

AnthroNews

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November 2004

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Welcoming Remarks:

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As Head of the Department of Anthropology I am pleased to have this opportunity to welcome you to a new and intellectually exciting year here at UIUC, and to announce several important changes that are (and have been) taking place in our department.

In particular, I wish to acknowledge the recent appointment of Arlene Torres as the Director of the Latina/Latino Studies Program, the appointment of Karen Kelsky as the Head of East

Asian Languages and Cultures, the promotion of Helaine Silverman to the rank of Full Professor, and the hiring of Dr. Chris Fennell, a historical archaeologist working in North America.

In addition, Janet Keller is the new editor of the journal *Ethos*, I am one of the new editors of the *American Journal of Primatology*, and Alma Gottlieb is the currently serving as president of the Society for Humanistic Anthropology.

Our faculty continue to

play a very important roles in the classroom, as well as leadership roles on our campus, nationally and internationally. Under the current directorship of Prof. Andy Orta, our graduate program continues to be extremely strong, and we welcome an intellectually gifted new group of doctoral students to campus.

Although the University of Illinois struggles to adjust to severe budget cuts, our department continues to build. We have been authorized to search

continued on last page.....

Aims and Aspirations:

Welcome to the new Dept. of Anthropology newsletter.

As a relatively new faculty member I have often wished for more time to connect with other members of our community. I have heard others making similar statements so I feel that there is a larger need for a forum to

bring us together.

The proximate goal of *AnthroNews* is to understand something about the research that goes on here and more importantly, to find out something about the people in our community—not just their academic persona, but who they are, as well as both why and how they've

come to join us here in Anthropology at UIUC. Ultimately, I hope this will help to strengthen the ties that bind us together.

AnthroNews should highlight the successes and achievements of our department, to promote our students, demystify academic processes, and encourage professionalism.

AnthroNews can also be a forum for exhibiting photographs, poetry and creative illustration. We hope to include a few other fun items and to discover some of the creative talents lurking behind your academic exteriors.

The content will focus on who we are as

continued inside.....

Aims and Aspirations: (continued)

individuals and the research that we're carrying out. Some pieces will be interviews of our community members, others will be more narrative. Other items will record experiences of our graduates and undergraduates as they pass through our programs.

Most importantly we would like to facilitate communication amongst the diverse, interesting and idiosyncratic members of our community.

We obviously cannot do this without your help. Submissions, assistance, and suggestions are all welcome and encouraged. Please see the final page for contact details.

We anticipate 3-4 issues per academic year, aiming for the beginning and middle of each semester. We hope *AnthroNews* will be successful in at least some of these goals and we look forward to your feedback and support.

All issues will be posted on the web (in PDF format) at: <http://www.anthro.uiuc.edu/Newsletter/>

- John Polk with Donna White & Margaret Enrile

P.S. we need your help to find better clip-art images for each of the subdisciplines (see final page).

New Faces

There are several new faculty, postdocs and students who have joined us this year. To help introduce them, we have asked them a series of questions. But of course, these should be used only as starting points. (*Note: future issues will have more detailed profiles of current students and faculty*).

Prof. Chris Fennell

I specialize in historical archaeology. My research projects address aspects of African-American cultural heritage and the dynamics of social group affiliations among European-American immigrants in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These research efforts include the development of interpretative frameworks focusing on regional systems theories, diaspora studies, theories concerning ethnicities and racialization, stylistic and symbolic analysis of material culture, and the significance of consumption patterns. I am collaborating on a multi-year archaeological research project concerning the social history of New Philadelphia, IL, a demographically integrated town founded by a free African American in 1836. ***If the dead could be raised or time travel possible, what person(s) would you most like to have dinner with?*** I would like to be transported to a randomly chosen town or city in the late 1700s or early 1800s so I could meet people about whom I know very little and then sit down to talk with someone I met by chance encounter. Such are the preferences of historical archaeologists interested in the history of people who leave behind no diaries or journals, and about whom no biographies have been written. ***What changed your career path?*** Viewed

from a sufficiently broad perspective, my career path has not changed, but has simply split, meandered, and coalesced over time, following various flows of interests. ***Who has been your most influential academic mentor?***

If I have to choose just one, it will be James Deetz, a renowned anthropologist and historical archaeologist. As one archaeologist has said of Jim, "he gave you all his attention, regardless of how important or unimportant you thought you were" and "he would rather be wrong and thought-provoking than right and pro-saic." ***What book is currently on your bedside table? What CD is in your stereo?*** Book: "Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Madness in a Fair that Changed America," by Eric Larson. CD: Ruthie Foster's "Runaway Soul." ***What's around the corner?*** A short trip to Yosemite this Fall, and York, England in January (all the while wondering what geniuses scheduled a wintertime conference to be held in England, rather than, Bermuda, or Taos), planning for next summer's fieldwork. ***What courses will you be teaching next semester?*** Archaeological Surveying, World Archaeology



Dr. Laura Bellows



Please describe yourself in the form of an

academic paper: "Single Mom Balances Home, Work, and Field: Notes on an Integrative Theory of Aesthetics, Kinship, Person, and Genre." **Research goals.** My research in Bali, with a Hindu minority in the predominantly Muslim Indonesia, investigates

how the body and sexuality become sites for the articulation of competing religious and nationalist political agendas...**What would you have become if not an anthropologist?** I am the things I would have become if not an anthropologist, just not full-time. **What courses will you be teaching next semester?** Body, Personhood, and Culture. **What is the most surprising thing you have observed/experienced while living in C-U?** The first ear of corn on every hybrid corn plant in a field is at the same level, about 2.5 feet up from the roots. **What book is on your bedside table?** I don't have books on my table, I have a small metal figure of an elephant, which makes a tiny musical sound when you shake it. **What CD is in your disk player?** Karsh Kale **What's around the corner?** The next thing.

Dr. Varsha Pilbrow



Please summarize yourself in the

form of a title to an academic paper. Dental paleoanthropologist with a theoretical bend. **Research goals.** I investigate whether and what types of dental differences are observable between closely related species of living primates. By

studying the types and patterns of dental variation within and among populations, subspecies and species I am able to get a glimpse into the nature of dental changes, if any, that are likely to accompany biological diversification. **What would you have become if not an anthropologist?** I think I would make a good dentist, although I am not that fond of peering down at teeth that are covered with saliva! **What courses will you be teaching next semester?** Hominin Paleontology. **What is the most surprising thing you have observed/experienced while living in C-U?** I am amazed at how many people ride bicycles around here and how sprightly and fit everyone seems! **What book is on your bedside table?** "A corner of the Universe" by Ann M. Martin. It's a children's book - we are reading it as a family. Quite interesting. **What CD is in your disk player?** Enchanting Shehanai of Ustad Bismillah Khan.

Dr. Tim Pilbrow



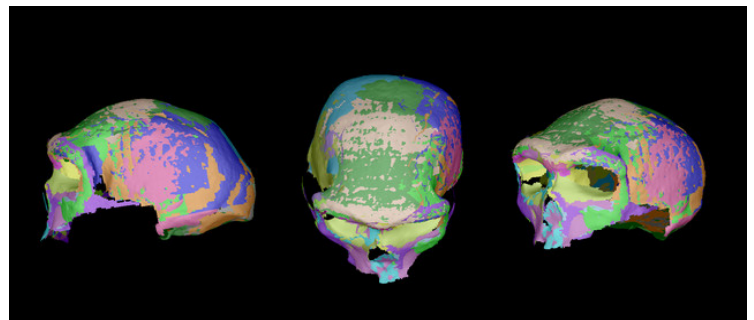
Please summarize yourself in the form of a title

to an academic paper. A cultural anthropologist investigating how history gets used in the articulation of national identity in Bulgaria. **Research goals.** I'm currently examining uses of irony as a discursive strategy in national identity production in post-state-socialist Bulgaria through which people articulate the complex ambiguities of living at the margins of Europe. I'm also looking at how Bulgarian national identity discourses provide a window onto the changing configurations of the relationship between the symbolic and institutional/bureaucratic spaces of Europe.

What would you have become if not an anthropologist? A linguist or a language teacher. **Courses you'll teach next semester?** Introduction to Cultural Anthropology and Anthropology of Postsocialism. **What is the most surprising thing you have observed/experienced while living in C-U?** The insularity and spatial containment of middle class residential zones. **What book is on your bedside table?** Vreme Smrti (Time of Death), a novel from the early 1970s by the Serbian/Yugoslav author Dobrica Cosic. **What CD is in your disk player?** Probably Bill Evans and Cannonball Adderly, an album from the '60s entitled "Know What I Mean". **What's around the corner?** I wish I knew.

Image of the semester? Three dimensional reconstruction of the Kabwe cranium for use in morphometric analyses. This image was featured as the Beckman Institute Visual Media and Imaging Lab's Image of the Week Oct 12-19.

- Jodi Blumenfeld & Steve Leigh



Editor's note: please send us any photos or images of your research (or anything else)

Stanley Thangaraj



Research Goals: I want to find ways to contextualize ritual "blackface" in the South Asian American community whereas it affirms a particular hybrid identity. **What would you have become if not an anthropologist?** I have been a high school teacher and coach, I love that profession and would do that while writing various types of prose on the side. **What is the most surprising thing you have observed/experienced while living in C-U?** They don't sell champagne in bulk. I also don't always get the North South distinction that people make, it is a small town so just tell me the street and I will get there. **What book is on your bedside table?** Richard Rodriguez, I want to learn what the "other" side thinks. **What CD is in your disk player?** The Lynch Mob, a black nationalist group that came to the scene in the late 80s. **If the dead could be raised or time travel possible, what person, living or dead would you most like to have dinner with?** Malcolm X since he is one of the most phenomenal minds who has the ability to convey the world in words understandable by all. I would also choose Rabindranath Tagore.

Milena Shattuck



Research Goals: Two of my main (completely unrelated) interests are cognition and its use in the social setting as well as endocrinology/reproduction. **What would you have become if not an anthropologist?** Ideally, an actor/rock star. Realistically, who knows? **What is the most surprising thing you have observed/experienced while living in C-U?** The weather. **What is your favorite talent/ability/feature that your colleagues might not suspect?** I like to sing in choirs, but I don't know if that is all that surprising or if my singing qualifies as a talent. **What book is on your bedside table?** Plainsong **What CD is in your disk player?** The soundtrack to Buffy (but it is not nearly as cheesy as it sounds, I promise). **If the dead could be raised or time travel possible, what person, living or dead would you most like to have dinner with?** Either Martin Luther King Jr. or Conan O'Brien

Teresa Ramos



Research Goals: I hope to use critical race theory to study student and racial identity development in the U.S. and maybe abroad. I want to aid in the break down of institutional racism, as schools are one of the first places people begin to define themselves racially. **What would you have become if not an anthropologist?** I hope to contribute to the struggle for increased equality and democracy, so I would be studying constitutional law. **What is the most surprising thing you have observed/experienced while living in C-U?** In class conversations with students in my Race and Racialization course have taken me to a whole new level of intellectual development. **What is your favorite talent/ability/feature that your colleagues might not suspect?** Dancing to Hip-Hop with a fair degree of coordination is the one ability I don't think most people would suspect. I love to dance. **What book is on your bedside table?** Harry Potter: The Order of the Phoenix. **What CD is in your disk player?** Miles Davis. **If the dead could be raised or time travel possible, what person, living or dead would you most like to have dinner with?** Members of the Constitutional Congress of Philadelphia, before they finished the document.

Melissa Baltus



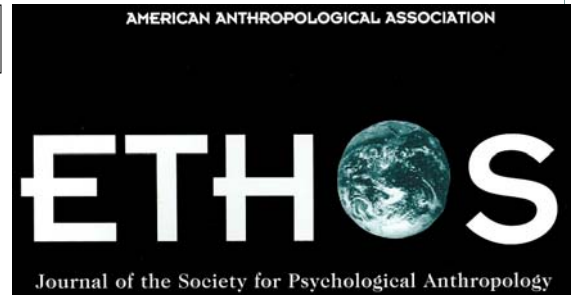
Research Goals: I am studying North American archaeology. Specifically I am interested in settlement patterns of the Mississippian, both within Cahokia and also its outlying sites. **What would you have become if not an anthropologist?** I'm not sure. I've been interested in archaeology since I was little. (what's better for a shy kid than people that are long gone?!) Maybe own a bookstore? I love to read (or at least I used to). **What book is on your bedside table?** Or rather in a large stack beside my bed? Among several books about Cahokia....Back when I had spare time I was reading Bill Clinton's autobiography, Anais Nin's diary, and the Da Vinci Code. **What CD is in your disk player?** Dave Matthews Band, Beck, the Jayhawks. **What is your favorite talent/ability/feature that your colleagues might not suspect?** I love to cook (when I have time).

A new *Ethos* on campus:

Greetings all. It is exciting to be a part of Anthropology's Newsletter. It is a privilege to announce the coming of *Ethos* to our department. *Ethos*, the journal of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, is dedicated to publishing articles that address the interface of the individual and society. Authors often cross the boundaries of psychology and anthropology in pursuing topics of child development, learning, history and subjectivity, consciousness, medical anthropology, religious and spiritual practice, identity, memory, knowledge, race and gender, em-

bodiment, culture and mind.

The journal, *Ethos*, actually came into existence in the early 1970s before its sponsoring society took shape in 1978. The journal was founded by scholars including Mel Spiro, Walter Goldschmidt, George Devereaux, John and Bea Whiting, George Spindler, George De Vos, Robert Levy, Douglas Schwartz and Ted Schwartz. It is currently edited by Sarah Harkness, University of Connecticut. Our office will open January 1, 2005.



Alison Goebel will be the first editorial assistant. We welcome conversations about submissions, and we look forward to receiving papers in essay or research article format. We also welcome suggestions for future directions.

Janet Dixon Keller

Editor Designate, Ethos

2004 AAA Distinguished Lecturer: Mahir Saul

The Association for Africanist Anthropology is a section of the AAA created with the mission "to stimulate and advance anthropology by promoting the study of Africa as well as Africanist scholarship." Its first distinguished lecture was given in 1998 by John Middleton and recent awardees include Sally Falk Moore and Parker Shipton.

When the Association for Africanist Anthropology invited me to give their distinguished lecture in the AAA meeting this year I decided to talk about Islam in West Africa. The timeliness of the topic of Islam is one reason for this decision; Africanist anthropology's special difficulty with Islam, pointing to deep-seated dispositions inherited from the 19th century, is an-

other. In rejuvenating our field and making it part of contemporary conversations, incorporating Islam in its methodological and theoretical arsenal will be a signpost and an example of broader significance.

Why is Islam so difficult to handle for Africanists? The scholarly division of labor of the European age of exploration, consolidated during colonialism, assigned the study of primitive societies to ethnology and that of scriptural traditions to orientalism. The "primitive" was a distant and benign other, ripe for fantasy and taming. "Islam," in contrast, is present in the pores of European identity, as alternative civilization and military threat. The extirpation of Islam was also the recategoriza-

tion of West Africa as alien and distant. We read about the "recent arrival of monotheistic religions" in Africa and I think of the remarkable feat of misremembering. Islam, in West Africa as elsewhere, challenges our notions of "society" and "culture." Ironically, it is fieldwork amongst people known for rejecting Islam, for shrines, blood sacrifices and spectacular masquerades, in the face of massive conversion, that awoke me to the fundamental significance of Islam in West Africa for understanding Muslim and non-Muslim alike.

- *Mahir Saul*

Recent presentations:

Southeastern Archaeological Conference, October 20-23 St. Louis, MO

Aileen Betzenhauser: Through Space and Time: Preliminary and proposed research at the Washausen (11MO305) and Pieper (11MO31) sites.

Philip Millhouse, Timothy Pauketat, Thomas Emerson & Jeff Kruchten: Understanding

Native Histories in the Upper Mississippi Valley from A.D. 1050-1350: the Lundy and John Chapman sites.

Timothy Pauketat & Susan Alt: Compounds and Keeps for Cahokians (and Their Political-Historical Implications)

Midwest Primate Interest Group First Annual Meeting, October 8, 9 UIUC

Paul Garber— Primate Cognition – Experimental Field Studies

Thomas Gillespie & Tony Goldberg Current Problems in Primate Conservation

Thomas Gillespie Primate Conservation in Sub-Saharan Africa

Tony Goldberg Primate Conservation Medicine

John Polk & Kamla Ahluwalia Joint Posture and Subchondral Bone Density.

Rebecca Stumpf - Female Mating Strategies in Wild West African Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*)

Canadian Association of Physical Anthropology Annual Meeting Oct 28-30 London, ON

Jodi Blumenfeld, S. Leigh, J. Spencer-Smith, D. Weber A New Portable Scanning System for the Ac-

quisition of Data from Three Dimensional Objects*

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies 2nd Annual Tinker Workshop on Pre-Dissertation Field Research, October 22-23, 2004, UIUC.

Andrew Bryan: Cerro Baúl Archaeological Project in North Highland Peru

Jennifer Hardin: Preliminary Research on Elite Social Power in Ecuador

Ethel Hazard: Diplomacy, Penalization, and Imprisonment: A Socio-Cultural Investigation of Incarceration and Exile Among Cuban Insurgents During the Struggle for Independence

Eva Pajuelo: Tumbes and Zarumilla Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance Project

Melissa Raguette-Schofield: The Ontogeny of Feeding Behavior in Mantled Howler Monkeys

Sarah Rowe: Preliminary Fieldwork at Agua Blanca, Manabí, Ecuador

Bernardo Urbani: Spatial Mapping by Wild Capuchin Monkeys and Its Implications for Rainforest Conservation in Costa Rica

Julie Williams: Deconstructing Whiteness: Millenarian Movements in Indigenous Group Identity – From *Tiempos Inmemoriales* to the Present: Indigenous Identity in the Comuna de Lumbisi, Ecuador

*Jodi's poster received an honorable mention in the student prize competition!

Ask Liz:



As we're sure you're aware, the office staff here knows the answer to absolutely everything. If you have questions about this picture, Liz Spears knows the answer. If you ask nicely, she may even show you one of her hidden talents!

NEW ARRIVALS:

Amalia Lucia Bollero, born on November 1, 2004 to Petra Jelinek and German Bollero.

Lumina Malaika Tami, born on August 30th 2004 to Nicole Tami.

24 expressions about the election:

Enraged	Depressing	Embarrassing
Disappointed	Shock & Awe	Nauseating
Hopelessness	Intolerable	Four MORE years.
New evil	Mind-blowing	What's the matter with Kansas?
Horrified	Disgusting	University of Illinois Urbana-Canada?
Ridiculous	Sadness	Fear
The Worst	Cowboy Wins	Obama!
Frustrating	Hilarious	
Tomfoolery	Not-Surprising	

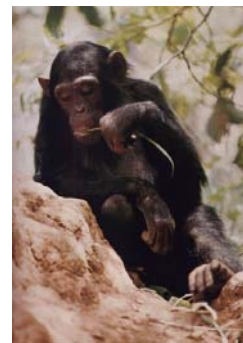
Pottu, bhindi, dot

A little circle
 Not even the size
 Of the tip of your pinkie
 Yet encompassing of nations
 While denying them.
 Yes, I tell you
 It is a dot
 Varied by experience
 Varied by power.
 A dot represents me
 While simultaneously
 Denying me.
 Yes, a dot.
 You say,
 "A dot?"
 Many voices
 Reduced to one
 On a dot;
 I visualized in you
 On a dot.
 I say,
 "It is just a dot."
 How untrue, how false.
 You know me as a dot
 You made me as a dot
 I am imprisoned in your dot.
 Your dot envisions me
 In a uniformity of your category.
 A brown woman without a face,
 That is me, that is your dot.
 It puts me in a sari
 A woman without distinction
 A woman without age
 Caught in the static
 Of your vision.
 That dot is too simplistic
 You say,
 "After all, it is just a dot."
 How untrue, how false.
 How discomfoting your words.
 My history, my experience
 Emanate
 From a symbol of infinite meanings.
 My color, my mind
 Emerge from this dot.
 My life, my future
 Arise with the closet of the dot.
 My anger, my joy
 Stem from the ignorance of the dot.
 It is a dot,
 A perfect round,
 A circle of multiple colors
 Multiple textures.
 It is a dot
 Yet it determines me
 In the complexity
 Of such simplicity.
 Many names, many skins, many faces
 Melted into the dot;
 I in the we, the we in the I,
 The power of a dot.
 Who can say, "It is just a dot"?"

-Stanley Thangaraj

Primate Society: MPIG at UIUC

The first annual Midwest Primate Interest Group (MPIG) meeting was held at UIUC on October 8th and 9th. Over 90 participants from 23 universities and zoos across the Midwest attended the meeting to discuss issues related to human and non-human primate behavior, ecology, evolution and conservation. During a roundtable discussion Friday evening, participants highlighted the importance of taking interdisciplinary approaches to non-human primate conservation. Panelists encouraged primatologists to work more closely with cultural anthropologists, political scientists, economists, and veterinarians to address conservation management issues in the local communities where they do their research.



On Saturday, students and faculty members gave podium and poster presentations on their research and participants had an opportunity to informally discuss ideas about issues related to primate behavior, ecology, paleontology and functional morphology. The informal nature of the conference was ideal for students to obtain feedback on their research and organizers look forward to increasing student involvement in the future. Thanks to Paul Garber, Tony Goldberg and the rest of the biological anthropology faculty and graduate students for organizing this successful meeting. Next year's meeting will be held in St. Louis, MO.

The Social Scene:

On Saturday, September 18, 2004, the Anthropology Department revived the traditional annual anthropology picnic at Meadowbrook Park. Beginning at 1:00p.m., students, faculty, families, and friends met at the park pavilion to enjoy typical BBQ treats plus a wide array of potluck dishes brought by one and all. Besides eating and socializing, other events included a piñata and a game of Twister (for the kids). Later, Will Hope and a host of others gathered and made great music together. The fun lasted at the park until 6pm. Approximately 75 people turned out to bring in the new academic year and welcome the new cohort, making the picnic a great success. On behalf of the organizing committee, we would like to thank all those who participated and came out to celebrate the new year! Andy Orta, Allison Goebel, Donna White, and Julie Williams formed a new social events committee and coordinated the event. The fun continues at Friday Happy Hour, and we've heard rumors of a bowling team...

- Julie Williams

(look for photos on our website: <http://www.anthro.uiuc.edu/Newsletter/>)



AnthroNews is compiled and edited by John Polk, Donna White & Margaret Enrile.

Submissions, ideas and assistance welcome. Please send me an email, drop things in my mailbox or come see me in:

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Department of Anthropology

We know people!



Welcoming Remarks: (Continued from page 1)

for three faculty positions this year. One, in biological anthropology, one in the cultural anthropology of China, and one in the cultural anthropology of Latin America.

In addition, as part of a department commitment to diversity, we initiated a speaker series this fall on race, human variation, and ethnicity. Our first two speakers were Alan Goodman (President-elect of AAA) and Yolanda Moses (past President of AAA). Both speakers also presented a departmental seminar on the 'future of anthropology' highlighting the importance of maintaining a four-field vision of the discipline.

Finally, I wish to thank Dr. John Polk for his efforts in revitalizing our Department Newsletter.

Wishing all a peaceful and productive year,

- Paul A. Garber

Remembering Amanda Grunden:

Our colleague and friend, Amanda Michaelle Miller Grunden, died August 26, 2004.

Amanda was born December 16, 1965 in Columbus, Ohio. She graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Ohio Wesleyan with degrees in music, anthropology and sociology. She received her doctorate from Anthropology at UIUC in 1999. Amanda conducted her dissertation research in Indonesia as a Fulbright Scholar. Her project, *Reyog: More Than Art Identity Construction in an East Javanese Regency Ponorogo, Indonesia*, resulted in one of the earliest dissertations submitted to the UIUC department with a video CD. In the process of her doctoral research she shot video for National Geographic Magazine. Amanda's dedication to visual media in anthropology set new standards and created new options for our program. She was indeed a pioneer in this regard. During her doctoral career Amanda also found time to be active in graduate student affairs, undergraduate teaching and advising. She gave generously of her time and energy to all of us.

After receiving her doctorate, Amanda went on to contribute through the Division of Academic Outreach's Web Technology Group. The projects on which she worked included a series of online modules for fire fighters offered by the UI Fire Institute. These have been popular and beneficial to many fire fighters throughout the state. She also helped develop a kiosk on nutrition for the Dept. of Food Science and Human Nutrition. Additionally, Amanda applied her talents to projects at the Spurlock Museum where she coordinated design and construction of an on-line learning module titled Museum Problems in Today's World. This project was part of an educational program to engage middle-school students, through problem-based learning, in research on the Ancient Egyptian practice of mummification. Through projects like these Amanda was an emissary for our discipline, taking issues and images beyond the ivory tower to a variety of communities in Illinois. Everyone with whom she worked greatly valued her collegiality and competence.

A Memorial Service was held for Amanda in August. Many in the Dept. of Anthropology and from other units on campus were able to attend, but many who knew her were not able to be present as we collectively mourned. Memories of Amanda: of her achievements in anthropology, her commitments to the power of imagery, and her strength of character remain with me and I know must now sustain many of you who read this. Through our memories Amanda's strengths offer solace. We come together in our hearts to honor her.

- Compiled by Janet Dixon Keller