



Alumni Newsletter of the IU Department of Anthropology

PROCESS

College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association

Summer 2006

Letter from the chair

Departmental life cycles bring change

Dear Readers,

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Process*. We are concluding a very productive academic year, one that included important changes and promising developments for the department. As Professor K.D. Vitelli retires from the department, she leaves behind her a legacy of generations trained in classical archaeology. K.D. has been teaching IU students about ceramics, regional archaeology, social context, and archaeological ethics for more than 30 years. A second edition of her book *Archaeological Ethics* (2006), co-edited with Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh, illustrates the scope of her work and demonstrates her continuing active scholarship. As departmental life cycles around, we have seen professors Anne Pyburn and Kevin Hunt promoted to full professor, and we welcome our new colleague Professor L. Shane Greene to the department (see new faculty profile). Since joining, Greene has actively brought new courses, research perspectives, institutional networks, and opportunities to our faculty



Brondizio

and students (see note about the symposium on indigenous rights on page 2).

As this letter goes to print, we are pleased to mention the upcoming addition to our department of four new faculty members. Professor Susan Alt studies Eastern North American archaeology, Professor Beth Ann Buggeenhagen works in Africa (Senegal) on issues of Muslim expressive culture, and Professor Sonya Atalay works on classical archaeology of early sedentary communities (Çatalhöyük, Turkey), American Indian studies (United States), and archaeology in social context. Professor Frances Trix is joining us as a joint appointment with the Department of Linguistics and works on discourse analysis and Muslim studies (United States and Near East). The four new faculty members will be featured in our next issue of *Process*.

On a less jubilant note, we wish our colleague Professor Travis Pickering the best as he moves on to the University of Wisconsin–Madison next year. Similarly, we wish the best to our departing undergraduate adviser, Britta Osborne, who leaves with her husband, anthropology alumnus Daniel Osborne, to take a position at UNC–Greensboro. Britta's contribution to our program has been invaluable.

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K.D. Vitelli retires

When people decide to go into the academy, the most ambitious, and the most idealistic, have a picture of a career in their minds that closely resembles the achievements of K.D. Vitelli. Her scholarship, her academic productivity and creativity, and her commitment to the highest standards of research and methodology, alongside her ability to attract and nurture talented students, place her at the top of any list of role models. But Vitelli's academic commitment has always been seamlessly connected to her loyalty and friendship for her colleagues and students. It is this essential humanity that infuses her work with tangible value that keeps her always in our thoughts here at IU and that makes her contribution to her discipline so profound.



Vitelli

Karen Donne Vitelli (known to friends as Kaddee) joined the IU program in classical archaeology in 1978 after a brief stint at the University of Maryland. She almost immediately became acting chair. Over the next several years, her leadership of this program brought it national recognition as a unique resource for both students and professionals. Her PhD in classical archaeology from Penn, which she completed in 1974, laid the foundation for much of her later work on the ceramic assemblages from excavations at Franchthi Cave and Lerna, in Greece. Vitelli's first task was to create a typology of these materials so that analysis and scholarly conversation about them would be

(continued on page 3)

Anthropology Research Support office launched

We are pleased to announce the establishment of the Anthropology Research Support Office, and we welcome our grant administrator, Carolyn Schmid. Schmid will work on a half-time basis to establish and coordinate office activities. The office has a two-fold mission: It will support faculty and graduate students during the grant preparation and submission process, assisting with explaining application requirements and guidelines, budget preparation and approval, internal routing, and final submission; and it will provide support to manage project accounts after the grant is awarded.

We are grateful for the support of the College of Arts and Sciences to this departmental initiative. Please do not hesitate to contact Schmid to discuss your plans for grant application and funding to enhance your research and benefit your students.

Around the Department

Shane Greene joins department

Shane Greene joined the faculty in August 2005. He earned a BA in anthropology from the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill in 1993 and a PhD in anthropology from the University of Chicago in 2004. Greene is interested in issues at the intersection of ethnic, environmental, and state multicultural politics in Peru as well as the broader Latin American region. Since 1997, he has been engaged in a project examining the leadership role played by the Awajún peoples in Peru’s Amazonian movement. He is working on a manuscript based on this work, titled “Customizing Indigeneity.” In addition, he has published in a number of academic venues (*American Ethnologist*, *Current Anthropology*, and the *Journal for Latin American Studies*) as well as for more public and activist-oriented audiences (*NACLA Report on the Americas*, *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, and *Quehacer*).



Greene

IU hosts conference on indigenous rights

On April 7–8, IU hosted Acting on Indigenous Rights, Acting Out Indigenous Rites. Daniel Suslak and Shane Greene helped to organize the international forum on indigenous politics, identity formation, and cultural expression in Latin America. Department faculty members Anya Royce, Daniel Suslak, Shane Greene, John McDowell (folklore), Jeff Gould (history), and David Shorter (folklore) participated in the forum.

Exploring cultures at Mathers Museum

The Mandara Margi

Over a span of 45 years, James Vaughan, a professor emeritus of anthropology from Indiana University, lived among and learned from the Margi of Nigeria. A collection of his photographs of the Margi is featured in the exhibit *The Mandara Margi: A Society Living on the Verge*, on exhibit at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures. In the exhibit, Vaughan explores the lives of the Margi, whom he notes were, quite literally, “people on the verge.”

“The Margi were, at the time I studied them, on the verge of changes so drastic that one might say the society shown in these pictures has virtually disappeared,” Vaughan says.

Thoughts, Things, and Theories

The meaning of culture and cultural traditions is explored in a new exhibit at the Mathers Museum of World Cultures. *Thoughts, Things, and Theories ... What Is Culture?* uses objects from around the world to show the way culture permeates all human lives.

Funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the exhibit focuses on two main themes: universal needs and life stages. Universal needs (food, clothing, and

shelter, for example) are demonstrated in replicas of two households — one a Bloomington ranch house from 1967, the other a multi-generational family compound from northern Nigeria from the same year.

As visitors move through the exhibit, they experience artifacts illustrating the various life stages (from birth and infancy to death and the afterlife). Artifacts include a Lakota cradleboard, a Japanese wedding kimono, and numerous other objects from around the globe. The exhibit also features a hands-on activity station, computer kiosks with interactive programs, and a reading area.



Skomp Lecture

John Haviland, University of California at San Diego, presented the 2006 Skomp Distinguished Lecture. His talk, “Icepicks and Amulets: *Merolicos* in Mexico,” was attended by more than 100 students and faculty.

We want to hear from you!

Fill out the class note coupon on the back page and send it in. We'll publish your news in the next issue of *Process*.



Process

This newsletter is published by the Indiana University Alumni Association, in cooperation with the Department of Anthropology and the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association, to encourage alumni interest in and support for Indiana University. For activities and membership information, call (800) 824-3044 or send e-mail to ialumni@indiana.edu.

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Department bids farewell to Adams, says hello to Barchet

Major events command special acclamation in all cultures, including our subculture of the IU Department of Anthropology. After 18 glorious years, not always very glamorous, Connie Adams stepped down from her position as office manager and fiscal officer near the end of 2005.

Most of us probably didn't fully comprehend all of what her job title entailed. But we all know what Adams meant to each of us and to the department over these many years. Several department chairs came and went, numerous faculty changes occurred, and roughly 250 graduate students passed through our portals, first in



Adams

Rawles Hall and then in the Student Building. Adams was there for all of them, and I mean on a personal, one-on-one basis. Yes, she very effectively carried out her myriad duties in the office, but what I think most of us will long remember are her attentive ear to our concerns, her willingness to help, and her special ways of making each of us feel that we belong to this department, our own little community. One of those personal touches was in sending out birthday cards. She also loved to share in our travel adventures, albeit vicariously, as we returned from hither and yon. But now it is her turn to take to the roads, or skies and seas. During her recent visit to Greece, she caught a travel bug that likely will propel her to continue exploring a wondrous world of exciting new peoples and places. And, of course, at her home base in California, her family will anxiously await her returns, especially those

three little grandchildren — Mackenzie, Grayson, and Harris. Bon voyage!

— Robert J. Meier

Linda Barchet joined us as office manager and fiscal officer in September 2005. She has had a long tenure at IU Bloomington, beginning in 1987, when she began working in the financial office of the IU bookstore. Most recently, Barchet comes from the IU Department of Computer Science, where she served as administrative assistant for the past nine years. She says she is thrilled to join the department because “anthropology is a field that is closer to my heart.”



Barchet

Vitelli

(continued from page 1)

possible. In this vein, years of painstaking documentation and categorization ensued. This type of work is the backbone of archaeology; no analysis or interpretation is possible where artifact analysis languishes. Few people have the courage to undertake it, especially with huge collections such as those Vitelli mastered. Even fewer have the stamina to produce the required detail of recording and categorization as well as the reflexive analysis and interpretation that must interweave with identification. Vitelli more than achieved her goal, as evidenced by a spate of glowing reviews of her work, and she continues to work on these collections, making ever finer and more significant conclusions about the meaning of ceramics in the Greek neolithic period. Her ceramic fascicle for the Franchthi series immediately became a standard scholarly reference at the same time that it set a standard for scholarly reference works. Her publication of the Lerna materials is now in press, much to the delight of her colleagues.

At the same time that she tackled her professional responsibility to normal science, Vitelli developed a program of experimental archaeology that is unique and that has had pathbreaking consequences. Although the variety of ideas and lines of evidence opened up by her experimental pottery production are much too long to detail, nevertheless, I cannot resist mentioning a facet of her work that has had particular import for my own — and for a much wider field of research into human behavior than that encompassed

in the Greek neolithic alone. Through her immaculate investigations into ceramic technology, she showed that the earliest pottery in Greece was not intended — or used — for cooking. The import of this simple discovery is tremendous for our understanding of the human past and how it gave rise to the present. In short, Vitelli's discovery calls into question assumptions about the division of labor in early societies, since early pottery has always been attributed to the cooking needs of women and assumed to be a household task rather than a craft specialty. Rethinking these standard frames of reference places the origins of economic specialization, the rise of exchange networks, and the role of women in the development of urban societies in a new light and opens the door to some new and possibly very different interpretations of human history.

Despite the significance of these contributions, many archaeologists and policy-makers would argue that Vitelli's greatest legacy is in the field of archaeological ethics, which she pioneered when she served as the editor of a column on “The Antiquities Market” from 1976 to 1983 for the *Journal of Field Archaeology*. In this role, she took on the task of documenting the looting and irresponsible collecting practices that are destroying the world's archaeological heritage and abusing the rights of some of the most economically disadvantaged groups on earth. She has rapidly become one of the world's leading authorities on these issues and has been called repeatedly into international service to advise the global organizations trying to cope with the loss of heritage.

Vitelli's interest in ethics has taken her beyond the focus on looted materials and brought her increasingly into the realm of public archaeology. Realizing that developing the good will of the public toward archaeology is the only way that preservation will ever succeed, she took up the responsibility to reach out to the public through lectures and various educational programs at home and support of the economic development of communities of stakeholders abroad. Even more important, she began to teach her students why they must incorporate this responsibility into their professional lives and to provide them with practical education on how to do so.

Vitelli is sorely missed at IU; her warm personality infused the space she inhabited here in a way that made us all feel a little more lighthearted in our daily efforts to participate in an intellectual community. All her colleagues depended on her wisdom and patience; she was the ethical keystone of our department as well as to the wider field of archaeology. But if we put aside our selfish sadness at our immediate loss, we have cause to celebrate her retirement, since it has allowed her to concentrate on her publications and her public contacts. A steady stream of important contributions has flowed from her since has been away, and so although the anthropology faculty and Indiana University have lost the chance for daily personal conversations with our beloved colleague and friend, the wider world of archaeology has benefited from the strengthening of her voice, unencumbered by the details of the academy.

— Anne Pyburn

Faculty News

Thomas Wesley was the Stice Lecturer of the College of Arts and Sciences at University of Washington, Seattle, during the week of Oct. 24–28. He gave a keynote address to the college on Oct. 24. During his weeklong stay, he gave an additional seven lectures in various departments. His main talk, “Re-Situating Indigenous Gender and Sexual Identities,” will be published as a chapter in *Indigenous Gender Politics* (forthcoming, University of Washington Press). A similar workshop and talk were also given at the Newberry Library in Chicago in mid-September. Wesley’s most recent work, *Navajo Third Gender*, will be published by the University of Illinois Press in 2006.

Sara Philips published three papers last year based on her fieldwork in the Ukraine: “Will the Market Set Them Free? Women, NGOs, and Social Enterprise in Ukraine”; “Postsocialist Governmentalities and Subjectivities: An Introduction”; and “Civil Society and Healing: Theorizing Women’s Social Activism in Post-Soviet Ukraine.”

She presented two conference papers this semester: “Disability in Ukraine: Shifting Boundaries of Self, State, and Society,” at the American Anthropological Association conference in Washington last winter; and “Disability and Citizenship in Post-Soviet Ukraine: An Anthropological Critique,” at the Danyliw Research Seminar at the University of Ottawa. Last summer, Philips presented a paper in the Ukraine and screened at Harvard her film about tradition and faith among folk medicine practitioners in rural Ukraine. She is excited to have received funding to spend the summer of 2006 working on a book, titled *Mobile Citizens: The Politics and Poetics of Disability in Post-Soviet Ukraine*.

Gracia Clark published three papers last year: “Managing Transitions and Continuities in Ghanaian Trading Contexts”; “A Trader Caught in Ethnic Violence, Life Narrative by Ms. Afua Kobi”; and “The Permanent Transition in Africa.” She also was awarded a grant from the Education Department for Diversity and Tolerance

in Islam of West Africa for creating online resources. Clark presented two papers to the most recent American Anthropological Association in addition to her prestigious invitation to present the Presidential Lecture for the Association for Africanist Anthropology.

Anya Peterson Royce is the recipient of the 2005 P.A. Mack Award for Distinguished Service to Teaching. She gave a keynote lecture, “The Long and the Short of It: Benefits and Challenges of Long-term Ethnographic Research,” at an international seminar, Longitudinal Qualitative Research, in Leeds, England; was an invited lecturer on how anthropologists view dance for the International Festival of Dance in Bytom, Poland, in July 2005; completed another book, *Becoming an Ancestor: The Isthmus Zapotec Way of Death*; and was a recipient (with Stacie King, Daniel Suslak, and Catherine Tucker) of an Overseas Study Development Grant to develop a new Indiana University summer Overseas Study/College of Arts and Sciences program in Oaxaca.

From the chair

(continued from page 1)

Perhaps few changes have been as important and heartfelt as the retirement of our beloved Connie Adams. After 18 years of motherly dedication, caring, guidance, and organizing in the role of office manager and fiscal officer (I finally realize this is a euphemistic title for a mammoth job!), Connie now enjoys warmer weather and traveling with her grandkids. Still, we are most fortunate that Linda Barchet joined our office in September 2005. Linda has brought experience, exceptional management skills, and patience to the department and has allowed us to seamlessly make the transition. Likewise, the anthropology office continues to benefit from a wonderful and dedicated staff. Debra Wilkerson, Susie Bernhardt, and Marcie Convey have each contributed in so many ways to the successful transition and daily functioning of the department.

An important development for the department is the opening of the Anthropology Research Support Office, headed by grant administrator Carolyn Schmid (see story on page 2). The office supports faculty and graduate students in proposal development, submission, and management during a time when external funding for research has become essential for our functioning and academic undertaking.

As a new academic year gets ready to start, the department has undertaken a number of new initiatives. We are preparing a new enhancement plan to define areas of growth and consolidation. Our curriculum committee is focusing on updating our undergraduate program, including creating a series of new concentration areas and offering certificates in specializations ranging from cultural resource management to environmental anthropology. As I write this letter, I have in front of me a superb list of course offerings (for instance, more than 86 undergraduate and 41 graduate courses offered this academic year), including new service-learning courses that have reached our community in many ways (for example, a BRAVO award from the city of Bloomington for an E302 Laboratory in Ethnography to instructor Sue-Je Gage). Similar efforts are taking shape to organize new concentration areas for our graduate program, such as a concentration in the “anthropology of food.”

Of all priorities, however, we continue to focus our efforts on finding creative ways to fund and support our graduate students. Our department has a sizable applicant pool, and we accept only the best prospects, yet, we have limited ability to offer recruitment fellowships and supporting packages. Despite this hurdle, we are confident that we will continue to attract the most talented students.

We are now starting preparation for a celebration of the 60th anniversary of the department and the 20th anniversary of the Skomp Distinguished Lecture Series in Anthropology. Plans for the yearlong commemoration will include a Bloomington staging of the American Anthropological Association’s exhibit on *Race and Human Variation*, which will travel nationally and which will include community and academic forums on race and diversity. A special symposium and a comprehensive volume to be published by IU Press will celebrate the Skomp Distinguished Lectures Series in anthropology.

Finally, I would like to close this letter with a note of thanks and recognition for the work of our departing dean, Kumble R. Subbaswamy, who will soon assume the provost position at the University of Kentucky. During his tenure at IU, since 2000, the Department of Anthropology has seen unprecedented growth and gained visibility for the role we play in the College of Arts and Sciences, and IU as a whole. Swamy’s leadership of the College will be missed. Connie, K.D., Travis, Britta, and Swamy, we thank you and wish you the best and happiest days ahead.

— Eduardo S. Brondizio

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www.indiana.edu/~anthro

Alumni Notebook

Before 1980

Richard A. Dickinson, BA'66, was a jazz radio broadcaster and producer for many years and continues to perform with his Dick Dickinson Jazztet at the Chatterbox in Indianapolis.

Mary M. Hether, BA'70, earned a master's of education in multicultural teaching from National University in San Diego in 2005. She is currently teaching math at an alternative high school in Tucson, Ariz.

Seamus P. Metress, PhD'71, is a professor of anthropology at the University of Toledo, where he has been for 36 years. He has written more than 30 books; his latest is *The Irish in Toledo*, and he is currently researching the role of Irish women in the American labor movement.

Mark D. Ellenberger, BA'79, MA'80, MA'86, works for a Department of Defense agency, while his wife, Nancy (Paredes), BS'84, continues her work at the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency. They have two daughters, Andrea and Sarah.

1980s

Lois V. Kuter, PhD'81, has been director of the volunteer program at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, for 15 years. She serves on the board of the American Association for Museum Volunteers, and in May 2005, she presented a paper on volunteer management at the meeting of the American Association of Museums, held in Indianapolis. As a volunteer herself, she continues to serve as the editor of *Bro Nevez*, the quarterly publication of the U.S. branch of the International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language (of which she is a founding member).

Jeffrey H. Cohen, BA'84, PhD'94, is an associate professor at Ohio State University. He lives in Columbus, Ohio, and can be reached at cohen.319@osu.edu.

1990s

Michelle E. Soltis, BA'93, is an elementary school teacher for the San Diego City Schools.

Susan Kirkpatrick Smith, MA'93, PhD'98, was appointed to a tenure-track position as assistant professor of anthropology at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Ga., in May 2005. She plans to teach in Thessaloniki, Greece, as part of the university's 2006 summer study abroad program. Smith and her husband, **Gregory A.**, MA'00, live in Roswell, Ga.

Thomas J. Minichillo, BA'94, has received a PhD in anthropology (prehistoric

African archaeology) from the University of Washington, Seattle.

2000s

Angela R. Bratton, MA'00, PhD'04, has joined the faculty at Augusta State University in Augusta, Ga., as an assistant professor of anthropology.

During the summer of 2000, **Angela M. Rehffuss**, BA'00, volunteered at the Greater Cincinnati International Visitors Council. She translated program-related documents and interpreted social situations for visitors from Russia and Georgia. Since May 2003, Rehffuss has served as a regulatory affairs coordinator at Schulman Associates Institutional Review Board Inc. in Cincinnati. Previously, she was an English teacher

at a public school in St. Petersburg, Russia, through the not-for-profit Petroteach Project. She currently lives in Erlanger, Ky.

Jeffrey E. Brichta, BA'04, is pursuing a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree at Kirksville (Mo.) College of Osteopathic Medicine. He plans to complete the degree in 2009. Brichta can be reached at jbrichta@atsu.edu.

Dana Pool Lower, BA'04, writes, "I am currently staying at home, raising my son, until he starts school and I can start CRM work in the Des Moines, Iowa, area."

Laura K. Sladen, BA'04, is a document analyst/mailroom supervisor/project manager for McNeil Technologies, Falls Church, Va. She is also working on a master's degree in forensic science at George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

ANNOUNCING

IUAlumniCareers.com



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IU alumni are invited to register as mentors to give career advice to their fellow alumni. As a mentor, you may choose how often and in what manner you wish to be contacted, and you may opt out of the mentor program at any time.

Employers are invited to register to post job openings at no charge.

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