception. That’s something to reminisce about. For those of you who know me, this was very COOL.

** A variable number tandem repeat is a sequence of DNA bases which is repeated a variable number of times in each individual. They are inherited in a mendelian fashion, and are useful in characterizing individuals as well as populations of individuals.

Kathleen Fuller

This spring I, along with many of the physical anthropologists from KU, attended the American Association of Physical Anthropologists meetings in Denver. While I did not present a paper or poster, the meetings this year were exceedingly stimulating and fruitful for me.

I was primarily interested in the first symposium: Birth and Infancy in Human Evolution. The speakers were excellent and the topics covered were stimulating. It was by far the best session I have ever attended. Of course, the fact that it directly related to

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my dissertation research could have biased my opinion. I also attended several other sessions on paleoanthropology and human biology: some exciting, some boring, and some down-right silly (e.g. the “Clown Shoes Hypothesis”).

Beyond the papers and posters, these meetings were exciting for me because I met and talked with a great many people who share my research interests. I look forward to continuing these conversations via e-mail.

Native-American Petroglyph: California

Undergraduate News

The 1994 spring semester was a busy one for the Undergraduate Anthropology Club. In addition to hosting guest lecturers from various University departments, the Club continued the annual trek to the Cahokia Mounds, St. Louis. Club members visited the archaeological site in order to learn about the prehistory of the Mississippi Valley. The trip was planned to coincide with the Spring Equinox, but the sunrise was not seen due to bad weather. While in St. Louis, the students visited Pete Bostrom’s lithics casting plant. They also attended the Illinois Indian Artifact Show.

Club members were also among a group of six students who accompanied Dr. John Hoopes to the Texas Symposium on Mesoamerica. The symposium was held on March 10-11 in Austin, Texas. In addition to the symposium, the students attended a Maya Hieroglyphic workshop given by Linda Schele. The workshop was held on March 12-13, and covered recent decipherments. One student stayed for the week-long workshop, where one actually learns epigraphy. The Club was also represented at the Midwest Mesoamerican meeting held at Loyal University, Chicago.

Next semester, members of the club are planning another trip to the Cahokia Mounds, St. Louis. The club will continue having guest lecturers from different departments in the University. All are welcome to participate.
MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY:
EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

APRIL 23 - JULY 30

The Town of Kansas. In 1992, archaeological excavations were directed by Assistant Curator Mary Adair at the location of the original settlement of Kansas City, MO, now in the Old Town City Market section of the city. Recovered artifacts and archival photographs dated between 1850 and 1900, depict the growth and development of the city as it responded to local and national events such as overland trails, steamboat travel, Civil War westward settlement and railroad expansion.

SEPTEMBER 10 - OCTOBER 23

6th Annual Lawrence Indian Arts Show: A Juried Competition. A juried exhibit featuring two- and three-dimensional art work by contemporary American Indian artists from across the United States. Works featured include stone and bronze sculpture, traditional and contemporary pottery, paintings and drawings, jewelry, dolls, baskets, textiles. The juried competition is one of six events scheduled for the 1994 Sixth Annual Lawrence Indian Arts Show.

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 6

Los Dias de Muertos. (Days of the Dead). Scheduled at the time of Halloween, an exhibit and complementary programming will illustrate and explain an important Hispanic festival which honors departed ancestors, friends, and family.

New Graduate Students: Spring 1994

Martha Bryant - Cultural
Janet Casida - Cultural
Sheri Daudet - Cultural
Laura Herlihy - Cultural
Steve Corbett - Physical
Matthew Rowley - Physical
Derek Winger - Archaeology

INVITED SPEAKERS: 1993-94


Preston Miracle, University of Michigan: Economic Intensification Among Late Glacial Foragers? Sea Levels, Seasonality, and Subsistence Strategies in the Adriatic Basin.

Lawrence Todd, Colorado State University: Rethinking Context, Archaeology, Taphonomy, and Paleoeconomy.

Co-sponsored

Wojciech Burszta, Poznan University, Poland: Ethnocentrism and Relativism in a Postmodern Vision of Culture.


The Old African 12-Step

Yamamoto to give inaugural

Indians of White Rock: Kansas Archaeological Field School to Investigate Sites in Jewell County, Kansas

KU students excavate a trash-filled storage pit at the White Rock site. The pit yielded artifacts and materials that date to the prehistoric period, including tools and cultural artifacts. It is a testament to the rich history and prehistory of the region.

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