

### 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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**Editor, Layout:** Quincy McCrary

**Editorial Assistants:** Anne Kraemer, Elizabeth Garret

**Anthropology Dept. Web Address:**

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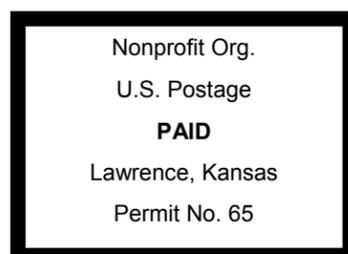
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Department of Anthropology  
University of Kansas, 622 Fraser Hall  
Lawrence, Kansas, 66045

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Thank you.



## ENDANGERED LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTIC ANTHROPOLOGY: PART ONE

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;

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## 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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*

## 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 in 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 and Museum 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 Chocoma, 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 fieldschool 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 fieldschool. The second category includes funds to facilitate collection-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 -nd **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.

*e.g. individual language specialists, NGOs, local governments, and international institutions).*

### 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 describe 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.

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.

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).

At the 1993 LSA Annual meeting, Marianne Mithun organized a symposium on "Preservation of North American Indian Languages" (Los Angeles, California). John Rickford organized the LSA Colloquium "Linguistics and the Speech Community: Service in Return," at the annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois. January 2, 1997, and in 1999, Maya Honda put together a symposium "Linguists in Education: Positive Approaches to Collaborative Work" at the annual meeting in Los Angeles, California. January 7, 1999.

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 linguistics departments to give "highest priority" to those lan-

## **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.

### *Graduate Students*

#### **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.

*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 Kraemer**

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

#### **Shawn Maloney**

The 2003-2004 *Allan Hanson GTA Excellence in Teaching Award*.

#### **Phil Melton**

The 2003-2004 *Allan Hanson GTA Excellence in Teaching Award*.

#### **Chaya Spears**

Selected to attend the "National Science Foundation's Summer Institute for Research Design in Cultural Anthropology."

#### **Mary Sundal**

*Howard Baumgartel Peace and Justice Award* (\$2500) & the *E. Jackson Bauer Award* (\$1000) for her dissertation research in Africa.

#### **Chris Wigda**

Chris Wigda received the *Mark Kappelman Student Award for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Lee C. and Darcy Gerhard Student Award for Field Research from the Kansas Geological Survey*. Chris also received a check for \$500, a certificate, a book on the geology of Kansas and will be further memorialized on a plaque in the lobby of Hambleton Hall.

#### **Mark Zlojutro**

His poster (Mitochondrial DNA Variation in Yakutia: The Genetic Structure of an Expanding Population) was selected *best graduate student paper award* by AAAG.

### *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 *Steeple 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)

#### Roberta 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 Paleoecology in the Middle Holocene Central Plains. The Spring Creek (25FT31) and Logan Creek (25BT3) Sites

Committee: Jack Hofman, Chair; Darcy Morey; 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: Bartholomew Dean, 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.)

guages that are closest to disappear and to those that "represent the greatest diversity." Most importantly, it asserts that the preparation of a grammar is "an intellectual achievement" and that "the informed collection and analysis of linguistic data is thus a fundamental and permanent contribution to the foundation of linguistics," and, therefore, the LSA urges that "this work continue to be recognized as deserving through the awarding of advanced degrees and through favorable hiring, promotion, and/or tenure decisions."

In addition to the activities of the LSA, the 1990s was an exciting period in the recognition and support of endangered language works – training of young scholars, documentation and revitalization of endangered languages, language teacher training. In America, the Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA) designated a representative to coordinate preservation efforts with Native American organizations. The German Society for Linguistics formed a Committee on Endangered Languages to coordinate efforts in Europe, to draw attention to endangered languages and their documentation, to promote field work in graduate curricula, and to develop sources of support for endangered language field work. The Comité International Permanent des Linguistes (CIPL) designated "Endangered Languages" as the theme of its 1992 International Congress of Linguists. A volume *Endangered Languages* (edited by Robins and Uhlenbeck) was published by UNESCO. The 48<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Americanists in Sweden designated the 1994 theme as "Threatened peoples and environments of the Americas," and a number of linguists presented their work on endangered languages.

### What have Linguistic Anthropologists been doing?: an introduction

With only the elderly still speaking or remembering their Native languages, the majority of Native American communities in North America have greatly intensified their efforts to revitalize their heritage languages. Yet, just as Native communities differ in language, culture, and social institutions, so do their chosen methods of language maintenance and revitalization. Some communities target children in preschool or elementary school, while others target young adults or adults with receptive abilities in the language; some materials are designed to be part of a public school curriculum, and some are for use by community members of varying ages and levels. When we examine language maintenance and revitalization programs in different parts of the world, we find the following factors that help maintain and promote the languages:

1. Linguistic culture: when the language ideology of the dominant group is for the promotion of linguistic diversity, i.e., for members to become bilingual or multilingual and for the society to be diglossic, the small group has a choice to retain their mother-tongue or to adopt the dominant language. The decision may depend on the evaluation and judgment whether or not the retention of the mother-tongue relates to some form of "reward" (Fishman 1998). The reward may be in terms of access to economic resources (Grenoble & Whaley 1998), political resources, social stability, or psychological security.

2. Ethnic identity: when they have a strong sense of ethnic identity (based on the "reward" stated above), they will more likely to retain their mother-tongue.

3. Promotion of educational programs for peo-

ple of all ages on their own endangered languages 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. Bilingual/bicultural programs are more flexible than monolingual ones in that they do not force speakers of endangered languages to choose between their native language and another one that may provide them with needed economic advantages.

5. Training of native speakers of threatened languages as teachers. This helps to engender support 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 channels, 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 practice help to preserve the language, but also serves to create teaching materials for future generations. This include a thorough description 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 tradition 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 environments in which the language must be used. Ideally, 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 project. If this is not possible, some other environment (e.g., school, community meeting house, church, etc.) must be created where the ancestral language is the language of communication.

In part 2, we will describe what the University of Kansas's linguistic anthropologists have been doing toward safeguarding linguistic diversity at home and in other parts of the world.

### References

Fishman, Joshua

1998 Lecture (June 10, 1998) at the 1998 American Indian Language Development Institute, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona (June, 1998).

Grenoble, Lenore A. and Lindsay J. Whaley

1998 *Endangered Languages: Language Loss and Community Response*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Marcellino Berardo and Akira Y. Yamamoto

In Press "Endangered Language Communities and Linguists: Listening to the Voices of the Indigenous Peoples and Working Toward a Linguistics of Revitalization." In Osahito Miyaoka, Osamu Sakiyama, Michael E. Krauss, eds. *Vanishing Languages of the Pacific*. Oxford University Press.

These assignments will lead up to the writing of a short ethnography 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 welcome respite from the heat of the Caribbean coast. The last four days of the school are spent in the cool forest and seasonally chilly nights of the Preserve of Monteverde and the Santa Elena Reserve. From there students can hike to the Continental 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 completing 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 anthropologists "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 environment 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 undergraduate students along with many local volunteers. Excavation 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 field 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 distinctive 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 Kanorado, a site being excavated by KU Geoarchaeologist 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 by KU archaeologists.

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.

Braidwood Creek was first investigated by KU paleontologists in the early 20<sup>th</sup> 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 development 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 fieldschools. 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 Anthropology (GSA) this year. We had a number of successful projects, including the continuation of Dinner and Discussion and a fundraising booksale. We also had the honor of nominating Mrs. Judy Bess for the Outstanding KU Staffwoman Award. All of the graduate students jumped at the opportunity to share with Judy and the university just how much of a difference she makes in the lives of the students. We extend our deepest thanks to Carol, DeDra, Judy, and Mike 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 2004-2005: Nancy Erickson-Lamar, Anne Kraemer, Melinda Hickman, and Quincy McCrary.*

*Thanks for a great year!*

## From the desk of the Chair...

The department has had a very successful year. Seven graduate students received their MA degrees. Congratulations go out to Christina Bolas, Shawna Carroll, Ravi De-Silva, Jim Dick, Melissa Hunt, and Angela Kempf. Brent Buenger was awarded a Ph.D. degree. Graduate students Jessica Craig and Anne Kraemer were recipients of Tinker Research Grants and FLAS (Foreign Language Area Studies) awards for study in Guatemala. Chaya Spears will be spending the summer attending the National Science Foundation's Summer Institute for Research Design in Cultural Anthropology. Mary Sundal received the Howard Baumgartel Peace and Justice Award and the E. Jackson Bauer Award for her dissertation research in Africa. Mark Zlojutro's poster, *Mitochondrial DNA variation in Yakutia: The Genetic Structure of an Expanding Population*, was selected "Best Graduate Student Paper" by the American Association of Anthropological Geneticists. Congratulations to all!

Three undergraduate majors in anthropology (Erin Bartling, Ellen Quillen, and Eric Siegfried) were awarded "Undergraduate Research Awards." Eric will also be joining the department as a new graduate student next year. Kate Jennings and Kate Maher were recipients of the "Harley S. Nelson Scholarship for Academic Excellence." Congratulations!

On the faculty side, the semester greeted us with news that Professor John Janzen had just been awarded the Balfour Jeffreys Social Sciences & Humanities Research Achievement Award (a Higuchi Award). Later in the year we learned that Professor Ivana Radovanovic had received a Hall Center Fellowship to complete her book *Belief Systems of Sedentary Hunter-Gatherer Communities: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Archaeological Evidence*. Professor Don Stull will be stepping down as editor of *Human Organization*, but he was elected "president-elect" of the SFAA (Society for Applied Anthropology). Don also received the Steeples Service to Kansans Award at the Master's Hooding Ceremony in May. After 31 years at KU, Professor Akira Yamamoto will enter "phased retirement" in August.

We were granted permission to begin a search for a new tenure track Assistant Professor in Biological Anthropology, with a specialization in genetic epidemiology. Our efforts were not successful, and we will resume that search in August 2004, casting our nets more broadly, looking for a molecular geneticist. We were, however, successful in hiring Dr. Brent Metz as a new tenure-track faculty member in Socio-cultural Anthropology. He will begin his appointment in August 2005. We welcome Brent to the department.

Have a safe, fun, and productive summer.

Jim Mielke

## A Note on Fieldschools

Field-work is a defining aspect of anthropology. During the summer of 2004 the Department of Anthropology at the University of Kansas will hold two field-schools. Professor Jane Gibson, with the assistance of doctoral student Chaya Spears, will instruct Anthropology 474/778, *Applied Cultural Anthropology*. Professor Jack Hofman, with the assistance of Melinda Hickman and Hai Huang, will instruct *Paleo-Indian Life on the High Plains*. This field-school will be focused on Archaeological methods.

### Applied Anthropology in Costa Rica

Quincy McCrary

The Department of Anthropology at the University of Kansas has strong ties with the academic culture of Costa Rica. Dr. Jane Gibson worked closely with Dr. Margarita Bolanaos, Director of Anthropology the University of Costa Rica, during the completion of Dr. Bolanaos' PhD at the University of Kansas. The relationship which developed between these two scholars has continued to this day, with many projects accomplished through their cooperation.

Dr. Gibson conducted research in Costa Rica for seven years across four major localities; Turrialba, Gandoca, Puerto Viejo, and Monteverde. Each of these areas will be visited by the students. The field-school begins with an introductory period in the capital of Costa Rica, San Jose. The students are taken on a tour of the National Museum of Costa Rica, which is under the direction of another KU alumnus, Francisco Corrales. Dr. Corrales received his PhD from the University of Kansas under the direction of Dr. John Hoopes. After spending two days in San Jose, students will spend a day in Turrialba at the University of Costa Rica, where a lecture by Dr. Bolanaos will be given.

After touring the University, the field-school travels down the southeastern coast to Gandoca, located near the boarder of Costa Rica and Panama. Gandoca Beach serves as a nesting site for four species of Sea Turtle. In 1985 ANAI, a Costa Rican non-profit association dedicated to uniting biodiversity conservation and equitable socio-economic development, developed the Gandoca/Manzanillo Wildlife Refuge. Students will spend one evening at the reserve, tour the facilities, then continue on to view banana plantations which surround the refuge.

The primary research site for this field-school is the tiny costal community of Puerto Viejo. Students will be given training in mapping, participant observation, observation of body language, creation, testing, implementation of questionnaires, informal interviewing, field-note inscription, formulation, and coding, while staying and working in the village.

centage continues to grow faster than tobacco deaths (Mokdad *et al.* 2004).

Obtaining an accurate estimate of the prevalence, or frequency, of a disease is important for many reasons. Public health professionals and health educators often use prevalence estimates to help inform the creation and implementation of prevention and intervention programs. From an anthropological perspective, analysis of prevalence can begin to address the impacts that social, cultural, and environmental factors have on disease distribution.

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 for height that is relatively well correlated to total body fat (NHLBI 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 non-

pregnant adults (age  $\geq 20$  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 an average of four years younger than the men ( $m = 58.69$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). The average BMI was 29.65 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, with no real differences observed between men and women.

### Table 1. CDC (2003) weight status categories

#### for adults 20 years of age and older.

Weight Status	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )
Underweight	18.4 or less
Normal	18.5 – 24.9
Overweight	25.0 – 29.9
Obese	30.0 or greater

The prevalence of underweight 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, with 44.67% of women in the sample falling into the obese category as compared with 38.65% of men. This same trend – of 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  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> 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  $\geq 25$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>. 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.

meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists and the Human Biology Association in Tampa, Florida. The primary criterion for this award is the significance of the research to the field of Anthropological Genetics.

Christine Phillips-Krawczak (a Ph.D. candidate in the Genetics Program, Laboratory of Biological Anthropology) received a grant from Sigma Xi national scientific honorary society. These funds will be used for her dissertation on the anthropological genetics and geographic origins of the Black Caribs of St. Vincent Island and the coast of Central America.

Ellen Quillen, a University Scholar at the LBA, received an Undergraduate Research Award for her research on the Effects of Genetic Isolation on Genetic Diversity in Small Newfoundland Outposts, as measured by STRs. Her work is jointly supported by a grant from the Molecular Genetics Fund.

Eric Siegfried, an undergraduate student in the LBA and an incoming graduate student into the Anthropology Program this Fall, received an Undergraduate Research Award for his molecular genetic research on the indigenous populations of Kamchatka. Eric presented preliminary results at the yearly meeting of the URA recipients. meeting of the URA recipients.

## New Graduate Student Biographies

### Nancy Erickson-Lamar

Nancy began her career as a graduate student in the fall of 2003 and is working on her M.A. in Socio-cultural Anthropology. Nancy received her B.L.S. from St. Edwards University in Austin, Texas. Her primary area of research is applied anthropology with a focus on diversity recruitment, management, and retention. Nancy's additional research interests include transnational and military communities, corporate anthropology, and her geographical area of research is the contemporary United States.

### Anne E. Kraemer

Anne E. Kraemer is a Masters student in Archaeology. Her focus is Highland, Guatemala particularly with the Kaqchikel Maya. Two research interests are how current Maya indigenous people utilize archaeological sites as ritual space in Tecpan and Community Archaeology at the site of Chocoma in the Western Piedmont of Guatemala. She is a graduate of Ball State University, Indiana.

### Melinda Hickman

Melinda graduated with a B.A. from the University of Illinois-Chicago in 2001. She double majored in Anthro-

pology and Classical Civilizations. During her career as an archaeologist, Melinda has excavated in Ireland, France and North America. Her primary interests include lithic technologies and cave art of Upper Paleolithic Europe.

### Kay Kautz

Kay is enrolled in the doctorate program at KU for Cultural Anthropology. Her focus is the Yucatec Maya. She teaches anthropology, geography and history in Wichita at Cowley College. Kay received her teaching certificate in history and an M.A. in anthropology at WSU in 1999.

### Heather Meiers

Originally from Blue Rapids, Kansas, Heather Meiers received her BA in History of Art from the University of Kansas in 2002. She then decided to switch to cultural anthropology, and began working on her master's degree in fall of 2003. She is interested in the contemporary US and postmodern anthropology.

### Quincy McCrary

Quincy began his Graduate Studies in the fall of 2003. He received his B.A. in anthropology from Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, C.A. in the spring of 2003. His primary area of research is applied anthropology, with a focus in homelessness and poverty in the United States.

### Norma Stratemeier

Norma is pursuing a Master's Degree in Biological Anthropology. She lives in Overland Park and commutes to KU. She received a B.A. in history and a J.D. from UMKC, and has taught legal studies at Johnson County Community College for the past 18 years. She is particularly interested in paleo-anthropology, paleo-pathology, and forensic anthropology.

*Other new students from the last year include: Anne Justice, Biological; John Russell, Archaeology; LeAnn Smith, Cultural; and Mark Stahl, Cultural.*

*Welcome to all*

*new*

*graduate students!*

chatka, during the summer of 2002. He presented his results at a symposium organized by the College Honor's Program.

**Ellen Quillen**, a University Scholar, is examining the effects of reproductive isolation on the genetic structure of fishing outports from the southern coast of Newfoundland. She is testing for their genetic diversity using short tandem repeats (STRs).

#### Participation at National Meetings:

The Laboratory of Biological Anthropology is well represented at the annual Human Biology Association Meetings in Tampa, Florida, April 14-15. The following posters will be presented:

Mark Zlojutro, M Sorensen, JJ Snodgrass, LA Tarskaya and MH Crawford. Mitochondrial DNA variation in Yakutia: The genetic structure of an expanding population.

Phil Melton, SS Papiha, I Briceno, J Bernal and MH Crawford. MtDNA variation in Chibchan speaking groups from Sierra Nevada de Marta.

Rohina Rubicz and MH Crawford. The origin of Aleut populations and subsequent expansions: Molecular perspectives.

Arantza G. Apraiz, KJ Melvin, M Zlojutro, R Roy, and MH Crawford. STR variation in the Basque population.

MJ Mosher, K Melvin, R Rubicz, M Zlojutro, and MH Crawford. Nutrition profiles, serum lipids and cardiovascular disease in Kansas Mennonites.

#### Presentations:

Professor Crawford gave two presentations, November 6 and 7, in Seattle, Washington. He presented a colloquium in the Department of Anthropology: "Peopling of the Aleutian Islands: Molecular Evidence from the Living and the Dead." Arctic Anthropology Association Paper: "Genetic and Demographic Consequences of Relocation of Aleuts to the Pribilof and Commander Islands," with Rohina Rubicz.

Former LBA member, Dr. Lorena Madrigal, is the chair of the Local Arrangements Committee and host of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists in Tampa, Florida. She is currently on the Publication Committee of the *American Journal of Human Biology* and is on the Editorial Board of *Human Biology*.

Several former LBA members are contributing papers to the symposium on QTL mapping in biological anthropology. These include:

Tony Comuzzie et al "The Nizwa family study: Mapping genes for complex metabolic diseases in the Arab Bedouins of Oman."

Lisa Martin "QTL mapping in biological anthropology: Sex hormone variation."

Ravi Duggirala et al "QTL mapping in biological anthropology: Obesity."

#### Publications:

Rubicz, R, T Schurr, P Babb, and MH Crawford

2003 Mitochondrial DNA variation and the origins of the Aleuts. *Human Biology* 75 (6): 809-835.

Madrigal, L, J Relethford, and MH Crawford

2003 Heritability and anthropometric influences on human fertility. *Amer. J. Hum. Biol.* 15 (1): 16-22.

#### Visitors:

The Laboratory of Biological Anthropology is being visited by Drs. R. John Mitchell (LaTrobe University, Bundoora, Australia) and Dario Demarchi (National University, Cordoba, Argentina). John Mitchell is arriving on March 31<sup>st</sup> 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 13-14<sup>th</sup>. 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 Alabama from 1974 to 1993, when he became the director of No Man's Land Historical Museum in Goodwell, Oklahoma. He is survived by his wife, father and sister. Our deepest condolences to the family.

#### Honors:

A poster entitled "Mitochondrial DNA Variation in Yakutia: The Genetic Structure of an Expanding Population," authored by Mark Zlojutro (Laboratory of Biological Anthropology, LBA) was selected for the best graduate student paper award by a committee from the American Association of Anthropological Genetics. This poster was selected from graduate student papers and posters presented at the combined annual

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## A NOTE ON DINNER AND DISCUSSION

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 then discussion by the entire group. 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. Kraemer, 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 Kraemer 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: A Study in Modern American Culture*. The new collaboration of community and campus in 2003 worked to reveal the unrecorded historical and contemporary life of Middletown and remedy the under representation of blacks in small town America. *The Other Side of Middletown* project is sponsored by the Virginia B. Ball Center for Creative Inquiry in Muncie, Indiana. This book was published May 2004 by Altamira Press. A good discussion of race in America followed the presentation. This event was hosted by Graduate students Angie Kempf, Shannon Ryan and Brian Lagotte.

During the spring of 2004, Professor Arienne Dwyer hosted a lecture presented by Ms. Aigerim Diykanbaeva, Lecturer, Manas University; Ph.D. Candidate, Aegean University; and CARI visiting exchange scholar at the University of Kansas. The talk titled *Kyrgyz Shamanism and Modernity*, given by Ms. Diykanbaeva, focused on the Central Asian Turkic Kyrgyz people. In the last hundred years the practices of trance-mediums for religion and healing purposes have been grouped under a belief system known as "Tengir" (Tengri) ('sky, heaven, god'). This is an indigenous belief system that distinguishes itself from other trance-medium practices in the region as well as ideas from the introduced religion of the area: Islam. This lecture was followed by lively conversation comparing Native American and other belief systems with those of the Kyrgyz.

A third dinner and discussion was held in March by Dr. Alan Hanson and his wife Louise. This lecture *Returning to*

*Rapa: 40 Years After: The Changes on the small island of Rapa and the Human Dimension of Returning to Dissertation Research Years Later*. In December 2003 Allan and Louise Hanson returned to Rapa, a small island in French Polynesia about 700 miles south of Tahiti. This was their first visit since they spent a year doing fieldwork for dissertation research forty years ago. Their talk emphasized changes on the island and aspects of returning to one's research after four decades. Dr. Hanson and his wife provided a French Polynesian setting including beaded necklaces and wonderful slide photographs from 40 years earlier as well as video from their recent December 2003 trip. Everyone enjoyed learning the different aspects of dissertation research and changes in Rapa throughout the years.

### Visiting Scholar Returns Home (Spring 2004)

Mike Bauer - Copyright 2004 Lawrence Journal-

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A graduate student from the Kyrgyz Republic is leaving Kansas University in hopes of starting an anthropology curriculum at home for Manas University in Bishkek, the republic's capital. Aigerim Diykanbaeva was sent to Kansas University for a month by the Open Society Institute through its mentoring program, Central Asian Research Initiative. Arienne Dwyer, mentor for Diykanbaeva at Kansas University, said the program paired talented students with mentors in the United States.

Diykanbaeva is a doctoral candidate in Kyrgyz folklore, specifically shamanism in epics and legends, at Aegean University in Izmir, Turkey. Diykanbaeva also is a lecturer on Kyrgyz folklore at Manas. Anthropology is new to the Kyrgyz Republic, and Diykanbaeva was interested in bringing a field methodology course to Manas. She hopes to expand the curriculum in the future, she said. During her stay in Lawrence, Diykanbaeva attended anthropology classes, faculty meetings and worked with Dwyer on field methodology.

Dwyer also assisted Diykanbaeva with fieldwork skills, using technology on campus, and acted as a go-between for introductions to staff and people in Diykanbaeva's field of study. Diykanbaeva said her experience at Kansas University was fruitful, "I learned the culture of American people -- students' life on campus, for example. I gained lots of materials, lots of books and monographs," Diykanbaeva said.

Paul D'Anieri, director of Russian and East European studies, said Kansas University was looking into starting an exchange program with Manas. D'Anieri said KU had a faculty exchange program with the Kyrgyz Republic in the mid-1990s, then known as Kyrgyzstan, but it was a three-year funded program and didn't receive a renewal, so the program was dropped. If the new program comes through, D'Anieri said he hoped the results would be better this time around.

## From the Director of the

### Laboratory for Biological Anthropology

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 Fund (AGSF). 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 month of September, the Director will lead an expedition (including Rohina Rubicz and Aleut elder, Alice Petrivelli) to Atka, Unalaska, St. Paul, and St. George. They plan to sample in those islands additional males for the characterization of Y-chromosome markers. This methodology will permit the ascertainment 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 patterns, serum lipid levels, the lipid transport system (apolipoproteins), and heart disease in Mennonite populations of Central Kansas. To date, volunteers from 4 different Mennonite 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 that 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 Spring for fieldwork on Garifuna populations of St. Vincent Island 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

tion 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 (STRs, mtDNA and Y-chromosome) from 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 Kris' research (done in collaboration with Dr. Apraiz) should help resolve some of these controversies.

**Mary Ellerd** 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.

**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 article in the December issue of the international journal *Human Biology*. She plans to complete her dissertation by the summer of 2005.

**Phil Melton** is currently completing his M.A. thesis on the origins of Chibchan speakers of South and Central American Natives. He is utilizing mtDNA (RFLP and sequence) markers to measure phylogenetic relationships among Chibchan, Arawak and other populations of Colombia Central and South America. He presented the preliminary results of this study (March 5<sup>th</sup>) at the annual meeting of Sigma Xi (scientific honorary society).

**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 mismatch analyses and measures of genetic diversity in Yakut and surrounding Native Siberian populations.

**Jennifer Rack** is completing the analysis of church and municipal records in Tiszahat, Hungary, 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 to conduct original research at the LBA. They are:

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