

# THE ANTHROPOLOGIST

Case Western Reserve University College of Arts and Sciences

A newsletter for faculty, students, alumni, and friends of the Department of Anthropology

FALL 2009

## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### VANESSA HILDEBRAND TO JOIN MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND GLOBAL HEALTH FACULTY



Vanessa Hildebrand in Indonesia

The Department of Anthropology is pleased to announce that Vanessa Hildebrand will join the faculty in January 2010. Vanessa's PhD will be conferred from the Department of Anthropology at Washington University in December 2009. Her dissertation research examines how people in rural Indonesia configure their identity and social status when confronted with the need to care for pregnancy and childbirth. Using a social studies of science approach she focused on the ways that reproducing women and health care practitioners negotiate various local and global influences in their assessment of the obstetric options and technologies that are available to them. She will continue to do research on these topics in Indonesia as well as beginning a study on the assessment and treatment of postpartum depression in urban Indonesian clinics.

### ANTHROPOLOGY FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVE MAJOR GRANTS

Lee D. Hoffer received a 5-year, 1.6 million dollar research grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to better understand the complex set of issues associated with methamphetamine use in Cuyahoga and Summit counties. Using the in-depth field-work techniques of anthropology, this project will delineate the real-world problems users who are addicted to methamphetamines face. Data will then inform the development of a series of agent-based models (ABMs) to extend findings and inform policy. Dr. Hoffer's new grant joins his ongoing support from NSF to combine ethnographic research techniques and agent-based modeling to simulate the heroin market in Cleveland.



Lee D. Hoffer

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Cynthia Beall in Tibet

Cynthia Beall received a 2-year, 300,000 dollar research grant from the NSF for a new project 'Nitric oxide and the microcirculation in the Tibet Autonomous Region.' Tibetans at altitude use the same amount of oxygen that we do here at sea level, yet there is less oxygen in the air they breathe and less oxygen carried in their blood. The goal of the newly funded study is to discover the mechanisms underlying one of the distinctive features of Tibetan

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pattern of adaption to high altitude that couples very high blood flow with extraordinarily high levels of nitric oxide. This research grant continues and extends Professor Beall's research on understanding the unique suite of biological characteristics found among Tibetan highlanders. That research has involved scientists and research participants from many countries, disciplines and institutions. For example, working with Department of Anthropology graduates John Blangero and Sarah Williams-Blangero, a major gene for high oxygen saturation of hemoglobin was detected among Tibetan highlanders, but not among Andean highlanders. That finding and others indicate that the natural experiment of colonizing high-altitude plateaus has had different outcomes in different parts of the world. This research program will help answer central questions about evolution and adaptation, such as how do adaptations evolve and how fast. It will also contribute to understanding, preventing and treating illnesses characteristic of high altitude populations such as preeclampsia and pulmonary hypertension.

## KASSEN LECTURE SERIES CONTINUED WITH GLOBAL HEALTH EXPERT JENNIFER FURIN, MD, PHD

Each year the Department of Anthropology presents the Kassen Lecture. Supported by Drs. Aileen and Julian Kassen, the lectureship invites a top female scholar in the social sciences to the department to present a lecture. In addition to the lecture, time is set aside for anthropology graduate students to meet with the Kassen lecturer in a small group.

This fall the department welcomed Jennifer Furin, MD, PhD, an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School and Medical Director for Partners in Health's (PIH) Program in Lesotho. She is an anthropologist and infectious diseases specialist with expertise in the treatment of HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and multi drug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) in resource-poor settings. Dr. Furin has been an Associate Physician at the Division of Global Health Equity, Brigham and Women's Hospital since 2004, and from 2005-2006 she was Director of the Global Health Equity Residency Program. Dr. Furin has worked at PIH sites in Haiti, Peru, and Russia.

Her lecture titled "Anthropologist as Witness; Anthropologist



Jennifer Furin



Grad students' luncheon with Jennifer Furin

as Advocate: Objectivity and Responsibility in Current Anthropologic Practice" was held Wednesday, October 14, 2009 in Mather Memorial Room 201 followed by a reception.

Dr. Furin received her BA and her MA from Case Western Reserve University. She received her PhD in Anthropology from the University of California and her MD from Harvard Medical School.

## ANTHROPOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY PROGRAM CO-SPONSOR LECTURE BY DAVID FRAYER, PHD

Case Western Reserve University's Chapter of Sigma Xi, Departments of Biology and Anthropology and the Evolutionary Biology Program at Case is presenting a lecture by David Frayer, PhD, Professor of Anthropology, University of Kansas on Thursday, November 12, 2009, DeGrace Hall.

The lecture titled "Who Says Neandertals Are So Different?" highlights research on the lives of Neandertals.



David Frayer

## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

We are proud to announce the unparalleled success of the students in our graduate program in Medical Anthropology and Global Health in obtaining highly competitive national grant awards to support their doctoral dissertation research.

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Seven current students, 47% of the current doctoral candidates, have received a National Science Foundation Dissertation Research Improvement Grant and one student has received an award from the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Program.

## NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants

Less than 20% of applicants to this highly competitive program are rated as 'must fund', making the success of the students listed below particularly noteworthy.

Nadia El-Sharaawi, "Living in Liminality: Experiences of Displacement and Mental Health Among Iraqi Refugees in Cairo, Egypt."

Alex Bridges, "Cognition and Religion: Religiosity in Tibetan Buddhist Monasticism as a Test Case."

Joseph Galanek, "Individuals with Mental Illness in Prison: Social and Cultural Factors Related to Institutional Adjustment."

Meghan Halley, "Unyago and Jando: The Role of Adolescent Initiation Rituals in Shaping Youth Sexuality in Rural Tanzania."

Stephanie McClure, "Body Culture, African-American Girls, and Physical Activity Engagement."

Sarah Rundall, "The Experience of Disability in a Himalayan Community."

Meg Winchester, "Policy, Service, and Experience: The Intersection of Intimate Partner Violence and HIV Infection in Uganda."

## Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Award

Brad Casucci received the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Award for his dissertation, "Trachoma Intervention and the Maa-sai of Losho, Kenya: An Interaction of Health Cosmologies."

Only about 130 of these highly com-



Brad Casucci

petitive grants are awarded annually. According to Associate Dean Denise Douglas of the School of Graduate Studies this is the first Fulbright-Hays received by a student at CWRU since at least 2001, and may actually be the first ever received by a student at CWRU.

## Scholars Award from the Philanthropic Educational Organization

Meghan Halley received a Scholars Award from the Philanthropic Educational Organization to support her dissertation research in Tanzania.

## Upcoming AAA Presentations by Graduate Students

This year the 108th American Anthropological Association annual meeting - THE END/S OF ANTHROPOLOGY will be held December 2-6, 2009 in Philadelphia. The Anthropology Department at Case Western Reserve will have a strong presence with the following graduate students giving presentations.

Jennifer Shaw:

"Navigating at a Double Crossroads: Alaska Native Youth Approaching Adulthood in an Age of Uncertainty."  
Wednesday, 12/2 at 8:45pm

Amy Rezac:

"Psychological Distress during Displacement: Individual and Host Community Response."  
Friday, 12/4 at 4:00pm

Ruth Magtanong:

"Intersecting Worlds: Communicating 'Science' between Study Participants and Researchers within an Interdisciplinary Infectious Disease Project in Kenya."  
Saturday, 12/5 at 10:15am

Charlotte Haney:

"Imperiled Femininity: The Legacy of Dependent Citizenship in Women's Performance of Femininity in Chihuahua City, Mexico."  
Saturday, 12/5 at 11:45am

Sarah Rubin:

"Shopping for a Baby": Motherhood as a Mode of Resilience among Rwandan Survivors of Genocide-Rape."  
Saturday, 12/5 at 2:45pm

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Meg Winchester:  
“Strategic Interventions: The Construction of and Responses to Economic Violence in Uganda.”  
Saturday, 12/5 at 5:00pm

Jonathan Metcalfe:  
“The Management of HIV in Unimaginable Times: Effects of a Collapsed Economy in Harare Zimbabwe.”  
Sunday, 12/6 at 9:15am



Back row to front, left to right: John Heintz, Himali Bhatt, Cristopher Kaps  
Nicole Ureda, Jennifer Zabel, Ruth Magtanong  
Kristi Ninnemann, Molly Mead, Sarah Koopman-Gonzalez  
Jonathan Metcalfe, Smaranda Ene, Ariel Cascio

## Welcome New Graduate Students

The department is pleased to introduce this year’s beginning graduate students. Please join us in welcoming them to the program.

Himali Bhatt: Himali joins us as part of our Integrated Graduate Studies program. She will complete her BA and MA in Anthropology in May 2010. She is interested in international health, particularly pregnancy practices in India and other areas in Asia.

Melissa (Ariel) Cascio: Melissa joins us with a BA in anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis. She is interested in the intersection of medicine, psychology and the family as well as autism and the neurodiversity movement in the United States.

Leah Dennis: Leah also joins us as part of our Integrated

Graduate Studies program. She will complete her BA and MA in anthropology in May 2010.

Drew Helmus: Drew received his BA in anthropology from the University of Florida and an MA in anthropology from Washington State University. He is interested in environmental health, including pesticide exposure among farm workers in South Africa. He is in the joint MPH program.

Cristopher Kaps: Cris is our third IGS student. He will complete his BA and MA in anthropology in May 2010.

Molly Mead: Molly has a BA in anthropology from the University of Cincinnati. She is interested in health care decision making, HIV/AIDS, and Latin America.

Allison Schlosser: Allison has a BS in psychology from University of Illinois – Urbana- Champaign and an MSW from Washington University in St. Louis. She is interested in using a cultural studies of science perspective to examine health interventions, especially for substance abuse.

Nicole Ureda: Nicole studied environmental science at UC Berkeley. She is interested in political economy and health care access.

Jennifer Zabel: Jennifer received her undergraduate degree in anthropology from the University of Notre Dame. She is interested in HIV/AIDS and prevention in southern Africa. She is in the joint MPH program.



Molly Mead, Jennifer Zabel, Ariel Cascio, Drew Helmus

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Himali Bhatt did research this past summer in India. The purpose of her field study was to learn about the practices and nutritional beliefs of pregnant women in West India during both the pre- and post-partum periods. Over the course of six weeks, she went to two different maternity hospitals



Himali Bhatt in India

to interview expecting mothers. In addition, she interviewed local OB/GYNs and Ayurvedic Practitioners



Sign posted in a clinic in India

(Ayurveda is a form of medicine practiced in India).

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Omar Gutierrez, a second year anthropology student, participated in the 2009 Cornell University Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training Program in the Dominican Republic. The program spanned nine weeks, and focused on ethnobotanical approaches to medical drug discoveries.

Sarah Byrd, Matthew Cooperrider, Joseph Drungil, Cierra Herron, Elizabeth McClain, Bridget McHugh, Brittany Rogers and Erica Svendsen were elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

## GRADUATING SENIORS NEWS

### WHAT'S NEXT FOR GRADUATING SENIORS?

Listed below are the very impressive plans for some of our graduating seniors.

Jeremy Safran (graduated last spring) will be entering a PhD program in Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania which specializes in psycholinguistics.

Erin Benson (graduated last spring) is working for the Illinois Transportation Archaeological Research Program.

## GRADUATE DISCOURSE NEWS

Graduate Discourse (GD) continues its tradition of being the body of unity and support for the graduate students. Fall 2009 elections resulted in the selection of a new round of leadership for GD. Positions for 2009 are: Kristi Ninnemann, Administrative/Advocate Chair; Smaranda Ene, Professional Development Chair; Jonathan Metcalfe, GD Journal Chair; Sarah Koopman-Gonzalez, Social Chair; and Graduate Student Senators Allison Schlosser, Nicole Ureda, and Ariel Cascio. GD meets monthly and continues to organize events such as professional development seminars, Works in Progress, and the formulation (and hopeful domination) of a Department of Anthropology ultimate frisbee team for Case's fall intramural sports program. GD is also proud to announce the anticipated winter publication of a new issue of *Graduate Discourse: The Case Western Reserve University Journal of Medical Anthropology*.



Kristi Ninnemann

## ALUMNI NEWS

Craig Klugman who earned his MA from our department in 1997 went on for a PhD at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He taught for seven years at the School of Public Health in Reno, and is now a tenured Professor of Medical Humanities and Ethics at University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. One of his major areas of work is in death and dying.

## FACULTY NEWS

Mel Goldstein's election to the National Academy of Sciences and his illustrious work in Tibet is featured in the

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recent edition of *art/sci*, Vol. 6/No. 1, Fall/Winter 2009, “Voices from Tibet, Anthropologist Melvyn Goldstein Elected to the National Academy of Sciences.” [case.edu/artsci/artsci-fall-2009/tibet.html](http://case.edu/artsci/artsci-fall-2009/tibet.html)

Cynthia Beall and Mel Goldstein conducted fieldwork this past summer in the Tibet Autonomous Region. They continued their 23 year-long study of change and adaptation among nomadic pastoralists in Western Tibet and their 12 year-long study of modernization and intergeneration adaptation in three agricultural villages.

Mel Goldstein and colleagues presented two invited papers at the IUAES General Assembly in Kunming, China. One was presented in the International Workshop on Ecological Resettlement: Local Participation and Policy Improvement, sponsored by the Ford Foundation of Beijing and the Sub-Panel for the Commission on Nomadic Peoples. The other was presented in the Symposium on Change in Contemporary Tibet organized by the Institute of Tibetology, Beijing, and the Tibet Academy of Social Sciences, Lhasa. Cynthia Beall chaired a session in the symposium.

Mel Goldstein presented an invited lecture in Oslo, Norway at the Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion or Belief’s workshop titled: “Religion and State Policies in China.” Dr. Goldstein’s talk was titled: “Religion, Politics, History and Nationalism in Tibet.” He also gave a talk at Oslo University titled: “Rural Tibet: Rapid Change, Adaptation and Continuity.”

Lee Hoffer recently presented his research entitled: “Simulating Patterns of Heroin Addiction within a Local Heroin Market” at the 6th Conference of the European Social Simulation Association at the University of Surrey in Gilford, England. John Heintz, (CWRU Anthropology MA, 2009) was co-author on this presentation.

Additionally, Dr. Hoffer has recently joined the Prevention and Recovery Services Advisory Board for CWRU.

## ADJUNCT FACULTY NEWS

In 11 papers published in the journal *Science* on Oct. 2, researchers described the oldest hominid skeleton discovered to date — a possible human ancestor in the transition from climbing on all fours to walking upright. Researchers from Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History contributed to a total of seven of the

papers. The co-authors include Yohannes Haile-Selassie, Curator and Head of Physical Anthropology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology, Adjunct Clinical Professor, Department of Anatomy and Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Cognitive Sciences; Bruce Latimer, former Executive Director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Adjunct Professor of Anatomy, Anthropology, and Cognitive Sciences at Case Western Reserve; Paleontologist Scott W. Simpson, Adjunct Associate Professor, Anthropology Department, Associate Professor of Anatomy at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and Research Associate at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History; and Linda Spurlock, Director of Human Health at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Haile-Selassie, Latimer and Simpson are all members of the Institute for the Science of Origins (ISO) at the university. ISO is a collaborative team of faculty members and researchers from diverse scientific disciplines seeking to understand how complex systems emerge and evolve.

The papers, with extensive online documentation, are now available on the *Science* website: [sciencemag.org](http://sciencemag.org).

Links to news articles:

[blog.case.edu/casedaily/2009/10/01/casedaily](http://blog.case.edu/casedaily/2009/10/01/casedaily)

[blog.cleveland.com/metro/2009/10/cleveland\\_researchers\\_say\\_foss.html](http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2009/10/cleveland_researchers_say_foss.html)



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