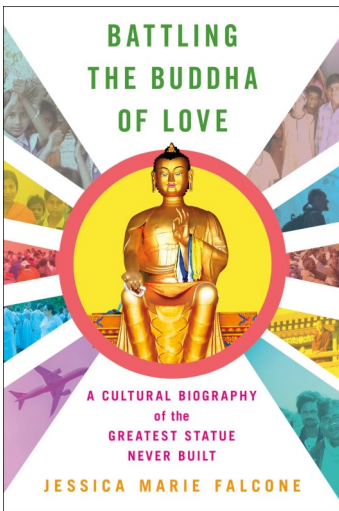


Professor Falcone Introduces Her New Book



My book, "Battling the Buddha of Love: A Cultural Biography of the Greatest Statue Never Built," is slated to be published by Cornell University Press on September 15, 2018. It's my first book, so as you might imagine, alumni and friends: I am very, very excited! Since it is a revision and reworking of my dissertation, I have technically been working on this book for over a decade. I have published several chapters and journal articles, but publishing a monograph feels very different to me. As I write this note for the newsletter in August, I still eagerly await the un-boxing of that first shipment of the freshly printed books; that very first time that I hold the book in my hands will be a special moment indeed.

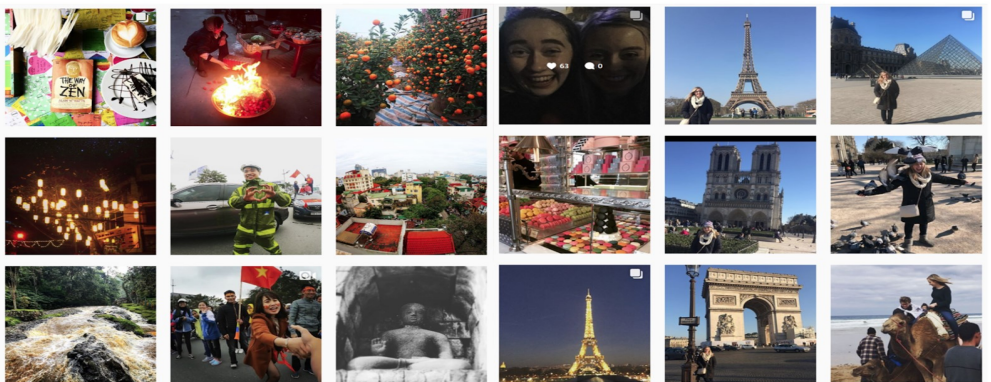
My book is based on a year and half of full-time research, mostly in India. In my ethnography, I examine the controversial plans and practices of the Maitreya Project, a transnational Buddhist organization, working to build the "world's tallest statue" in India. This effort entailed a plan to forcibly acquire roughly 700-acres of occupied farmland for the statue park in the Kushinagar area of Uttar Pradesh. The Buddhist statue planners ran into many obstacles, including a grassroots resistance movement of Indian farmers working to "Save the Land." In telling the "life story" of the proposed statue, I shed light on the aspirations, values and practices of both the Buddhists working to construct the statue, as well as the Indian farmer-activists who tirelessly protested against the Maitreya Project.

Since the majority of the supporters of the Maitreya Project statue are "converts" to Tibetan Buddhism (what I am calling "non-heritage" practitioners), my book narrates the spectacular collision of cultural values between small agriculturalists in rural India and transnational Buddhists from around the world. FPMT has over a hundred centers, and its Buddhist practitioners are an international lot hailing from everywhere from Missoula (US) to Guadalajara (Mexico) to Moscow (Russia) to Valencia (Spain). How did a transnational Buddhist organization deign to create so much suffering for impoverished rural Indians? What were the cultural logics at work on both sides of the controversy? My ethnography of a future statue of the Maitreya Buddha (himself the "future Buddha") is a story about divergent, competing visions of Kushinagar's potential futures.

If my book sounds interesting to you, please consider ordering a copy from Cornell University Press. If you buy directly from the press, please use this 30% off code for colleagues, students, and former students at Kansas State University: 09FLYER. I am happy to share news of this publication with the K-State family.

Contributed by Jessica Falcone, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Kansas State University.

Globe Trotting TAs



Michael Wesch and Ryan Klataske have recently launched anth101.com as a unique online space for transformative learning in anthropology. The site includes a free online textbook written by Wesch as well as several original videos that bring the lessons to life in the real world. The site and course is open and free to anyone. In its pilot year last year the course was used at six different colleges and course materials and videos attracted over two million viewers across multiple social media platforms. Students and faculty using the course connect and share their work through Instagram using the #anth101 hashtag.

Part of the proceeds from the course go toward funding student travel, including the Prins-McBride Travel Award. With this funding, TAs for the class have led discussions and submitted videos for the course from Samoa, Indonesia, Vietnam, Namibia, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Spain, Italy, Northern Ireland, Guatemala, and Costa Rica.

Continued...

Over the next few years Wesch and Klataske plan on making more short documentaries for the site and would love to make videos of alumni putting anthropology to work out in the world. Wesch recently went to Vietnam to create a video with Ben Adams (Class of '17), and they look forward to traveling to see more alumni in the future. If you have a good idea for a video, please contact us. In the meantime, go to anth101.com/highlights to check out the course.

Contributed by Mike Wesch, Professor of Cultural Anthropology, Kansas State University.

The Last Project: Archaeologist Does One More Dig



Pictured: Brad Logan

Out by Kansas State's North Farm, bags of dirt with bright orange tags with exact coordinates were sorted by a couple of anthropology students and their professor, Brad Logan.

When the weather was nice, Logan and whichever students could make it out that day had water screened the dirt, careful with the tags on each unit, to find pot shards, fish vertebrae, burnt hazelnuts, walnuts and other organic matter, all from about 500 AD to 1000 AD.

Logan, research associate professor of archaeology, is the principal investigator of the Quixote site near Valley Falls, Kansas. He has worked with the Kansas Anthropological Association and the Kansas Historical Society since June 2017.

He had not planned on taking on any more big projects this year, as he said he was hoping to start wrapping up a 43-year career in archaeology with just a few more small surveys and his archaeological lab methods course at K-State.

Then Logan found out the site he had worked on in 1988 was being revisited, and he said "it was too good to be true."

After last summer's excavation and a couple of water screening days open to the public, Logan was left with 701 bags filled with data for him to analyze back in the lab. He just needed help to get through all of them, so he asked the anthropology students to volunteer this spring, giving them experience with Kansas archaeology.

"People don't understand that archaeology is literally everywhere in this state, and it's not all temples and castles," Ashley Flowers, senior in anthropology and water screening volunteer, said. "The most interesting part of archaeology is understanding the daily lives of normal people."

Logan has spent most of his career working with Great Plains archaeology. His office walls are covered in photographs of students from the field schools he taught up until two years ago, his own projects around the Great Plains and a few in Europe, just for variety. His experience has helped him with his students such as Flowers with research and on-the-job learning.

"He's just very knowledgeable about everything, and he is also very willing to share his expertise," Flowers said. "I think at first, I was super intimidated by him, but he's very easy to get to know."

Some of Logan's students have said they go into his office for just one question and get caught up in conversation for 30 minutes — after they quit being intimidated by him. Seth Sagstetter, senior in anthropology, said it is "stupid easy" talking with Logan once he got to know him.

The stories that come with over 40 years in the profession and all the connections he has made end up coming out in these conversations. Little anecdotes about other archaeologists he has met or about almost getting bit by a snake come up, Sagstetter said.

"I think he just likes doing it," Sagstetter said. "I don't think he would know what to do if he stopped being in archaeology."

Logan said even if he does not plan on picking up any more big projects, he probably won't ever really be done with archaeology. There is always more to be learned from existing collections.

In his last excavation at the Quixote site, Logan made sure to leave some parts untouched for future archaeologists. Archaeology is always adopting new technologies — some Logan said he can't even imagine — that will help paint a better picture of the past.

Logan will spend the rest of the year working in the lab with all that he and some of his students found during the water screening process. For him, archaeology is not about just finding the “crystal skull” like Indiana Jones. Seeing where the pieces of pottery, the arrow heads or little animal bones were left behind offer an understanding of what was going on centuries ago.

“It’s the whole picture, not the one thing,” Logan said. “People are far too complex to reduce them to this ‘what is this crystal skull?’ business.”

Everything from the Quixote site will be written up and analyzed to be shared with other archaeologists. He said it was “kismet” — fate — that brought him back to the site he first encountered toward the beginning of his career.

Now Logan is closer to the end of career and further from the beginning, but surrounded in his office by photographs — the young couple that had met at one of his field schools, a woman with a big smile on her face holding up an arrowhead she had just found and much more — he said he would not change a thing.

Contributed by Kelsey Kendall (Class of '18). Originally published by the Collegian Media Group.

Congratulations Class of 2017-2018 Graduates in Anthropology!



We are pleased to announce that 19 students have graduated with either a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology during the past academic year.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Ballard, Brittani | Kendall, Kelsey |
| Burnett, Sierra | Lynch, Bridget |
| Davis, Mariah | Neises, Joel |
| Delamore, Kaitlyn | Oswald, Chase |
| Fluker, Morgan | Reimer, Ethan |
| Fredriksen, Alec | Rogers, Matthew |
| Gawlak, Amy | Stenzel, Carlie |
| George, Keeley | Turner, Natalie |
| Hardy, Jennifer | Watkins, Sierra |
| | Weber, Keith |
-

Sapiens Symposium Highlights Student Achievement



2017-18 Anthropology Undergraduate Award Winners

The anthropology program hosted the Sapiens Symposium on April 26. The event is held annually to highlight student exploration, research, and achievement. Several undergraduates gave presentations about their work ranging from filmmaking in Samoa, as part of the 2017 Prins-McBride Travel Award, to a reflection on archaeological thinking.

The anthropology program warmly congratulates the following award recipients: Eunice Lalunio, *Biological Anthropology Achievement Award*

- Bailey Johnson, *Cultural Anthropology Achievement Award*
- Abigaile Molzer, *Harriet Ottenheimer Linguistic Anthropology Scholarship*
- Bridget Lynch, *Linguistic Anthropology Achievement Award*
- Ashley Flowers, Morgan Fluker, Eunice Lalunio and Haley Reinhard, *Martin Ottenheimer Award in Adventurous Anthropology Award*
- Artemis King and Ashley Flowers, *Patricia J. O'Brien Scholarship Award in Archaeology*
- Keith Weber and Colin Gentry, *Prins-McBride Travel Award*

As part of its dedication to professionalization, the symposium also featured a talk by Sarah Trabert, a recent alumna of the program, who spoke with students about her career path and gave a seminar about getting into graduate school. Students were eager to learn from her experience as an early stage scholar and assistant professor of archaeology at the University of Oklahoma.

After the awards ceremony, the program hosted a department potluck in appreciation of students, faculty, and Dr. Trabert.

Student Accolades

Several students had their work recognized for scholarly excellence this past year.



Sarah Trabert presents the Native American Student Award to Morgan Fluker on behalf of the Plains Anthropological Society.

Morgan Fluker, senior in anthropology, was the first K-State student to be awarded the Native American Student Award from the Plains Anthropological Society at the 75th Plains Anthropological Conference in Bismarck, North Dakota. This annual award recognizes outstanding Native American students of anthropology with financial support for educational costs. Fluker is a tribal member of the Kaw Nation and Osage Nation of Oklahoma and a first-generation college student. She is interested in archaeology, cultural anthropology, Native American ethnohistory, and environmental issues. Her research explores the culture history of the Kaw or Kanza Indians and is presented through a digital timeline that maps the historic use of natural resources by the Kaw. She was supported by an internship with K-State's Chapman Center for Rural Studies for Fall 2017 where she was mentored by Dr. M.J. Morgan of the Chapman

Center and Dr. Lauren W. Ritterbush of K-State's Anthropology program.



Jakob Hanschu receives the Society for American Archaeology/Institute for Field Research Undergraduate Student Poster Award.

Jakob Hanschu, a junior in anthropology and geography who is pursuing undergraduate certificates in geographic information systems and primary texts, received the Swogger Scholarship sponsored by the Primary Texts Certificate Program. The award includes \$1,000 to help students research and develop ideas or study abroad at Oxford University. With this support, Jakob is developing two papers for publication: "Assessing Burial Mound Integrity: A Kansas Case Study" and "Evolution in Societies: Descent of

Man, Chapter V."

Hanschu was also the recipient of the Society for American Archaeology/Institute for Field Research Undergraduate Student Poster Award for his poster "Quantifying the Qualitative: Locating Burial Mounds in North-Central Kansas." For this project, he developed a predictive model to aid in the recording of prehistoric burial mounds in northeastern and north-central Kansas. When asked about the award, Hanschu said:

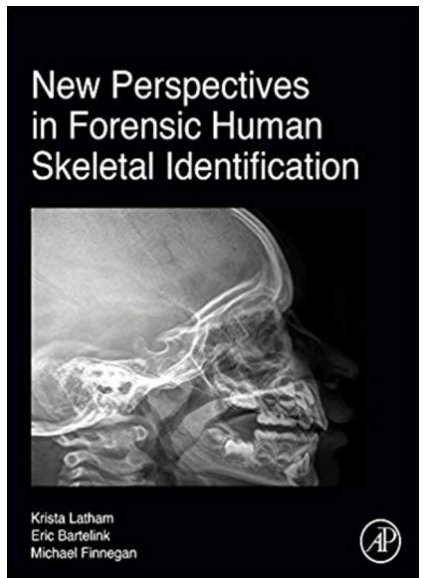
"To be recognized for my research at the national level is a tremendous honor. I think my winning of this award says a lot about the quality of the anthropology program at K-State. Though our program is small, it is close-knit, which allows mentors like Dr. Lauren Ritterbush to engage with students and encourage them to be active in the field. That was a key to my success."

Eunice Lalunio and Ethan Copple received the Kansas State University Mark Chapman Scholarship. The Chapman Scholars Program gives several awards to outstanding first- and second-year students in the College of Arts and Sciences to pursue summer opportunities in support of their educational and career goals. Scholars can use \$3,000 of the award to fund summer activities related to their career goals and an additional \$2000 for the following academic year.

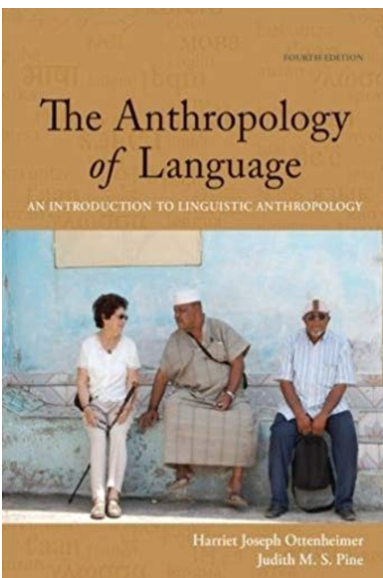
Professors Emeriti Ottenheimer & Finnegan Publish New Textbooks

Michael Finnegan, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, has co-edited an innovative textbook in the field of forensic anthropology. "New Perspectives in Forensic Human Skeletal Identification" was published in July 2017 by Academic Press and covers advances in human skeletal identification, biochemical methods of identification, the use of comparative radiography, and human identification techniques that are being applied to international populations and disaster victims.

Professor Finnegan adds this recent publication to a long list of achievements, including becoming a Fellow and past Vice President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and a Diplomate, and past President, of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology. He is a recipient of several prestigious awards including the Kansas Attorney General's Certificate of Merit, the William L. Stamey Teaching Award in undergraduate instruction, the John C. Hazelet Award as the outstanding member of the Kansas Division of the International Association for Identification, the Bartucz Lajos Award from Jozsef Attila University, and the T. Dale Stewart Award from the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.



New Perspectives



Anthropology of Language 4th Edition

Harriet J. Ottenheimer, Professor Emerita of Anthropology and American Ethnic Studies, recently published the fourth edition of her textbook "The Anthropology of Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology," written with Judith M.S. Pine. This authoritative text introduces undergraduates to the methods and theory of linguistic anthropology while paying close attention to issues of power, race, gender, and class. The new edition includes several substantive updates, including a focus on the intersections of language, power, and identity and examples from languages such as Zapotec, Dyirbal, Turkish, and Ukrainian.

The Anthropology of Language builds on Professor Ottenheimer's substantial oeuvre, including Cousin Joe: Blues from New Orleans, the "Comorian-English/English-Comorian (Shinzwani) Dictionary", a documentary film "The Quorum," and "The Historical Dictionary of the Comoro Islands," written with her husband and Professor Emeritus, Martin Ottenheimer.

Student Research

Students have been busy contributing to knowledge in their areas of interest, including submitting peer-reviewed publications, professional reports, and presenting papers and posters at conferences around the country.

Peer Reviewed Publications Submitted

Jakob Hanschu (Third author with Trevor Durbin and Casper Bendixsen). "Wrangling Wind: Progressive Ranching as Ecocultural Identity Maintenance in the Anthropocene," in *The Routledge Handbook of Ecocultural Identity*. Milstein, T. and Castro-Sotomayor, J. (Eds.). London, UK. Routledge. (Under Review)

Abigaile Molzer (Fourth author with Trevor Durbin, Casper Bendixsen, Danielle Jensen-Ryan, and Sarah Strauss). "The dangerous middle: situational awareness and worker perception of beetle kill. *Journal of Agromedicine*." (Under Review)

Reports

Jakob Hanschu (First author with Lauren W. Ritterbush) "Archaeological Investigations of Burial Mound, 14RY652, Riley County, Kansas." Report prepared for the Kansas Historical Society and the Kansas Unmarked Burial Sites review board, Topeka. Nov 2017.

Abigaile Molzer (Fourth author with Trevor Durbin, Casper Bendixsen, Danielle Jensen-Ryan, and Sarah Strauss) "Assessing Worker Perceptions of Health and Safety Risk in Beetle-Killed Forests." Report prepared for the High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health & Safety (HICAHS) Emerging Issues Program. May 2018.



Left to Right: Ashley Flowers, Artemis King, Jakob Hanschu, Dr. Brad Logan, Dr. Sarah Trabert, Dr. Lauren Ritterbush, Abigaile Molzer, and Morgan Fluker at the Flint Hills Archaeological Conference in Lawrence, KS.

Posters and Presentations

Brennan Flanagan, "Kanza Indian Lesson Plan for Middle School History." 40th Annual Flint Hills Archaeological Conference, Student Presentation. Lawrence, KS, March 23-24, 2018. Mentor: Lauren W. Ritterbush.

Ashley Flowers, "A Preliminary Study of the Flowers Locality on Stronger Creek, Northeastern Kansas." 40th annual Flint Hills Archaeological Conference, Student Presentation. Lawrence, KS, March 23-24, 2018. Mentor: Brad Logan.

Morgan Fluker, "Kanza Subsistence Patterns and Culture Change, 1724-1873." 40th annual Flint Hills Archaeological Conference, Student Presentation. Lawrence, KS, March 23-24, 2018. Mentors: M.J. Morgan, Chapman Center for Rural Studies, and Lauren W. Ritterbush.

Jakob Hanschu. "Quantifying the Qualitative: Locating Burial Mounds in North-Central Kansas." Poster presented at the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Annual Meeting. 13 April 2018. (Hanschu also presented this poster at the 75th Annual Plains Anthropological Conference in Bismarck, ND, in October 2017 and at Kansas Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol, February 14, 2018.)

Jakob Hanschu (Second author with Lauren W. Ritterbush) "Burial Mound Investigation and Preservation in Manhattan, Kansas." Invited presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Kansas Anthropological Association, Manhattan, Kansas, April 2018.

Jakob Hanschu (Second author with Lauren W. Ritterbush) "Researching and Preserving Burial Mounds: An Investigation in the Flint Hills." 75th Annual Plains Anthropological Conference, Bismarck, ND, October 2017.

Jakob Hanschu, "Learning to Dig in the Anthropocene: Archaeology as the Archive of Human Experience." 40th Annual Flint Hills Archaeological Conference, Student Presentation. Lawrence, KS, March 23-24, 2018.

Samuel Kempf, "Developing an Archaeological Mindset through Video Games." 40th annual Flint Hills Archaeological Conference, Student Presentation. Lawrence, KS, March 23-24, 2018.

Kaylee Kerns and Jakob Hanschu. "New Depths: Understanding Archaeology's Role in the Context of the Kansas Archeological Training Program." Invited presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Kansas Anthropological Association, April 28, 2018, Manhattan.

Artemis King, "The Winslow-Debold Site (14SA403): A Preliminary Look into a Late Prehistoric Lodge Site in Saline County." 40th annual Flint Hills Archaeological Conference, Student Presentation. Lawrence, KS, March 23-24, 2018. Mentor: Lauren W. Ritterbush.

Eunice Lalunia (First author with A.C. Kramer and Art Durband). "Do the Dmanisi Crania Sample a Single Species?." Poster presented at the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA) Annual Meeting. 14 April 2018.

James V. Ralston, "The Kanza Eastern Treaty Community: Construct, History, and Location." 40th annual Flint Hills Archaeological Conference, Student Presentation. Lawrence, KS, March 23-24, 2018. Mentor: Lauren W. Ritterbush.

Faculty Accomplishments

Trevor Durbin

Assistant Professor Durbin was invited to present "Big Lies and Dangerous Middles: Using Ethnographic Listening to Understand Forest Worker Safety" as part of the Scientific Seminar Series at the Marshfield Clinic Research Institute in Marshfield, WI in April 2018. This research explores how ethnography can help us understand unexpected relationships in agricultural health and safety and frame future mixed-methods research. He also published an article from his dissertation research in the 30th anniversary issue of the journal *The Contemporary Pacific* titled "What Now, Fishgate?": Scandal, Marae Moana, and Nation Making in the Cook Islands."

Jessica Falcone

Dr. Falcone did a semester-long sabbatical in Hawai'i in Spring 2017 to begin fieldwork on her next book project on transnational Zen Buddhism at a temple in Kona. In addition to the monograph announced in the newsletter above, she has a peer-reviewed book chapter coming out soon: "The Buddhist Gift: Merit-Making, Donations, and the Ambivalence of Reward" in *Buddhisms in Asia: Traditions, Transmissions, and Transformations*. In March 2018, she gave a talk in Philadelphia at the American Ethnological Society Conference entitled, "Virtually Religious Space: Buddhist Place-Making in Second Life." When a colleague at Bard College invited her to come to New York to give a lecture about Buddhism in virtual worlds, she convinced them to allow her to deliver the talk in Second Life itself. That lecture, "Sacred Buddhist Spaces in Second Life," ended up providing a blueprint for another article on the subject, which is currently under review.

Ryan Klataske

Last year, Instructor of Anthropology Klataske submitted his doctoral dissertation "Wildlife Management and Conservation on Private Land in Namibia: An Ethnographic Account." This research uses an ethnographic approach and common property framework to address the question "how can humans work together in the Anthropocene to manage and conserve wildlife and other natural resources?" He also spoke about "Online Learning for Offline Living" at Spotlight K-State 2017, a showcase event highlighting innovative and inspiring teaching. Dr. Klataske published "Anthropology for Everyone" (with Mike Wesch) on the *Savage Minds* blog and several recent popular works that highlight or demonstrate the importance of engaged anthropology. Earlier this year, he presented "Anthropology and Conservation in the Great Plains: The Value of Interdisciplinary Environmental Science and Policy Education" at the Central States Anthropological Society conference in Bloomington, Indiana.

Brad Logan

Associate Professor Logan presented "An Unquixotic Quest: Excavation of the Quixote Site (14JF420), a Late Woodland Occupation in the Delaware River Drainage, Northeastern Kansas." His talk summarized fieldwork and initial findings from the June 2017 Kansas Archeological Training Program, a cooperative endeavor of the Kansas Historical Society, Kansas Anthropological Society, Kansas State University and other public participants. He also presented an invited paper at the Kansas Anthropological Association annual meeting, titled "Quixote: A Late Woodland Site in the Delaware River Drainage, Northeastern Kansas."

Lauren Ritterbush

Dr. Ritterbush, recently promoted to Professor of Anthropology, was the featured speaker at the eighth annual Mitchell Farm and Prairie Celebration on June 16 where she taught about the history of the region over the past 13,000 years. Relying on archaeological discoveries from Kansas, she highlighted changes in long-term ways of living associated with the development of native agriculture and other transformations in the region.

Continued...

Her talk helped audience members better understand these developments by drawing on discoveries in the northern Flint Hills and, specifically, Mount Mitchell and the surrounding Kansas River valley. She spoke about related themes in a presentation to the 75th Annual Plains Anthropological Conference in Bismarck, ND titled "Researching and Preserving Burial Mounds: An Investigation in the Flint Hills" and in an invited presentation, "Burial Mound Investigation and Preservation in Manhattan, Kansas" to the Kansas Anthropological Association in Manhattan, KS. Both projects included significant undergraduate mentorship and were co-authored by Jakob Hanshu, a Junior anthropology and geography major.

Faculty Changes

Trevor Durbin



Trevor Durbin is a new assistant professor of anthropology and a new dad of twin boys, Jack and Avery. His wife, Dr. Stefanie Durbin, is a local veterinarian and an alumna of the KSU veterinary school (2015).

Dr. Durbin came to K-State from a post-doctoral research position in the anthropology department at the University of Wyoming where he studied the cultural and social dimensions of mountain pine beetle epidemics. Before that, he taught anthropology at K-State, where he was thoroughly convinced it is one of the best programs in the world for training undergraduate anthropologists. He earned a PhD in cultural anthropology from Rice University (2015) for which he cultivated interests in

medical and environmental anthropology and science and technology studies. He was fortunate to conduct his fieldwork in some beautiful places, including Samoa, the Cook Islands, the Gilbert Islands, Fiji, and New Zealand.

His research revolves around two loosely related questions. First, how are humans and non-humans attempting to survive, and even thrive, in a time of large-scale and often intense environmental change? He explored this question in his dissertation where he asked how the Cook Islands, like other small island nations, negotiates an ambiguous and risky position when facing the combined challenges of climate change, overfishing, marine pollution, severe economic vulnerability to the vagaries of global markets, colonial legacies, and domestic challenges. This work was nominated for the John W. Gardner Award for Best Dissertation in the Schools of Humanities and Social Sciences at Rice University. In a related project, he is conducting ethnographic research in Custer, SD to better understand how communities use ritual and play to cope with large-scale landscape and ecological change.

A second question explores how the human sciences can facilitate practical solutions to urgent problems. Dr. Durbin has shown how the theories and methods of cultural anthropology can help address contemporary challenges as a contractor for the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), located in Apia, Samoa. This applied research has been used to understand how Key Biodiversity Areas can be better integrated with local needs and knowledge in the Republic of Kiribati and to demonstrate how the precautionary principle might be applied to proposed deep sea minerals mining by Pacific Island countries. In addition, he has contributed to scholarly conversations on how the social and human sciences can be used to improve the practice of nature conservation, while a current project focuses on the cultural and social dimensions of forest management, specifically. For this research, he received a grant from the High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health & Safety Emerging Issues Program.

The most enriching dimension of Dr. Durbin's work involves talking about and doing anthropology with students at K-State. He teaches Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Introduction to Medical Anthropology, Environmental Anthropology, Initiation to Anthropology, and Anthropological Theory. He is proud to conduct research with talented undergraduates and in the 2017-18 academic year submitted two manuscripts that are co-authored with current K-State anthropology students.

Ryan Klataske

Ryan Klataske is a cultural anthropologist and conservationist. He is an instructor of anthropology at K-State and works for Audubon of Kansas (AOK), a local grassroots nonprofit wildlife conservation organization. He is an avid photographer, as well as a farmer and rancher in the Flint Hills, where he grew up. His wife, Rachel, is a food scientist and works as the Business Development Manager at Nu Life Market, where she helps companies use Kansas-grown grain sorghum in their food products. Their son, Thomas, turns one in September and already shares his parents' love for the prairie.



Dr. Klataske is a proud wildcat! He holds a bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Spanish from K-State. Passionate about travel, languages, and other cultures, he studied and travelled in Spain and Mexico and taught English in China during his undergraduate years. Following graduation, he vagabonded through eastern Canada and Western Europe, working on farms in Canada, Belgium, and France along the way.

At Michigan State University, Dr. Klataske earned his PhD in anthropology with a doctoral specialization in Environmental Science and Policy in 2017. His dissertation research focused on wildlife management and conservation on private rangeland in Namibia, contributing to our understanding of the ways in which humans can work together to sustainably manage shared and valued natural resources. He has conducted research and worked on issues related to conservation, natural resource management, tourism, land and politics in southern Africa and the Great Plains. He is also passionate about the world's grasslands, rural life, farming and ranching, as well as photography, for which he has won several awards.

Dr. Klataske taught anthropology at K-State between 2014-2017, during which time he developed and taught the school's first online class in cultural anthropology. He has inspired and transformed the lives of people of many ages and different backgrounds and, in 2017, was recognized as one of ten K-State faculty for innovation and excellence in teaching. In collaboration with Dr. Wesch, he has been working to build ANTH101, a free "connected course" in cultural anthropology, recently highlighted in an article titled "Anthropology for Everyone". Dr. Klataske will resume teaching at K-State this fall, including Introduction to Cultural Anthropology online and a course on applied and engaged anthropology.

When not teaching at K-State, Dr. Klataske works as an engaged environmental anthropologist in support of the conservation and advocacy efforts of AOK, an organization that promotes the appreciation and stewardship of natural ecosystems in Kansas and the central Great Plains, with special emphasis on conservation of prairies, birds, other wildlife, and their habitat. As a Rotarian in the Manhattan Rotary Club, he has also taken an active role in helping K-State students pursue opportunities to travel and study abroad, along with engaging in local efforts to make the world a better place.

Amber Neely



Amber Neely has built a reputation for excellent teaching and engaged public anthropology. In the fall of 2018 she began contributing her enthusiasm and expertise as an instructor of anthropology, specializing in linguistic anthropology of Native North America and Europe. She comes to K-State from Washington College where she was a Visiting Assistant Professor and taught both cultural and linguistic anthropology. Before that, she was an instructor in American Indian Studies at Comanche Nation College and a member of the Curriculum Committee. She earned an M.A. from the University of Amsterdam, and a PhD in cultural anthropology, with an emphasis in linguistics, from the University of Oklahoma in 2015.

Dr. Neely is passionate about encouraging inclusion in the classroom and helping minority students develop necessary skills to support their communities as well as achieve their own goals in professional advancement. For this purpose, she has created new teaching materials for a grassroots organization, the Kiowa Elders Language Preservation Group, for teaching the Kiowa language to young children. These materials incorporated older audio recordings along with guidance by local elders to help younger teachers better teach pronunciation.

The curriculum emphasized oral learning along with the use of images, integrated lessons that center multiple activities around a single theme, and natural language usage as opposed to memorization of lists.

From 2006 to 2012 Dr. Neely contributed her expertise as a member of the Steering Committee and the event staff for the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair and has taken part in the development of new categories for language performance. The Fair, held at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History at the University of Oklahoma, brings more than 500 children every year to display their skills in language performance in their heritage languages, from stories and songs to presentations using PowerPoint. They also illustrate their language skills through the creation of books, posters, and film that in some cases can also be used as teaching materials in their communities. She has also worked as part of a team to put on the first Oklahoma Breath of Life Workshop, designed to train Native Americans to become researchers on their own languages. At the workshop, participants developed their skills in archival research, linguistic analysis, and language reconstruction for groups whose heritage languages are no longer spoken.

Finally, Dr. Neely has six years' experience working with Native American language teachers through the Oklahoma Native Languages Association (ONLA) to help them develop new strategies to teach their heritage languages. At workshops given twice yearly, teachers are given the opportunity to use linguistic tools to help them build effective lesson plans. They are also introduced to new teaching technologies that they may use in the classroom.

Currently, together with phonologist Dr. Taylor Lampton Miller and Kiowa teacher Dane Poolah, Dr. Neely is in the early stages of producing a dictionary database of Kiowa to assist teachers of Kiowa and the new Kiowa language revitalization program, with eventual plans for a print version. She would love to at some point involve interested K-State students in various aspects of this process, from exploring how words work in polysynthetic languages to potentially helping record oral pronunciations and photographs for dictionary entries for inclusion in the dictionary.

Originally a native of Kansas, Dr. Neely has a great appreciation for the land and the people who call it home, both currently and in the past. In fact, the Kiowa people she works with originally considered parts of the Western Kansas plains to be within their roaming area. She is pleased to be back in the Midwest, along with her wife, Melissa Sue Lopez Neely, who is a filmmaker and producer with MoonSue Productions. Completing their family are their two dogs, Sylke and Epke, one of whom is trained in Dutch and the other who mainly understands the language of food.

Art Durband

Art Durband has left the K-State anthropology program to take a faculty position at Texas Tech. Dr. Durband is a paleoanthropologist who has conducted research on ancient human remains in Indonesia, Europe, and Australia. His interests include the origins of modern humans, the biology of early Australians, and virtual anthropology. While at K-State, he was a valuable mentor to students pursuing careers in biological anthropology. The anthropology program wishes him well in the next phase of his career.

Alumni

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT! Even as we celebrate the successes of our faculty, students and alumni, we recognize that our students need increasing support, especially in the face of rising tuition and dwindling state funds. To learn how you can support K-State Anthropology, please contact the KSU Foundation Arts & Sciences development team at (800) 432-1578. To make a gift to the Anthropology Fund online (Fund # F01477), please click [here](#). Thank you! We would love to hear from our alumni! Please send any announcements to be included in future newsletters to Trevor Durbin at tdurbin@ksu.edu.



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