

NEWS OF THE YEAR 2014

UNM archeologist Prof. Bruce Huckell, students and the U.S. National Park Service work together at Chiricahua National Monument.

December 22, 2014

A team of archeology students from the University of New Mexico is looking for the story beneath their feet at the Chiricahua and Ft. Bowie National Monuments, and the Coronado National Memorial. All three are owned and managed by the National Park Service.

<http://news.unm.edu/news/reading-the-history-of-the-chiricahua-apaches-in-what-they-left-behind>

Congratulations to William Taylor for winning the 2014 Open Zooarchaeology Prize competition:

December 2, 2014

In his dissertation, William aims to clarify the role of the horse in the spread of mobile pastoralism into the Eastern Steppe. Using 3D scanning and study of modern horses, his project has developed new methods for the identification of horse riding and chariotry in the archaeological record. In his entry for the Open Zooarchaeology competition, William produced age and sex estimates for a sample of ancient horses from Mongolia's late Bronze Age Deer Stone-Khirigsuur (DSK) culture (1300-700 BCE), and studied them for evidence of transport-related changes to skull. His results reveal ancient herd management practices, and point to the selection of adult male horses for use in transport and ritual. William's work has been supported by the American Center for Mongolian Studies, the Frison Institute Patrick Mullen Award in Archaeological Science, the Society for Archaeological Sciences R.E. Taylor Award, and the ICAZ Stine Rossel Prize.

Congratulations to ethnology PhD student Blaire Topash Caldwell

December 2, 2014

Congratulations to ethnology PhD student Blaire Topash Caldwell on her successful proposal for outside funding of her research project, "Anishinaabe Artisanry and Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Intersections of National Resource Management Policy and the Emerald Ash Borer in the Great Lakes." Blaire is the 2015 Indigenous Ethnobiologist Fellow of the Society for Ethnobiology. Check back later on the Society's website for more details about the project.

<http://ethnobiology.org/news>

She says, "my research examines Anishinaabe traditional black ash tree basketry in tribal communities in the Great Lakes area. Specifically, I analyze the ways in which basketry and related activities inform and intersect with tribally-based natural resource management initiatives to combat the spread of an invasive species: the Emerald Ash Borer. I focus on the roles traditional knowledge systems play in natural resource management initiatives, as well as the relationship between Indigenous ecological strategies and larger state and federal natural resource management policy."

National Geographic Young Explorers Grant:

November 20, 2014

Cyler Conrad, graduate student in Archaeology, has just been awarded a National Geographic Young Explorers Grant for his project, "A Biogeographic and Isotopic Investigation of Modern and Ancient Mollusks on the Thai-Malay Peninsula." Cyler's National Geographic project aims to survey freshwater molluscan populations in Krabi Province, southern Thailand, in order to better understand species biogeography and abundance. This research project also includes an isotopic

analysis of the freshwater gastropod *Neoradina prasongi* recovered from archaeological deposits at Khao Toh Chong Rockshelter, Krabi. By establishing a modern molluscan ecological framework, and paleoclimatic record based on oxygen isotopes, our team hopes to gain further inference into prehistoric hunter-gatherer mobility and subsistence strategies during the late Pleistocene and Holocene. This internationally collaborative team includes, Cholawit Thongcharoenchaikit (National Science Museum, Thailand), Sakboworn Tumpeesuwan (Mahasarakham Univ., Thailand), Hannah Van Vlack (Office of Contract Archaeology, Albuquerque), Somchai Bussarawit (National Science Museum, Thailand), Rasmi Shoocongdej (Silpakorn Univ., Thailand), Ben Marwick (Univ. of Washington, Seattle) and Emily Jones (Univ. of New Mexico, Albuquerque).

The Department of Anthropology is pleased to announce the winners of the Ruth Kennedy and Frieda Butler Awards:

November 14, 2014

Ruth Kennedy Award: Jen Cardinal (Ethnology)

Jennifer's dissertation research considers community development in the context of the shifting social and physical landscape of the southern Jalisco coast, and investigates the ways lifestyle migrants are emplacing themselves in the coastal Mexican community of La Manzanilla.

Frieda Butler Award: Caitlin Davis (Ethnology)

Anthropology Colloquium Series Presents:

Are You My Mother?: Maya – Olmec Relations in the Belize Sub-region of the Eastern Lowlands.

4pm, Thursday December 4, UNM Hibben Center rm. 105

Reception to follow

Ever since the "Cultura Madre" concept was proposed in the 1940's, there has been an ongoing debate between "Olmecistas" and Mayanists about the origins of lowland Maya civilization. This situation is exemplified by a recent observation that, "Classic Maya society was not an anomalous, mysterious cult invented in the jungles of northern Guatemala 1,800 years ago. Rather, it was the outcome of a long historical evolutionary process stretching back to the mid-second millennium B.C. and to the Gulf lowland Olmec heartland." Unfortunately, this statement by Hector Neff, like many other previous assumptions on Maya – Olmec relations, have rarely ever been based on a comprehensive comparative analyses of Preclassic artifactual materials and symbols from the Gulf Coast and the Maya lowlands. They also generally focus on singular cultural characteristics and ignore the rich and diverse archaeological data that have been recovered in Belize and the Peten. By comparing Preclassic cultural remains from Belize with coeval data from the Olmec heartland, this paper provides a far more comprehensive picture of lowland Maya - Olmec relationship than previously presented.

Fall 2014 Travel Awards

November 5, 2014

The Department of Anthropology is pleased to announce the winners of our Fall 2014 Travel Awards. These awards are granted to students for conference participation, and one award is given per subfield each semester. The recipients for Fall 2014 are:

Archaeology: James Davenport

Ethnology: Marnie Watson

Evolutionary Anthropology: Cory Ragsdale

Anthropology professor honored for a long life digging in Spain

October 27, 2014

Lawrence Straus works with students to unravel a prehistoric story

<http://news.unm.edu/news/anthropology-professor-honored-for-a-long-life-digging-in-spain>

Future plans for Kwakwa'kawakw totem pole

October 23, 2014 at Hibben Center 104

Please join us for a presentation and open dialogue regarding the Maxwell Museum's conservation/move project of the famous Kwakwa'kawakw totem pole currently residing in the Museum's courtyard.

Facilitated by:

Beverly Singer (Director, Alfonso Ortiz Center for Intercultural Studies, and Associate Professor of Anthropology & Native American Studies UNM)

Devorah Romanek (Curator of Exhibits, Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, UNM)

Ellen Carrlee (Conservator for the State of Alaska)

India Real Young (PhD candidate Art History, UNM)

The 4,000 pound 40 foot totem pole, carved in 1910 by the prominent Kwakwa'kawakw carver Charlie James, was acquired by UNM anthropologist Frank Hibben in 1941. The totem pole has been the subject of ongoing research by India Real, who has been working in Alert Bay, in collaboration with community members and descendants of the Charlie James. The Maxwell Museum, in partnership with the UNM Ortiz Center and the Alert Bay community is undertaking conservation and possible move of the pole from the courtyard to the Hibben Center.

Archaeology doctoral candidate Jillian Jordan was awarded Wenner Gren Foundation grant

October 15, 2014

Archaeology doctoral candidate Jillian Jordan was awarded \$19,970 by the Wenner Gren Foundation to support her dissertation research in Belize identifying communities of practice and interaction networks for ceramic production. Her study, titled "Investigating Intracommunity Interaction at the Ancient Maya Sites of Baking Pot and Uxbenka" will be conducted as part of the Uxbenka Archaeological Project. The Wenner-Gren Foundation supports significant and innovative anthropological research and fosters the international community of research scholars in anthropology. <http://www.wennergren.org/>.

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Erin Hudson and Caroline Gabe awarded Research Grants in Historic Preservation from the SRI Foundation

June 16, 2014

Erin's dissertation "The Past in the Present: Federal Determinations of Cultural Affiliation and Implications for the Practice of Archaeology", examines how different federal agencies in two geographic areas go through the process of determining cultural affiliation, as required by NAGPRA. The goals of her research are to identify the processes and lines of evidence used by federal agencies to determine cultural affiliation, to examine variability in the processes and investigate why variability occurs, to generate recommendations for successfully completing determinations, and to understand how these determination have impacted or continue to impact the practice of archaeology.

Dr. Patricia Crown Elected to National Academy of Sciences

April 30, 2014

Distinguished Professor Patricia Crown was one of three archaeologists elected to the National Academy of Sciences at its 2014 annual meeting in Washington, DC. Crown has been a member of the Department of Anthropology at UNM since 1993; she previously held faculty appointments at Arizona State and Southern Methodist Universities. Her expertise is in the prehistory of the American Southwest where she is an authority on ceramic production and exchange, and recently conducted research that identified cacao (chocolate) residues on ceramic pots recovered from Pueblo Bonito in Chaco Canyon. Crown's research encompasses considerations of gender, ideology, and learning frameworks within the context of the emergence of prehistoric communities across the Southwest. She has received numerous awards for her teaching, research, and scholarship from UNM, the American Anthropological Association and the Society for American Archaeology. Congratulations to Dr. Crown for advancing our understanding of Southwestern archaeology.

William Taylor Awarded Archaeology Research Development Grant

April 30, 2014

Taylor's research involves using 3D laser scanning technology to develop new techniques for the archaeological identification of horseback riding. The Research Development Grant will fund the study of horse remains from the late Bronze Age Deer Stone-Khirigsuur culture, the archaeological term for a group of associated megaliths and stone burials which were built on the Mongolian Steppe, circa 1300-700 BCE. At many of these sites, horses were ritually sacrificed, and their heads buried in small mounds around the monument's perimeter. Applying 3D craniometric techniques to skulls excavated from these features will allow me to test the hypothesis that these Deer Stone-Khirigsuur horses were being ridden, or used to pull chariots. These ancient horses hold important clues about the spread of horse transport to East Asia, and the role of the horse in prehistoric societies.

Chris Merriman Awarded Fred Plog Memorial Fellowship

April 23, 2014

Archaeology graduate student Chris Merriman has just been awarded the Society for American Archaeology's Fred Plog Memorial Fellowship for dissertation work in the American Southwest. The fellowship will support his research on Paleoindian responses to climate change during the Pleistocene-Holocene transition in the Northern Jornada del Muerto Basin of central New Mexico. He will receive his award at the 79th Annual Meeting of the SAA in Austin.

UNM Archaeology at the SAA Meetings in Austin

April 23-27, 2014

UNM will be well-represented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology. More than 45 faculty members, students, and recent students in Archaeology as well as Evolutionary Anthropology and Ethnology will present papers or posters, and participate in panels and workshops at the largest conference of archaeologists in the US. Topics range from new imagining and analytical technologies such as LiDAR, geographic information systems and geophysical remote sensing, to the interaction of prehistoric groups with climatic and environmental changes, and the role of individuals and groups in creating and sustaining communities and societies across a range of regions including the American Southwest and Western North America, western Europe, east Asia, central America and Mexico.

Meng Zhang Receives Graduate Student Award from Chinese Government

Second year archaeology PhD student Meng Zhang will be awarded the prestigious "Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-Financed Students Abroad". He will receive the award at a ceremony at the Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles, on June 1, by the Consul for Education. The award recognizes the academic excellence of self-financed Chinese students studying overseas and is granted across all fields of study.

Advances in Biodemography

Dr. Hillard Kaplan, Professor of Anthropology member of the NRC Committee on Population along with two UNM doctorates, Dr. Jonathan Stieglitz, Research Assistant Professor, Anthropology and Dr. Paul Hooper Omidyar Post Doctoral Fellow, Santa Fe Institute are participating in a workshop in April sponsored by the National Institute on Aging and the National Academy of Sciences, "Advances in Biodemography: Cross-Species Comparisons of Social Environments, Social Behaviors, and their Effects on Health and Longevity". Their papers are entitled, "Work to Live and Live to Work: Productivity and Psychological Well-being in Adulthood and Old Age" and "Social Underpinnings of Human Biodemography".

Dixon ventures to the top of the world in search of artifacts

April 03, 2014

UNM Anthropologist and Director of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology James Dixon recovers thousands of year old artifacts from the mud and water of melting glaciers. "Ancient ice is melting for the first time and dating the artifacts allows us to determine the age of the melting," Dixon said. "This research brings home the reality of global warming. All of the ancient ice has disappeared from several of the ice patches I surveyed a decade ago."

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Awardee!

Jacqueline Kocer is a new recipient of a three-year National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship that will allow her to examine the archaeology of Gallina (A.D. 1050-1300), a prehistoric group occupying the highlands northeast of Chaco Canyon.

LAll Ph.D. Fellowships for 2014-2015

Congratulations to Corey Ragsdale, Lisa Fontes, and Lara Gunderson, who have been awarded LAll Ph.D. Fellowships for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Fulbright Scholar grant awarded to Ronda Brulotte

March 11, 2014

Ronda Brulotte, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to do research in Oaxaca, Mexico during the 2014-2015 academic year, the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board announced recently. Brulotte will be completing field research for a new book, Oaxacan Mezcal and the Making of a Global Indigenous Commodity.

Help trumps research during Bolivian floods

March 4, 2014

Researchers in UNM's anthropology department are helping an indigenous group combat and overcome flood devastation in Bolivia. Daniel Cummings, a graduate student pursuing his doctorate in anthropology at UNM, is part of the Tsimane Health and Life History Project, whose primary purpose is to study the Tsimane people in order to supply data for health and anthropological research, he said.

UNM research project assists as historic flooding threatens lowland Bolivia

February 28, 2014

Matt Schwartz, a UNM graduate student in the anthropology department, is currently in Bolivia helping to assess the damage of the flooding and coordinate relief efforts.