As the semester comes to a close and we segue into summer, we send you greetings from the Anthropology Department here at Illinois. We’ve had gusty winds and torrential rains in May, and in some ways these echo the challenges our University faces right now. With continuing budget deadlock in the state government, U of I has struggled with uncertain and delayed budget appropriations for yet another year. We are fortunate that as a major research university we have financial reserves that can help us weather this stormy period, better than some other educational institutions in the state. Through continuing efforts at maximizing efficiencies and limiting growth, the university continues to maintain its world-class excellence during this uncertain period.

We are confident that our new Chancellor Dr. Robert Jones will be a strong advocate for U of I at the state level, and, working with system President Dr. Timothy Killeen, move the University system toward a more sustainable future. In addition, we couldn’t have come through these challenges as well as we have without the insightful leadership of Department Head Andrew Orta, who led us for the 5 years preceding 2016-2017. Lyle Koenigsberg held the helm this academic year, keeping us on a steady course. In our front office, dedicated staff members Karla Harmon, Elizabeth Spears and Vicki McGinness capably handle the multiple functions of such a complex department that sends its people all over the world. New undergraduate advisor, Dr. Maritza Quiñones Rivera makes sure our students find their way and flourish. We thank you all!

So, what does this budgetary challenge mean on the departmental level? Creative strategies of innovation and careful attention to scale. For example, our commitment to fully funding all the graduate students we accept and holding down their debt means that we have restricted the number of entering graduate students for next year. Our department is ranked at the very top in the nation in its percentage of graduate students who are fully supported, and we are proud of this commitment to our students. Unlike many of our peers, we do not admit graduate students without support, creating a two tier system of funded and un-funded students in order to generate revenues. This coming academic year we will welcome a small, outstanding cohort of six, evening divided among sociocultural-linguistic, archaeology, and bio-anthropology. They represent the top 10% of our applicants.

(continued on next page)
Since campus hires overall are limited right now, we are successfully growing our department through collaborations with other units, welcoming joint-appointments, and building the racial/ethnic diversity of our faculty even further through innovative hiring initiatives at the University level. The upside of all these strategies is an even more dynamic department with deeper connections across campus and the wider community. Despite the budget uncertainties at the state level, we are committed not only to maintaining our national prominence as a leading anthropology program in the nation but in fact to further enhancing that visibility through a variety of measures noted in this newsletter.

For example, we are being ever more pro-active in our seeking of external funding to complement university funding for research and graduate students. As you will see in the pages of this newsletter, our faculty and students are garnering exceptional external awards in recognition of their excellence, and we will continue to emphasize this attraction of external funds. Like all other public universities across the nation, we have seen dramatic declines in the level of state support for higher education in the last two decades. While this is compounded for U of I by the state budget impasse at the legislative level, it is also reflective of a long term national trend. On average now, public universities nationwide receive less than 15% of their budgets from their states. Therefore, to maintain our excellence while holding down tuition, going forward we must be ever more innovative in seeking funding, and, like outstanding private institutions, must more actively engage not only foundations but our alumni in supporting the institution.

In Anthropology, we are fortunate to have some key donors who help us to grow in new ways at a time when so much in public education is contracting. In this newsletter, we highlight the special contribution of alumnus Paul Liebman, who has underwritten such important summer research opportunities for our undergraduates and who has helped us develop a new emphasis on applied anthropology.

This type of partnership with alumni, so long a defining feature of private institutions, is becoming the wave of the future for outstanding public institutions, and we are proud to be featuring it here.

As always, we welcome your feedback, your inquiries and your news as we share recent events with you. In the pages below you will find just a partial rendering of the wonderful work and events that animate our department in the undergraduate, graduate, faculty, staff, and alumni realms. Really, there is too much to pack into a newsletter, so we encourage you to explore our new departmental website for more details. We know you will agree with us that the insights of Anthropology, with its commitment to understanding human variation, cultural difference, and the long legacy of the past, are never more needed than today.

Very best wishes from Davenport Hall,

Jane Desmond
Professor of Anthropology and Newsletter Editor
FACULTY NEWS

Saying Goodbye

Since the last newsletter in winter of 2015-2016, we have said goodbye to several longtime faculty associated with the department. Some, like Matti Bunzel and Alejandro Lugo have moved on to other opportunities in Vienna and Arizona respectively. We wish them well in their new endeavors and salute their long-term contributions to our department!

Other losses have been due to early retirements, and we are fortunate that several faculty who have left in the last few years, like Paul Garber and Janet Dixon-Keller are still in town and very active in the profession nationally, publishing, curating, editing, running field schools, and staying connected with our department. This year we salute the newly emeritus Alma Gottlieb, who, following a festive “retirement” party in spring 2016, has departed to pursue new research in Providence, Rhode Island. A new, fully revised and updated second addition of her now classic co-edited (with Judy DeLoache) book A World of Babies: Imagined Childcare Guides for Eight Societies has just come out in fall 2016 from Cambridge University Press. For updates see: www.facebook.com/WOBBook. It was a pleasure to welcome Alma back this spring to speak about this book in our departmental colloquium series. We offer deep thanks to her and to our other emeriti for all you have contributed to our students and department and to the field for several decades. We look forward enthusiastically to your continued contributions as emeriti!

Lastly, with sorrow, we must tell you about several losses. We must say a final goodbye to several long-time colleagues who have each contributed so much to the department and its international reputation for many decades. Many readers of this newsletter will have fond memories of the outstanding contributions of tenured faculty members Frederik Kris Lehman (U Chit Hlaing), Nancy Abelmann, and Tom Zuidima, each of whom has died since the last newsletter was published. Each scholar was truly a leader in her or his field of anthropology and their presence on our faculty helped define this department and its excellence for decades. We miss you and will work hard to carry on your legacies of leading edge scholarship. We mourn also the recent passing in April of alumnus Dr. Fred Blake, who completed his PhD with us in the 1960s and then went on to a long faculty career in the anthropology department at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa.

Alma Gottlieb
FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our faculty, at all levels, continue to win national awards and campus accolades. They publish books, field-defining articles in cutting edge journals, and run field-schools, Centers, and scholarly organizations, and reach out to the public through community engagement projects and podcasts. Their labs employ graduate students and train undergraduates, and several are involved in projects that engage the Champaign-Urbana community. Only a small selection of their accomplishments can be featured here, so please see our departmental website for more information and individual faculty profiles.

NEW BOOKS have been published by several faculty members this year. Among them are the following:

Chris Fennell’s *Broken Chains and Subverted Plans: Ethnicity, Race, and Commodities* has been published by the University of Florida Press (2017). Fennell brings together two case studies from different frontier regions in nineteenth-century America—juxtaposing the experiences of German immigrants in backcountry Virginia and free African Americans in the town of New Philadelphia. Drawing on archaeological evidence, Fennell reveals how these two differently marginalized communities each successfully resisted dominant economic and governmental frameworks.

Jane Desmond’s *Displaying Death and Animating Life: Human-Animal Relations in Art, Science, and Everyday Life* has been published by the University of Chicago Press (fall, 2016), and recommended as a CHOICE selection by the American Library Association. An NPR review of the book termed it “important, profound, …and moving,” and can be accessed here.

Mahir Saul’s new co-edited book (with Jose Ignacio Hualde) *Sepharad as Imagined Community: Language, History and Religion from the Early Modern Period to the Twenty-First Century* was published in January, 2017 by Peter Lang Publishers, New York. This work brings together essays by well-known authorities in the field with those of emerging scholars for a defining contribution to Sephardic studies, uniting historical and contemporary dimensions.

Virginia Dominguez has edited two books appearing this spring, each having a transnational dimension. Her volume (co-edited with Canadian anthropologist Jasmin Habib) *America Observed: On an Anthropology of the United States* was just released by Berghahn Books in January, 2017, and focuses on the question of why so few anthropologists from outside the United States conduct their research on the U.S. She also co-edited (with departmental colleague Jane Desmond) *Global Perspectives on the United States: Pro-Americanism, Anti-Americanism, and the Discourses Between*, published by the University of Illinois Press in March, 2017. Bringing together essays and reflections on those essays by scholars affiliated with the International Forum for U.S. Studies: A Center for the Transnational Study of the United States here at U of I co-founded by Dominguez and Desmond, the book tracks notions of “America” in public policy, literature, and the arts from Norway to Kazakhstan, and from Cuba to Egypt, across Japan, South Africa, Germany, Mexico and Panama, among other nations, to consider how the United States is embraced, rejected, and reconfigured by artists and citizens abroad.
Many faculty published **NEW ARTICLES** in prestigious peer reviewed journals as well, far too many to list here. Just a few highlights:

**Cris Hughes** and her colleagues published a new article in the April 2017 *American Anthropologist*, focusing on the cultural aspects of forensic anthropology and how social factors like structural inequalities can inhibit the identification of human remains of those who die crossing the U.S.-Mexican Border. The researchers found that individuals with more indigenous ancestry were less likely to be identified after their deaths when they perished crossing from Mexico into Arizona than those with less indigenous ancestry. Even in death, the researchers concluded, inequalities persisted, thus calling for new strategies for identification. That research was featured in the news as well. You can see the video here.

**Jessica Brinkworth** has several new co-authored publications, including one in the high impact journal *Science* which examines the role of social status on the effects of stress immune responses. (“Social Status alters immune regulation and response to infection in macaques.” *Science* vol. 354 (6315): 1041-1045.) In addition, she recently presented her research on infectious disease in lemurs at the Duke University Lemur Center. Lemurs are among the most endangered species on earth, making research into their diseases critically important.

**Kate Clancy**, among her other activities, continues her work to make science more widely available to the public through her outstanding podcast interview series: “Period.” To listen to these podcasts, go to: [www.kateclancy.com/period](http://www.kateclancy.com/period) and check them out! You can also listen on iTunes, and subscribe if you wish. Clancy’s work on reproduction, menstruation, and social contexts is truly illuminating, with a dozen professionally produced podcasts in this series already available on line and more to come. Since menstruation directly effects half of the world’s human population, this is a hugely important topic, yet one which still remains under-researched and all too often unspoken. Thanks Kate for this pathbreaking work.
FACULTY AWARDS

**Gilberto Rosas**, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Latino/Latina Studies, was named a Senior Research fellow for 2015-2017 by the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory on campus, and, with Mireya Loza, received funding for a research cluster through the Illinois Program on Research in the Humanities for their “Borders and Migrations in the Americas” research group. The appointment as Senior Research Fellow is restricted to tenured professors, and provides research support for two years to facilitate the work of outstanding professors whose work is associated with the Unit’s emphasis on critical theory.

**Rebecca Stumpf** received a Guggenheim Fellowship for her project “Metagenomic Insights into Wild Chimpanzee Sociality and Dispersal.” These prestigious national fellowships are awarded annually to only about 170 scholars across all disciplines in the arts, social sciences, and sciences from a field of about 3,000 applicants. Stumpf also received the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Campus Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching this year. Congratulations, Becky!

**Ellen Moodie**, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, has been named a Conrad Humanities Scholar by the campus. These awards go to tenured Associate Professors in recognition of the highest potential for continued excellence in scholarly research, and provide research support for five years (2016-2021). Well known for her work on El Salvador, Moodie is developing a new research project on Cuba, in collaboration with Cuban colleagues. This research will also be supported by a 2016-2018 Senior Faculty Fellowship appointment by the Unit for Critical Theory and Interpretation on campus.

**Jane Desmond** was named a Faculty Associate of the campus Center for Advanced Study for the academic year 2016-2017. These awards, to tenured faculty, are selected through open competition to all faculty on campus, and provide release time to pursue research for one semester. Desmond’s research focuses on the prospects of bringing the field of medical humanities to bear on veterinary medicine. She was recently appointed as an Affiliated faculty in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

**Jessica Greenberg** received the campus bi-annual award for “study in a second discipline,” which provides release time for a tenured faculty member to immerse themselves in a second discipline beyond their home department. Such cross-pollination can provide the basis for whole new directions of interdisciplinary work. Greenberg has spent the 2016-2017 academic year studying law at the Illinois College of Law, and will bring that to bear on her continuing work on the state and political change. Greenberg also received the summer faculty research “New Horizons” award from the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities to support her new interdisciplinary research work this summer.

**Jenny Davis** (citizen of the Chickasaw Nation) also received support from the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, in the form of an IPRH Faculty Fellowship, which will provide a semester’s release from teaching during the next academic year to pursue her research on “Speaking with Two Spirits: Indigenous Language, Gender, and Sexuality in the Two Spirit Movement.”

**John Polk** just received notice of a major multi-year award from the National Science Foundation as we go to press. Details will be posted on his faculty page. Congratulations, John!

**Helaine Silverman** was recently honored at a celebratory dinner on campus with the Sheth Distinguished Faculty Award for International Achievement from International Programs, in recognition of her teaching, research, and public service on an international scale relating to Cultural Heritage and Resource Management. Key among these contributions of course, is Silverman’s directorship of CHAMP, the Collaborative for Cultural Heritage Management and Policy, which brings together faculty
and graduate students from all across the campus for research activities related to tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

**Susan Frankenberg** was honored by the department this year with the “Anthropology Distinguished Service Award” which goes to a faculty member in recognition for their service through a commitment to teamwork, leadership and dedication. In addition to her service to the department and her teaching, Frankenberg is responsible for the inauguration of our museum studies program and also serves as interim director of the Spurlock Museum on campus.

**Jeffrey Martin**, Assistant Professor, was named a Faculty Fellow at the U of I Center for Advanced Study for 2016-2017. Faculty Fellowships at the Center are awarded through campus-wide competitions open to all untenured faculty. Martin’s focus is on the anthropology of policing, and he has developed this topic as well for the new campus wide initiative for first year students, called “Grand Challenge Learning,” which are highly interdisciplinary, experiential, small seminars introducing Freshmen to key social issues of broad importance.

This is just a fraction of the awards and recognitions garnered by our faculty recently, but it gives a sense of the depth and breadth of achievement in our department, across all subfields and across all ranks as well. Congratulations to all! For more details, check out the faculty section of our new departmental website!
GRADUATE STUDENT ACCOLADES

With such a robust graduate population stretching over the many years it takes to complete the PhD, there are way too many awards, publications and recognitions to list here, so we direct you to the departmental website for more detail. Many of our students were successful in winning campus wide competitions including FLAS (Foreign Language Area Studies) awards for intensive language study to prepare for their fieldwork, University awards for dissertation research, and research awards from campus units including: the Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies, Jewish Studies, the Center for Latin American Studies, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center, the Dorothea and Norm Whitten Fund, and departmental awards for summer dissertation research, and for academic excellence, including the faculty-nominated Ed Bruner Award (Matthew Go), the Dimitri Shimkin Award (Jamie Arjona) and the Joseph Casagrande Award (Dilara Cliskan). To highlight just a few among those receiving awards this spring through external competitions, we congratulate the following students on their achievements:

Suvanthee Gunasekera has received a second Wadsworth Fellowship from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research.

Mary Rogers won the Wenner-gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant and a National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant.

Agnes Sohn won a Korea Foundation fellowship for the coming year.

UNDERGRADUATE COMMUNITY

Our undergraduate majors are a key component of our departmental community, and under the faculty mentorship of Dr. Brenda Farnell, Director of Undergraduate Studies, they have excelled in developing their own research through senior year capstone projects, through honors theses, and through the extra-curricular activities of the “Anthropology Leaders” undergrad group.

Especially impressive, and timely, has been the “Anthropology Leaders” organization of a series of panel discussions, open to the entire campus and community, on “Taboo Topics.” Taking Anthropology’s charge to understand the lives of communities seriously, these events provide welcome and challenging discussions on urgent contemporary topics like racial relations. In the fall of 2015 for example, the undergraduate group sponsored an invited panel discussion of the Black Lives Matter movement, which included remarks by Professor of Anthropology and African-American Studies Faye Harrison, among others. (You can find a blog posting discussing these issues by Prof. Harrison at: http://anthropoliteia.net. Check the listing under “#BlackLivesMatterSyllabus Project, Week 7: Faye Harrison on Teaching “Black Lives Matter”). The Anthropology Leaders are responsible too for the always festive annual Senior Capstone Research Presentation, featuring some of the original research by our undergraduates.

This year’s undergraduate cohort includes 28 graduating seniors majoring in Anthropology, 5 of whom have earned Honors (Tiyas Bhattcharyya, America Guerra, Daisy Salgado, Shulan Sun, and David Wood). Not surprisingly, their work represents all subdisciplines in our department. Congratulations to these outstanding young scholars.
Paul Liebman Awards for Summer Research and Innovations in Applied Anthropology

We salute the generosity and vision of alumnus Paul A. Liebman whose financial support makes possible the “Paul A. Liebman Undergraduate Engaged Anthropology Awards” for summer research and internships. Opportunities like these at the undergraduate level often spark intellectual passions that shape entire careers. Seven undergraduates were chosen through a competitive process to receive the awards this year. Congratulations to:

Kristina Allen, Keilyn Kuramitsu, Brandon Nakashima, David Wood, Julia Carter, Ansley Jones, and Jordan Romansky. These young scholars will work in labs, on archaeological fieldsites in England and the Midwest, and as interns for museums and cultural heritage non-profits in Chicago, Washington and here at home at the Spurlock Museum. They will bring those experiences home to Illinois where it will contribute to the department and our seminars, enriching the experience of other undergraduates.

Innovative Faculty Projects Continually Redefine Teaching

On campus, our department is well known for the dedicated abilities of its faculty as graduate and undergraduate teachers. Each year a large cohort of our faculty (and grad students too) is named to the “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent,” based on student course evaluations. Both in the classroom, in the lab, and at fieldsites our faculty devise innovative teaching methods to engage varied populations. For example, archaeologist Chris Fennell, working with graduate students Shawn Fields and Rebecca Schumann, ran a summer 2016 archaeology fieldschool on the Stoneware Pottery Communities of Edgefield, South Carolina. But this fieldschool had a special goal beyond illuminating the past. Fennell, Fields, and Schumann provided training in excavation techniques to members of the Veterans Curation Program of Augusta, Georgia at the Pottersville site. The VCP trains recent veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces with new skills in archaeological methods and artifact analysis to help them launch new careers in science.
And even when we are in the more traditional classroom, we devise creative ways of promoting thinking, analysis and the creative imagination so necessary for 21st century problem solving. For example, in her lower level undergraduate course Anthro 278 on Climate Change and Civilization, Professor Lisa Lucero devised a clever method to test comprehension of assigned readings and lecture concepts. Daily haikus are required, and must be turned in in person at the beginning of each class. The strict haiku form requires that students hone in on the essence of a concept and make it their own. Here is a sample from her students, reflecting the course focus on sustainability across multiple historical eras and geographies. Don’t worry, this course about sustainability encourages students to craft these on scrap paper, like the back of a receipt or napkin, recycling trash into poetry!

**Haiku Pedagogy**

Changes in climate
Led to the rise and fall of
Chinese dynasties


Starting a new world
The first city of its kind
Lives Cahokia


Nature we are, thus
We move, and turn, and become
As nature becomes


Agriculture
Predictable rain and floods
Stable states, empires


And finally, words of wisdom for today’s world:

Before we leave here
Start farming naturally
Less strife later on

---

STAY CONNECTED!

If you’d like more information about how to be engaged in our projects, please send an email to Acting Department Head Dr. Brenda Farnell: bfarnell@uillinois.edu

We welcome partners among alumni/ae, foundations, corporations, community organizations, and non-profits who can help us build the outstanding anthropologists of the future and benefit from and sustain the cutting edge research that defines our faculty.

And if you are an alum, we want to hear from you! How has your background in anthropology unfolded in your post-Illinois years? We look forward to featuring more stories of alums in future newsletters. As David Letterman used to say: Keep those cards and letters coming!