

Newsletter

of the Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Archaeological Fieldschool in Focus

Dr. Baltus and UT Students Unearth a Prehistoric Habitation Site Along the Maumee River

This past summer, nine undergraduate students, one undergraduate student volunteer, and one graduate student volunteer participated in the UT Archaeological Field School under the direction of Dr. Melissa Baltus. As part of the field school, students learned how to survey, excavate, and map an archaeological site.

In the field along the banks of the Maumee River, students performed test excavations at a previously recorded archaeological site in the Klewer Towpath park. They also extended their investigations to a terrace of the Maumee River floodplain within Side Cut Metropark via a shovel test survey used to identify the presence of potentially buried sites.

The previously recorded site in the Klewer Towpath park yielded few artifacts, including a few chert flakes (debris from making stone tools), and has seemingly been impacted by modern flooding.

The shovel-test survey in Side Cut proved much more successful. These efforts yielded archaeological materials indicative of a pre-contact Native American occupation, thus identifying a previously unrecorded archaeological site (temporarily named SCM-1). With permission of the Metroparks of Toledo, excavations proceeded with three 2-x-2-meter test excavation pits to further explore SCM-1. This subsurface testing

Sage O'shea and Isaiah Kolb excavating through recent flood deposits.



Student Archaeologists take a breather during the shovel-test survey.

recovered evidence of habitation, including one intact subsurface feature (a refuse pit) on the top of the upper river terrace, and a scattered midden (debris) along the slope and onto the lower river terrace. Materials in the refuse pit and midden include stone tools and pottery diagnostic of the Late Woodland period (between 750 and 1100 AD), debris from stone tool production, burned bone and fire-cracked rock (debris from indirect heating practices).

This newly identified site holds the potential for better understanding Native American occupation and use of the floodplain environments of the Maumee River prior to European contact. Specifically, this site may provide information clarifying whether the floodplains were places of long-term, year-round habitation or whether they were only used seasonally. Future exploration of this site, including a geophysical survey of the upper terrace to identify additional features, will provide more data regarding length and season of occupation, temporal affiliation, and activities taking place at this 900-1200 year old site.

Clockwise from left, Kayla Billiard, Michael Campbell, Madeline Bengela, and Conor Thomas documenting their excavation unit.



In addition to the work in the field, the UT Field School took field trips to the Great Circle and Newark Octagon – preserved portions of a series of Hopewell

(100 B.C. – A.D. 500) earthworks in Newark, Ohio – and Sunwatch Village – a partially reconstructed Fort Ancient (A.D. 1200 -1400) archaeological site in Dayton, Ohio. •

Departmental Hosted Event

Advanced Screening of “Native America: Cities of the Sky”

In October the Department, in partnership with Toledo’s PBS station WGTE, hosted an advanced screening of an episode from the four-part PBS documentary series, *Native America*. The series highlights the more than 15,000 year long history of the Indigenous American cities, science, art, and writing, intertwining the perspective of Native Americans and Archaeological research.

The evening featured a screening of the 3rd episode in the series, *Cities of the Sky*, which featured the department’s own Dr. Melissa Baltus whose archaeological research at the ancient city of Cahokia is featured. The evening also featured honored guest Mr. Jamie Oxendine, Professor of Native American Culture at Lourdes University & Director of the Black Swamp Intertribal Foundation. Mr. Oxendine began the evening with a performance of flute music he composed and followed the screening with a keynote address highlighting Indigenous history, culture and lifeways. The evening wrapped up with a question-and-answer session with the audience lead by Mr. Oxendine and Dr. Baltus. •

Dr. Melissa Baltus, and guest speaker Mr. Jamie Oxendine pose for a photo after the screening and discussion featured episode



www.pbs.org/native-america/



Scholarship In Focus:

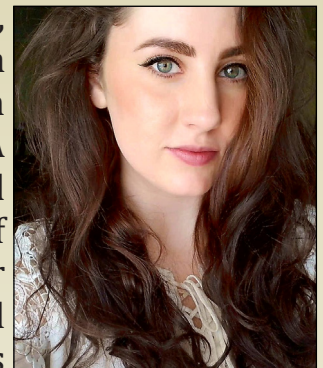
Advancing Scholarship on Disability Issues and Medical Sociology

Solomon Amoatey, Edelweiss Lafuente, and Angela Nieuwkoop have had papers accepted to at the Eastern Sociology Society (ESA) conference in Boston, Massachusetts in March 2019. All three also will present at a mini-conference accompanying the ESAs. The research these Masters students are presenting highlights their own efforts centered on disability issues and medical sociology.



Solomon Amoatey will present his paper "Advocacy by disability organizations in Ghana" in a session on "Political Sociology and Culture" and also will present "Global Health and the politics of disability in Ghana" in a session called "Health Systems and Double Disease Burdens."

Angela Nieuwkoop will present her work on "Education as a social determinant of cardiovascular disease: assessing the responses" in a sessions on Social Dimensions of Health, and will also give a paper entitled "Health on the Margins: A Look at the Social Determinants of Health" in another session also dedicated to the social dimensions of health

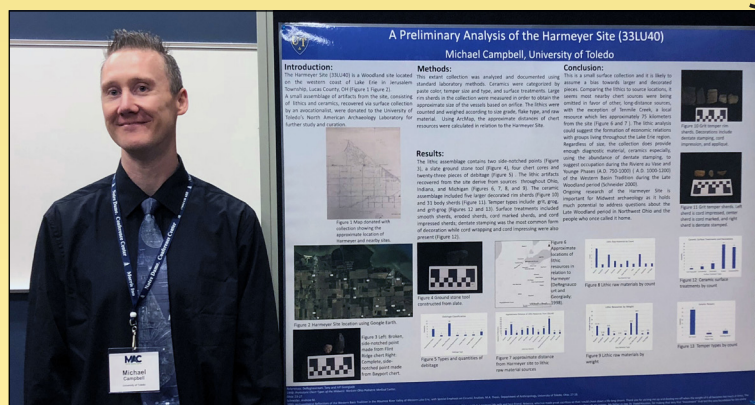


Edelweiss is developing her work initiated during a course in social movements she took with the Department Chair, Dr. Dwight Haase, and one of her conference papers stems from the work she did in that class. Titled, "The 2016 Disability Protest in

Bolivia: a social movement perspective" her paper will be presented the session "Narrative, Advocacy and Social Movements." She will also present a paper entitled "Suma Qamaña and the obligations of the Bolivian Government with regard to the health and well-being of all Bolivians: challenges by disability activists" in a separate session on Social Dimensions of Health.

All three are mentored by Dr. Mark Sherry, who also will present at the ESAs, with papers titled "Exploring impairment and disability through the lens of inequality" and "Human trafficking as an element of globalization: exploring the health issues" in sessions on Disability and Inequality and Globalization and Inequality, respectively.

Midwest Archaeological Scholarship



Michael Campbell presented a poster highlighting his Anthropology Undergraduate thesis research at the at the 2018 Midwest Archaeological Conference in Notre Dame, Indiana. His research is focused on the analysis of archaeological materials from the Harmeyer site, a prehistoric habitation in Lucas County, Ohio. •

Faculty in the Spotlight

Shahna Arps, Ph.D.

Our department welcomed the promotion of Dr. Shahna Arps from Associate Lecturer to Assistant Professor of Anthropology. The promotion underscores Dr. Arps' continued commitment to students, teaching, and research at the University over the last four years. As the Anthropology Undergraduate Advisor for our Department, Professor Arps has developed a close-knit relationship with our students, regularly guiding them in opportunities to engage in active research. In addition managing the department's Osteology Lab, Dr. Arps regularly supervises student research in the Osteology Lab.



Professor Arps runs the Osteology Lab where students are able to engage in hands-on study of osteological and paleontological specimens.

She serves on MA thesis committees for Sociology graduates and also mentors students who engage in research stemming from the 2017 Field School to the Dominican Republic, a joint project led by Professor Arps and departmental colleague Dr. Karie Peralta, Assistant Professor of Sociology. Professors Arps and Peralta have recently reflected on their research in a co-authored chapter titled "Developing Global Competencies Through Community-Based Research Workshops in the Dominican Republic" published by IGI Global in the

Professor Shahna Arps in the field with Professor Peralta and UT Sociology & Anthropology students in Santiago, Dominican Republic.



volume *Cases on Global Competencies for Educational Diplomacy in International Settings*. Dr. Peralta and Dr. Arps will be guiding a new set of students in sociological and ethnographic research in the Dominican Republic again in the Spring of 2019.

Additionally, this past May Dr. Arps published a book chapter on her ethnographic research examining maternal health in coastal Miskito communities in Honduras. The chapter titled "The Consequences of Social Inequality: Maternal Morbidity and Mortality in Honduran Miskito Communities" was published in the volume *Maternal Death and Pregnancy-Related Morbidity Among Indigenous Women of Mexico and Central America* by Springer. Dr. Arps' research focuses on demography, health, and reproduction in contemporary populations using a biocultural perspective. Currently, she is examining household composition, access to resources, and health care use among Dominico-Haitian and Haitian families living in the Dominican Republic. She also plans to study growth patterns among children in this population, starting with anthropometric assessments during research this spring. •

Where are they Now?

A Check-in With Some Recent Graduates



Meg Perry – Anthropology's 2018 Outstanding Graduate is now working with the College of Menominee Nation (CMN), Keshena, Wisconsin, as an AmeriCorps Vista Volunteer, where she is focusing on the critical issue of food sovereignty. Her projects include the farmer's market, community garden & the expansion of agriculture-related economic opportunities on the reservation. Thus far her experiences have been varied & far-reaching; many of them motivated by her own initiative.

Her contributions include a successful grant application to the American Indian Higher Education Consortium to launch a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, which awarded \$33,000. This has enabled engaging organic farms to distribute fresh produce/baked goods to the Menominee community. Plans are also set to build a greenhouse for the reservation which she coordinates with the Menominee Forest Regeneration Forester & overseer of Cultural Resource Identification & Protection, Jeff Grignon. Seeking out further experiences, Meg has worked with Jeff & is keeps abreast of seed collection & pollination ecology efforts.

Seeds of Native Health
A Campaign for Indigenous Nutrition

In the next academic year, Meg plans to pursue graduate school for medical anthropology/public health with a specific focus on native peoples. In the meantime, and in addition to her work with CMN, Meg has been named Sponsor Coordinator for Project Esperanza. The latter is an organization serving the Haitian refugee & immigrant community in the Puerto Plata area of the Dominican Republic. This stems from her summer 2017 experience with the UT Sociology & Anthropology Field School in the Dominican led by Dr. Karie Peralta & Dr. Shana Arps.

Jessica Hanf – 2018 Anthropology graduate is enrolled in a Masters program in Criminal Justice at Bowling Green State University. She is specializing in forensics & is due to graduate this summer. Jessica is very interested in the Anthropological Research Facility at the University of Tennessee, known as the "body farm," founded by forensic anthropologist, Dr. Bill Bass. It is well-known for its role in the training of forensic & law enforcement personnel.

FORENSIC
ANTHROPOLOGY

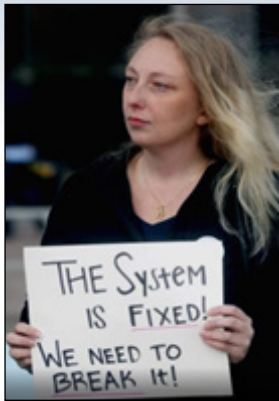


MedStar Health

Taylor N. McCormick - A 2016 Sociology graduate, Taylor presently works full time at a Medstar Hospital as a psych counselor in Maryland. She is also presently enrolled at the University of Southern California, earning her Masters in Social Work in their online program.

Emma Janosik – Following the completion of her undergraduate work in Anthropology at UT in 2018, Emma presently pursues a Masters degree in biological anthropology at Kent State University. Apart from what she describes is as intense but rewarding coursework she has also taken on new responsibilities with a teaching assistantship. On top of all of this she is working with her advisor, biological anthropologist, **Dr. Mary Ann**

Raghanti, herself a 1996 UT anthropology graduate, whose work on primate & human brain evolution is internationally known. Dr. Raghanti reports that Emma is now “dicing & slicing” primate brains herself & should settle on a thesis topic soon. Raghanti recalls her days at UT & her internship at the Toledo Zoo, managed by her advisor, Dr. Seamus Metress, which allowed her to work with gorillas first hand. Today, Raghanti’s interest in captive great apes continues, but extends to the rate at which they die from heart disease a condition that is virtually nonexistent in the wild. Emma is setting out to contribute academically in this area with thesis research investigating testosterone levels in captive male gorillas and its relationship to cardiovascular disease.



Markie Miller – Anthropology’s 2012 Outstanding Student received her Masters in Environmental Science from the University of Idaho in 2017. Markie serves as Theatre Manager for Toledo’s Ohio Theatre and Event Center. Beyond that, she has been a tireless community organizer with Toledoans for Safe Water, the Rights of Nature & as a board member of the National and Community Rights Networks. She is currently embroiled in attempts to bring the Lake Erie Bill of Rights to a special election ballot which would afford voters the opportunity to protect Lake Erie and those communities that rely on its health for their own. Additionally, Markie has worked w/various ecological programs

in Athens, Ohio and was a Land Management Field Assistant w/the MetroParks of Toledo where she engaged in invasive species removal. She is an avid native plant gardener who helped to establish a native plant project on the UT campus while a student here. As a double major graduating in Anthropology and German, Markie received the award for Outstanding Student in the Foreign Language Department as well as the Outstanding Student in the College of Arts and Letters (as it is now known).

Ryan Schmidt – A 2001 Anthropology graduate & recipient of UT’s Presidential Honors Award for Outstanding Academic Performance, Dr. Schmidt is a specialist in paleogenetics and human variation receiving a Masters from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas & Ph.D. from the University of Montana. Ryan’s recently contributed a review of Dr. Kim Tallbear’s book *Native American DNA: Tribal Belonging and the False Promise of Genetic Science* for the journal *American Anthropologist*. He had previously published in the *Journal of Anthropology* an article titled “American Indian Identity and Blood Quantum in the 21st Century: A Critical Review.” Between 2013–2016 he held a Postdoctoral Fellowship for Overseas Researchers at Kitasato University, Japan. His efforts focused on the genetic, molecular & archaeological evidence regarding the peoples of Mongolia. This was followed by one year Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Texas, Austin. Recently Ryan completed the Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship at University College, Dublin, Ireland, working on paleogenetic extraction & analysis from challenging environments. Now based out of Honolulu, Ryan works with the Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency where he will lead a teams this year to the Solomon Islands and Vietnam in efforts to recover missing soldiers whose bodies never returned home. •

