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.

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Comments?
We welcome letters from our readers. Please send your comments, complaints, suggestions, or praise to the KU Anthropologist editor at the Department of Anthropology or via e-mail (qmccrary@ku.edu)
Thank you.

Dr. Akira Yamamoto
Global Context
UNESCO’s Constitution includes the maintenance and perpetuation of language diversity as a basic principle “to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world without distinction of race, sex, language, religion, by the Charter of the United Nations” (UNESCO Constitution Article 1).

Based on this principle, UNESCO has developed programs aimed at promoting languages. Among these programs was the project The Red Book of Languages in Danger of Disappearing under the leadership of the late Stephen Wurm. The purpose of that project was:
1. to systematically gather information on endangered languages (including their status and the degree of urgency for undertaking research);
2. to strengthen research and the collection of materials relating to endangered languages for which little or no such activities have been undertaken to date, and that belong to a specific category such as language isolates, languages of special interest for typological and historical-comparative linguistics, and are in imminent danger of extinction;

Continued on page two

Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity in Kansas Family Practice Clinics
Angela Kempf
Obesity has been gaining attention as the number of overweight and obese adults in the United States continues to rise. Recent population-based studies estimate that over 30% of adults in this country are clinically obese (Flegal et al. 2002). Numerous health risks — including hypertension, type 2 diabetes, osteoarthritis, and cardiovascular disease — are related to obesity. Of all of the deaths in the United States in 2000, the actual cause of 18.8% of those was tobacco; another 16.6% of deaths were caused by poor diet and physical inactivity, and this per-

Continued on page seven
3. to undertake activities aiming to establish a world-wide project committee and a network of regional centres as focal points for large areas on the basis of existing contacts; and

4. to encourage publication of materials and the results of studies on endangered languages.

In the 1980s, UNESCO began to highlight language diversity as a crucial element of the cultural diversity of the world. At the time when UNESCO undertook a new project “Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity” in 1997, language was not yet included. By September 2001, however, participants at the International Jury for the Proclamation of Masterpieces recommended that UNESCO establish an endangered language program in addition to the Masterpieces Project. In the same year, UNESCO’s 31st Session of the General Conference stressed the importance of language diversity by issuing an “Action Plan of the Universal Declaration of the Cultural Diversity.”

At the second International Conference on Endangered Languages in 2001 (Kyoto, as part of the Endangered Languages of the Pacific Rim Project), it became clear that UNESCO and endangered-language advocates share the same goal: the fostering of language diversity, and they launched a joint project to prepare guidelines for assessing language situations.

**The 2003 Document**

Resulting from the 2001 Kyoto Conference, a group of linguists (Yamamoto as a co-chair and Dwyer as a core member) and language advocates worked in collaboration with UNESCO between November 2001 and March 2003 to formulate ways of assessing language vitality, and produced a set of guidelines in a document entitled *Language Vitality and Endangerment*.

One crucial point that was emphasized in this document was for all those involved to work with the endangered-language communities toward documentation, maintenance, and revitalization of their languages. Any work in endangered language communities must be reciprocal and collaborative.

In March 2003, UNESCO organized an International Expert Meeting as part of the Program on “Safeguarding of the Endangered Languages.” Yamamoto and Dwyer were among the core members of this meeting. The goal was to define and reinforce UNESCO’s role in supporting the world’s endangered languages; participants included members of endangered language communities, linguists, and NGOs.

*Language Vitality and Endangerment* is designed to assist language communities, linguists, educators, and administrators (including local & national governments and international organizations) in finding ways to enhance the vitality of threatened languages. The nine factors outlined in the document should allow interested parties to identify imperative needs. In most cases, immediate attention is required in the following areas:

- language documentation
- pedagogical materials
- the training of local linguists
- the training of language teachers
- new policy initiatives
- public awareness-raising
- technical, logistical and financial support (from international and local organizations)

**Rural Economies and the Hand of the Market**

“A commentary on thesis research by Jim Dick”

Jim Dick

Much of rural America is in a quandary. The restructuring of agriculture during the 20th century resulted in fewer farmers and the economic reshuffling of globalization contributed to the decline of rural manufacturing. The consequence for most rural areas is a downward spiral of persistent out-migration and shrinking populations.

In the economy of global, neoliberal capitalism, the market is the arbiter of all values, and sustained, unlimited growth is the highest good. The economy is imagined as separate from social relations, kinship, and community values. In neoliberalism the market should be allowed to direct the fate of human beings. Community, family, society, become, at best, epiphenomena of the economy. The market is disembedded from the community and it becomes not only “free,” but also the director of human destiny. In contrast, anthropologists understand that economic behavior is always embedded in a web of social relations, norms, and values.

What do people in a small, rural Kansas town think about this? To get at this question I lived in a pop-up camper in the city park in Marysville, Kansas, during the summer of 2003. I wanted to know if the idea of the market functioning freely, without community control, was believed to contribute to the health of the local economy or was it viewed as inimical. As is many communities, the coming of a Wal-Mart superstore served as a yardstick.

Marysville has about half the population it had in 1900, but the town has maintained a level of social, cultural, and business activity that resembles its heyday. Its Main Street has businesses open—including a movie theater, a locally owned weekly newspaper, and a pair of grocery stores—and it has a small arts center and local theater productions.

Most residents I spoke with love their small town and care deeply about its future. They have adapted community practices to the decline in community membership and to the economic difficulties caused by a contracting economy.

But what did they think about Wal-Mart? There are some who recognize that certain types of growth can further community disintegration. A local business owner, whose business is precariously teetering on the edge of closing, told me, “If a new Wal-Mart opens that will be the end of my business for sure.” The owner of the local newspaper was also concerned that Wal-Mart’s coming to town promoted community decline through a loss of local businesses.

But in contrast, the director of the Chamber of Commerce told me, “All jobs are good.” When asked if Wal-Mart would be a good thing the answer was revealing, “I know that it might cause local businesses to close. But look at Main Street. It is mostly full. [A third of the businesses are craft/antique oriented.] There are only a couple empty buildings. [Two businesses closed while I was in Marysville—one a lumberyard that had been open for nearly 80 years.] Besides, it would bring jobs and it is just not right to say no. That’s just not the way business works.”

It is clear that a conflict of values exists in Marysville between the ideas of community and that of the free market. Across the nation communities are asserting themselves and claiming a say in how their economies develop. These are often painful and confusing discussions. Anthropologists can contribute to these discussions by illuminating how the warp and woof of community and economy is woven together in a single rug.
A Note From Spooner Hall

Many changes have occurred in the building now called Spooner Hall. Spooner Hall—once the Museum of Anthropology at the University of Kansas—is currently undergoing a shift in operations toward a possible collaborative effort with the Museum of Natural History. Nevertheless, the contributions made by the Museum to the Anthropology department are, as always, a wonderful addition to the development of young anthropologists at KU. The following awards were distributed to students in the 2004 academic year through the Museum of Anthropology.

Carlyle S. Smith Memorial Fund

The fund is to provide support for archaeological research by faculty, staff, and graduate students in the University of Kansas Department of Anthropology. Applicants may request funding for such things as costs associated with conducting field or laboratory research; travel and per diem to conduct research at other institutions; to attend workshops, to attend meetings to present a paper; or participation in archaeological field training programs.

The 2004 awards

Chris Widga, assist with travel expenses associated with fieldwork and collections based research in Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska

Anne Kraemer, assistance with participation in the Earthwatch Archaeological Expedition at Cholula, western Guatemala

Janice McLean, geochemical analysis of nine obsidian artifacts from four archaeological sites located in the Smoky Hill River Basin

Kale Bruner, purchase of a digital camera to assist in the analysis of lithic artifacts from the Upper Paleolithic occupation levels at Vindija Cave, Zagreb, Croatia

Mary Adair, assist with travel expenses to conduct research on the unpublished files of Melvin R. Gilmore at the University of Michigan, Bentley Historical Library

Mckinney Award

Janet Martin McKinney received her BA in Anthropology from the University of Kansas in 1978. Due to her participation in a Department of Anthropology archaeological field school and several Museum CRM projects, Janet and her husband Kent have recently made a donation to the Museum of Anthropology. The McKinney award provides funds to assist students in archaeological fieldwork and anthropological collection research. 2004 marks the first year of this award.

The McKinney awards are broken into two categories. The first category includes funds to be used to facilitate 2004 summer archaeological fieldwork for one University of Kansas graduate or undergraduate student. Preference will be given to students enrolling in Department of Anthropology archaeological field school. The second category includes funds to facilitate collections based research (excludes class projects) on archaeological or ethnographic collections curated at the University of Kansas Museum of Anthropology. This award is also for one University of Kansas graduate or undergraduate student. Students from several disciplines or programs are eligible to apply.

Awards for fieldwork

Chris Widga - graduate student - and Chris von Wedell - undergraduate student - both received funding from the McKinney award.

Award for collections research

Melinda Hickman - graduate student - Melinda received funding for collections research on lithic technologies of Upper Paleolithic Europe.

Linguistic Diversity and Ecodiversity

Among the 900 eco-regions of the world that WWF has mapped out, 238 (referred to as Global 200 Ecoregions) are found to be of the utmost importance for the maintenance of the world’s ecological viability. Within these Global 200 Ecoregions, we find a vast number of ethnolinguistic groups. These are the peoples who have accumulated rich ecological knowledge in their long history of living in their environment.

Conservation biology needs to be paralleled by conservation linguistics. Researchers are exploring not just the parallels, but the links between the world’s biodiversity and linguistic/cultural diversity, as well as the causes and consequences of diversity loss at all levels. This connection is significant in itself, because it suggests that the diversity of life is made up of diversity in nature, culture, and language. This has been called biocultural diversity by Luisa Maffi; and Michael Krauss has introduced the term logosphere to described the web linking the world’s languages (analogous to biosphere, the web linking the world’s ecosystems; Maffi, Krauss, and Yamamoto 2001: 74).

US Context

In the United States, we have seen dramatic changes in linguistic culture from the strict assimilationist to pluralistic ideology, and it is still swinging back and forth as we have witnessed in recent years. In 1981, an English-as-the-Official-Language movement gained momentum. As a result, there were attempts to amend the constitution to include English as the official language. To date, all attempts have been unsuccessful. Having failed at the federal level, the movement shifted to the state level. As of 2003, 23 States have adopted various forms of Official English legislation. It should be noted that the State of Hawai’i declared English and Hawaiian as its official languages in 1978. A brief look at the history of the US will reveal that English was considered to be crucial for building a “civilized” nation. When European immigrants encountered American Indians, they considered Indian cultures to be “savage” and, therefore, they needed to be eradicated. At the time of the European contact, it was estimated that there were approximately 400 ~ 600 indigenous languages in North America with over 50 language families. By 1990s, the number of indigenous languages dwindled down to some 200.

In 1971, President Nixon sent a message to Congress stating that the story of the Indian in America is something more than the record of the white man’s aggression, broken agreements, and that: it is a record of enormous contributions to this country.

it is long past time that the Indian policies of the Federal government began to recognize and build upon the capacities and insights of the Indian people, both as a matter of justice and as a matter of enlightened social policy, we must begin to act on the basis of what the Indians themselves have long been telling us, and the Indian future (must be) determined by Indian acts and Indian decisions.
Following President Nixon’s message, there emerged several important laws that advocated the rights of the Indian peoples (e.g., the Indian Education Act of 1972, and the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975). But, the single most important law, “Native American Languages Act” (PL 101-477), came into existence in 1990, and the follow-up law “Native American Languages Act of 1992” (PL 102-524) came two years later. These two complementary laws are pluralistic in nature. The first reaffirms the language rights of the indigenous peoples, and the second provides financial support for community-based language revitalization, maintenance, and fortification programs.

Currently, Senate Bill 575 is being prepared by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to amend “The Native American Languages Act” to “provide for the support of Native American Language survival Schools.” This is a bill to expand the education of Native American children in their heritage languages and it will amend the Native American Languages Act of 1990 to authorize the creation of three centers for “survival schools” in Alaska, Hawaii, and Montana. In May 2003, a number of immersion language educators and experts presented their testimonials in front of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and the bill may expand to include more centers. The fate of the bill may be determined sometime during 2004, while Native American communities are becoming more aware of their language situations than ever before. (Berardo and Yamamoto in press)

Endangered Languages and Linguistic Society of America (LSA)

Not only language decline among Native Americans has attracted the attention of the academic people worldwide, but also decline in other indigenous languages everywhere. The intense concern for language decline in the Americas was presented by a group of language researchers (both academic and local) in the 1991 Linguistic Society of America Symposium on Endangered languages and Their preservation organized by Kenneth Hale. Then the editor of Language, Sally Thomason, encouraged Hale to put the papers together for publication in the LSA official journal. The collection appeared in the March 1992 issue of Language (vol. 68: 1-42). Subsequently in 1992, the LSA constituted the Committee on Endangered Languages and Their Preservation (its first chair Michael Krauss and the second Yamamoto).


In June of 1994, the Linguistic Society of America issued its policy statement “The Need for the Documentation of Linguistic Diversity” (LSA Bulletin No. 144: 5). Although the statement should be read in its entirety, it recommends that linguistics departments support the documentation and analysis of the full diversity of the languages which survive in the world today and the LSA urges linguistic departments to give “highest priority” to those lan-

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**Student and Faculty Research Grants and Awards**

**Undergraduates**

- **Harley S. Nelson Scholarships (academic excellence)**
  - Kathryn E. Jennings
  - Kate Maher

- **Ellen Quillen Undergraduate Research Award (Effects of genetic isolation on genetic diversity in small Newfoundland out-ports, as measured by STRS)**
  - Eric Siegfried

- **Undergraduate Research Award for molecular genetic research on indigenous populations of Kamchatka – He will be an incoming graduate student in anthropology next year.**
  - Erin Bartling

- **Undergraduate Research Award for research on sustainable development in Puerto Viejo, Costa Rica with Dr. Jane Gibson.**
  - Jessica Craig

- **Kale Bruner**
  - The Fulbright program awarded her a grant for work on the Upper Paleolithic chipped stone industries in Croatia, 2004-05 research period.

- **Jessica Craig**
  - Tinker Research Grant & Oppenheimer Memorial Scholarship – for travel and work in Guatemala.
  - Received the Higuchi Research Award & Oppenheimer Memorial Scholarship – for travel and work in Guatemala.
  - FLAS (Foreign Language Area Studies) grant for intensive language study.
  - The Fulbright program awarded her a grant for work on the Classic and Pre-classic Maya in Guatemala, 2004-05 research period.

- **Anne Kräemer**
  - Tinker Foundation Grant for Guatemala and a FLAS grant for Kaqchikel for 2004-05 school year.

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**Faculty**

- **John Janzen**
  - Received the Higuchi Research Award.

- **Ivana Radovanovic**
  - Received the Hall Center Fellowship.

- **Don Stull**
  - Elected "president-elect" of the SfAA. Elected to Phi Kappa Phi in Dec 2003 (one of two faculty in the university). He will also receive the Steeples Service to Kansas Award.
New Graduates from the Department of Anthropology

May 2003
Kevin Skyat - Kengingwiluya, PhD
The Search for Self Images in Consumption Society of Shopping Malls in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area
Committee: John Janzen, Chair; F. Allan Hanson; Akira Yamamoto; Jack Hofman; Richard Branham (Industrial Design)

Robertta Sonnino, PhD
For a “Piece of Bread”? Interpreting Sustainable Development Through Agritourism in Southern Tuscany, Italy
Committee: Jane Gibson, Chair; Donald Stull; F. Allan Hanson; Norman Yetman (Soc.); Robert Antonio (Soc.); Michael Herzfeld (Harvard Univ.)

Shelly Berger, MA
Pots and Posts from Hallman, a Bluff Creek Phase Site in Harper County, Kansas
Committee: Alfred Johnson, Chair; Mary Adair; John Hoopes

Christopher Widga, MA
Human Subsistence and Paleocoeology in the Middle Holocene Central Plains. The Spring Creek (25FT31) and Logan Creek (25BT3) Sites
Committee: Jack Hofman, Chair; Darcy Morey; Larry Todd (CO St.); Kelly Kindscher (KS Biol. Survey); Larry Martin (Nat. Hist. Mus.)

August 2003
Melissa Hunt, MA
Transnationalism, Gender, and a Cross-Cultural Movement in Response to the Maquiladora Industry of Northern Mexico
Committee: John Janzen, Chair; Jane Gibson; Lorraine Bayard de Volo (Political Science)

December 2003
Christina K. Bolas, MA
Charity Begins at Home: Food Pantries in Lawrence, Kansas
Committee: Donald Stull, Chair; Bartholomew Dean; John Hoopes; Barbara Shortridge (Geog.)

Brent A. Buenger, PhD
The Impact of Wildland and Prescribed Fire on Archaeological Resources
Committee: Jack Hofman, Chair; Darcy Morey; Larry Todd (CO St.); Kelly Kindscher (KS Biol. Survey); Larry Martin (Nat. Hist. Mus.)

May 2004
Shawna Carroll, MA
The Influence of Community Based Organizations, Poverty, and Structural Violence on AIDS Rates in Seven Metropolitan Areas within the United States
Committee: Sandra Gray and James Mielke, Co-Chairs; John Janzen

Ravi DeSilva, MA
“Do Not Go Gentle…” The Suicide Warrior as Mythic Martyr and Mirror of Suffering
Committee: John Janzen, Chair; Bartholomew Dean; Kathryn Libal (Women’s Studies)

James S. Dick, MA
Small Town America: The Meaning of Decline in a Rural Midwestern Town
Committee: Jane Gibson, Chair; Donald Stull; Wes Jackson (The Land Institute)

Angela Kempf, MA
The Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity in Kansas Family Practice Clinics
Committee: James Mielke, Chair; Michael Crawford; Wendi Born (KU Med.)
ple of all ages on their own endangered lan-

guages and cultures. Such programs enable

speakers of threatened languages to understand

the value of their own linguistic and cultural

heritage.

4. Creation of bilingual/bicultural programs in

the public schools whenever possible. Biling-

ual/bicultural programs are more flexible

than monolingual ones in that they do not force

speakers of endangered languages to choose be-

tween their native language and another one

that may provide them with needed economic

advantages.

5. Training of native speakers of threatened lan-

guages as teachers. This helps to engender sup-

port from the language community as well as

ensuring a steady supply of teachers who are

readily accepted in the community.

6. Involvement of the speech community in

language preservation projects to the greatest

extent possible. This may be achieved by going

through the appropriate administrative chan-

nels, but there is always a danger of making the

language a political issue. It is best to keep

politics out of the language revitalization effort.

7. Creation of language materials that are easy

to be used by people. Not only does this prac-
tice help to preserve the language, but also serves to create teaching materials for future

generations. This include a thorough descrip-
tion of the language (a grammar, dictionary,
collection of texts) with audio- and video-
recorded language interactions.

8. Development of written literature, some

based on the traditional oral literature and some

newly created literature. Literary tradi-

tion has proven, in the history of languages, to

be an effective means of survival and enhance-

ment of language.

9. Creation and strengthening of the environ-

ments in which the language must be used. Ide-

ally, the home should be the place for the active

use of the language. This means that the parents

and other adult members of the family must be

the active part of the language maintenance pro-

ject. If this is not possible, some other environ-

ment (e.g., school, community meeting house,

church, etc.) must be created where the ances-

tral language is the language of communication.

In part 2, we will describe what the Uni-

versity of Kansas’s linguistic anthropologists

have been doing toward safeguarding linguistic

diversity at home and in other parts of the world.

References

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opment Institute, University of Arizona,

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bridge: Cambridge University Press.

Marcellino Berardo and Akira Y. Yamamoto

In Press “Endangered Language Commu-

nities and Linguists:Listening to the

Voices of the Indigenous Peoples and

Working Toward a Linguistics of Revitali-

zation.” In Osashito Miyaoaka, Osamu Saki-

yama, Michael E. Krauss, eds. Vanishing

Languages of the Pacific. Oxford Univer-

sity Press.

These assignments will lead up to the writing of a short eth-

nography crafted from research conducted during a ten day

period in Puerto Viejo and the surrounding regions.

To conclude the field-school, Dr. Gibson has found

traveling to the famous mountain hamlet of Monteverde a wel-

come respite from the heat of the Caribbean coast. The last

four days of the school are spent in the cool forest and season-

ally chilly nights of the Preserve of Monteverde and the Santa

Elena Reserve. From there students can hike to the Continen-

tal Divide, or ride horseback through the jungle visiting coffee

plantations and splendid waterfalls.

Through structuring the field-school by touring a

banana plantation in the early period of the school and com-

pleting it with a tour of the Preserve of Monteverde students

will be presented with a diverse view on development in an

industrializing country. Fundamentally, the purpose of the

school is aimed at teaching students what cultural anthropolo-

gists do when conducting research and letting them test the

methods for themselves. However, it also allows students a

unique view of a country grappling with the problems and

benefits of development.

Paleo-Indian Research on the Great Plains

Melinda Hickman

In western Kansas and eastern Colorado a group of

students directed by Dr. Jack Hofman will brave the environ-

ment for the sake of science. Amidst snakes, high winds and

propane stoves the crew will embark on what should be a great

adventure. The 2004 archaeological field school, Paleo-Indian

Life on the Great Plains, will be attended by T.A.’s Hai Huang and

Melinda Hickman, and a handful of other graduate and under-

graduate students along with many local volunteers.

Excava-

tion techniques include use of a mapping station to determine

the coordinates of each artifact. The field school includes

short trips to other sites in the area to enhance the students

understanding of Paleo-indian culture in the Great Plains.

A short investigation of the Westfall site in eastern

Colorado near the town of Calhoun will begin the school.

Westfall is located at the foothills of the Black Forest under the

shadow of the great Rocky Mountains. This site dates to the

Folsom period (about 11,000-10,000BP), and is exemplified by a

few broken points of that variety along with their distinct-

ive flakes. The crew will excavate only a small amount of the

site to determine the damage of previous looting incidents.

At the end of the session at Westfall site the crew will visit Ka-

norado, a site being excavated by KU Geochronologist Rolfe

Mandel.

The second 10 day session will begin with excavation of the

Laird site in Northwestern Kansas. Here lithic tools

have been found in clear context with an early form of bison.

The projectile point found, a Dalton point, has been dated

through chronometric techniques to between 9,700-10,700 BP.

The Laird site has been a long term point of interest for KU ar-

chaeologists.

Busse Cache and Burntwood creek sites will also be

visited for a short time. Busse Cache is believed to be Clovis

age by the style of the thirteen projectile points found during

the initial investigations. It is hoped that during the short time

the crew will be at the site datable material will be recovered.

Breadwood Creek was first investigated by KU paleo-

anthropologists in the early 20th century. After an initial re-

investigation, Dr. Hofman hypothesized that it may contain

archaeological material. A short part of the field school will

be dedicated to the investigation of this question.

Dr. Hofman has a long term dedication to Paleo-Indian

research in the Great Plains. As a KU faculty he teaches courses

that include Archaeology of North America, Lithic Technology,

and various seminar courses. As a veteran fieldworker, Dr.

Hofman is well suited to lead students on this fieldschool.

The tradition of fieldwork by the University of Kansas

on the high plains, along with the deep ties between KU and

many academics in Costa Rica, has contributed to the develop-

ment of fieldschools that are a tremendous value to students of

anthropology and archaeology. Students involved in the schools

are sure to learn much needed skills under the tutorage of the

exceptional professors and student assistants of these field

schools. The tradition of fieldwork at the University of Kansas

will certainly benefit from the experiences of its students, as

they bring back tales and artifacts, stories and ethnographies.

A note from the GSA President

Greetings,

Thank you to all of the students and faculty who contributed to the activities and endeavors of the Graduate Students in Anthro-

pology (GSA) this year. We had a number of successful projects, including the continuation of Dinner and Discussion and a fund rais-

ing bake sale. We also had the honor of nominating Miss Judy Ross for the Outstanding KU Staffwoman Award. All of the graduate

students jumped at the opportunity to share with Judy and the univer-

sity just how much of a difference she makes in the lives of the students. We extend our deepest thanks to Carol, DeDra, Judy and Willy for

their continued support and assistance to the students and faculty in the department. I want to thank all of the new and returning students who

assisted with the GSA this year. And I congratulate the new officers

for 2005-2006: Nancy Lickson-Kanes, Anne K. Jenner, Melissa

Holbrook, and Casey McConney.

Thanks for a great year!
The prevalence of overweight in the sample was 1.33%, normal weight 25.00%, overweight 32.87%, and obesity 40.79% (see Table 1). After adjustment to remove the impact of age, sex, height, weight, and pregnancy status, the prevalence of overweight than women, 37.64% compared to 28.28%. However, women show higher rates in each of the remaining categories, including obesity. Since an increase in weight-for-height has been linked with increased doctor visits, physicians are encountering the rise in obesity firsthand in their practices. Extensive estimation and analysis of overweight and obesity prevalence in Kansas family practice clinics has not been previously undertaken. This thesis project was part of a larger, collaborative study between the University of Kansas Medical Center and the Kansas Health Institute; it examines the prevalence of overweight and obesity in a sample of over 4,000 adult patients from 28 Kansas clinics. Data collection took place over a six week period in June and July of 2003, and included age, sex, height, weight, and pregnancy status.

Obesity is defined as an excess of body fat accumulation to the extent that it poses a health risk for the individual (World Health Organization 2000:6). Body mass index is a ratio of weight to height that is relatively well correlated to total body fat (NHBLI 1998). The weight status classifications used for this project are found in Table 1.

Summary data were collected for 6,262 patients from a total of 28 clinic locations. Complete data were available for 4,572 nonpregnant adults (age ≥ 20 years). This sample was 63.9% women and 36.1% men, with a mean age of 55.99 years. The women in the sample (m = 54.46) were on average four years younger than the men (m = 58.69, p<0.01). The average BMI was 29.65 kg/m², with no real differences observed between men and women.

Table 1. CDC (2003) weight status categories for adults 20 years of age and older.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight Status</th>
<th>BMI (kg/m²)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underweight</td>
<td>18.4 or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>18.5 – 24.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight</td>
<td>25.0 – 29.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese</td>
<td>30.0 or greater</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The prevalence of overweight in the sample was 1.33%, normal weight 25.00%, overweight 32.87%, and obesity 40.79% (see Figure 1). After adjustment to correct for age differences, men showed a higher rate of overweight than women, 37.64% compared to 28.28%. However, women show higher rates in each of the remaining categories, including obesity. This same trend—men more likely to be overweight and women more likely to be obese—has also been found on a national level. The highest prevalence of obesity was found in the 50-59 year range for both men (50.00%) and women (56.97%). Patients in this group were 3.57 times more likely to be overweight or obese than patients in the 20-29 year-old group.

The overall prevalence of overweight in Kansas family practice clinics (31.4% after age-adjustment) was very close to recent national...
prevalence estimate of 34.0% (calculated from Flegal et al. 2002). However, the age-adjusted obesity prevalence of 42.8% for this study is much higher than the national estimate of 30.5% (Flegal et al. 2002). These results are consistent with other family practice-based studies in California and Michigan (Bowerman et al. 2001; Noel et al. 1998).

One possible explanation for the high prevalence of obesity in Kansas family practice clinics could be that the state of Kansas in general may have higher rates of obesity. However, this is not likely the cause, since population-based state estimates are nearly identical to population-based national estimates (Mokdad et al. 2003). The most likely interpretation of the observed higher weight of clinic patients is that people with a BMI ≥ 24.0 kg/m² are more likely to visit physicians. Other studies have identified a relationship between high BMI and more frequent visits to the physician (Fontaine et al. 1998). In turn, population-based estimates of overweight and obesity are not representative of the true extent of the weight problem that family practice physicians are facing daily in their clinics.

It has been observed that residents of rural America often have higher rates of obesity than individuals living in areas of higher population density (NCHS 2001). Although the rural patients in this project did not demonstrate a higher rate of overweight and obesity than all of the other county classifications, patients at the other extreme—the most urban clinics—did tend to be thinner. The patients at clinics located in more urban counties were least likely to have a BMI ≥ 24.0 kg/m². After age-adjustment, 66.25% of the urban sample was overweight or obese, compared to 73.74–75.33% of samples in less populated areas. Using this urban group for reference, each of the other county groups were about 1.5 times more likely to be at an above normal weight (p>0.05).

This lower prevalence seems consistent with the lifestyle often found in urban and suburban areas. These residents often lead more active lifestyles and have better access to resources and health care services. Other researchers have documented that rural residents were least likely to meet recommended levels of physical activity (Parks et al. 2003) and more likely to report a sedentary lifestyle than residents of more densely populated areas (Eaton et al. 1994). In addition, urban and suburban populations tend to be more educated, and the prevalence of obesity has been demonstrated to decrease with increasing level of education (Mokdad et al. 2003).

Obesity has been gaining increased attention recently, but the majority of prevalence investigations have concentrated on population-based estimates rather than physician’s offices. If medical intervention could help in the prevention and treatment of our nation’s weight problem, it seems fitting that the doctor’s office could be an appropriate point for delivery of such information and services. However, many physicians are already spread thin and have limited time to spend with each patient. Accurate and current estimates of the prevalence of overweight and obesity in these clinics can hopefully help to draw attention to the high number of overweight patients that these physicians see. Increased attention may help to speed the delivery of the necessary resources to prepare family practice physicians to identify and offer proactive treatment to their patients at risk of weight-related health problems.
Ellen Quillen, a University Scholar, is examining sex hormone variation. Ravi Duggirala et al. “QTL mapping in biological anthropology: Sex hormone variation.”

**Publications:**

**Visitors:**
- The Laboratory of Biological Anthropology is being visited by Drs. R. John Mitchell (LaTrobe University, Bundanoor, Australia) and Darío Demarchi (National University, Córdoba, Argentina). John Mitchell is arriving on March 31st and will be working on a jointly authored book with Prof. Crawford on "Human Biodiversity and Evolution." Dr. Demarchi is coming for a 4-month visit to genotype apolipoproteins in Mennonite populations. Each visitor will give a seminar to the Department of Anthropology.
- Professor Ranjan Deka visited the Laboratory and the Department of Anthropology, November 13-14th. He gave a lecture, entitled: "Genetic Variation in an Isolated Population, the Samoans of Polynesia: Implications for Mapping Complex Diseases."

**In Memoriam:**
- Last year, one former member of the Laboratory of Biological Anthropology died at the age of 57. Kenneth R. Turner was awarded a doctoral degree from the University of Kansas in 1974. His dissertation topic was on the computer simulation of the effects of demographic processes on the genetics of a small, highly isolated Tlaxcaltecan community in the Valley of Mexico. Ken served on the faculty of the University of Nevada, Switzerland: WHO; 2000.

**World Health Organization Consultation on Obesity.**
Anne Kreamer

During this school year the Graduate Student Association hosted three Dinner and Discussions for the entire Anthropology department. These events were held at a student or faculty member’s house. Each evening consisted of a selection of fine potluck dishes followed by an interesting speaker and open discussion. As an “open door” event Dinner and Discussion provides a forum for students and faculty to interact in a relaxed atmosphere, learn about current faculty and student research, and discuss ‘hot’ topics in Anthropology.

In fall 2003, Anne E. Kreamer, a masters student, gave a presentation titled The Other Side of Middletown: Muncie’s African American Experience. As an undergraduate during her senior year at Ball State University Kreamer was part of a collaborative team of 15 students, faculty, and community members to author ethnography about the black experience in Middletown or Muncie, Indiana. The project was prompted by the overt omission of Muncie’s black community from the famous 1929 community study by Robert S. Lynd and Helen Merrell Lynd entitled Middletown. In December 2003 Allan and Louise Hanson returned to Muncie. Hanson is analyzing the patterns of variation of genes associated with receptors for tasting bitter substances. Evolutionarily, these receptors played a pivotal role in the recognition of various bitter tasting toxins that were present in food consumed by early hominids.

Dr. Michael H. Crawford

The Laboratory of Biological Anthropology is continuing its extensive research programs, funded by National Science Foundation (NSF), National Geographic Society and the Attorney General’s Settlement Initiative (AGSI). NSF approved a 4-year continuation of the research program on the peopling of the Aleutian Islands. The continuation entails field research in the western, central and eastern islands. During the months of September, the Director will lead an expedition (including Rohina Rubicz and Aleut elder, Alice Petrovelli) to Atka, Unalaska, St. Paul, and St. George. They plan to sample in those islands additional males for the characterization of Y-chromosome DNA sequences. This entails the determination of the degree of Russian admixture in the Aleut gene pool. In the following two summers, 2005 and 2006, expeditions will be organized for research in the eastern islands and the Alaskan Peninsula. The mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) sequences from these contemporary populations will be compared to ancient DNA specimens characterized by a University of Utah group, led by former KU Ph.D. Dennis O’Rourke. This comparison of DNA sequences of the living and the dead of the Aleutian Islands provides a measure of genetic continuity of almost 6,000 years.

During the last two years, the LBA has been conducting research on the interactions of nutrition, activity pattern, serum lipid levels, the lipid transport system (apolipoproteins), and heart disease in Memnonite populations of Colombia. Other researchers from 4 different Memnonite communities have participated in this study. The results from this research is being compared to data collected from most of the same communities in the early 1980s, sponsored by the National Institute of Aging (NIA). Since then, time, several hundred participants have died, allowing the testing of specific hypotheses concerning the risks associated with high total cholesterol and HDL levels. We are currently waiting to hear from NIA about possible funding for the mapping of genes associated with the biological aging process.

A number of graduate and undergraduate students from Anthropology and Genetics are conducting field and laboratory investigations in various regions of the world. These include:

Christine Phillips (Genetics Program), is departing this year for fieldwork on Garifuna populations of St. Vincent and Belize. She plans to determine where in Africa did the slaves (who intermixed with Arawak and Carib Indians) come from. She will test DNA samples for Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphisms (RFLPs) of the beta region of the genome and determine which of the African mtDNA haplogroups are found in the Garifuna gene pool. This is a follow-up to the research conducted by the Director of the LBA, 1975-1982, in Central America and St. Vincent Island. In those days molecular markers specific to the maternal and paternal lineages were unknown.

Kristin Melvin is completing the analyses of DNA markers on Y-chromosome DNA from Lancian and Xorocoton Basque populations of Spain and the Americas. The Basques are considered by many researchers to be the remnants of the earliest Paleolithic inhabitants of Europe. Their place of origin has been highly controversial and Krauss (in collaboration with Dr. Aparaj) should help resolve some of these controversies.

Mary Ellerd is analyzing the patterns of variation of genes associated with receptor taste for bitter substances.

Rohina Rubicz is completing the final phases of her research on the peopling of the Aleutian Islands. She is returning to the field this summer. Her earlier work on the Siberian origins of Aleut populations was featured in a major study titled The Other Side of Middletown. She plans to complete her dissertation by the summer of 2005.

Phil Melton is currently completing his M.A. thesis on the origins of Chichkan speakers of South and Central American Natives. He is utilizing mtDNA (RFLP and sequence) markers to measure phylogenetic relationships among Chichkan, Arauk and other populations of Colombia Central and South America. He presented the preliminary results of this study (March 2004) at the annual meeting of Sigma Xi (scientists and scholars of the University of Kansas). He is now working on the December issue of the international journal Human Biology. He plans to complete her dissertation by the summer of 2005.

Mark Zlojutro is preparing to defend his M.A. thesis on the expansion of Yakut populations from southern to central Siberia. He utilized mtDNA d-loop mismatchal analyses and measures of genetic diversity in Yakut and surrounding native Siberian populations.

Jennifer Rock is completing the analysis of church and municipal records of a religious community in order to measure the demographic consequences of the reproductive isolation of these farming communities. She is focusing on the use of surnames to reconstruct the migration patterns and the effects of stochastic processes.

Two undergraduate students received Undergraduate Research Fellowships from the Office of Undergraduate Studies in order to work on the LBA. They are:

Eric Siegfried spent the summer of 2003, testing for mtDNA haplotypes in DNA samples collected from Kam-