Message from the Chair

Jane W. Gibson

"Interconnectivity" describes a central characteristic of systems: all parts interact and depend on each other to maintain the system, and a fragile equilibrium forms. A related concept, "emergence," reminds us that a system will not arise if the parts merely coexist and that, when they interact, what affects one will affect others, and the whole will be greater than the sum of its parts.

In the academic year that has just come and gone, the Department of Anthropology demonstrated how the interaction of individual faculty members and students produced an emergent and integrated whole capable of innovating to meet significant challenges, and exploiting new resources as they become available. Late last August, chair Jim Mielke moved into Strong Hall as Interim Associate Dean and the Department of Anthropology needed a substitute. It was my privilege and pleasure to step in as Acting Chair at a time when we would need all of our energy and determination to complete a Self Study and Long Range Plan. But how to proceed?

If we think of our departmental system as a watershed, we stand on the firm and well-forested bank of a river of ideas. Our job is to preserve the strong foundation made possible by the deeply penetrating roots of the forest and its verdant canopy, but we do more than watch the water go by. We have to be the source of that river, paying attention to the changing world around us, and supplying those ideas that will benefit the quality of life downstream. The result of our work on the Long Range Plan is a vision statement, a creative document that builds on the strengths of an excellent, productive faculty, and proposes new ideas and exciting initiatives to advance research and teaching.

What does our vision look like? What might be the emergent properties of this new system dynamic? The faculty envision a department that recognizes and supports the strengths of each subdiscipline and each individual, but that integrates these across subdisciplines. For those who have not read our Long Range Plan, here are a few specific goals, some of which are already being pursued:
- a leaner, more efficient graduate program that reduces time to degree without sacrificing the quality of graduate student training;
- an internship program that opens the door for graduate students in all subdisciplines to apply anthropological skills and knowledge to the world beyond the classroom;
- more support for graduate students, and improved distribution of GTA support;
- development of "concentrations," such as Plains Anthropology and Medical Anthropology, that will allow students to focus their studies across subdisciplines and faculty to collaborate in teaching and research;
- stronger relationships with other programs, institutions, centers, and departments at KU such as the Museum Studies Program and the Biodiversity Institute;
- new facilities such as a Digital Media Lab, an ancient DNA lab, and a department conference room.

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Message from the KU Anthropologist Staff

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.

We wish to thank all those who contributed to the success of this volume of the KU Anthropologist.

Staff: Michaela Catlin, Diana Taylor, Ashley Thompson, and Meghan Webb

Archaeology

Student News
Kristi Barger (MA) worked with the University of Wyoming and the George C. Prion Institute of Anthropology at the Hell Gap site in Wyoming and the Last Canyon Cave in Montana. She may be heading back for more fieldwork this summer.

Adam Benfer (MA) won a Tinker through Latin American Studies to go to Costa Rica where he will study a colonial-aged road for his MA thesis. This year he was also an invited presenter for the Latin American Graduate Research Competition.

Laura Murphy (PhD) was nominated for the Kansas Geological Survey's Hambleton Graduate Student Research Award. It is given to a GRA who has demonstrated exceptional research skills based on papers given at professional meetings and on his or her involvement in published research.

Museum Studies
Eight students are following the Anthropology track within Museum Studies, two of whom graduated with their MAs in May 2010:

Robin Bang was curatorial intern at the Spooner Hall ethnographic collections. Together with students from Haskell, the White Bull sisters, she curated an exhibition at the Spencer Museum of Art entitled "Beaded Heritage."

Ann Benning interned at the Watkins Museum and at the Kansas Historical Society.

Other Museum Studies students have arranged internships:

Nee Cheih Yeh will work at the Taiwan National Museum in Taipei;

Rebekah Hays will intern at the Pacifica Historical Society near San Francisco.
Biological

From the Desk of the Director of the Laboratory of Biological Anthropology,
Dr. Michael Crawford

Presenters at the Human Migration conference. Photo by Kristin Beaty.

The Laboratory of Biological Anthropology organized and sponsored the first International Conference on Human Migration March 1-3, 2010. This meeting, held at the Commons facilities in Spooner Hall, was funded by: the Commons Interdisciplinary Research Initiative in Nature and Culture of KU, Center for Global and International Studies, Evogen (a genomic products company in Kansas City), College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Latin American Studies, and the Department of Anthropology. The Spencer Museum of Art held a special exhibition, “Echoes of Human Migration,” in honor of this international meeting. More than 100 faculty and students registered for the open portion of the program. Participants represented ten different countries and were affiliated worldwide with 25 institutions. A “brain-storming” session was held during the morning of March 3rd.

The participants of the Migration conference were first welcomed by KU chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little. This welcome was followed by Professor Michael Crawford, who challenged the participants with a list of planned tasks to be accomplished during this conference.

The morning session was initiated with two one-hour keynote addresses, one by Mark Stoneking (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany) and the other by Jonathan Wells and Jay T. Stock (Childhood Nutrition Research Centre, London, and Cambridge University). Dr. Stoneking spoke about the “Genetic evidence concerning the origins and dispersals of modern humans,” providing unequivocal evidence for the human migration out of Africa. His talk was followed by Dr. Wells’ presentation on “The biology of the colonizing ape,” providing evidence on the nature of human expansion and adaptation in the global diaspora.

Dr. Benjamin Campbell (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) next provided a thought-provoking lecture on “Migration: risk-taking or decision making—what the evolutionary approach can tell us.” This presentation integrated knowledge about dopamine receptor variation, novelty seeking and risk taking as contributing factors to human migration. Professor Crawford summarized the “Evolutionary consequences of migration” using examples from his research on the Garifuna of Central America and the settlement of the Aleutian archipelago. The morning ended with “An anthropological genetics perspective of the peopling of the Americas,” by Dr. Ripan Malhi (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign). He provided the most current interpretations of the migration and peopling based on molecular evidence.

The afternoon session featured a presentation by Dr. Eske Willerslev, the director of the Centre of Excellence in GeoGenetics at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. He reviewed the current evidence from “Ancient DNA and early peopling of the New World Arctic,” and discussed the first whole genomic sequencing of a 4000 year old Paleo-Eskimo from Greenland. This Paleo-Eskimo, nick-named “Inuk”, did not cluster genetically with contemporary Inuits of Greenland and Alaska, or with
the Siberian Yupik Eskimos. Instead, the Paleo-Eskimo had closest genetic affinities to Chukchi and Koryaks of Siberia. This relationship was interpreted as indicative of a late (5000 years bp) migration out of Siberia—well after the Bering landbridge was inundated. A complete discussion of inuk and his phylogenetic relationship to the people of Beringia can be found in the Feb. 12th issue of Nature.

This conference featured a number of distinguished national and international speakers, including six from Mexico (the National Autonomous University and the Polytechnical University of Mexico); a Brazilian group from Rio Grande do Sul and Brazilia); a Canadian researcher from McMaster University who examined the use of music as a marker of migration; and a group from Colombia who discussed forced migration in indigenous populations of Northwestern Amazon. Due to health problems, Philippe Lefevre-Witter (CNRS, Toulouse, France), was unable to attend; however, his contribution “Tuaran Iwelleyeden: A migration for pastoral survival,” was most ably presented by Anne Justice.

The Department of Anthropology was well represented with presentations by six faculty members: Majid Hannoum—“Tangier, a city transit in the age of globalization: African illegal migration to Europe”; Bartholomew Dean—“The social anthropology of contemporary migration in Peruvian Amazon”; John Janzen—“New African immigrants to Kansas: Identity, voice and community”; Felix Moos—“I am leaving: Globalization, conflict and Asian migration to the Americas”; Bruce Rothschild—“Disease implications for and consequences of migration from Asia”; and Ivana Radovanovic—“Population movement dynamics during the transition to food-producing in SE Europe.” A total of 13 posters were presented during the Poster Session during the evening of March 1st by graduate students and faculty from Canada, Mexico and KU. The session was chaired by Professor William Woods (Department of Geography, KU).

**Several KU graduates participated in the International Conference on Human Migration:**

**Dennis O’Rourke** served as the chair of the morning session on theory and provided an overview of the two-day conference.

**Kristin Young** (K.U. Ph.D. in 2009, currently a post doctoral fellow at KUMC) presented a poster entitled “Secular trend in post famine Ireland: Effects of migration on those who remained.”

**Lorena Madrigal** (Professor of Anthropology, South Florida University) chaired the March 2nd morning session on Transnational Migration. She also gave a presentation entitled “Slavery, indentured migration, and formation of the Caribbean gene pool.”

**Dixie West** (Ph.D. in Archaeology in 1995, Museum of Natural History) served as session chair on Nutrition and Migration. She and Arkady Savinetsky (Russian Academy of Science, Moscow) gave a joint presentation entitled “The peopling of the Aleutian Islands, Alaska: Push-pull migration.”

**MJ Mosher** (Ph.D. in 2005, Western Washington University, Bellingham) gave a thought-provoking presentation on “The role of diet and epigenetics in migration.”

**Phillip E. Melton** (Ph.D. in 2008, post-doctoral fellow, Department of Genetics, Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, San Antonio) presented molecular genetic data on Mennonite populations of Kansas and Nebraska. His presentation was entitled: “Mennonite migrations: Demographic and genetic consequences.”

**Recent LBA Graduates**

**Kristin Young** successfully defended her dissertation on June 16th, 2009. Her dissertation focused on “Origins of Basques of Spain, based on Molecular Evidence.” Kris is currently a post doctoral fellow at KUMC.

**Jay Sartzy, a Self Fellow in Genetics at the LBA, defended his dissertation with honors on July 16th, 2009. He is currently pursuing an MD degree at the Medical School, Northwestern University.**

**Geetha Chittoor** defended her dissertation on December 10, 2009. She was awarded a prestigious Cowles post doctoral fellowship in the Genetics Department, Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, San Antonio, Texas.

**Kristin Beaty** successfully defended her M.A. thesis, “Scottish Identity in an American Melting Pot: Insights from mtDNA and Y chromosome,” on October 27th, 2009. She was accepted into the Ph.D. program this Fall.

**Alumni News**

At the April annual meetings, **Dennis O’Rourke** (K.U. Ph.D. in 1980, currently Professor, University of Utah) stepped down from the presidency of the American Association of Physical Anthropology (AAPA). This is the largest national association of physical anthropologists in the world, founded in 1918 by Ales Hrdlicka. The of-
ficial journal of the association, AJPA, was ranked this year as one of the top 10 most influential journals of the century.

**Lorena Madrigal** (K.U. Ph.D. in 1987, currently Professor, South Florida University) was elected incoming president of AAPA. She served a two-year term as vice-president of the organization. She did a fantastic job as program director of the annual meetings.

**Ravindranath Duggirala** (K.U. Ph.D. in 1995, Scientist at Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research) received the 2010 Hind Rattan award from the NRI, Welfare Society of India. This award is given on a yearly basis to members of the worldwide Indian diaspora who make significant contributions to their respective fields. Ravi contributed to the scientific understanding of diabetes and obesity, and trained Indian physicians and scientists through workshops.

**Faculty News**

**David Frayer** started phased retirement in January 2009 and have been greatly enjoying my Spring semesters without teaching. I have been traveling a lot and have been able to complete some overdue projects. In August I was invited to the Hrdlicka Congress in Prague/Humpolec and presented a plenary lecture: *Giving a Voice to the Neandertals: Language, Ritual and Symbolic Behavior*. I first visited Prague in 1974 and it's really a different place now, full of color and vibrancy. For the past and next academic year I am a Distinguished Lecturer for Sigma Xi and so far have given talks at Kansas State, St. Edward's University (Austin), Case Western Reserve, College of Charleston, The Citadel, South Dakota, LSU, KU, Portland State, Oregon Health Science University and Ohio State. Topics range from teeth to the Hobbit to Neandertals. It has been a lot of fun meeting diverse colleagues around the country and especially satisfying to talk about Neandertals. In case you missed it, the first, main results of the Neandertal Genome project were released in early May based on the Vindija Neandertal bones. The Leipzig group concluded that "... [t]he analysis of the Neandertal genome shows that they are likely to have had a role in the genetic ancestry of present-day humans outside of Africa." Based on the fossils some of us have been arguing this for decades, so it is extremely satisfying for the paleogeneticists to confirm what we have been saying all along! Twenty years ago no one imagined nuclear DNA could be pulled from Neandertal bones and, if they had, few would have predicted the outcome. In late summer, I travel back to Central Europe to give another plenary lecture, this time at the Paleopathology conference in Vienna. My papers in press include a new interpretation of Ötzi (the Iceman from Tyrol) and right-handedness in the Vindija Neandertals. The sad moment of the year was the loss of my good friend, Bob Squier. Almost single-handedly, he pulled Anthropology out of Sociology and everyone here, whether they knew him or not, owes Bob their appreciation and respect.

**Cultural**

**Faculty News**

**Jane W. Gibson** is part of a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional research team that was awarded $2.7 million to study farmers' decisions to grow crops for fuel. Rural sociologists and ag economists from K-State have teamed up with KU scholars in environmental economics, urban planning, engineering, geography, sociology, and anthropology for this five-year study. The project will focus on Kansas farmers and will consider farmer decision-making with regard to land use, effects on water quality and quantity, development of the biofuels industry, implications for climate change, and consequences for the resilience and stability of Kansas farms. Adam Benfer is currently a GRA on this project and Nicholas Kotlinski will work as the project's undergraduate transcriptionist.

In the recent Migration conference **John Janzen** presented the videofilm/DVD produced in 2007 at the end of the two-year research, community action, and educational project by KU's African Studies Center, of which he was the then director. Khalid Elhassan, Sudanese-American co-director of the project, had invited representatives of the region's African immigrant communities to come together in the Center's seminar of fall 2004. The Center's project that followed included interviews of community members about their immigrant experience, community meetings, and interpretations of these experiences by project humanists Omofolabo Ajayi and David Katzman of the University of Kansas. The project's public education thrust—and the reason for the videofilm—was to explain to Kansans and Americans who the new immigrants are, the circumstances of their leaving home, why they have come here, and what distinctive human perspectives and practices they contribute to American so-
ciety. The project thus combined public awareness raising with solid scholarly research and analysis.

Over the past year, Brent Metz published an article in Spanish on political violence in the Chorti' Maya area of eastern Guatemala and presented an article on Chorti' migration to the U.S. at the Latin American Studies Association conference in Rio de Janeiro. He also presented a talk on a service learning course (Mexamerica) at the Society for Applied Anthropology meetings in Mérida, Mexico. Currently, he is planning to take multidisciplinary teams of students on a 3-week applied anthropology trip to the Chorti' area from December 27, 2010 to January 17, 2011. As a non-obligatory orientation for the trip, he is teaching a new course in the Fall Semester, 2010, entitled "Indigenous Development in Latin America." "Development" will be treated in the broadest sense, including economic betterment, overcoming ethnic shame, improved healthcare, more efficient and widespread communications, and renovated art and musical forms. He also won a KU Hall Center for the Humanities Fellowship to work on his next book, and thus will not be teaching in the Spring Semester, 2011.

Katie Rhine, who joined the department in the Fall 2009, received a Franklin Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society. She also received an award from the New Faculty General Research Fund for her proposal entitled, "Vitalities: The Gendered Politics of Work, Family, and AIDS in Nigeria."

In 2009, the Society for Applied Anthropology presented Don Stull with the Sol Tax Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his many years of service to the SfAA and applied social science. Instead of a plaque, awardees are given a rocking chair. Drop by and try it out. With Molly DesBaillets and Chaya Spears, Don edited Cultural Anthropology: A Sampler. Published by Kendall Hunt, this reader has been used in Introduction to Cultural Anthropology since Fall 2009. Most recently, Don has published "Tobacco Is Going, Going... But Where?" in Culture & Agriculture (Vol. 31, pp.54-72, 2009) and (with Michael Broadway) "The Wages of Food Factories" in Food and Foodways (Vol. 18, pp.1-23, 2010).

Student News

Clarice Amorim (MA) won a Tinker Grant through the Latin American Studies department that she will use this summer to start her research on maternal health and child nutrition in Guatemala.

Rebecca Crosthwait (PhD) recently traveled to Greenland as part of her NSF C-Change IGERT fellowship.

This year she gave a paper at the SfAA meetings in Mexico on climates and communities in crisis, and presented a paper at Cumbre 2010 at the University of Nebraska on petroleum workers, industry cycles and worker strategies.

Anne Kraemer-Diaz (PhD) won the Charles Stansifer Award for Graduate Research in Central America or Mexico for 2009-2010, presented by the Center for Latin American Studies. This year she also co-organized and directed an international conference in Guatemala for indigenous Maya community members, international development workers, NGOs, and Guatemalan government representatives to address Guatemala's development needs. Additionally, she trained and prepared a student team of Engineers without Borders to work with the international NGO Heart to Heart International in Guatemala. For the third year in a row she received an award from the Conservation, Food, and Health Foundation grant entitled "Training of Indigenous Kaqchikel-speaking Midwives" led by PI Dr. Peter Rohloff. This training grant works in collaboration with ACOTCHI, a midwife association in Chimaltenango, Guatemala that offers continuing education for practicing midwives and a new pilot school for women to learn midwifery.

Prince Maison (PhD) was awarded an academic-year FLAS for the study of Kiswahili. Prince's area of study in medical anthropology is sub-Saharan Africa, where he will investigate the predisposition to African traditional forms of healing.

Sydney Silverstein (MA) presented a paper at the Central States Anthropology Society, as well as a poster at the Society for Applied Anthropology, for which she won 2nd place among the posters presented. This spring, Sydney won first place at KU's Latin Americanist Graduate Research Competition for her paper presentation on 'Truth and Reconciliation Commissions and the role of Anthropology'. She was also one of two co-winners of this year's E. Jackson Baur Award for 'Research and Study of Social Conflict and Conflict Resolution.' She also received an academic-year FLAS to continue her study of Quechua, and a Tinker grant to fund her summer research in Peru.

Meghan Farley Webb (PhD) won an academic-year FLAS to continue her study of Kaqchikel Maya. She gave a paper entitled "This is not the space I had before: Immigrant Life Histories as Stories of Place" at SWAAs annual conference. This paper grew from a service learning project she completed as part of a class with Brent Metz.
Linguistic

Faculty News
Professor Arienne Dwyer was a recipient of the Balfour Jeffreys Award in Humanities and Social Sciences, one of four prestigious Higuchi-KU Endowment Research Achievement Awards for 2009. A number of KU Anthropology faculty members have previously been honored with Higuchi Awards—KU’s highest research award—including Allan Hanson (2001), John Janzen (2003), Akira Yamamoto (2004), and Michael Crawford (2006). This year, Dr. Dwyer also published Greetings from the Teklimakan: A Handbook of Modern Uyghur.

The Department of Anthropology is pleased to welcome Carlos Nash, a language technologist and discourse analyst specializing on language and gender, and an endangered Kenyan language, from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Professor Nash will arrive on campus in January and will begin teaching Linguistic Anthropology courses for the Spring 2011 semester.

Student News
Holly Glasgow (MA) presented a research paper entitled “Slavic Archaeology: Conceptualizing Nationalism, Ethnicity and Language” at a graduate student conference at the University of Pittsburgh. She will be attending their Russian and Eastern European Summer Language Institute this summer.

Ashley Thompson (MA) received a FLAS to study 1st-year Uyghur at Indiana University’s SWSEEL Summer Language Institute this summer. She also received a tentative academic-year FLAS to study Intermediate Uyghur at KU.

Continued from page 2

Another way we’re assuring the continued infusion of creative ideas is by hiring lots of new, young faculty members whose training and research foci will produce the kind of hybrid vigor that makes a program robust. To our tenure-track faculty, we will add Fred Sellet in the Fall of 2010 and Carlos Nash in the Spring of 2011.

Fred Sellet is a Plains and Rocky Mountains Archaeologist of Pleistocene and Holocene hunter gatherer societies. He is also interested in prehistoric technology, primarily the organization of lithic systems in small-scale societies. Dr. Sellet leaves the University of Northern Colorado to join our faculty.

Carlos Nash will complete his Ph.D in linguistics in December 2010 at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His dissertation project is on the use of tone in Ekegusii, a minority Bantu language spoken in southwestern Kenya. He is also interested in phonetics, psychoacoustics, phonology, linguistics and technology, and sociocultural linguistics.

With the new additions to our faculty, the department will become home to seven assistant professors, probably an all-time high; seven tenured associate professors; and seven full professors. With this extraordinary balance comes more gender and ethnic diversity than the department has ever enjoyed: we now have six women on the faculty and five members who contribute to the department’s ethnic diversity. Working to ensure that our new, young scholars realize their potential is easily one of the best parts about being the chair. But my job would be virtually impossible without the leadership of my senior colleagues who provide support and guidance in so many important ways. We owe our great success in faculty recruiting this year to the departmental environment that they and mid-level faculty have created and maintained.

Expansion of the faculty also presents challenges, particularly with regard to space and facilities. We’ve had the good fortune to be allocated the rest of the 6th floor of Fraser Hall, making room for new faculty offices, a conference room, and a digital media lab.

But we have not only grown. At the end of December 2009, we saw the retirement of Prof. Felix Moos who was among the department’s founding members. He also contributed to the establishment of the university’s East Asian Languages and Cultures program. Dr. Moos spent much of his career abroad working on issues related to the military and national security, and he recently worked with Senator Pat Roberts to establish the Pat Roberts Intelligence Scholars Program. On May 7, 2010, Dr. Moos’ colleagues, students, friends, and family gathered for a reception to honor his 49.5 years on the faculty of the Department of Anthropology. Yet as Dr. Moos puts it, he retired, but he did not quit his job.

Departments grow and shrink with the change of faculty over time, and their research and teaching foci change accordingly. We also change in response to the needs of the world around us. And while many challenges remain, we have come through the year with great success.
because of our interconnectedness and those emergent properties that lead us to cooperate and innovate in the interest of understanding and improving the quality of life downstream, that is, for our students and for the beneficiaries of our research. I hope to continue to build on the strengths of the department while encouraging and supporting creative ideas for research and teaching. As the new chair of the Department of Anthropology, I look forward to supporting the individual and collective efforts of my colleagues and students in the coming years. My door is open. What can we accomplish if we work together?

Student News
Annual Summary from Graduate Student Association
By Allison M. Hadley
It was an exciting year to be a graduate student in KU Anthropology! We began with an old tradition, the orientation of new graduate students by the current president. The orientation by co-presidents Anne Justice and Laura Murphy was the most elaborate to date accommodating the largest incoming graduate student class in KU Anthropology’s recent memory. We were even provided snacks before heading off to the Wheel for our first social gathering with the new students. With this new graduate class, we began our first year of the Anthropology Graduate Student Peer Mentoring Program (AGSPMP). This new and successful program was developed to ease the transition of new students into the busy life of graduate school.

This academic year brought some exciting new developments to the department. The faculty meetings were abuzz with discussions on the new archaeology faculty position, the external review, a new linguistic faculty position, and a new addition to our faculty Dr. Kathryn Rhine. For the department’s first external review in over twenty years, the graduate students had a chance to voice their opinions in a breakfast meeting with the committee members.

The graduate students had the opportunity to have lunch with each of the potential archaeological candidates that came to campus to interview. We discussed the needs of the archaeology students and possible course offerings by a new faculty member. By the end of the semester the department offered the position to Dr. Fred Sellet who is coming from University of Northern Colorado. In the fall, Sellet will teach a new graduate seminar on Theory and Current Problems in Archaeology.

Despite the busy year, the GSA has had some great parties. We kicked off the year with the welcome back party at Dr. Hanson’s home, followed by a fabulous Halloween party at Dr. Gibson’s pad, and most recently we dined and discussed 2012 at Dr. Hoopes’ house. To celebrate the multiple pregnancies in the department this spring, the GSA hosted a collective baby shower at Rebecca Crosthwaite’s home.

Departmental Honors:
Undergraduate Awards:
The Harley S. Nelson Scholarship is awarded to outstanding undergraduates by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Department of Anthropology to honor an anthropology junior who has a record of outstanding academic achievement both in general studies and in the major. This year the co-recipients are Abigail Frese and Chelsea Morton, each of whom will receive a $1200 check and a certificate.

The Dahl Outstanding Thesis Award is given to the student with the best senior honors thesis: This year’s award goes to Brittany Hill, who worked with Dave Frayer on her thesis entitled “Neandertal versus Modern Human: A Look at Skeletal Traits.”
The Allan Hanson Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award is given yearly to a Graduate Teaching Assistant for excellence in classroom teaching. The award this year goes to a team of three GTAs who taught the course Cultural Anthropology of Human Experience: Rebecca Crosthwaite, Anne Kraemer-Diaz, and Sydney Silverstein.

Winners of the Book Review Contest
This year, the KU Anthropologist hosted a contest for graduate students. The students were invited to submit original book reviews. The KU Anthropologist staff ranked the submissions. Tejal Patel (MA-Medical) won the contest with her review of The Afterlife Is Where We Come From. Second place goes to Kristine Beatty (PhD-Biological) for her review of The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. First place will receive a $30 gift card and second place will receive a $20 gift card.
By Tejal Patel

Alma Gottlieb’s ethnography is an innovative and fascinating examination of infant culture among the marginalized Beng in Côte d’Ivoire. Gottlieb, who has worked with the Beng since 1979, dedicated the summer of 1993 to explore the lives of their babies. She systematically reviews the existing literature on infants, much of which comes from psychology, and she provides reasons why there is a void in the anthropological literature on infants. She makes a compelling argument that infants need not be left out of anthropology. After all, is there a better Other to the adult than the infant? An anthropology of infancy, Gottlieb suggests, has the potential to reconfigure our notions of infant behavior and agency.

Through her exploration of spiritual, soiled, sociable, sleepy, and hungry babies, Gottlieb chronicles the Beng infant’s journey from the idealistic wrugbe, or the afterlife, and its transition to being a member of the village. She asserts that Beng infants are reincarnations of ancestors, born as multilingual individuals who already know about the world. Until they reach childhood, infants are able to travel between worlds. Gottlieb addresses the paradoxical nature of infants, as “at once extremely hardy yet extremely vulnerable” (2004:236).

Infants’ liminality, being weakly attached to wrugbe and the living world, make them vulnerable to host of illnesses and infirmities. Thus, infants are seen as both agent and victim. Conscious of their memories from wrugbe, infants are spiritual beings and agents who have desires and needs. Parents attend to their babies needs lest they return to the afterlife due to unfavorable living conditions. In her final chapter, Gottlieb situates her local analysis of the Beng in a global context, focusing on inequalities and poverty. She concludes that wrugbe is a political allegory for an ideal pre-colonial past; however, she fails to consider why infants would choose to live in unfavorable conditions when they could simply stay in the more appealing wrugbe.

She includes quantitative data in her discussions in addition to dialogue with her informants for a sound methodology. Gottlieb occasionally interprets and writing how her infant subjects might respond. While perhaps too liberal a method, it adds an element of quirkiness to her analysis. A strong point of this ethnography is Gottlieb’s use of reflexivity in confronting the various assumptions Euro-Americans have about infancy, her own experiences as a mother, and her struggle with ethical dilemmas in an area with a high infant mortality rate. Her analysis of Beng infant culture challenges the supposed universal and standard nature of infancy as held from a biomedical perspective and the Western assumption of infants as tabulae rasa. Gottlieb has provided anthropology with a thought-provoking ethnography, and I applaud her contribution to research on infants, a topic often neglected by anthropologists.

By Kristine Beaty

Anyone who has sat through an introductory biology class has probably come across the term HeLa cells in their textbooks. If the term HeLa is unfamiliar, the discoveries made through research involving these cells are more common knowledge. The number of chromosomes in a human cell, the polio vaccine, and chemotherapy were discovered and developed through research using HeLa cells. These cells have also been passengers on the first space missions and exposed to testing of the nuclear bomb. However, most students do not know the story behind HeLa cells and the remarkable woman from which they came from. The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks is the first book by the author Rebecca Skloot, a science journalist. HeLa cells have made a huge impact on the scientific world, but this book discusses the impact of the cells on the family from which the cells came from.

Henrietta Lacks was a poverty stricken African-American woman with a rapidly progressing form of cervical cancer. Her illness was diagnosed in the 1950s, when few hospitals admitted black patients. It was also a time when informed consent and patients’ rights were not addressed by law. The hospital that Henrietta Lacks went to for treatment was John Hopkins Hospital, and it was at this hospital that doctors removed cancerous tissue from her cervix. These cells, which divide to form new cells every 24 hours, would be the parents of billions of HeLa cells in research labs all over the world today.

As the importance of HeLa cells began to register, Henrietta’s family was recruited to participate in research.
Unfortunately, as a poor family with little access to education, they were led to believe that the research was meant to help them from getting Henrietta’s cancer. And, while the family had heard bits and pieces of the medical triumphs produced by their mother’s cells, they never really understood what research was being performed and towards what purposes. The ten years that Rebecca Skloot spent with the family were a time spent towards researching who Henrietta was, how her cells had been taken and used for research, and help the Lack family understand what was done to those cells.

Rebecca Skloot manages to put a face and a family behind scientific research, and reaches out to show the reader what the family had to go through to get answers. Skloot reminds us that scientific research can have a lasting impact on those involved, and manages to reveal wrongs of science while still supporting the use of science to understand the world around us. By walking this very fine line, the author succeeds in showing the Lack family as one that is disappointed in the way researchers treated them but amazed at the scientific miracles that Henrietta’s cells allowed.

Why should anthropology care about this book? *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* discusses important aspects of research, and reminds those who work with and perform research on humans that this work should be completed in a way that is both professional and helpful to the community or individuals that are under study. As anthropologists, it is important to be aware of the cultural background in which we work, understand the possible implications that our work might have on our participants, and explain what it is we are researching to participants in a way that they can understand. In short, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* provides a well-researched and engaging story that requires the reader to experience events through the Lack family’s point of view and consider the implications of scientific research.

### Conferences and Professional Presentations

Students and faculty presented at numerous conferences this academic year:


We offer our congratulations to those students who presented their research at conferences: Clarice Amorim, Brendon Asher, Norberto Baldi-Salas, Adam Benfer, Travis Canaday, Rebecca Crotchwait, Holly Glasgow, Andrew Gottsfeld, Josh Homan, Madison Huber, Nick Kessler, Anne Kraemer-Diaz, Laura Murphy, Anne Raab, Sydney Silverstein, Meghan F. Webb, and Emily Williams.

### Graduation

![Graduation Image](image)

*Geetha Chittoor (PhD), Kristine Beatty (MA), Kristin Taylor Young (PhD)*

![Graduation Image](image)

*Jessica Craig (PhD) with Professor John Hoopes*
Anthropology Graduates
KU Commencement
Sunday, May 16 2010
*Degrees granted since May 17, 2009

Departmental Honors
Robert Conor Brown
Christopher John Grosh
Elizabeth Ann Major
Nitzan Meltzer

Bachelor of Arts - Anthropology
Katelyn Claire Anderson*
Gillian Louise Armstrong*
Angelique Beasley
Allan Milton Blair*
Amy Jolene Bowen
Samantha Lynn Bradbeer*
Faranak Braun
Robert Conor Brown
Mandy Lynn Buckwalter
Jessica Caitlin Burger*
Derek R. Cox*
Britt Lester Damon*
Brooke Anne Davis
Amanda E. Dieker*
Brandy Leigh Entsminger
Christopher John Grosh
Audra M. Heath
Adam Michael Hefling*
Hayley Annette Hund
Zahra Mae Kamyab*
Greg Lee Kaufman*
Nicholas Edward Kotlinski
Elizabeth Ann Major
Jesse Martinez*
Megan Elisabeth McClure
Nitzan Meltzer
Valerie Jean Metzler
Alexandra Hughes Norton*
Aaron James Pendergrass
Nicholas T. Rau
Tiago Schaffrat
Matthew Hunter Schons

Hallie G. Silber
Jessica Maureen Singer
Kathryn Iles Slater*
Celia Ryan Starman
Jennifer Kay Watts*
Piper Jayne Wolfe
Jessica Lynn Yeamans

Bachelor of General Studies - Anthropology
John Joseph Angelo*
Scott Andrew Boland
Harriet Esi Browne
Joshua Edward Burns*
Travis Matthew Canaday
David Michael Gates
Leslie Anne Hardin
Noah Brooks Hoelscher
Tara Nicole Lambert
Jordan Michael Miles*
Todd Michael Nuss*
Brett Anthony Ramey
Kimberly Dyonne Rudler
Althea Schnacke
Jeremy L. Shouse
Phillip A. Vaughn Jr.
Jessica E. White*
Tyler Thomas Young*

Master of Arts - Anthropology
Brendon Patrick Asher*
Kristine G. Beaty*
Marwa Hamed Ghazali
Andrew Stefan Gottsfeld*
Arlo Michael McKee*
Frances I. Ryder*
Jasem B.J.M. Theyab
Kristopher R. West
Wayne Daniel Yang

Doctor of Philosophy - Anthropology
Geethavani Chittoor*
Jessica Heather Craig
R. Shawn Maloney*
Mary B. Sundal*
Kristin Leigh Young*

Professor Michael Crawford with MA recipients
Kristine Beaty & Orion Graf

View from KU's Campanile during the 'walk down the hill'
In Memoriam

Robert J. Squier, 12/22/1918 - 4/11/10

On April 11, the department lost one of its founding members, Robert J. Squier. Born in Decatur, Michigan, December 22, 1918, after high school Bob served as a pilot in WWII, guarding ships sailing across the North Atlantic against German submarines. As Bill Stini (on the faculty here from 1973-76), noted at his memorial service, Bob was part of the “greatest generation,” memorialized by Tom Brokaw. When the war ended he first worked at Air Research in the Los Angeles area for three years, attended for a year San Francisco State University and then UC-Berkeley, where he received his PhD in 1964. His research focused first on California prehistory in Bodega Bay but, especially, on the archaeology of the Olmec, a lost civilization predating the Maya in Veracruz, Mexico. Bob excavated for several years as a graduate student and young professor at the important Olmec sites at La Venta and Tres Zapotes. At La Venta with Phillip Drucker he found and excavated the famous jade figurines. He also was involved with the discovery and excavation of one of largest Olmecan human/jaguar stone heads in Tuxtlas Mountains above Santiago (Tuxtla) where it now resides in the town square. His dissertation focused on the reappraisal of Olmec chronology though an analysis of ceramic variation. When he arrived at KU in 1958, Anthropology and Sociology were linked in the same department, with the anthropologists outnumbered, outvoted and mostly housed in the Natural History Museum. Bob, with Charles A. Valentine, was the prime mover, in forming a separate Department of Anthropology, which was formalized July 1, 1964 with Bob as the first chairman. Later, the department moved into its 6th floor Fraser quarters and Bob served off and on as the department chairman until he retired in 1989. He was succeeded by David Frayer.

For those who knew Bob, he was incomplete without his wife, O’Leary, who hosted many parties and social events at their house on Ohio Street, then on Queens Road. Many times after dinner, guests were treated to Bob and his dogs, Cindy and Shane, “singing” short arias, all three with their heads thrown back in piercing howls. Bob and O’Leary moved to Portal, Arizona, a small town at the base of the Chiricahua Mountains, where they were avid bird watchers and active participants in the small community. Bob served as an EMT and fireman with the Portal Rescue; O’Leary was mayor for a year and co-organizer of the first St. Patrick’s Day parade. The parade has become an annual event despite the few Irish among the 250+ Portal residents. Robert Jennings Squier was buried under a spreading alligator juniper tree in the Paradise Cemetery above Portal. O’Leary continues to reside in Portal (PO Box #16307, Portal, AZ 85632). Remembrances can be made in his name to the Audubon Society.