



# Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, Mississippi State University

SPRING 2015

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## A Message from AMEC's New Cultural Anthropology Professor

Kate McClellan joined AMEC as an assistant professor in January of this year. Kate received her PhD in anthropology from the University of Michigan in 2010.

Before moving to Starkville in 2012, she worked as an applied anthropologist in the Division of Environment, Culture, and Conservation at Chicago's Field Museum, where she conducted research and implemented programming on projects concerning climate change, environmental conservation and agriculture.

McClellan's graduate work focused on marketplaces and marketing in Syria's capital city of Damascus. Her research has since moved to Jordan, where in 2014 she held postdoctoral research fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Council of American Overseas Research Centers at the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman.

McClellan's ongoing project in Jordan examines wildlife protection and animal welfare NGOs,

with a focus on how these organizations cultivate human-animal morality in their work through shared discourses of religion and development.

As part of her fieldwork in 2014, McClellan interviewed wildlife protection officials, hunt-



ers, veterinarians and animal welfare activists, and attended workshops, festivals, and educational events promoting environmental conservation and animal protection. McClellan presented her research at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association in November 2014. In April 2015 she presented a paper at the biannual meeting of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion

on the use of Islam and social development in the narratives, discourses, and practices of Jordan's animal welfare and wildlife protection organizations.

This summer, McClellan will travel to London to conduct archival research for her project, and plans to make a return trip to Jordan to continue her research there.

In her first semester as assistant professor, McClellan began serving as coordinator for a grant awarded through MSU's International Institute to establish a Middle Eastern Studies working group. The interdisciplinary group will be meeting over the next year to work on international research collaborations, outreach programming, and granting activities aimed to build up and strengthen Middle Eastern Studies at MSU.

As part of this initiative, McClellan will be teaching Anthropology of the Middle East in the Fall of this year. She is excited to be part of AMEC and to be working with such an outstanding group of colleagues, students, and staff!

## Note from the Department Head

Last spring, Dr. Janet Rafferty retired after decades of service to the university, AMEC and the Cobb Institute. In her honor, we established the Rafferty Fund to support undergraduate student participation in the department's survey field school. A year later, I am happy to report that the fund is thriving and

two deserving students have been awarded scholarships for this summer's field school (see story, p. 10). Recently, Janet notified me that she had given a gift of \$10,000 to the department to be added to the Rafferty Fund. Her generous gift ensures that the fund will continue to support

student surveyors for many years to come. As friends of AMEC and alumni, I hope you will join me in thanking Janet, and if you give to MSU or plan to, please direct your gift to AMEC. I can assure you that it will be used well!

Michael L. Galaty

## Faculty News—Jimmy Hardin

Jimmy Hardin is receiving a generous grant from the James W. Criss Trust Fund to support a public symposium and academic workshop entitled, “The Significance of the Summeily Bullae for Understanding State Formation in the Time of David and Solomon.”

Both the symposium and the workshop will focus on discoveries made during Mississippi State’s archaeological excavations in Israel this past summer, when six bullae (small seal impressions in mud used to seal written documents or high end commodities) were found.

These bullae, dating to the 10<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E. generated considerable interest in both the academic and public spheres. News of their discovery was publicized in a brief scholarly article and by

print, radio and digital news locally, nationally and internationally.

The bullae hold great significance for understanding the de-



velopment of the Iron Age kingdoms/states from the time of David and Solomon – the most debated period in Near Eastern archaeology, biblical studies, and history over the last three decades.

Noted scholars specializing in archaeology, biblical studies,

epigraphy and history will be invited to campus to participate over two days, tentatively scheduled during the last week in September.

Work will continue on the bullae this summer in Israel as Jeff Blakely and Jimmy Hardin undertake a study season at Kibbutz Ruhama to process Iron Age remains excavated over the past several seasons at Khirbet Summeily.

Sponsored by AMEC and the Cobb Institute of Archaeology, the workshop will allow a small group of specialists to focus on analysis and illustration of the ceramics, lithics and objects from the Iron Age IIA strata at Khirbet Summeily.

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## Faculty News—David Hoffman

For Dr. Hoffman, the 2014-15 academic year was about continuing existing research and expanding in new directions. In September, he welcomed a research partner from the University of Costa Rica, Agustin Gomez of the Observatorio de Desarrollo, to the Mississippi State campus.

Gomez gave a public lecture and met with a number of individuals and research units with the intention of expanding the current research collaboration between UCR and MSU. Dr. Hoffman is excited about the continuing potential of this collaboration.

In addition to continuing his National Science Foundation sponsored work in Costa Rica, Hoffman is expanding his research frontiers both here and abroad. Over the course of the academic year he was able to visit the Gulf Coast several times with his cross-college research group. They are looking at com-

munication about environmental and health issues between Vietnamese-American fisherman, particularly shrimpers, and state/federal agencies. In addition to



this “local” work, Hoffman also is part of a research team that has proposed to conduct a multiple-year NSF coupled natural and human systems project on the use and management of inland, reservoir-based fisheries in the Dominican Republic. They will find out soon from the NSF whether the project will be funded.

Finally, Hoffman was part of

two successful international working group proposals funded by the MSU International Institute. The first group is focused on developing further research and exchange possibilities with the University of Puerto Rico. The group includes biologists and foresters, with Hoffman as the social scientist. Hoffman is headed to Puerto Rico in May to meet with UPR professors and administrators and get a better sense of the conservation context of the island. The team also will be developing ideas about a joint study-abroad course that will compare conservation and human livelihood issues in Puerto Rico and Mississippi. The second IWG project is looking at fisheries and conservation issues in the Mekong Delta region of Vietnam. Although there are no immediate plans to visit Vietnam for Hoffman, the team is focused on developing research and student exchange possibilities in the area of biodiversity conservation and fisheries livelihoods.

## Faculty News—Toni Copeland

Toni Copeland has been working with AMEC students Dylan Karges, Curtis Kennett, Tori Lee, Avery McNeece, and Heather Lyles on a Service Learning Project aimed at the city of Starkville. The project sought to strengthen community ties in Starkville by using children's artwork to illustrate their ideas of a better tomorrow. Artwork from fourth graders was collected and used to create a book presented to the three schools that participated, as well as to classrooms and community leaders. They also created a coloring book that we delivered to all children who participated. The children were able to



see how others viewed an ideal Starkville of the future. It gave them a sense of empowerment as they began to understand how they have a significant role to play in directing the community.

Results from the project were presented at the Graduate Student Research Symposium and at the Southern Anthropological Society meetings. We are in the process of using the children's artwork to create portable panels that will be showcased at various venues, including Starkville City Hall, MSU campus and the local schools.

## Faculty News—Shane Miller

Dr. Miller co-authored an article in the inaugural issue of *PaleoAmerica* with David Anderson (University of Tennessee) and Ashley Smallwood (University of West Georgia) that reviews the early settlement of the Southeastern United States. He also has co-authored a book chapter with Steven Kuhn (University of Arizona) examining the economics behind producing, using, and discarding stone projectile points.

Miller currently is preparing his first AMEC Survey Field School that will take place at the Allendale chert quarries along the Savannah River in South Carolina. This area has produced a large number of sites



Dr. Miller working at the Topper site in May 2006

that span the Ice Age settlement of North America to more recent historic period archaeological sites. The property containing the quarries never has been systematically surveyed, which will provide the field school students a unique opportunity to work at some regionally famous archaeological sites, and it should generate data for student research projects for years to come. The survey field school is something of a homecoming for Miller, who began his career working at the Topper Site, one of many sites located adjacent to the Allendale chert quarries.

## Faculty News—Nicholas Herrmann

Dr. Nicholas Herrmann has spent the spring semester continuing his Fulbright work in Cyprus. The current work is being conducted at the Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios Mansion in Nicosia on human remains recovered from a series of Hellenistic to Roman period tombs from the Ayi-oi Omoloyites neighborhood in Nicosia. Work will continue through July.

With Herrmann's encouragement, students from AMEC and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (MSMS) collaborated on research this year. Abigail Wipple and Lauren Scott, two students interested in forensic and biological anthropology, participated in a semester-long research project related to



Dr. Herrmann's research space at the Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios Mansion in Nicosia, Cyprus

the Mississippi State Asylum Cemetery Project. They worked in the Cobb and Etheredge laboratories for four hours each week analyzing a burial from the skeletal collection. In the process, they learned how to estimate age at death, sex, ancestry and stature, as well as assess trauma in skeletal remains. During their time in the lab, they shadowed graduate students and learned other research techniques employed in forensic anthropology and bioarchaeology. The MSMS students presented their research and results at the MSMS Research Symposium on April 23rd.

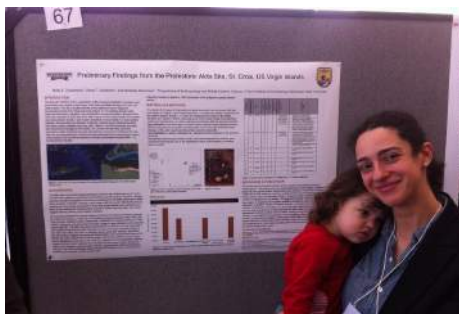
## Faculty News— Molly Zuckerman

Dr. Zuckerman has had a very busy year. Her AAA paper with graduate student Christina Ramazani, “No Use Crying over a Broken Yasa: A Case Study of Execution and Postmortem Treatment of Women and Children in Late Medieval Southern Mongolia,” will be published as a chapter in an edited volume centered on women and children’s experiences with conflict and warfare, edited by Debra Martin (UNLV) and Caryn Tegtmeier (UNLV).

At the Paleopathology Association annual meeting, she presented a poster reporting results of preliminary analysis of human skeletal material recovered during MSU’s 2014 excavation field school at the Aklis Site, a prehistoric cemetery and settlement on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

She also continued to work on historical and bioarchaeological research centered on the cemetery of the Mississippi State Asylum, in Jackson, MS. She submitted a proposal in December to the National Science Foundation to fund interdisciplinary research focused on the MSA to determine what it can reveal about the origins of contemporary health disparities in Mississippi and the Mid-South. The MSA also was featured as a brief case study in the article “Recovering the ‘Body Politic’: A Relational Ethics of Meaning for Bioarchaeology,” recently published in the *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* (Zuckerman, MK., et al. 2014. 24(3):1-9).

This summer, Zuckerman will be working on several publications and submitting a second edited volume, *New Directions in Biocultural Anthropology*, edited with Debra Martin. The volume will be published by Wiley-Blackwell in 2016.



Dr. Zuckerman and her daughter, Rowan Anderson, at the Paleopathology Association meetings

## Student Defenses

Three AMEC graduate students successfully defended their master’s degree theses during the spring 2015 semester. Congratulations to all of them!

**Avery McNeece:** “The Struggle for Health in the Insurance Gap: A Cultural Model of Treatment Seeking among the Working Poor in Tupelo, MS”

**Jesse Morton:** “The ‘Isolated Find’ Concept and Its Consequences in Public Archaeology”

**Sallie Dehler:** “Green Motives: Understanding the Relationship between Tourism Employment and Migration to La Fortuna, Costa Rica”

## Faculty News— Evan Peacock

The screen size most commonly employed in archaeology is wire mesh with one quarter-inch openings. Often, though, researchers also capture what is called “fine screen” materials as well, when using mesh similar to what is found on a screen door (approximately one sixteenth-inch mesh). These materials include many items of real importance, such as charred plant remains, tiny animal bones, small flakes of stone and occasionally tiny shell beads. But fine screen materials do not always receive the level of attention they deserve because it takes so long to manually sort out the materials in the lab.

For the past two years, Evan Peacock and graduate student Mary Madden, with assistance from undergraduate and graduate students in the artifact analysis class, have been working on answering a deceptively simple question where fine screen materials are concerned: how much is enough? Is it necessary to sort through all the materials recovered, or is it possible to demonstrate whether a true repre-

sentative sample of the fine-screen artifacts from any particular deposit has been obtained?

To answer this question, students in artifact analysis conduct an exercise where they hand-sort various categories of material (bone, shell, flakes, etc.) from randomly drawn subsamples of fine screen materials from Lyon’s Bluff, a mound and village complex in northeastern Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, that was occupied from about A.D. 1200 - 1650. Among the materials are the tiny shells of several different species of land snails. By identifying these species and tallying up their numbers as subsamples are added, it should be possible to show when the point of redundancy has been reached. Thus far, sorting and analysis of up to a liter of fine screen material shows that the point of redundancy has not been found. The project is continuing this year, with sorting of another set of subsamples by the class, and work will continue until what constitutes an adequate sample can be ascertained with confidence.



*Gastrocopta procera* on a penny

## Faculty News—Sylvia Deskaj

This semester, Sylvia Deskaj taught Dr. Nicholas Herrmann's forensic anthropology class while he was away in Cyprus. Throughout the course of the semester, Deskaj, along with course Teaching Assistant, Ryan Young, administered several hands-on learning projects with the goal of teaching students how to survey and map a potential crime scene and how to interpret trauma on bone.



Forensic Anthro class



Faunal laboratory

## Faculty News—Derek Anderson

Derek Anderson taught a directed individual study course in zooarchaeology during the spring semester of 2015. AMEC student Anna Follett learned how to identify the skeletal remains of a variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, and fish from throughout the Southeastern United States and helped to inventory and catalog new additions to the comparative collection.

## Faculty News—Jean Marcus

Jean Marcus currently is working on two cemetery projects. The first is the restoration and preservation of the historically significant Brush Arbor or Colored Cemetery on University Drive in Starkville. The second project involves a comparison of black and white female first names from cemeteries in Oktibbeha County, spanning over 150 years. By comparing black and white female names per decade (based on year of birth), Marcus is attempting to answer some questions about the relationships between these two American subcultures. Separated by slavery, Jim Crow laws and segregation, these two subcultures have been economically interdependent. Do these two groups of people follow the same cultural trends when selecting names for their daughters? Is the subordinate subculture following the pattern of the dominant subculture? First names of the two groups will be compared to each other and also to U.S. Census and Social Security databases. Marcus reported her findings at the Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Archaeological Association in April.



Marcus conducting fieldwork

# Spring 2015 Brown Bags and Guest Lectures

Dr. Lorenc Bejko (Univ. of Tirana, Albania) - Between the Past and the Present: Archaeological Research and Heritage Management in Southeast Albania

Jeffrey Alvey (MSU Cobb Institute): Some Thoughts after Eleven Years in Cultural Resource Management

Dr. Jo Weaver (Univ. of Alabama): Managing Diabetes in North India: Women's Perspectives

Rocco de Gregory (TVAR) - Archaeological Investigations at Parker Bayou II (22HO626), Holmes County, Mississippi

Dr. John Schelhas (USFS): Social Applicability of Bioenergy in the US South: A Multi-sited Ethnography

Dr. Shane Miller (AMEC) - Rivers, Rocks, and Eco-Tones: Modeling Clovis Landscape-Use in the Southeastern United States

Dr. Joanne Murphy (Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro) - Use and Abuse of the Dead in Bronze Age Pylos

Dr. David Anderson (Univ. of Tennessee) - Big Picture Research in North American Archaeology: Analyses from Locality to Continental Scales

Chelsi West (Univ. of Texas, Austin): We are not Roma, we are Egyptian: A Discussion of Race and Identity in Albania

Dr. Carolyn Freiwald (Univ. of Mississippi) - Maya Burials and Beliefs: Funerary Treatment in a Classic Maya Household

Blair and Shanti Zaid (Michigan State Univ.): African Diaspora Identity: Archaeological and Religious Considerations

Ashley Baker (MSU Sociology) - I can't accept your "lifestyle" because I love you: The effect of social contact on Christians' attitudes and beliefs about homosexuality

Dr. Heather Jordan (MSU Biological Sciences) - Utility of Carion Microorganisms for Forensics and Health

Dr. Bryce Carlson (Purdue Univ.) - Race Across USA: Biocultural adaptations to running 5,000 kilometers in 140 days

Dr. Bethany Turner (Georgia State Univ.) - Diet, Mobility, and Pathology in Colonial-Period Northern Coastal Peru: Temporal and Site-Specific Variation

Dr. Paige West (Barnard College, Columbia Univ.): Imagining Pacific Futures: Climate Change, Local Livelihoods, and International Environmental Rhetorics

## Night at the Museum

Lambda Alpha hosted the second Night at the Museum, April 7, 2015. With the support of AMEC, the Cobb Institute, students, and faculty, the event showcased the work of current graduate students and faculty, provided an in-depth look into fieldwork in Israel, and brought positive exposure to the Cobb museum for more than 125 visitors. As a benefit for Palmer Home for Children, Lambda Alpha members also had asked for donations of books, school supplies and cash. Exceeding expectations, numerous items were collected along with \$272. We also exceeded the number of visitors and amount of donations from last year!

Lambda Alpha officers and faculty advisor, Avery McNeece, Tori Lee, Curtis Kennett, and Dr. Toni Copeland, spearheaded the event and would like to thank Lambda Alpha members, AMEC graduate students, faculty, and all others who helped make this night a success.

### Alumni!

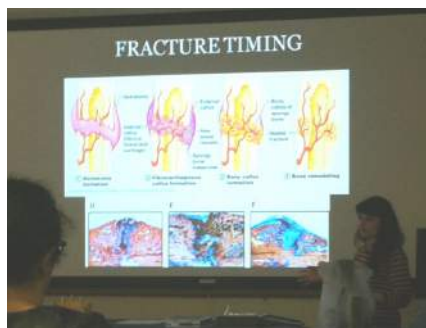
We would like to hear from you! Tell us where you are and what you have been up to. Send a photo!

Send your news to:  
sf668@msstate.edu.



## Histology Workshop

Amy Michael, Ph.D. candidate in anthropology, Michigan State University, led a special histological workshop for AMEC students in April. The two-part workshop introduced undergraduate and graduate students to the basics of bone and dental histology and presented several examples of how histology can be applied to bioarchaeological and forensic research. The workshop, organized by Sylvia Deskaj, also a Ph.D. candidate at Michigan State, was well attended and included undergraduate majors and non-majors, AMEC graduate students, and also a guest participant from the Mississippi School for Math and Science!



## MSU-UT MOU

On April 8, Provost Jerry Gilbert signed a Memorandum of Understanding between MSU and the University of Tirana, Albania. The MOU comes as a result of the visit to MSU by Dr. Lorenc Bejko, Chair of the Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management Studies at UT. Bejko and Dr. Michael Galaty have worked together in Albania since 1998. The MOU will support various cooperative ventures, including joint grant applications and student and faculty exchanges. Two graduates of UT, Zhaneta Gjyshja and Anisa Mara, have been admitted to AMEC's graduate program, to begin in the fall.



# AMEC Conference Presentations

AMEC was well represented at several anthropological conferences this year. Below is the list of all our faculty and students who presented a poster or paper.

## SE Archaeological Conference

**Derek T. Anderson**, Ashley M. Smallwood, Albert C. Goodyear, and **D. Shane Miller**: Stratigraphy and Dating at the Topper Site, South Carolina

**Mary Madden**: Port Power: Tracking the Shift in Prominence from Gloucester to Yorktown during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

**Evan Peacock**, Rinat Gabitov, Jonathan Frisch, **Bradley Carlock**, and Kate Henderson: Assessing Site Seasonality and Connectivity via LA-ICP-MS Elemental Analysis of Fish Otoliths: Results of a Pilot Study from the Northern Gulf of Mexico

Stephen Yerka, Daniel Brock, Palymyra Moore, and **D. Shane Miller**: Application and Reason in Southeastern Archaeology over the Last Score

## American Anthropological Association

**Brittany Higgs**, **Molly K. Zuckerman**, and **Nicholas Herrmann**: Burial Practices, Mortuary Genealogies, and Ethnogenesis on St. Croix: A Historical and Archaeological Approach

**Christina Ramazani**, **Molly K. Zuckerman**, **Nicholas P. Herrmann**, Evan M Garofalo, David R Hunt, Tsend Amgalantugs, and Bruno Frohlich: No Use Crying over a Broken Yasa: A Case Study of Execution and Postmortem Treatment of Women and Children in Late Medieval Southern Mongolia.

**Molly K. Zuckerman**, **Nicholas P. Herrmann**, **Amber M. Plemons**, **Michael T Murphy**, **Derek T. Anderson**, and **Brittany Higgs**: Reconstructing the Lives of the Institutionalized: Generating Historical, Archaeological, Ethnographic, and Biological Knowledge about Patients of the 'Mississippi State Hospital for the Insane,' 1855-1935

## American Schools of Oriental Research

**James Hardin** and Jeffery Blakely: The Iron Age IIA Materials from Khirbet Summeily

## Archaeological Institute of America

**Sylvia Deskaj**: Co-organized and -chaired the colloquium Moving People, Moving Goods, Moving Ahead: Reconsidering Factors Affecting Sociocultural Developments from the Mesolithic Through the Iron Age in Eastern Europe

**Sylvia Deskaj**: Biological Anthropology, Nationalism, and Archaeological Interpretation in Albania: The Search for an Illyrian Past

**Michael Galaty**: Co-organized and -chaired BLAH! How To Do and Not Do Archaeological Science: A Colloquium in Honor of T. Douglas Price

## AAFS

Mark M. Levaughn, **Amber Plemons**, and **Nicholas P. Herrmann**: Gone and Forgotten: A Medical Examiner's Nightmare

**Amber Plemons** and **Nicholas P. Herrmann**: Porcine Taphonomic Database for the Mississippi State Forensic Science Research Plot

**Monica Warner**, **Amber Plemons**, **Nicholas P. Herrmann**, and Kate Henderson: Refining Hydrogen and Oxygen Isoscapes for the Identification of Human Remains in Mississippi

## MSU Graduate Student Research Symposium

**Victoria Lee**, **Toni Copeland**, **Curtis Kennett**, **Dylan Karges**, and **Avery McNeece**: Creating a Better Tomorrow Together

**Christina Ramazani**, **Molly K. Zuckerman**, **Nicholas P. Herrmann**, Evan M Garofalo, David R Hunt, Tsend Amgalantugs, and Bruno Frohlich: No Use Crying over a Broken Yasa: A Case Study of Execution and Postmortem Treatment of Women and Children in Late Medieval Southern Mongolia.

## Society for Applied Anthropology

**David Hoffman**: Parks are Dead: The Waning Critical Political Ecology of Parks and Protected Areas

**Curtis Kennett** and **Toni Copeland**: Teaching the Research Process through Student Engagement: An Example using Cultural Consensus Analysis of HIV/AIDS

**Avery McNeece**: Trying to Live: Seeking Healthcare in a Changing Marketplace

## AAPA

**Kelly Kamnikar**, **Molly Zuckerman**, and **Nicholas P. Herrmann**, Jay Franklin: Interpreting physical impairment in the Mississippian Period: A case study from the Holliston Mills Site, TN

**Kayleigh Sandhu**, **Molly Zuckerman**, **Brittany Higgs**, Kristin Harper, **Kelly Kamnikar**, and **Walter M. Sullivan**: Paleoepidemiological approaches to treponemal disease

**Monica Warner**, **Nicholas P. Herrmann**, Zheng-Hua Li, Laura A Regan, Willa R Trask, and Richard L Jantz: The consequence of the global supermarket on the isotope signatures of modern humans

**Molly K. Zuckerman**, Kristin Harper, and George Armelagos: Adapt or die: three case studies in which the failure to adopt advances from other fields has compromised paleopathology

## Southern Anthropological Society

**Curtis Kennett**: Misinformed in Mississippi: A Cultural Model of HIV/AIDS among College Students in Mississippi

**Victoria Lee**: Creating a Better Tomorrow Today

**Avery McNeece**: Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Seeking Healthcare in the Insurance Gap

## MS Archaeological Association

**Evan Peacock**, **Sarah Gilleland**, and **Mary Madden**: Different Methods, Different Results: Analysis of Land Snail Shells from Site 41HM61, Hamilton County, Texas

## Society for American Archaeology

**D. Shane Miller**, David Anderson, and **Kelsey Meer**: The Pleistocene-Holocene Transition in the Tennessee and Cumberland River Valleys of the Mid-South United States

**Evan Peacock**: Development and Applications of a Minimally Destructive Method of Sourcing Shell via LA-ICP-MS

## MSU Undergraduate Research Symposium

**Heather Lyles**: Creating a Better Tomorrow Together: A Service Learning Project in Starkville, MS

## Donations

If you donate to the MSU Foundation, please consider directing your gift to AMEC!

Donate to MSU and AMEC:

<http://www.cas.msstate.edu/giving/>

## Kudos

**Dr. David Hoffman** is part of a cross-college collaborative research team that was awarded \$9,600 by the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant in November.

**Sylvia Deskaj, Dr. Michael Galaty,** and Dr. Lorenc Bjeko were awarded an Elemental Analysis Facility NSF-subsidized grant for ceramic analysis at the Field Museum of Natural History.

**Avery McNeece** has been accepted into the Ph.D program at the University of Alabama.

**Sallie Dehler** has been hired by an environmental conflict resolution organization (RESOLV) in Washington,

**Christina Ramazani** received the first place award in the Arts and Humanities oral presentation category at the MSU Graduate Research Symposium.

Congratulations to **Jonathan Belanich** for receiving an Honorable Mention from the

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program in Anthropology, Bioarchaeology!

**Kelly Kamnikar** was selected recently as a Women's Club Scholar recipient.

**Drs. Kate McClellan, Toni Copeland, Michael Galaty,** and **Jimmy Hardin** are receiving a grant from MSU's International Institute to form a campus-wide working group on Middle Eastern Studies.

**Dylan Karges** won the Spirit of State Award! The award formally honors those students who have excelled in campus involvement, service to the university, and have made an impact on their peers and the campus community.

**Dr. Janet Rafferty,** Robert McCain, **Joseph Smith** and S. Homes Hogue have an article entitled *Cooking Pots as Burial Urns in the Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology.*

Former B.A. student, **Chris Williamson**, is a PhD student in Anthropology at Syra-

cuse. Congrats, Chris!

**Dylan Karges** was named a Starkvillian of the Week.

**Heather Lyles** placed first in the Undergraduate Student Research Symposium in the Community Engagement category!

**Kayleigh Sandhu**, graduating May 2015, has been accepted in to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health's summer session. She then will attend Boston University for a master's degree in public health with a concentration in epidemiology.

**Sarah Zaleski** has been accepted into the Anthropology Ph.D. program at the University of Florida and awarded a graduate school fellowship.

**Jesse Morton** has accepted a position as a CRM project manager with Chris Goodwin and Associates in New Orleans, La.

**Kate McKinney** is receiving an Archaeological Institute of America museum internship grant for work to be conducted this summer at the Smithsonian.



Heather Lyles with her award-winning poster titled "Creating a Better Tomorrow Together: A Service-Learning Project in Starkville, Mississippi"



# Interview With an AMEC Alumna

Siobhan Gibbons graduated from MSU with a bachelor's degree in anthropology in spring 2011. She also minored in biological science and took a few different classes related to fisheries and environmental work, since this was her interest for a Peace Corps position. After graduating, she applied to the Peace Corps and left for the Philippines in summer 2012 to do development work as a coastal resource management worker. She lived and worked for two years on a small island in the middle of the Philippines called Romblon.

## What did you do while in the Peace Corps?

As a Peace Corps volunteer I worked with locals in the government, community and schools. My goal was to help with problems facing local communities, especially fishermen, such as depletion of fish stocks, climate change, solid waste management, etc. To assist with these problems I worked on a number of different projects. My main project was to help Ginablan Fisherfolk Association develop a recently established wildlife, mangrove, and bird sanctuary into an ecotourism destination,

to provide an alternative livelihood for the community members. This included raising funds for a boardwalk, creating and printing bird guides, and conducting training in financial management and small business skills. I also worked on a joint project with two other coastal resource management volunteers to form a reef



assessment team for the whole of Romblon Province. This team will assess coral habitats to determine reef and fish population health, determine needs for Marine Protected Areas, and assess the effectiveness of already established MPAs. In addition to these two main projects I did many smaller projects related to environmental education such as giving talks on: proper solid waste management practices, climate change mitigation, ecosystem dynamics, sustainable fishing practices and more. I also planned, arranged, and facilitated a three-day environmental youth camp for elementary students with the help of two other education volunteers.

## How did having your MSU degree help with your Peace Corps experience?

The classes I took as an undergrad helped to determine what section I was placed in as a Peace Corps volunteer. There are sections in education, HIV/AIDS awareness, environment, business, community development, etc. It is important to research each section ahead of time so you can tailor classes and volunteer work to the area in which you wish to work as a volunteer. My background in anthropology especially was helpful with integration. Successful integration into a community is one of the most important aspects of being a volunteer. Without the trust and help of local peoples, you can never hope to get any projects done. As an anthropology major, you've already taken classes that have taught you how to appreciate and respect other cultures. Peace Corps has been hiring more and more

anthropology majors for this very reason. So go apply!

## What drew you to anthropology or made you want to pursue it?

I have always been interested in traveling and experiencing other cultures. I've also always been interested in the environment and the conservation of it. I began college as a wildlife pre-vet major, but, after taking an introductory class in anthropology I fell in love with the major and knew it was what I wanted to pursue. Anthropology brings a unique perspective to fields of environmental conservation in that it seeks to solve environmental problems, not by restricting people from resource use, but by learning how they interact with and view the environment, and engaging them in the preservation of their own resources. This is why I chose anthropology as a lifelong ambition since no true change in conservation efforts can be accomplished without a change in people's views and habits. Anthropology, specifically the field of cultural anthropology, contains the means and methods to understanding why people do what they do, and how to encourage them to do something different and more beneficial to them and the environment.

## What was your most memorable experience?

I don't have one defining memorable experience, but rather the experience of meeting new people, making new friends, learning about a new culture, and exploring a new world, are most memorable to me. While the projects I worked on were important and I am proud of what I was able to accomplish, the people I met, the friends I made, and the places I visited are my most important memories. From the people I worked on projects with, to other Peace Corps volunteers, to the local store owner who insisted on giving me free food every time she saw me, I will never forget the hospitality that was shown to me and the fun we had together. I also hope to have enlightened some people I met on the fallacies of some American stereotypes and on the good values of American culture. I also got to experience a new way of life and see some amazing places.

## Do you think more anthropologists should be involved with the Peace Corps and why?

I definitely think more anthropologists should be involved with the Peace Corps. The Peace Corps is a development agency and true sustainable development can only happen when approached from the perspective of the society where the development work is taking place. As anthropologists we are taught to attempt to step back from our own biases and to see a society through the eyes of its own culture. We are also taught to observe and listen to the people we're interacting with, so as to better understand the real struggles they're facing. Real development work is achieved through the culture it's taking place in, not around it.

## Follow AMEC field research online!

Faculty and students will be blogging this summer from Cyprus, Greece, Israel, St. Croix, and throughout the U.S.

Our blog can be found at: <https://msuamec.wordpress.com/>

Don't forget to keep up with us on Facebook and Twitter as well!

# AMEC Scholarship Winners

Nikki Wu, a freshman, won a \$500 scholarship from the Rafferty Fund to support her participation in AMEC's Survey Field School to be held in South Carolina at the Allendale Chert Quarry. Wu's interest in anthropology was sparked when friends told her about their archaeological survey field school experiences at Poverty Point in 2014, after which she decided to sign up for her first anthropology class. After taking that class in the fall, she then changed her major to anthropology before the spring semester began. Wu is most excited about actually doing archaeology, stating that there is only so much one can learn in a classroom. So far, she has only taken introduction to biological anthropology, introduction to cultural anthropology, and introduction to archaeology. Overall, her favorite class has been introduction to biological anthropology. She enjoyed learning about the skeletal morphology of hominins and the factors that influence it.



James Strawn, a senior, received \$500 from the Rafferty Fund for participation in AMEC's Survey Field School and also is the first recipient of the department's Marshall Scholarship, named for former professor Dick Marshall. Strawn credits Jean Marcus and her introduction to anthropology class with his initial interest in the field. He is most excited for the chance to put together all of the things he has only learned about in lecture and lab and apply it during the archaeological survey field school. He cannot wait to be a part of survey and work at a site, especially one like Topper. Strawn said that he has enjoyed each class he has taken with AMEC, but there are two definite favorites: Dr. Miller's classes in North American archaeology and Southeastern archaeology. He gives all the credit to Dr. Miller., who has afforded him the opportunity to pursue specific studies in Southeastern Archaeology.



# AMEC Participates in Darwin Week

The much-anticipated Darwin Week returned in February, including the Survival of the Fittest Dodge Ball tournament. Our graduate students formed a team again, Hominin It to Win It, in hopes of continuing the success they had last year. Sadly, they did not place this year. Later in the week, Dr. Michael Galaty gave a talk entitled "Darwinian Evolution Gone Wild! Frontier Effects on Biological and Cultural Diversity."



## Remembering Freedom Summer Conference

Dylan Karges coordinated an art exhibit in conjunction with the Remembering Freedom Summer conference held at MSU in October 2014. He worked with Dr. Stephen Middleton, head of African American Studies, and photographers already participating in the conference. Karges selected photographs from the collection of Dr. Doris Derby (Georgia State University) to be reproduced for the exhibit, having her slides scanned and printed through MSU library resources. He also contacted Mark Levy, who had coordinated an exhibit earlier that year for another Freedom Summer celebration in Meridian. The exhibit was lent to MSU for the duration of the conference. Karges made trips to Atlanta and Meridian to gather images for the exhibit, and with help from the MSU Libraries and The Chalet, in Starkville, had the work printed and mounted and an additional piece framed as a gift to Middleton. All who participated agreed that the conference was a powerful experience in shared history, determination and perspective.



Karges with photo exhibits at the Remembering Freedom Summer conference

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AMEC shows its support for the #wearestarkville campaign

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