



TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY



# Anthropology Geography Sociology

*Fall 2008, Volume 1 · Department of Anthropology, Geography, & Sociology  
Truman State University, Kirksville, Mo. 63501 · (660) 785-7109  
<http://sociology-anthropology.truman.edu/>*

## Greetings to our current students, colleagues, alums, prospective students and friends!

A lot has changed for our program at Truman State University in the last year and a half. Now that things have calmed down just a little, we're anxious to share with you how we're changing and how you can help make the department and its programs stronger.



July 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 the Sociology/Anthropology and Geography disciplines from the Social Science Division joined forces to become the new Department of Anthropology, Geography and Sociology. Just as classes were starting in August 2007 we moved into newly renovated office, classroom and lab space on the second floor of Barnett Hall where we share a support office with Justice Systems.

Despite these administrative and facility changes, much departmental activity continues as usual. We have hosted numerous visiting scholars in classes and for lectures on campus. Faculty continue to participate in their fields as active scholars. Students continue to engage in learning through classes and other rich experiences. Graduates continue to report success as they negotiate the transition in their lives after Truman.

Our first year as a department we started a discussion about the future of the department and how best to integrate our three disciplines. We have just completed developing a proposal to redesign curriculum in the department, starting with the Sociology/Anthropology major. The new curriculum will roll out in front of students who entered this fall – exciting new features include:

- coordinated development of critical thinking skills,
- a new proseminar to build a sense of community among new majors,
- an integrated method and theory core spring 2<sup>nd</sup> /fall 3<sup>rd</sup> year,
- no required courses spring 3<sup>rd</sup> year to encourage study abroad, internships, research and service learning projects,
- a redesigned senior seminar to focus on graduate school and/or career preparation and polishing a product from one upper level course for wider distribution.

Many features of this curriculum were suggested by recent graduates as they participated in senior seminar discussions. We are excited by the possibilities for enhancing learning across the curriculum and for engaging our students in some of the topics that attract our own interest in the upper level courses. Some current students admit being jealous of those who will experience this new program.

Our new department has gotten off to an encouraging start. We have established a regular pattern of communicating announcements through weekly updates via email. We have begun a tradition of picnics in Red Barn Park to welcome new majors in the fall and celebrate graduates in the spring. We are organizing information for our web site and newsletter to create a sense of community, to celebrate our successes, and to facilitate communication with current, former and prospective students and other interested parties. We are exploring the possibility of developing greater depth in Geography, and especially in support for applications of Geographic Information Science. We are developing a range of new study abroad and internship opportunities. We have welcomed two new faculty members this year and look forward to seeing alums at our Homecoming Reception. Enjoy the newsletter and let us know how you would like to be involved!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Amber Johnson  
Chair, Department of Anthropology, Geography, & Sociology



# Senior Seminar Presentations



Every year in the spring, students present papers for their Senior Seminar course in Anthropology and Sociology. Students and paper titles are listed below; pictured to the right are the students.

**Jenna Klinghammer**

“Prisoner Re-entry: Who it affects, why it is an issue, and what is being done”

**Kimberly Lohmann**

“Companion Animals: How they benefit society and the individual”

**Rose Rylko**

“An evaluation of the effectiveness of the Early Headstart Program”

**Katherine Steinkamp**

“Does recreation equal therapy? An evaluation of the effectiveness of Therapeutic Recreation”

**Megan Robinson**

“An analysis of the role of the Cuban musician: Who is fit to play the part?”

**Sean Waters**

“Rock music, pop music, and political and social protest”

**Christen Gates**

“Understanding extraterrestrial beliefs”

**Katherine Neville**

“The changing role of quilting in America”

**Danielle Demarset**

“Interpretations of evolutionary evidence: A look at multiregional theory and ‘Out of Africa’ theory”

**Sean Lowery**

“Language, family and education: Ethnic considerations among immigrant children”

**Jeremy McAninch**

“Possible causes for the incest taboo and its exceptions”

**Nicole Morgan**

“The fall of the ancestors: Factors contributing to the decay of ancient societies”

**Eric Osborne**

“Artifact repatriation”

**Christina Brueggen**

“Community response to disaster and volunteer integration with emergency policy”

**Shelley Coffman**

“The perils of a magnificent idea: A look at the problems faced by the National Park Service idea”

**Chelsea Hokanson**

“A Dialogue with the Ghost of Marx”

**Jamie Matthews**

“An exploration of academic dishonesty and methods of deterring cheating”

**Michael Devine**

“Drugs and American Culture: The self-medicating epidemic”

**Yuko Sekine**

“Guns in American Society”

**Laura Halfmann**

“Who wins? The relationship between intercollegiate athletics, universities, and student athletes”

**Patricia Pepple**

“The root causes of transnational migration”

**Christopher Peterson**

“Critical Mass: Evaluating the impact of public opinion on nuclear proliferation and development”

**Meaghan Quinly**

“Globalized movement against globalization”

**Jennifer Townsend**

“Some Sister! The institutionalization of classism and racism with feminist organizations”

**Natasha Vanderweide**

“Thin Enough, White Enough: Body image dissatisfaction and identification among American minorities”

## Congratulations Graduates!



### December 2007

- ◇ Chad Everhart
- ◇ Amanda Nieman

### May 2008

- ◇ Shelley Coffman
- ◇ Christen Gates
- ◇ Laura Halfmann
- ◇ Chelsea Hokanson
- ◇ Jenna Klinghammer
- ◇ Kimberly Lohmann
- ◇ Jamie Matthews
- ◇ Jeremy McAninch
- ◇ Erica Osborne
- ◇ Christopher Peterson
- ◇ Tyler Phillippi
- ◇ Megan Robison
- ◇ Rose Rylko
- ◇ Yuko Sekine
- ◇ Katherine Steinkamp
- ◇ Natasha Vander Weide
- ◇ Jeffery Sean Waters

**The 6th annual Archaeology at Truman Symposium** was

sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology and the Department of Art this past year. Dr. Amber Johnson presented “Exploring the Intersection of Chemistry, Ecology and Archaeology: What can we learn from stable carbon isotopes in human remains?”





## ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ Internships ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆



Natasha Vanderweide interned with the Department of Family Services in the Children's Division, she states that it was ".... the most rewarding hands on experience I have had at Truman. Working with the Division I was able to see what being a social worker would entail, and it gave me good insight into the needs

within the Kirksville community at large. With this internship I was able to conduct home visits with parents and children, attend juvenile court dates, work in the office, help organize the yearly Angel Tree Project, as well as many other interesting tasks. Overall I would recommend this internship to anyone looking for hands on experience in the major, specifically for those looking to attend grad school for social work."

**Would your workplace like a Truman intern?**  
Contact [ags@truman.edu](mailto:ags@truman.edu) to let us know about internship opportunities!



## ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ Student Notables ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Lee Anne Flagg, a senior sociology/anthropology major from New Berlin, WI was selected to participate in the Undergraduate Honors Program of the American Sociological Association (ASA) at their annual meeting this past August in Boston. Participants come from sociology departments across the U.S. and around the world, and must be academically exceptional students whose grades and professors attest to their abilities. Honors Program students participate actively in the Annual Meetings of the ASA, develop important networks with their peers across the nation, and have the opportunity to meet with prominent scholars in the discipline. Participation in the Honors Program provides a significant socialization experience early in the careers of the next generation of sociologists.

Lee Ann Flagg, double major in Exercise Science and Sociology/Anthropology, and Kyle Tracy, Geography minor, both received initiation into the Delta of Missouri chapter Phi Beta Kappa this last April. Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest undergraduate academic honor society in the liberal arts and sciences. .

Christen Gates presented "Why the World Needs Anthropologists" at the Undergraduate Research Symposium this past February.

Chelsea Hokanson was honored by receiving the President's Recognition Award this last year. Chelsea was at or above the 95th percentile on her senior exams.

## ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ Global Issue Series ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Annually the university invites global issue series speakers from outside of Truman to stimulate faculty and student conversation and expand our understanding of global issues. The Department of AGS sponsored two global issue speakers this past year: Dr. Robert Hitchcock, Michigan State University, gave a lecture last September entitled "Death by Myth? Climate Change, Politics, and Coping Strategies Among the San of Southern Africa," and in November, Dr. Evelyn Nakano Glenn, from the University of California-Berkeley, delivered a lecture entitled "Yearning for Lightness? The New Global Marketing of Skin Whitening Products."

For each the department hosted a dinner at the University Club to foster conversation among faculty, students and our guests.

## ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ Focus the Nation ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Focus the Nation is a nationwide initiative to promote education and dialogue about global warming problems and solutions. Students in Environmental Studies planned a day of discussion in January. Our department was well represented!

Some topics included:

**Global Concerns of Climate Change:**

*Dr. Wolfgang Hoeschele* "International politics and controversies with Kyoto protocol"

**People-Pressure on the Ecological World:**

*Dr. Robert Graber* "Population Pressure, Cultural Evolution, and Global Warming"

*Dr. Amber Johnson* "Impact of Human Population Growth on Climate Change"

**Non-U.S. Perspectives on Climate Issues:**

*Dr. Wolfgang Hoeschele* "Regional perspectives focused on Asia or India"

**A Changing World:**

*Dr. Elaine McDuff* "Environmental Justices"



## ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ Outstanding Student ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

**Laura Halfmann** was selected as the Outstanding Sociology/Anthropology student this year. In addition to excellent performance in courses, Laura has used several learning opportunities from study abroad to internships to expand her knowledge of sociology. She will be going on to graduate school in Social Work next year. Congratulations Laura!





# Learning Opportunities



## Human Rights and Democracy in South Africa

A Study Abroad and Service Learning Opportunity in Capetown, S.A.

**MAY 14—June 5, 2009!**



We are currently in the approval process for Dr. McDuff's new summer program, which is open to all majors, but would be especially interesting for students in our department. The purpose of this study abroad program is to give students an opportunity to live and work in one of the most beautiful cities in the world, while studying the multiple concerns facing South Africa as it strives to become one of the world's most progressive democracies. The experience will provide 6 credit hours including internship-style service learning that will immerse students in the living history of South Africa, by directly involving them with institutions that are wrestling with the country's troubled past and helping to create a modern, democratic civil society. Three weeks will be spent in

Capetown, South Africa, and during that time students will work for 10 days with a non-governmental agency whose mission is to address issues of social injustice and their continuing impact on formerly disenfranchised South Africans, especially women, children, and workers, and also on the environment. The other days will be spent visiting museums and historical sites and hearing lectures on contemporary political and economic issues in South Africa. Please visit the department website, or contact Dr. Elaine McDuff ([emcduff@truman.edu](mailto:emcduff@truman.edu)), for further details.



**Help us help our current students take advantage of these opportunities!** When you get a call from Tel Alumni Fundraisers—designate all or a part of your donation to the Foundation Account for the Department of Anthropology, Geography, & Sociology OR make a gift through the links available on the After Truman section of our web site.



## The Kindness Ranch, Hartford, WY American Sanctuary For Research Animals

Other pending research and internship opportunities include the three week and semester long rehabilitation programs at the Kindness Ranch, WY, a registered 501 (c)3 organization dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating animals formerly used in research. The ranch consists of nearly 1,000 acres of land, home-style yurts for cats and dogs, barns and paddocks for horses, pigs and other farm animals, plus several yurts for volunteers and visitors. Interns in the program will work hands-on in the rehabilitation efforts at the



ranch—students will be partnered with animals for the duration of their stay to provide socialization. They will also analyze and record the animals' progress toward health and explore the study of animals in society through active discussion and readings led by Dr. Karen Straight, a PhD sociologist who is the Director of Outreach. Student work with the animals will be featured on the Kindness Ranch web page, helping others to understand the important work that is being done at the ranch. Please visit the Kindness Ranch homepage ([www.kindnessranch.org](http://www.kindnessranch.org)), or contact Dr. Amber Johnson ([ajohnson@truman.edu](mailto:ajohnson@truman.edu)) or Dr. Elaine McDuff ([emcduff@truman.edu](mailto:emcduff@truman.edu)) for further information.





## Faculty/Staff Notes

**The AGS faculty and staff as pictured above are:** Deborah Engen, Jonathan Smith, Elaine McDuff, Wolfgang Hoeschele, Julie Flowerday, Ray Barrow, Mike Davis, Bonnie Mitchell, and Amber Johnson.

**Dr. Ray Barrow** continues to teach in the area of sociology—Fall '08: Sociological Inquiry, Sociology of Social Problems and Intergroup Relations.

**Dr. Mike Davis** teaches in the area of anthropology. He is currently on leave from 2008-2009 and plans to retire in December 2009.

**Dr. Julie Flowerday** is new this year, and teaching in the area of anthropology—Fall '08: Anthropological Inquiry and Special Topics in Globalization.

**Dr. Wolfgang Hoeschele** continues to teach in the area of geography—Fall '08: The Geographic Perspective and Environmental Geography.

**Dr. Amber Johnson** serves as Department Chair and teaches in the area of anthropology—Fall '08: Human Fossil Ancestry and Social Methodology.

## Dr. Clark Larsen, Visiting Professor



The Kirksville Chapter of Sigma Xi, the scientific research society, hosted a lecture by Dr. Clark Larsen last April. Dr. Clark Larsen is a distinguished professor of social and behavioral sciences and Chair of the Department of Anthropology at Ohio State University. He is also a research associate at the American Museum of Natural History. He is an internationally known authority on bio-archaeology, the study of human remains from archaeological settings. His research is primarily focused on biocultural adaptation in the last 10,000 years of human evolution, with particular emphasis on the history of health, well being and lifestyle in native and non-native populations in the Western Hemisphere. Pictured is Dr. Larsen visiting with Dr. Johnson regarding her current research within anthropology.



**Dr. Elaine McDuff** teaches in the area of sociology—Fall '08: Sociological Inquiry, Social Stratification, SOAN Internships, and Sociological Theory.

**Dr. Bonnie Mitchell** is new this year, and teaching in the area of sociology—Fall '08: Sociological Inquiry and Special Topics in Race and Ethnicity.

**Dr. Jonathan Smith** continues to teach in the area of geography—Fall '08: The Geographic Perspective, Geography of North America and Geography of Africa.

**Deborah Engen** serves as support for the department.

## Faculty Notables



**Elaine McDuff**, associate professor of sociology, attended the Midwest Sociological Society (MSS) meeting, March 27-29 in St. Louis. Dr. McDuff participated in a panel on "Building the Global Justice Movement in the U.S.: The World Social Forum and the U.S. Social Forum," organized a session on "Women and Religion," and was elected chair of the MSS. From May 12-June 2, 2008 Elaine McDuff traveled to Capetown, South Africa in preparation for creating a new study abroad course.

**Amber Johnson**, associate professor of anthropology, presented a paper titled "Distinguishing Environmental and Density-Dependent Aspects of Adaptation" in a session on "Mid-Holocene Behavioral Strategies in the Americas" at the Society for American Archaeology meetings on March 25-30 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Dr. Johnson also published a chapter titled "A Method for Anticipating Patterns in Archaeological Sequences" in "Archaeology Without Borders: Contact, Commerce, and Change in the U.S. Southwest and Northwestern Mexico," edited by L.D. Webstser & M.E. McBrinn (University Press of Colorado, 2008).

**Wolfgang Hoeschele** published an article titled "Research Agenda for a Green Economics of Abundance" in the International Journal of Green Economics Vol.2, No.1, 2008 in which he outlines the ideas he will discuss in a forthcoming book.

# After Truman...

Alums, email [ags@truman.edu](mailto:ags@truman.edu) and let us know what you have been up to

Some of our alums are better at keeping in touch than others. Here's some of what we know about what you're doing after Truman. We thank them for sharing their news with us and celebrate their successes!

- ◇ **Naomi Chiba** is teaching Japanese Film and Society at University of Southern Maine.
- ◇ **Gary Clubb** is returning to the United States after two years in China; he spent one year in Xi'an teaching English language and American culture and the last year in Beijing attending a language school and teaching English. He is now attending UCSD.
- ◇ **Amanda Day** left corporate America to teach third grade in San Jose, California.
- ◇ **Christina Dixon** is finishing at Charleston School of Law.
- ◇ **Courtney Dowdall and Ryan Klotz** have been doing fieldwork among Mayan communities in highland Guatemala.
- ◇ **Katy Frederick and Corey Hudson** had a daughter, Llewellyn Virginia, in April. Corey also published "Walter Taylor and the history of American archaeology" in the *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* Vol. 27 (2), June 2008.
- ◇ **Jenna Klinghammer** works as a Client Analyst with Emdeon Business Services on a team of 4 client analysts and as a supervisor to manage approx. 125-175 clients (insurance companies, benefits companies, health payers, etc).
- ◇ **Sharon Knobbe** is working with Dr. Westcott in the Master's program at The University of Missouri, Columbia.
- ◇ **Stephen Lewis** has returned from Kenya and is working for Epic Systems Corporation, a private medical software company.
- ◇ **Laura Miller** is working at Save Darfur in Washington, D.C.
- ◇ **Lukin Murphy** has been working at Opportunity Resources Inc., one of the largest non-profit organizations serving people with developmental disabilities in Montana; he is now headed to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan where he will work with the Alpine Fund.
- ◇ **Christina Pomianek** has published with a professor from University of Missouri. Read "Applying Signaling Theory to Traditional Cultural Rituals: The Example of Newfoundland Mummung" in *Human Nature* (2007) 18:295-312.
- ◇ **Harumi Takiguchi** is attending graduate school in Sociology in Japan and trying to finish her Masters thesis by December.
- ◇ **Jessica Vandivort** is working for the Peace Corps in Guatemala.
- ◇ **Nathan Wales** worked at an excavation of a Mousterian (Neandertal) site in the Southern Caucuses and is now at the University of Connecticut taking and TAing classes.

The number one question from the parents of prospective students at the Truman Showcase visit events is always "What can you do with a degree in Sociology/Anthropology?"  
PLEASE HELP US ANSWER THEM!

*What are you doing with your degree in Anthropology, Geography or Sociology?  
How has being a Truman graduate made a difference for you?*

We would really like to hear from you! You can reach us directly by email at [ags@truman.edu](mailto:ags@truman.edu) or update information for the university through the After Truman section of our website at <http://sociology-anthropology.truman.edu/>

## On campus for Homecoming?

The Department of  
Anthropology, Geography & Sociology  
invites you to a reception  
Saturday, October 4th  
10am-noon  
Barnett 2222  
(just across from festivities in Red Barn Park)

**We hope to see you there!**

## Special Thanks to:

Deborah Engen—for keeping track of all we do and getting the newsletter started!

Kathrine Flaate, Samantha Putthoff, and Caroline Crece-lius for help with editing this newsletter!

All department faculty and students who keep the academic mission of the department vibrant through their energy and commitment.