Greetings from the Chair

Once again, it is hard to believe that another year has passed. There is so much going on at WWU that I don’t know where to begin. Many of you may have heard that Linda Kimball retired in early 2008 after over thirty years at Western. We all wish her well as she gets to spend time writing about her beloved Brunei. Starting this Fall our new linguistic anthropologist came aboard. Judy Pine will be teaching the anthropological linguistics courses and courses on East and Southeast Asia. Judy has a Ph.D. from the University of Washington and did her primary fieldwork among the Lahu of the borderlands area of Thailand, China and Myanmar.

Another significant change is that our long-awaited biological anthropology lab is now up and running. In the process we remodeled the archaeology lab and constructed a bio-anth research wet lab. This project has been ten years in the making (mostly waiting) and we are all thrilled to see it finally come true. We will be hosting an open house on January 30 so that all can come and see how much the department has changed with these new additions.

Our major continues to grow as we attempt to find ways to accommodate all the students with the limited resources we have. It is thrilling to see so many students interested in anthropology, yet it is frustrating that we cannot accommodate all who are interested. I am pleased to see so many students who see the value of a degree in anthropology in our rapidly changing world.

On the grim side, I am sure you have all heard about the budget crisis our state faces. We do not yet know the full implications for higher education but the prospects do not look good. Our new President Bruce Shepard is doing all he can to convince Olympia that higher education is the last place the state should consider cuts. Nevertheless we need every voice of support we can muster. Urge your congressional representatives to place higher education high on their list of state-funded programs to support.

At the department level we have come to depend heavily on the support of our alumni to help us develop programs which would not be funded otherwise. Our newly-established Friends of Anthropology Undergraduate Research Fund is totally supported by gifts from our donors. This past year the fund has enabled students to attend regional and national conferences to present their research. We have also established a scholarship fund for worthy students and a fund that purchases teaching materials, all with your generous donations.

Wish us well as we embark on the adventure of another new year. Please drop us a note or email and let us know what you are doing.

Sincerely,
Daniel L. Boxberger

FAST FACTS: The Department of Anthropology has 231 undergraduate majors including 42 bio-anth majors, 32 archaeology concentration, 19 anth-ed concentration and 14 bio-cultural concentration. In any year we have between eight and twelve new graduate students, this 2008/09 year, there are 17 graduate students enrolled. In the last year faculty offered 73 undergraduate courses and 22 graduate courses. In 2007, 134 anthropology majors received their degrees and 7 graduate students completed the requirements for a masters degree.
Robert C. Marshall

The Society for Economic Anthropology holds a competition for the theme of its annual conference, and my proposal on cooperation in economy and society was selected in 2006. For the past two years I have been the SEA program director, selecting and grouping abstracts for the 2008 conference, and editing the papers for the conference volume which will be published in 2009 by AltaMira Press as Vol. 27 in the SEA series and available at the 2009 AAA meetings.

The AAA executive board invites the conference participants at the April SEA meetings to present condensed versions of their papers as a panel to the broader audience of the AAA meetings. We were assigned an excellent and well-attended early Friday afternoon slot at the AAA meeting just concluded in San Francisco, and it was a great pleasure for me to greet each presenter once again. There will be chapters by cultural anthropologists, physical anthropologists archaeologists, and economists in this wide-ranging volume. If cooperation as a fundamental human process with profound economic implications interests you, please look for this volume in about a year.

Michael Grimes

I have been busy over the last couple years. Besides my family building – Tammy and now have three children under the age of 5 – I have been building our laboratory presence here on campus. I secured a two-year, 45 thousand dollar grant to explore the postpartum period and especially the timing of returning to cycling after a women gives birth. This grant will look at methodological advancements in determining hormonal markers of return to cycling and will also investigate metabolic changes that occur during this transition. I will be working with a team of researchers from the University of Washington on a larger (180 k) grant.

The Biological Anthropology Laboratory has been completed on the third floor of Amtzen Hall and I will be moving in over the winter break!

Joan Stevenson


Poster based on Alaskan research with PM Everson and Ken Pratt presented during March 2008 meetings of the NWAC in Victoria, BC.

Research Projects Still completing many projects started the summers my parents were ill and died on topics in osteology and Inupiaq ethnography. I wrote during the summer of 2008 with co-authors, articles on allergies to nuts and another on Rasch analysis and submitted them as abstracts for the HBA and AAPA meetings, respectively, in April 2009.

Committees Still serving on Human Subjects Review Board and served last year on Senate Executive Council as Senate Secretary. Fall 2007 I served on the Ecological Genetics Search committee in the Biology Department that resulted in a successful hire after the previous year’s unsuccessful search. I helped to select the students who are awarded the premal medical scholarship monies. Was also Ed Arthur’s thesis chair and on committee of Political Science masters’ graduate, Bridget Baker, both of whom defended within the year.
The NEW Anthropology Website!

‘Tis the season for new and updated websites and our Anthropology Department is no exception!

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to write us with corrections and suggestions on how to make the site more functional and content-rich for western students. Western’s Anthropology department’s website has been a year in the making and includes many features and tools for both students and faculty alike. Through improved structure and content the new website aims to:

- Increase access of information about the Department including requirements and type of degrees available;
- Reduce the number of email and telephone queries on frequently asked questions;
- Encourage regular input from students, faculty and staff.

The website also provides current information on available grants and internship opportunities and highlights new classes. There will also be increased visibility of content aimed at promoting related items and events such as the Anthro Club, Archaeology Field School and opportunities and resources for students and graduates.

The website will give students and faculty easier access to information on popular topics such as:

- Faculty & staff contact information;
- Comprehensive database of past and present thesis;
- Scholarship and grant information;
- Admissions and advising information for both undergraduates and grad students;
- Senior Portfolio guidelines and Student Evaluation Forms for graduation.

We are always looking for better ways to help provide our students with tools to enrich their education and time here at Western. If you can, check out the new website at: www.wwu.edu/~anthro.

Kathy Young

I last visited the International Criminal Court for the Former Yugoslavia in the spring of 2006. I have not had the funds to return, although it would mean a lot to me to study the Karadzic trial in person.

I have been continuing research on-line and my current assessment is that no one will ever be convicted of genocide. Individuals have been convicted of conspiracy to commit genocide and Serbia was found guilty of “failure to prevent genocide” in Srebrenica, Bosnia, by the International Court of Justice, but no one will ever be found guilty of genocide. You know I have plenty to say about that!

I was invited to participate in a conference on genocide at the University of Chicago last spring along with U.S. Ambassadors, State Department officials, and the world’s leading genocide scholars. Those of you who were in my War and Law classes would recognize the names! It was my privilege to speak about women issues regarding violence and resilience and the need for more research.

A few months later I was invited back to Chicago to be the keynote speaker for a United Nation’s sponsored program at DePaul University. Again, I spoke about women in conflict situations.

Please remember, it is you, my former students from whom I draw persistence, who were in my War and Law classes leading genocide scholars. Those of you, Department officials, and the world’s will recognize the names! It was my privilege to speak about women issues regarding violence and resilience and the need for more research.

The Paul J. Olscamp Research Award was established in 1983 through an endowment provided by former WWU president Paul J. Olscamp. An award of $1,000 is presented annually by the President of the University at the June commencement exercises to a WWU faculty member selected by the Research Advisory Committee and the President for having made an outstanding contribution to research and scholarship.

Office of University Communications

THE REMODEL IS DONE NEW LAB OPEN HOUSE!!!

The hammers have ceased, the dust has settled and the remodel is officially complete! Join us in celebrating the new additions to our Anthropology Department.

OPEN HOUSE
Friday, Jan 30
3pm - 5pm
Arntzen Hall 314
Refreshments will be served

UPCOMING IN 2009

Distinguished Alumni

We are taking nominations for an alumnus to be the guest speaker at Scholar’s Week and to be highlighted in next year’s Anthropology Newsletter — any ideas? Please email jean.webster@wwu.edu
Judith Pine

By the time of publication, I will have presented my paper, “What is the point? Indexicality, language ideology and the use of English in Lahu settings” at AAA. This paper is part of a session I organized, called “On the urban/rural border: Language and identities in a global landscape.”

I’m very much enjoying my first term here at WWU. I’ve got plans for a couple of new classes which I’ve been designing this term. I’m also completing an NSF proposal for a Lahu language media project that will begin this summer.

On the personal side, I’ve got a new bike and bike trailer and have been commuting with my 4 year old son. My 9 year old daughter is active in the local kids’ musical theater organization, and my husband, when not working, is perfecting his drywalling, light plumbing, electrical and other useful skills on our new house. He plans on spending the summer jacking up the foundation and getting really settled into his new shop, while I’m off in Thailand and China working on my Lahu language media project.

Sarah Campbell

During the 2007-2008 academic year we finally completed the move of archaeological research collections to the new Hannegan Road storage facility. More than 20 students helped during the year doing collections management, specifically organizing the collections in the storage facility, updating the inventory, and reducing the number of boxes by rebagging and reorganizing materials. We worked with the Semiahmoo burial recovery team from the Lummi Nation to find a culturally appropriate way of moving the sensitive materials (150 boxes) from the 1970’s excavation at 45WH17, Semiahmoo Spit, and the crew conducted the move. There is more to do at Hannegan to make the facility useful for research on the collections, but at least there are no collections left in the Armory to suffer the leaks and humid atmosphere.

The highlight of 2008 was a trip north of the Arctic Circle in the summer. I went with my 15-year old son Kevin on a river trip in the Arctic National Wildlife refuge, where we saw people only once, but caribou by the thousands. We also went to Cape Krusenstern National Monument and worked as volunteers for 5 days on an archaeological project run by Shelby Anderson (WWU B.A., currently in Ph.D. program at University of Washington). I am impressed with the beauty of the arctic, the friendliness of the people, and the logistics involved in doing archaeology up there.

I have a one-quarter leave Winter of 2009, and I will be working on combining the 5 M.A. theses on 45WH34, the Ferndale site, into a monograph. If this newsletter reaches anyone who worked or visited there during the excavation in 1972, give us a shout. I would enjoy hearing what you remember.
Joyce Hammond

Greetings to all of you out there enjoying the benefits of an anthropology education! Recently I had the chance to reconnect with three former students, all of whom verified how much their anthropology degrees were helping them, despite the fact that none of them have a job for which they specifically applied as an anthropologist!

I invite more of you to contact the department to let us know how you are doing and to tell us how anthropology is influencing your life! It is gratifying to see our efforts carried forward into your lives. During the past two years I have been expanding upon some ongoing projects, but also busy with new ones as well. For example, in the past two years some more local museums have come on board with the museology internship program. The American Museum of Radio and Electricity (AMRE) and the Bellingham International Maritime Museum have connected with us, to everyone’s benefit. I am also contacting other organizations to expand internship opportunities for anthropology students.

Another new project, bolstered through a Fall Quarter academic leave in 2007, is a new course launched last spring, entitled “Connecting through Digital Storytelling.” Anthropology students made their own digital stories (short “movies” with digital photos, narration, and sound/music) about community and, in turn, spent time once a week with seventh grade students helping them to make their own digital stories about community.

One of the highlights of our course was the day that seventh grade kids came to campus to practice taking photos and to get a real insiders’ tour from the anthropology students. The celebration in a middle school gym at the end of the quarter was fun too since the seventh grade kids premiered their digital stories to other seventh graders, their parents, and anyone else (like us!) who came.

This fall some students who were enrolled in my Visual Anthro class last year, or made a connection in other ways, joined me for a special poster session at the American Anthropological Association’s annual meeting in San Francisco (see photo).

It was exciting to see the culmination of all their hard work on display! I was busy the whole conference week, coordinating the Society for Visual Anthropology’s annual Film, Video and Interactive Media Festival which runs concurrently with the AAA meetings, attending sessions, and giving a workshop on Student Publishing. Since I’m currently co-authoring an article and a book chapter with anthropology students, I was thinking along those lines anyway!

Most of my life seems to revolve around my work, but I enjoyed a true vacation to Italy two summers ago (well, maybe I jumped into reflexivity from time to time now that I am teaching the Anthropology of Tourism class). The wine and the art were glorious. Hiking in the Cinque Terra on the hottest day of the summer and then jumping into the Mediterranean fully clothed was great fun. Three weeks in Italy was not nearly enough!

Todd Koetje

Todd Koetje has been working on neanderthal behavior during the late middle paleolithic in southern Russia, in 2005 he co-taught the archaeology field school at Woodstock farm outside of Bellingham.

Note of Congratulations!

Aloha,

I would like to offer, if I may, a note of congratulations to the Anthro Faculty at Western Washington University.

In a competition with almost 1,700 students from twelve universities in Canada and the United States, fourteen of the students in Professor Kathy Saunter’s Introduction to Cultural Anthropology class (ANTH 201) placed among the top 50 winners in Public Anthropology’s Community Action Website’s Third Fall “Action Period!” (It is an impressive number of students.)

The fourteen students are: Devin Langker, Keli Van Holde, Lesley Countner, Patrick English, Ashley Allan, Britta Nelson, Jeannie Ubigau, Kayleoy Gordon, Jillian Veitenheimer, Lorrryn Whisnant, Casey Cobb, Kate Billings, Samantha Wells, and Molly Riegel.

Since I am using an incomplete departmental email list in notifying you of this accomplishment, may I ask you to share this email with others who might not see it? Thank you.

Again, congratulations.

Regards,
Dr. Rob Borofsky

Director, Center for a Public Anthropology
Professor, Pacific University, Hawaii

Alumni!
Let us know what you have been doing lately!
Please email: jean.webster@wwu.edu
Anthropology Club

The Anthropology Club is a group of students and faculty who promote interest in the discipline of anthropology. We plan and promote speakers, trips and events which relate to all of the sub-fields of the discipline. Anyone with the slightest interest in anthropology is invited to the meetings and events we organize. We welcome undergrads, grad students, faculty, alumni, folks yet undecided, your kids, your family, your neighbors… Thanks to the officers and other club members for their hard work and support. Visit the WWU Anthropology Club online: http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~anthclub

Departmental Awards 2008

Taylor-Anastasio Award

The Taylor-Anastasio Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research is given in memory of Professors Herbert C. Taylor and Angelo Anastasio. Faculty nominated papers, posters, or other scholarly endeavors are eligible. The 2008 recipients were Ian Strader for his paper “Grooming: Implications for the Evolution of Primate Sociality;” Lauren Smith for her paper “Be Fruitful and Multiply...Our Way: The Threat of Reproductive Technology to the Hierarchy of the Catholic Church;” and Carly Crider for her paper “A Bio-evolutionary Analysis of Seasonal Affective Disorder.” The recipients of the Taylor-Anastasio Award present their papers in a special session of the Anthropology Student Conference held each May during WWU Scholars Week.

Outstanding Graduate 2007-2008

The Outstanding Graduating Senior for 2008 was Mark Litton. Mark was selected from several nominated students and was chosen for bringing a wealth of life experience to every class he participated in throughout his Anthropology degree. Mark was a volunteer for Youth With a Mission that assist people in the USA and Africa; it was during this time that was inspired to consider health care as a lifelong vocation. Previous outstanding graduates were Natalie Cooper, 2006; Sarah Johnson, 2005; Teresa Gibney, 2004; and Adam Gilbertson, 2003.

Winner of the Undergraduate Research Department Award 2008

The winner of the Undergraduate Research Department award for 2008 was Katherine Ellenberger. Katherine was awarded $330 to fund her research project entitled “Building Community through Archaeology”. The project sought to increase collaboration between Western Washington University and the Lummi Nation through a community project which brought together Lummi tribal elders and archaeology students using materials from the Northwest Coast region.