



## From the Chair:

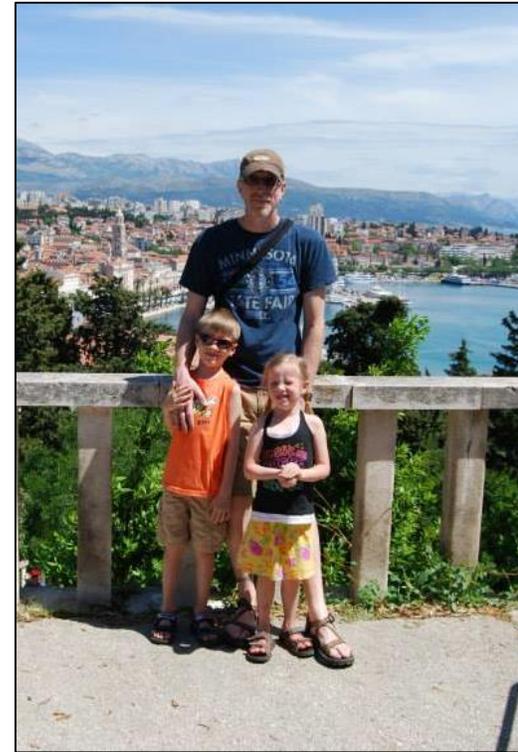
Hello and welcome to the inaugural issue of the State University of New York at New Paltz Department of Anthropology newsletter.

Our faculty have been busy over the past academic year and I count myself lucky to be part of a department that combines scholarship with a strong commitment to teaching.

Our majors have also been busy, many taking on independent research projects with the faculty. Additionally, an increasing number of our students have been taking advantage of the study abroad/field school opportunities that our department and the university offer.

While this first issue of the newsletter will focus on the most recent academic year, we have an on-going project that will document the history of the department from when it was first formed in 1968. If you have any stories or pictures that feature the Anthropology faculty and staff, please send them to me.

I hope to hear from (and see) you all in the near future!



*Ken Nystrom and his kids in Split, Croatia.*



# Current Anthropology Students

## Full Time Anthropology Faculty

### **Ken Nystrom**

Associate Professor, Chair  
Phone: (845) 257-2986  
E-mail: nystromknewpaltz.edu

### **Joe Diamond**

Associate Professor  
Phone: (845) 257-2988  
E-mail: diamondj@newpaltz.edu

### **Victor DeMunck**

Full Professor  
Phone: (845) 257-2985  
E-mail: demunckv@newpaltz.edu

### **Giselle Hendel-Sebestyen**

Associate Professor  
Phone: (845) 257-2987  
E-mail: hendelsg@newpaltz.edu

### **Ben Junge**

Associate Professor  
Phone: (845) 257-2697  
E-mail: jungeb@newpaltz.edu

### **Lauren Meeker**

Associate Professor  
Phone: (845) 257-2989  
E-mail: meekerl@newpaltz.edu

### **Kenji Tierney**

Visiting Assistant Professor  
Phone: (845) 257-2985  
E-mail: tierneyr@newpaltz.edu

## Anthropology Students Abroad

While many of our courses introduce students to different areas of the world, there is simply no substitute for actually traveling and participating in another culture. Over the last five years, 25 of our students have engaged with these opportunities, going everywhere from Madagascar to Cuba, from Peru to Greece. Still, this represents a fairly small proportion of our majors and we are committed to communicating the importance and transformative nature of such experiences to our students. If during your time at New Paltz you attended a field school or studied abroad and would like share your experience and how it may have impacted where you are and what you are doing now, please contact us – we would love to share your story! Below are the recent experiences of two of our majors.

\* \* \* \*

### **Robyn Schaeffer (Class of 2016)**



Robyn spent the 2016 winter session in Belize through a study abroad program offered through SUNY Cortland. Robyn worked 40 hours a week for three weeks at the Belize Botanic Garden. She spent the majority of her time in the nursery propagating and repotting plants, air-layered trees, and learning about Mayan medicinal plants. The gardens promote the preservation of the rainforest and Mayan practices.

In Spring 2015, through the Mexico Solidarity Network, Kyra (far right) spent four months learning about the ways in which groups fight for indigenous and rural peoples' rights. Along with other students, she spent her time reading and discussing social movement theory, seeing how it's applied in three very different contexts in Mexico: Chiapas, Tlaxcala, and Mexico City.

### **Kyra Nolte (Class of 2016)**



## Current Anthropology Students

### Student Research Projects

Independent research projects represent a unique and valuable learning experience for students. These may manifest as one-semester long directed reading or longer term projects that involve the generation of novel data and publication. In both cases, these provide students with the opportunities for self-directed learning and problem solving.

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#### Jessica Mortensen (Class of 2017)

Jessica was awarded money from the SUNY New Paltz Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Program and Campus Auxiliary Services for her project entitled "Dietary Reconstruction of the Impact of Romanization at the site of Nadin, Croatia". She received the money in order to travel to the University of Central Florida to prepare skeletal and dental material for analysis.



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#### Sullivan Grunn (Class of 2016)

Sullivan Grunn and Dr. Ben Junge were recently awarded a National Science Foundation grant to examine political subjectivity among university students who come from "new middle class" families in Recife, Brazil. Through semi-structured interviews with 20 currently-enrolled undergraduate students from new-middle-class families, his project will generate preliminary conclusions regarding the implications of rising global middle classes for democracy and citizenship.

### Part Time Anthropology Faculty

Our part time instructors teach a wide variety of courses for the department, from lower-level introductory classes to upper-division electives. We have a strong core group that have taught in the department for a number of years. The success of our program is in no small part due to their efforts and for that we thank them!

\* \* \* \*

#### Tom Amorosi

Forensic Anthropology  
Human Evolution  
Introduction to Biological Anthropology

#### Jennifer Cardinal

Ancient Mesoamerica  
Research Methods  
Comparative Social Organization

#### Stephanie Nystrom

Cultural Anthropology  
Language and Culture

#### Denise Oliver-Velez

Magic, Witchcraft and Sorcery  
Women in the Caribbean

#### Lyla Yastion

Ecological Anthropology  
Cultural Anthropology  
Religion and Culture

## Current Anthropology Students

### 2015-2016 Anthropology Honors

Every year we recognize majors who exceed the rigorous requirements of our program with exceptional academic performance. This year, the following students are receiving departmental honors:

Joseph Bacci, Lauren Eicher, Sullivan Grunn, Kyra Nolte, Rachel Norkelun, Geneva Turner, and Jacob Yoder

Additionally, students with Anthropology Honors are eligible to join the national honors organization for anthropology, Lambda Alpha Honors Society. This year the inductees are Joseph Bacci, Lauren Eicher, Sullivan Grunn, Kyra Nolte, and Rachel Norkelum.

### 2015-2016 Outstanding Graduates

Twice every year, the Provost's Office asks departments to select two graduating students that have achieved high academic standards. This year, our department chose the following Outstanding Anthropology graduates:

#### December commencement

Lauren Betancourt

Andrew Morgan

#### May commencement

Kyra Nolte

## Departmental News

### Faculty Updates

**Giselle Hendel-Sebestyen** continues to update and refine the courses she teaches for the department: General Anthropology, Transcultural Health, Human Evolution, and Indians of North America. Giselle has been with the Department since 1968 and had recently agreed to help document the history of the Anthropology Department.



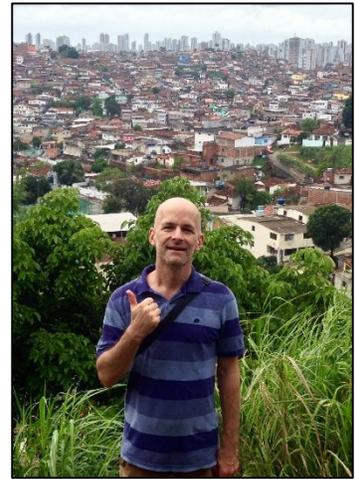
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**Victor DeMunck** has been living and working in Lithuania for the last two years teaching in the anthropology master's program at Vytautas Magnus University. He was also awarded a National Science Foundation grant to study Lithuanian farmers' cultural models of nature and their ideas about, and response to, climate change.

## Departmental News

### Faculty Updates

In 2015, **Ben Junge** received major funding from the National Science Foundation for his project *Making Sense of Mobility and Precarity: Emergent Lifeways and Citizen Identities among Brazil's New Middle Class*. He also recently took on the directorship position for the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program.



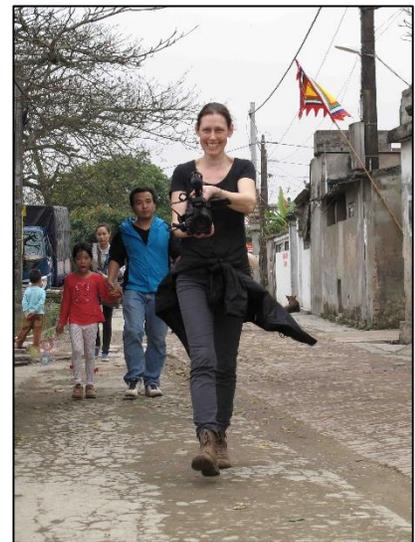
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In Fall Semester 2016, **Joe Diamond** will be on sabbatical. His writing project will synthesize a large body of archaeological and historical data, much generated by his own archaeological excavations in the city, pertaining to the Dutch and English Colonial periods in Kingston, NY.

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During the 2015-2016 academic year **Lauren Meeker** has been on sabbatical conducting research in Vietnam. She recently published a book on the cultural politics of Vietnamese folk song called *Sounding out Heritage*, published by University of Hawai'i Press.



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In 2016, **Kenji Tierney** will have an article published in the journal *Food, Culture and Society* entitled "Consuming the Wrestler's Essence: Food, Authenticity, and Japanese Sumo." He is also pursuing the publication of his manuscript *Wrestling with Tradition* with University of California Press.



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In 2016, **Ken Nystrom** edited a volume entitled *The Bioarchaeology of Dissection and Autopsy in the United States*, published by Springer. The contributions inform on social identity and marginalization, racialization, the nature of the body.



# Departmental News

## Archaeology Field Schools

### Huguenot Field School

The SUNY New Paltz Huguenot Archaeological Field School, which is entering its 16<sup>th</sup> year, is a 6 week course that is very intensive, being held 5 days a week for 7.5 hours/day. The Huguenot Street site is a Pre-Contact Native American site (c. 7000 BC-European Contact) which extends into the French



Huguenot Period (post.-1680). Extensive testing has found that the site was used by hunters and gatherers from c. 7000 BC to c. 800 AD. Later pits and earth ovens provide evidence of corn, beans, nuts, and various animal species that were utilized for food. Excavations have also revealed an earthfast house, a pithouse with attached barn, and a French Huguenot fortification (post-1680) as part of the initial Colonial settlement. During the summers of 2014 and 2015 we also located portions of the Dutch Reformed church from c. 1772-1773.



### Nadin Archaeological Project

In 2016, Professor Nystrom will be bringing New Paltz students to Croatia to be part of the Nadin Archaeological Project, a collaborative excavation with researchers and students from the University of Maine and the University of Zadar, Croatia.

Nadin is a moderately-sized center in Croatia's Ravni Kotari region along the Adriatic Sea, located just outside the modern city of Zadar. The area was one of the most urbanized regions of Dalmatia in antiquity. The site has several different occupational phases beginning with an Iron Age fortified settlement and culminating in a 16th century Turkish fort.

Excavations in 2016 will focus on a Roman residential component while also exploring the city center for evidence of the Turkish occupation.

# Departmental News

## Return to Wooster!

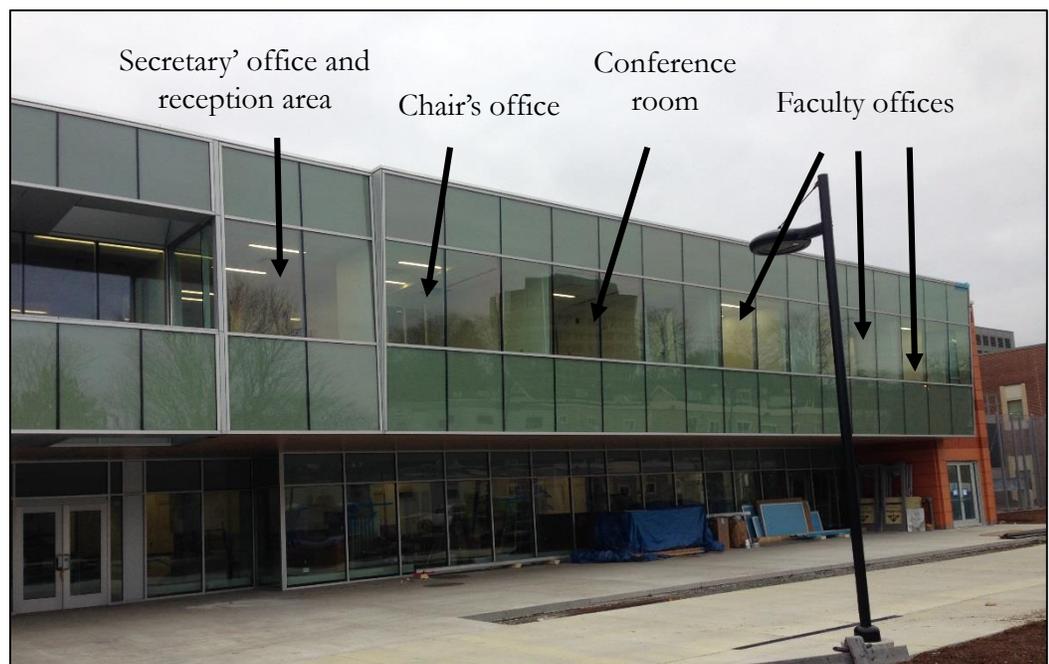
In 2012, renovation began on the Wooster Science Building and Anthropology was relocated to the South Classroom Building. Finally, after several postponements and construction delays, we are finally moving back! The building was effectively gutted and all of the interior was re-designed and updated. This is a very exciting time for the department as for the first time in over two decades all of the faculty will be in the same building and on the same floor.



Anthropology will occupy part of the third floor. On the north side of the building (overlooking the student quad) there are three dedicated teaching and research rooms for bioanthropology, archaeology and cultural anthropology. While the Bioanthropology and Archaeology rooms are set up as fairly traditional labs, the Cultural and Visual Anthropology Space was intended to serve multiple functions including a lecture and film-viewing space as well as a small computer lab for students involved in ethnographic video production.

The faculty and staff offices are on the south side of the building. Additionally, there is a student work space, reception area, and conference room.

We will be packing up our books, bones, and artifacts in April for the move back during the summer. We are all very anxious to return to Wooster and will be hosting a 'department-warming' party in September. Details will be posted on our departmental home page and Facebook page.



# Anthropology Alumni

Fostering and enhancing strong connections with our alumni is a fundamental long term goal of our department. Please considering 'liking us' on Facebook and check in on current departmental events and updates on our homepage. Also, we will be holding several events during 2016 that we hope you will be able to attend.



## SAVE THE DATE

### 2016 Student Research Symposium and Alumni Reunion

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Research Symposium and Alumni Reunion will be held on **May 7<sup>th</sup>** in the Honor's Center on the SUNY New Paltz Campus. More details will be posted on our departmental homepage and Facebook page. The SRS/Alumni Reunion offers an opportunity for our graduation seniors to present the research they've been working on in the Capstone course, while also fostering the chance to create connections with alumni. The day is capped by a keynote speaker, and while we are still finalizing this aspect for the 2016 Symposium, check out the speakers we've had in the past.

#### 2013

Anthropology Department Student Research Symposium and Alumni Event 2013

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION BY  
**Prof. Jason Antrosio**  
Harwick College

**the NOBLE SAVAGES CONTROVERSY:**  
Napoleon Chagnon and Marshall Sahlins  
**RE-INTEGRATING ANTHROPOLOGY**

5-6 p.m.  
May 4<sup>th</sup>  
HONORS CENTER

Event co-sponsored by CAS

#### 2014

Anthropology Department Student Research Symposium and Alumni Event

Anthropology Majors' Senior Research Project Presentations  
11:45 - 3:00 p.m.

Keynote Presentation by  
**Dr. Merrill Singer**  
University of Connecticut  
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

This presentation reports on an anthropologically informed research effort to avoid an explosive HIV epidemic among injection drug users in Kabul, Afghanistan, a country often in the news because of war and opium production. The project recruited samples of active drug injectors and gatekeepers of social programs (e.g. police, service providers) for semi-structured interviews to assess their attitudes toward the establishment and potential success of a novel approach to HIV prevention in this setting: assisting active drug users in moving from drug injection to drug smoking. Following a "harm reduction" perspective, this approach is known as a route-transition intervention (RTI). Its objective is not to pressure, convince, allure, or force drug users into stopping drug use (and little exists in the way of treatment anyway), but rather to assist them in reducing harmful health components of their drug using behavior. The presentation will focus on the viewpoint of potential program participants on the feasibility, barriers, and best approaches associated with this model of RTI. Key findings include: a) clear indications that injectors would be receptive to the RTI initiative; b) but that they are wary of community receptiveness; c) gatekeepers are so focused on stopping drug use (through social control or treatment) that they have difficulty in conceptualizing a harm-reduction approach as a worthwhile approach, although they have come to see its value and to contribute ideas about how to best operate the program.

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
11:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
HONORS CENTER  
Event co-sponsored by CAS

#### 2015

Anthropology Department Student Research Symposium and Alumni Event

Anthropology Majors' Senior Research Project Presentations  
11:45 - 3:00 p.m.

Keynote Presentation by  
**Dr. George Gmelch**  
University of San Francisco  
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**Nomads No More: Ireland's Traveling People**

The Travelling People of Ireland were the last of Europe's itinerant peoples to urbanize and settle. This talk examines what has happened to them through the prisms of photography and cultural anthropology. George and Sharon Gmelch's connection to Travellers began in 1971 when they bought a horse and wagon and moved into a camp on the outskirts of Dublin for a year of research. They returned in 2011 and traveled around Ireland – shadowed by a film crew – looking for the families they had known decades before. In interviews and on film, Travellers talked about the transformation in their lives and the difficulties posed by their new sedentary existence. The documentary film about the research was broadcast to a record audience share in Ireland.

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
11:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
HONORS CENTER  
Event co-sponsored by CAS

Please complete the survey at this link so that we can keep updated about what you are up to  
(<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RNPDT72?sm=DXBsDETHzh4dacyd1ZwbNw%3d%3d>)

## Anthropology Alumni

**Jeremy Borrelli (Class of 2012)**

**In their own words....**

After graduating from New Paltz with my Anthropology degree (2012) I enrolled in East Carolina University's Program in Maritime Studies. Upon joining the Maritime Program, I began work at the Queen Anne's Revenge Shipwreck Project, working specifically in the Conservation Lab in Greenville, NC. I also participated in the field excavations of Blackbeard's flagship for the past 3 years. During this fieldwork I have documented, excavated, and recovered several large artifacts including cannons, and rigging along with numerous smaller items. As part of my Master's thesis research I travelled to Cape Town, South Africa to perform historical research and archaeological documentation of the harbor in Table Bay as well as several British shipwrecks in the area. While in Cape Town, I assisted with the on-going African Slave Wrecks Project, which was focused on recording an eighteenth century Portuguese slave ship that wrecked while carrying a large consignment of human cargo. This past summer I was involved with Fabien Cousteau's Mission 31 at the FIU Aquarius Reef Base as a deck hand and support diver. Following Mission 31, I participated in archaeological recording and community outreach for local shipbuilding and boating activity in North Carolina's northern Outer Banks.



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I graduated in 1976 with a degree in anthropology and soon went to SUNY Albany for a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology. It was the 1970s, a time of social unrest not only in the United States but also across the world. Resistance to the Viet Nam War and colonialism as well as to the inequality of women and minorities in the United States had not just been in the air since the 1960s but had been taken to the streets. Colonized people fought for independence while, in the U.S., the Civil Rights Movement grew stronger and women—both minority and white—began to reveal, analyze, and fight oppression in the home and the workplace. I became active in these protests and found anthropology—with its emphasis on thinking independently, appreciating differences among groups, standing against ethnocentrism, and pursuing social justice—the perfect discipline to pursue my commitments within the academy. I wrote my dissertation on variation in women's status across cultures and went on to teach about this and a wide range of other topics, first at a small, experimental liberal arts college and then at a large public university.

It was this foundation on which I built over the years to publish seven books and fifty academic articles and to lecture nationally and internationally on a wide range of including the body as a site of social injustice, consumer culture as a location from producing oppositional identities, and the politics of knowledge in underwriting social and cultural inequalities. As Editor-in-Chief (2001-2006) of the *American Anthropologist*, the flagship journal of the American Anthropological Association, I reviewed and edited articles in cultural, biological, and linguistic anthropology, in archaeology, and in a number of other disciplines. I chaired the Department of Anthropology (2004-2009) and served as Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences at Rutgers University (2011-2014).