



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Anthropology

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# Participant/Observer

A Newsletter for Friends of the  
Western Michigan University Department of Anthropology

## Anthropology Instrumental in Bringing RACE Exhibit to Kalamazoo

From Oct. 2, 2010 through Jan. 2, 2011, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum hosted the American Anthropological Association (AAA) traveling exhibit, RACE: Are We So Different? The Department of Anthropology was instrumental in bringing this prestigious tour to southwest Michigan and in contributing to community-wide programming on racial issues. The AAA received NSF and Ford Foundation funding to develop the exhibit with the Science Museum of Minnesota, where it opened in January 2007.

The RACE exhibit examines the science of human biological variation, the history of race as an idea, and the lived experience of race in the United States today with the goal of promoting a better-informed national dialogue about race. Three versions of the exhibit are currently touring major cities around the U.S. A web

site accompanying the exhibit can be viewed at [www.understandingrace.org](http://www.understandingrace.org).

The planning to bring the RACE exhibit to Kalamazoo began even before the exhibit had opened, in fall 2006. That semester, faculty member Kristina Wirtz and then-department chair Robert Ulin helped bring WMU and the Kalamazoo Valley Museum together in a partnership to host the RACE exhibit. Once the funding was secured, they began outreach across the university and with dozens of community organizations to collaborate in preparing for the exhibit.

In spring 2009, the WMU Race Initiative Wirtz and Ulin created, involving more than 40 organizations and funded by a generous grant from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, moved to the new Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI). WMU anthropology alumna Zarinah el-Amin Naeem (M.A. Civic and Social Organization, 2008), who has worked with the initiative since its inception in fall 2007, took

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*From left: Elspeth Inglis, Assistant Director for Programs, Kalamazoo Valley Museum; Dr. Yolanda Moses, Chair of AAA RACE Advisory Board and Professor of Anthropology, U-California Riverside; Kristina Wirtz, Associate Professor of Anthropology, WMU; and Donna Odom, President of the Southwest Michigan Black Heritage Society and member of the RACE Initiative Advisory Board.*

and KPS to serve as tour guides for the 5,000 6th through 12th graders KPS sent through the exhibit. Anthropology graduate students Autumn Shroyer, Patrice Niltasuwan, and Quinnetta Channey, who participated in the course, agree that it was a powerful experience that gave them insight into teaching and learning, as well as a deeper understanding of how race works. Students in Wirtz's Language and Identity course also contributed service by interviewing KPS students about what they took away from the RACE exhibit and presenting results to the KPS administration. The department hopes to continue building on these new connections to the largest school district in the area, now that the RACE exhibit has demonstrated anthropology's broad relevance to public education.

During the fall semester, the department also sponsored a RACE speaker series in collaboration with the museum. On opening weekend, Dr. Yolanda Moses (U.C.-Riverside), past president of the AAA and chair of the Race Advisory Board, which produced the exhibit, provided insights into the exhibit's design. Later in October, we hosted Dr. Carol Mukhopadhyay (San José State University), Race Advisory Board member and co-author, with Moses and Rosemary Lenze, of an accompanying book, "How Real is Race?" Also, in early December, Dr. Arlene Torres (CUNY), gave talks on race and Latino immigration.

The department also hosted visiting scholar Dr. Warren Perry, who spoke on his research at the African Burial Ground in Manhattan. And, together with the Walker Institute and the People's Church, the department brought pastor Mark Morris, author of the memoir "Integration Baby."



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over its management as programming director in the ODI. Under her leadership, the Race Initiative further developed its network and supported its university and community partners in presenting a full array of programs: community conversations, guided tours, peer facilitators, film screenings, youth leadership development programs, oral history research about Kalamazoo's 'race story,' guest speakers and much else.

One lasting effect of all this organizing has been new or deeper relationships among community members who met through the Initiative. A post-exhibit reception held in mid-February allowed the Initiative's many partners to develop future collaborations, building on all that hosting the RACE exhibit accomplished. The Initiative's web site ([www.raceexhibit.org](http://www.raceexhibit.org)) serves as a resource for local efforts to collaborate in generating dialogue about issues of race.

Anthropology faculty members Kristina Wirtz, Jackie Eng, Sarah Hill, and department chair LouAnn Wurst worked with the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) and Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) to prepare teachers for the RACE Exhibit.

The department's new service learning course, Anthropology in Community, was offered for the first time in fall 2010. Students in the course worked with KRESA

# Letter from the Chair



It has been a busy year and I would like to update you on some of our activities. The American Anthropological Association's RACE: Are We so Different? exhibit opened in October at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. **Kristina Wirtz** was the driving force behind having the exhibit come to Kalamazoo as well as organizing many of the department's activities supporting it.

In the summer Wirtz organized several workshops for Kalamazoo Public School teachers to get them ready for their students' visit to the exhibit. **Sarah Hill, Jackie Eng,** and I all participated in these workshops. As part of our Race Exhibit Speaker Series, we were fortunate to have Dr. Yolanda Moses (UC Riverside), Dr. Carol Mukhopadhyay (San Jose State University), and Dr. Arlene Torres (Director CUNY Latino Faculty Initiative) visit Kalamazoo and give talks at both the museum and in the department.

Our visiting scholar, Dr. Warren Perry (Central Connecticut State University), continued the race theme with his talks on the African Burial Ground and the archaeology of the African Diaspora.

## **New space on campus**

Last fall we finally took possession of our new department space located on the first floor of Moore Hall where the Writing Center used to be. Our new seminar room was completed at the end of last year. We bought all new tables and chairs, and the room is complete with a media bunker

and a 60-inch flat screen TV. Several of our seminar classes are now using the room.

We have converted an old library seminar room into a student lounge. Now our students will have someplace to read, study, work on group projects, and socialize with other majors. We have also established a teaching lab equipped with two computers so that our courses can focus on hands-on exercises. I currently am teaching an archaeological research methods course in this room and the tables are covered with archaeological material from my project in the Finger Lakes. Another room has been dedicated for a media lab, complete with three Macs installed with video and audio editing and transcription software. By next year we hope to have several of the new rooms completely renovated for archaeology labs. We are working hard to ensure that our students have the best facilities for their classes and research that we can.

I hope that alumni and friends of the Department of Anthropology will continue their interest in and support for our programs and will use this newsletter to keep in touch with faculty and fellow alumni. Please update us on your achievements and activities by sending a letter or email to [louann.wurst@wmich.edu](mailto:louann.wurst@wmich.edu).

# Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project: 2010 Field Season Summary

Initially established in 1998, the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, in conjunction with Western Michigan University's archaeological Field School, seeks to engage the public in the investigation and interpretation of sites associated with the colonial fur trade in the St. Joseph river valley of southwest Michigan. Led by principal investigator **Dr. Michael Nassaney**, the project this past July and August continued excavations of intact cultural features and artifact deposits associated with Fort St. Joseph, an eighteenth-century mission, garrison,

and trading post complex located along the banks of the St. Joseph River in Niles, Michigan.

In each subsequent field season, the project seeks to expand upon the project's research directives and public archaeology components. In keeping with that goal, a team of thirty WMU faculty members, graduate and undergraduate students, and volunteers continued a program of public outreach and community service learning.



*Nathaniel Easlick and Katy Grant work to remove some of the wood from a vertical post. The posts were the first direct evidence of structures at the fort site.*

## Field School

The 35th annual Archaeological Field School, hosted by Western Michigan University, focused its efforts on examining how the French constructed and arranged their buildings at the Fort site. In previous excavations, a number of fireplaces were identified whose locations run parallel the river, indicating evidence of perhaps a row-house or series of domestic

buildings at the fort. In addition, the project examines, through the extant material culture, how colonialism and cultural contact between the Natives and French at the site contributed to distinct patterns of identity formation and ethnogenesis on the frontier of New France.

## Excavations

This year, six 1x2 meter excavation units, were dug adjacent to previously identified features. Three new features were identified during the six weeks of excavation at the site—including a stone foundation and upright posts—shedding light on how structures at the fort may have been constructed. A number of notable artifacts were found including a metal cache containing several iron, hand-wrought nails and screws, a butt plate, a trigger guard, an iron axe head, and several other unidentified pieces of iron hardware. This hoard may be associated with the gunsmith's cache located less than 10 meters to the northeast, or



*Cezar Carvalhaes carefully excavates around an iron ax head, part of feature 19 which was identified as a metal cache possibly associated with the site's blacksmith.*

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may be evidence of a specific accumulation of material waiting to be fixed or refurbished. This area also yielded a plethora of trade beads, unfired musket balls, lead shot, and other marketable trade items, suggesting the presence of a storeroom nearby.

## Outreach

Public archaeology at the site revolves around community service learning and education and outreach events to reinforce the project's commitment to community engagement. Three weeklong summer camps were held in association with the local Fort St. Joseph Museum. A total of 26 people, including adults and middle-school students, learned how to excavate properly, take field notes, and identify artifacts in addition to gaining an appreciation for the importance of archaeological materials in the interpretation and reconstruction of history and culture.

## Lecture Series

This year, the project also hosted a four-part lecture series in which visiting scholars gave presentations pertaining to this year's theme, Women of New France. The theme was the focus of the open-house event, which concludes the field season. During the open house, community members attended lectures, witnessed and participated in demonstrations by historical re-enactors, perused an outdoor museum featuring artifact displays of notable finds from the field season, and interacted with the field-school students involved in ongoing excavation.

## 2011 Open House

Since 2006, nearly 10,000 people have attended the archaeological open houses. Events, from the summer camps to the open house, assist the project in better serving the needs and desires of the local community, while helping bring the history and culture of Fort St. Joseph to life. The open house theme in 2011 will be the fur trade and Fort St. Joseph's role in it.



Visitors gather around a unit for a view of the ongoing archaeology immediately prior to the annual open house. Among those gathered are WMU president John Dunn, the Niles city commissioner, project benefactor Nancy Butler, and other WMU administrators. Paul Schwartz is the student archaeologist.

**The 2011 open house  
will be held Aug. 13-14.**

## Fort St. Joseph Wins International Contest for Archeological Outreach

Western Michigan University's project at Fort St. Joseph won the first ever Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) Excavation Outreach Contest. The Excavation Outreach Contest was an effort by the Institute to uncover projects with exemplary outreach programs and to recognize the outstanding efforts of their participants. Determined through online voting, Fort St. Joseph beat out stiff competition from programs in Belize, Florida, Italy, South Carolina, and Spain.

# Finger Lakes Field Work and Outreach

From June 10-29, 2010, students from Western Michigan University, under the direction of Dr. LouAnn Wurst, conducted archaeological fieldwork in the Finger Lakes region of central New York. The crew was primarily comprised of Western Michigan undergraduate and graduate students: Adrienne Neubert, David Lang, Jayne Godfrey, Dustin Conklin, Emily Powell, Mark Hoock, and Patrick Neumann. The overarching goal of the season was public education and outreach; however, in the process, we collected a great deal of data that will play an important role in our interpretations of rural life in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

This work was part of the Finger Lakes National Forest Farmstead Archaeology Project, which has been investigating farms on the Hector Backbone, the high ridge separating Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. Since 2000, the project has investigated 15 farms, representing 18 domestic sites, as well as a school house. Archaeological research at these farms has yielded over 150,000 artifacts.

The Backbone was initially settled in the early 19th century. The first half of the century repre-

sents a period of economic boom for the region. During the latter half of the 19th century the area experienced rapid depopulation and economic decline to the extent that by the early 20th century the Backbone community became targeted by federal land management programs. Beginning in the 1930s, the individual farms were purchased by the federal government as part of the Resettlement Administration's Submarginal Farms Program, designed to save farmers stranded on unproductive farm land. However, archaeological data from all of the farms has challenged this common historical narrative for this region.

The 2010 field season focused on the R. Henry and A.C. Wickham farms. Both of these farms were established in the mid-19th century and abandoned shortly after the turn of the century. Data from these farms was collected with the aid of local community members and Girl Scout troops from across New York.

The public education portion of the project was geared towards raising awareness of archaeology as a discipline by inviting community members to help us with our excavations and

*Archaeological research at these farms has yielded over 150,000 artifacts.*

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Left, the 2010 crew.

become active partners in generating archaeological knowledge.

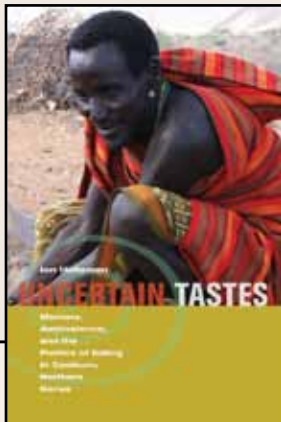
Over the span of three weeks, over 150 Girl Scouts and a handful of individuals from the Hector area aided us in our data collection and artifact processing. To prepare the Girl Scouts for this experience, we designed a series of hands-on exercises to introduce them to the kinds of artifacts we would be finding, general dating techniques, ideas of spatial and temporal patterning, as well as providing a framework for

interpreting archaeological materials. After being exposed to this background, they had the opportunity to participate in the excavations and record keeping tasks. Most of these groups worked with us for a period of two days. (They also complained and saved worm lives; one girl wore an awesome hat. Some of the Scout Leaders thought that we were cheap babysitters. Oh, and we received 0 cookies.) We all agreed that this was an amazingly rewarding and exhausting experience.

All in all, the Girl Scouts helped us to collect an extensive amount of archaeological data. We spent the last year identifying and cataloguing the over 13,000 artifacts that we recovered. We have not finished the analysis of this collection, but these materials will play an important role in our interpretations of the everyday life and socioeconomic transformations that the farm families on the Hector Backbone experienced.



# Faculty News



## Holtzman's "Uncertain Tastes" Receives Award in Africanist Anthropology

Dr. Jon Holtzman's book, "Uncertain Tastes: Memory, Ambivalence and the Politics of Eating in Samburu, Northern Kenya" (2009 University of California Press) has received an Honorable Mention for the Elliot P. Skinner Book Award from the Association of Africanist Anthropology. This richly drawn ethnography of Samburu cattle herders in northern Kenya examines the effects of an epochal shift in their basic diet—from a regimen of milk, meat, and blood to one of purchased agricultural products. In his innovative analysis, Jon Holtzman uses food as a way to contextualize and measure the profound changes occurring in Samburu social and material life. The book has received international attention, leading to Holtzman's being invited to serve as keynote speaker at a conference on food and culture at Goldsmith's College (University of London) and to a workshop focused on his work at the University of Amsterdam.

## Spielvogel Wins Educational Fellowship, College Teaching Award

Professor **Laura Spielvogel** is one of 25 recipients of a competitive fellowship to develop educational products for the Kauffman Education Ventures program. Spielvogel, associate professor of anthropology, was selected for the program from a pool of more than 1,400 applicants.

She is part of a three-person team charged with developing two interactive "social e-textbooks," one covering cultural anthropology and the other on the Civil War and Reconstruction. From mid-February through May, fellows in the Kauffman Education Ventures program were immersed in an intensive, residential, hands-on fellowship designed to catalyze the creation of educational companies with the potential to change the face of education and generate thousands of jobs and dramatic economic benefits.

In addition, Professor Spielvogel is a 2011 recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Achievement Award for her excellence in teaching at Western Michigan University.

## Zagarell Elected President of AAUP

Congratulations to Professor **Allen Zagarell** on his election as President of the Western Michigan University chapter of the American Association of University Professors! Professor Zagarell — an archeologist with specializations in south and central Asia — has long been deeply concerned and active in issues concerning social justice, alongside his dynamic teaching and recognized scholarship.

From his working-class roots to his outstanding research that has led to such accolades as a Fulbright Award, Allen Zagarell has maintained a central concern with the rights and well being of the common person. His involvement in labor issues dates back decades to his days as an electrician in New York City, and he has for many years served Western Michigan University's faculty in various capacities in the AAUP, ranging from Department Representative to Contract Negotiator to Vice President.

The Department of Anthropology applauds the recognition given to him by his peers by selecting him as AAUP President.

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# Faculty News



*Bilinda Straight*

## Straight Named Emerging Faculty Scholar

Congratulations to Associate Professor **Bilinda Straight** for receiving Western Michigan University's Emerging Faculty Scholar Award. The Emerging Scholar Award program was launched late in 2006 to acknowledge the accomplishments of WMU faculty members who are among the rising stars in U.S. higher education.

The awards are designed to celebrate the contributions of faculty who are in the first decade of their careers at WMU and who, by virtue of their contributions to scholarship or creative activity, have achieved national recognition and demonstrated outstanding promise to achieve renown in their continuing work.

Straight joined the WMU faculty in 2000, and her work over the past 15 years, especially since her arrival, has centered on her ethnographic field research in Kenya and attracted international professional recognition. A prolific writer, her work has appeared in the top journals in the field of anthropology, and her book, "Miracles and Extraordinary Experience in Northern Kenya," has received high praise.

## Eng Receives Professional Development Grant from National Association

Dr. Jackie Eng has recently been awarded the American Association of Physical Anthropologists Professionalism Development Grant. This grant, aimed at promising scholars early in their careers, will fund Professor Eng's research in Mongolia over the coming year. To that end, the AAPA offers up to six Professional Development Grants annually, each in the amount of \$5,000 to qualified recipients.

- Applicants must have completed the Ph.D. or equivalent terminal degree in physical anthropology or an allied discipline.
- Applicants must be conducting research that is within the disciplinary boundaries of physical anthropology.
- Applicants must be non-tenured but employed in a capacity involving the applied or academic use of physical anthropology.
- Applicants must have been in their current position no more than six years at time of application.



*Jackie Eng working in the Anthropology and Archaeology lab at the National University of Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar.*

# Anemone's "Fossil Goldmine" Featured in USA Today

Professor **Robert Anemone** and his research team, comprised of both WMU graduate students and international scholars, have made a series of striking fossil discoveries in primate evolution that have received wide-reaching attention both among physical anthropologists and the popular press. Working in Wyoming since 1994, in 2009 they hit what USA Today termed a "fossil goldmine," which yielded over 4000 fossils from the Eocene Epoch (approximately 55 million years ago), including about 500 jaws, prized by paleontologists for the teeth that are particularly revealing of the lives of ancient species.

Anemone's team has included **Connor Hagen** (B.A. '10), WMU geographer Jay Emerson, Australian geologist Ron Watkins, Carnegie Museum of Natural History paleontologist Chris Beard, and grad students from Southern Illinois University and the University of Texas. WMU graduate students participating in the most recent field seasons include **Victoria Kersbergen** and **Timothy Held**. The richest area of fossil discovery, and the one featured in USA Today, is named "Tim's Confession" after Held, who discovered the site.

Work continued in 2010 at Tim's Confession, which Anemone has characterized as the richest fossil site in the Great Divide Basin, and possibly the richest site in North America from the Eocene Epoch. The mammal jaws, teeth and postcranial bones were recovered from this extraordinary site using a combination of surface collecting while crawling on hands and knees, and by dry-screening of material collected from loose sandstone deposits. This painstaking but rewarding work has yielded fossils that lab analysis suggests will lead to the naming of at least three new fossil taxa, including a new species of rodent and two new species of primates.

Professor Anemone welcomes interested students to visit the vertebrate paleontology lab in 1040 Moore Hall at any time, to observe or join in this exciting research.

Read the full story here:  
[www.usatoday.com/  
tech/science/columnist/  
vergano/2010-04-16-Wyoming-fossils\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/tech/science/columnist/vergano/2010-04-16-Wyoming-fossils_N.htm)



1. Screen-washing loose sandstone deposits at Tim's Confession.
2. Chris Beard (Carnegie Museum) and Brett Nachman (University of Texas) collecting fossils from the base of a sandstone cliff at Burley Draw.
3. Sandstone cliffs at Burley Draw represent fluvial deposits laid down by a river during the early Eocene, 50 million years ago.

# Hill Article Receives Top 10 Award

Dr. Sarah Hill's article "The War for Drugs: How Juárez became the world's deadliest city," published in the July/August issue of the Boston Review, was selected as one of the Top 10 nonfiction articles by longform.org. In gaining this recognition Professor Hill beat out such recognized journalists and fiction writers as Zadie Smith, Errol Morris and Mark Bowden. Hill's article paints a vivid and compelling portrait of life in a city strained between industrial globalization and the global "war on drugs," as the economic model that investors celebrated helped Juárez to become the illegal narcotics capital of the Western Hemisphere.



Sarah Hill

"...I moved away from the border in 1999 but returned to visit in 2001. I caught up with two friends, also academics, who had been raised in the city's toughest neighborhoods. We met at a cute bar on the corner of Avenida de las Americas and Avenida Lincoln. It was the kind of place then multiplying around town: refrigerated air, an impressive sound system, and swanky drinks. It shared a parking lot with a California-style sushi bar that in 1997 had been the site of the dinnertime execution of a businessman with suspected drug ties.

"We talked about cholos. 'Today's cholo is different,' one of my friends remarked. 'Yesterday's cholo used to compete with merely his attitude, his fashion, and his posture. If the cholos really needed to fight, they fought with what they had available: rocks, stones. And then they got knives. But now some of them have guns.' Today, 'some' would be 'nearly all,' but as recently as 2001, guns were rare.

"That summer I took pictures of a sixteen-year-old boy. He sported a bandana and an oversized tee shirt depicting the Virgin of Guadalupe and his initials in Gothic letters. He smiled so sweetly and eagerly that he hardly looked tough in his portrait. He and his mother beamed when I brought them copies. She surprised me with the pride she took in her son's apparent cholo ambitions. I had never met such a parent....

"...In any case, the violence escalates. There were many milestones along the way: 1993, the year that femicide was first recorded, the year when Amado Carrillo Fuentes reportedly assumed sole leadership of the Juárez Cartel; 1997, the escalation of violence after his death; 2000, when, with considerable fanfare, the FBI announced its mission to Juárez to locate the rumored remains of as many as a hundred victims buried in narcofosas, 'drug graves' (only four bodies were found). Also crucial was 2004. That year, the United States lifted its ban on assault weapons, making it that much easier for traffickers to obtain their arms of choice. There are 6,600 gun shops in the four U.S. border states. Of the 11,000 guns turned over to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) by Mexican forces in 2009, almost 90 percent were traced to U.S. gun shops."



See the story at  
[bostonreview.net/BR35.4/hill.php](https://www.bostonreview.net/BR35.4/hill.php)



# Student News

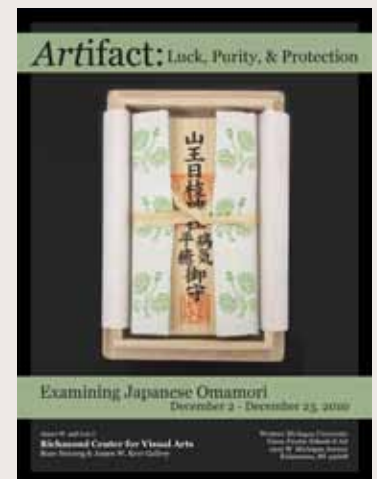
- Congratulations to **Ian Kerr**, who won the Graduate Student Paper Competition at this year's Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference. Western Michigan University was represented by eight student presenters, more than any other institution.
- Six students also presented papers at the Annual Meeting of the Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology in Austin, Tex.
- Several Western Michigan University M.A. graduates continue to make excellent progress in leading doctoral programs across the nation. In January **Adam Bubb** defended his doctoral dissertation at the University of New Mexico. **Boone Shear** (University of Massachusetts) has passed his qualifying exams, as well as published a recent article on green economies. **Brian Jaquinto** (University of Northern Arizona) is making good progress on his thesis, as well as doing work in contract archeology with the Bureau of Land Management.
- We have also heard many good things from many of our recent B.A. graduates. **Chris Sweetapple**, who completed his B.A. in anthropology at Western has completed his Ph.D. qualifying exams at the University of Massachusetts. **Sarah Johnson** is putting her anthropological international expertise to good work in International Admissions in Western's Haenicke Institute for Global Education. **Kourtney Collum** is at the University of Maine where she has received full funding to pursue a graduate degree in Parks, Recreation and Tourism. Paul Livingston, after a two-year stint working with the Peace Corps on AIDS education in Zambia was recently begun a master's program in Global Public Health at Emory University.

**Congratulations to our students! Keep us updated on your good work!**

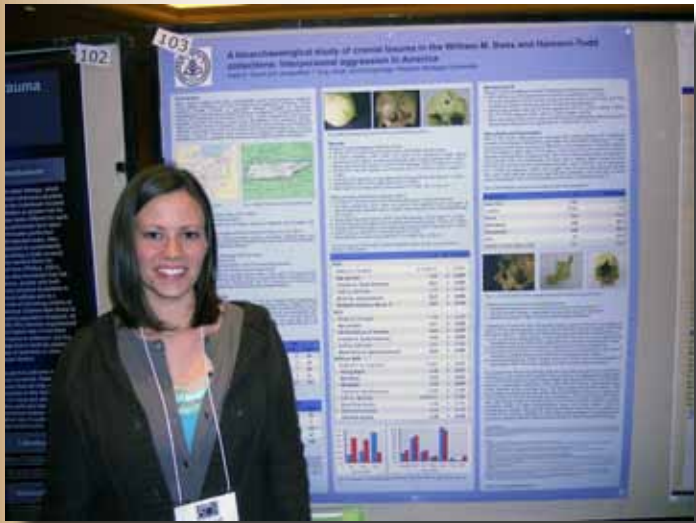
## Anthropology Senior Co-Curates Exhibition of Contemporary Japanese Religious Objects

**Eric Mendes**, a senior in the Department of Anthropology, co-curated a collection of hundreds of Japanese religious objects in an exhibition, "Artifact: Luck, Purity and Protection," held at the Richmond Center for Visual Arts in December 2010. Along with art history major Morgan Medor, Eric personally collected the pieces in travels throughout Japan sponsored by Western Michigan University. The exhibition focused on omamori, talismans – often beautiful, often surprising and even funny – meant to protect or benefit their possessor. These objects are most often sold or given to visitors of Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples and are made of a variety of materials, whether painted pieces of wood, woven pouches, or plastic miniatures. Omamori today take on a surprising array of culturally popular forms, from shrine-maiden Hello Kitty to golden genitalia.

Imbued with elements of religion and culture, omamori have also developed an aesthetic significance that has evolved throughout Japanese history. The production of omamori poses further questions about maintaining that which is sanctified, meaningful and personalized, in an age of mass production. ARTifact beautifully illustrated an understudied subject with historical and visual complexity.



# Student News



## Senior Sweeps Awards

Graduating senior Katy Grant swept an unprecedented number of awards at both the university and departmental level. Along with the Presidential Scholar Award (above), Western Michigan University's highest undergraduate academic honor, Katy received a Maher Travel Award, a College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Award and the Elizabeth M. Garrett Scholarship for Women in Science.

Katy will be continuing her outstanding academic career by pursuing an M.A. in Bioarcheology at the University of Southern Mississippi, where she has received a full scholarship.

## Two Presidential Scholar Awards in Anthropology

Congratulations to graduating Anthropology majors Katy Grant and Brittany Tovar, who each received the Presidential Scholar Award, the most prestigious honor an undergraduate student can be awarded at Western Michigan University. Each year, faculty members from across the University select the most outstanding senior in their various academic schools, departments and programs to represent their units as a WMU Presidential Scholar.



*Katy Grant (left) and Brittany Tovar, WMU Presidential Scholar Award recipients*

The fact that two Anthropology majors were honored with this award speaks to the outstanding quality of our majors. The two received their awards during the 31st annual Presidential Scholars Convocation on March 24. Recipients were awarded certificates by Dr. John M. Dunn, President of WMU.

Congratulations Katy and Brittany!



### First Awards Given in William M. Cremin Scholarship in Archaeology

Bryan Bommersbach (above left, with William Cremin) and Gregory Savage were recipients of the first William M. Cremin Scholarship in Archeology. This scholarship was created in 2010 to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the WMU archaeological field school and to honor Professor Emeritus Bill Cremin who co-founded the field school in 1976.

The scholarship, in the amount of \$500 each, aims to assist outstanding students in archeology by defraying the costs associated with attending the archaeological field school. Cremin attended the awards ceremony to witness the first scholarships presented in his honor.

# Student News

## New Student Award Honors Emeriti Alan Jacobs



Alan H. Jacobs

The Department of Anthropology has introduced the Alan H. Jacobs Memorial Award, in honor of Professor Alan Jacobs who passed away in September 2010. The award aims to honor and continue Alan Jacob's legacy of commitment to international education of students by recognizing and enhancing innovative international experiences among anthropology students.

Dr. Jacobs was a faculty member in the department for 22 years, serving as chair from 1974-1978. A scholar who produced important scholarly works on the Maasai, he did research in Kenya, Somalia, and Tanzania. Dr. Jacobs was a supportive colleague and passionate teacher dedicated to educating students at Western Michigan University through exposing them to the benefits of a global perspective and international experiences Both undergraduate and graduate students will be eligible to apply for this new award.

Donations towards the award may be directed to the Alan H. Jacobs Memorial Fund in the Department of Anthropology.

## Two Named First-ever Jacobs Award Winners

Paige Edwards (bottom right) and Samantha Liningner (with Lynn Jacobs) were announced as the first-ever recipients of the Alan Jacobs Award for International Study.

Edwards will use the grant award of \$500 to assist in field research in Japan for her project "The Emotional Journey of Local Food Movements," in which she will be doing a comparative study of local food movements in Kalamazoo and Japan.

Linningner's award will help her travel to Peru in order to attend a bioarchaeological field school at Marcajirca, a prehistoric funerary site dated to approximately 1040-1640 A.D.



## 2010 Distinguished Alumni



Dr. Marvin Keller (M.A. '75) received the 2010 Anthropology Department Distinguished Alumni Award.

Keller graduated from University of Illinois at Chicago Circle in 1972, and received his Master's Degree in Anthropology from Western Michigan University in 1975. Since graduating from Western he has been active in archaeology and cultural resource management in both the private and public sectors. Keller began his career with a private environmental consulting firm in New York and worked in the northeastern and western United States, as well as in the Caribbean. Drawn to northern plains archaeology, he left the private sector and in 1987 joined the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

He ultimately served 23 years as the regional archaeologist in the BIA Rocky Mountain Region, where he was responsible for historic preservation on seven reservations in Montana and Wyoming, and worked closely with tribes to protect their cultural resources. During this time he was active in the Montana Archaeological Society and contributed articles and papers on regional issues. He also developed an archaeological training program for tribal members. In 2010, Keller accepted the position of federal preservation officer/NEPA coordinator for the BIA in Washington, D.C., and is now responsible for coordinating the BIA's national program.

# Keep in touch with your Anthro family

We are anxious to keep your current address on our mailing list and, therefore, ask for your cooperation in advising us if you move. Also, if you know of other alumni who do not receive this newsletter, please send their names and addresses, we would like to add them to our file.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_ Minor \_\_\_\_\_

Degree(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Current Employment \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Interests \_\_\_\_\_

What have you been up to? \_\_\_\_\_

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