Greetings from the department head

I hope that you’ve returned for the fall invigorated by your summer, whether you spent it out by the pool or out in the field. Here in this issue we appreciate the many faculty and students who have recently won important grants and awards. This snapshot of undergraduate, graduate, and faculty achievements is both an excellent introduction to the breadth of research in the department, as well as a look at what it is possible to attain as you conduct work of your own.

A signal honor is the election of professor Elizabeth Reitz as Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. This most prestigious society recognizes her pioneering research in the study of past diet and foodways, and her fundamental contributions to the development of zooarchaeology. In 2013, Reitz was named to the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the association recognizes its Fellows for scientifically distinguished efforts to advance science or its application.

We welcome assistant professor Suzanne Birch, who joins our faculty following a postdoctoral research position at Brown University. She’ll divide her time between the geography department and ours. Her inquiry into past human responses to environmental change explores how those adaptations can inform us today and in the future.

We are proud of our ten newly minted Ph.D. and look forward to learning about their journeys as they head out beyond the department. Their research across the globe—China, Brazil, Indonesia, Vietnam, Madagascar, Mexico, France, and the Gambia—and closer to home, in Tennessee and Appalachia, reflects the vibrancy of our graduate program’s ecological and environmental engagement with the world.

The National Science Foundation is funding major projects involving faculty members Don Nelson and Laura German. Other significant faculty funding is covered in this issue.

The best of semesters to you—
Suzanne Pilaar Birch joins us as an assistant professor with a joint appointment in the anthropology and geography departments. She has spent the last year as Postdoctoral Fellow in Archaeology and the Ancient World at Brown University after earning her PhD from the University of Cambridge, U.K.

She is interested in human adaptation and resilience to climate change and natural resource unpredictability in prehistory, and how our understanding of past human response to environmental change informs current thinking about these issues. Her doctoral research at Cambridge investigated these in particular at the end of the last ice age in the Northeastern Adriatic, an especially important region for understanding the effects of rapid sea level rise on local human populations.

Birch uses zooarchaeology and stable isotope geochemistry to investigate research questions pertaining to diet, mobility, and settlement systems.

Her other research interests include the initial domestication of livestock, diffusion of domesticates across Eurasia, the transition from hunting to herding, seasonality and human mobility, and advancing methodologies in zooarchaeology and stable isotope analysis.

Birch says, “I am excited to join such a wonderful group of colleagues in Anthropology and Geography here at UGA and look forward to a great first semester!”

This fall she is teaching Special Topics in Zooarchaeology and Old World Archaeology.

---

American Academy of Arts and Sciences names Reitz a Fellow

Zooarchaeology professor Elizabeth J. Reitz has been named to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, joining the ranks of the world’s most accomplished leaders from academia, business, public affairs, the humanities and the arts.

Members of the 2014 class, which includes winners of the Nobel Prize, MacArthur, Guggenheim and Fulbright fellowships and Grammy, Emmy, Oscar and Tony awards, will be inducted at a ceremony Oct. 11 at the academy’s headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

“I was very pleased to learn of Dr. Reitz’s election as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences,” said UGA President Jere W. Morehead. “This significant recognition reflects her outstanding academic career and the high regard her colleagues have for her.”

One of the nation’s most prestigious honorary societies, the academy is also a leading center for independent policy research. Members contribute to academy publications and studies of science and technology policy, energy and global security, social policy, American institutions, the humanities, arts and education.

Reitz focuses on Latin American and southeastern archaeology with an emphasis on ecological and environmental archaeology. She serves as curator of the Zooarchaeology Laboratory in the Georgia Museum of Natural History, which maintains a comparative skeletal collection of more than 4,000 modern vertebrate and invertebrate specimens from Georgia, the southeastern U.S. and adjacent coastal waters.

“I’m totally amazed at this unexpected honor, grateful to all of my colleagues for conferring it upon me and thankful to all of the students who have worked in the Zooarchaeology Laboratory. Their hard work really is the basis for any recognition that I receive.”

“Dr. Reitz’s induction into one of the nation’s oldest and most respected honor societies is an indication of the remarkable impact of her scholarship,” said Pamela Whitten, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. “The University of Georgia is fortunate to have faculty of her caliber advancing the scope of human knowledge and seeking solutions to some of society’s most challenging issues.”

—Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
Bubb wins Office of Sustainability Outstanding Undergraduate Award

The UGA Office of Sustainability honored Landon Bubb (AB ’14) with the 2014 Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award. Just one student is chosen for this award university-wide. Sustainable UGA Award winners are recognized by their peers in the UGA community for going above and beyond to demonstrate dedicated efforts to conserve natural resources, advance sustainability initiatives and improve quality of life, both on and off-campus. As a leader of Students for Environmental Action, member of Speak Out for Species, intern at the Athens Farmers Market and other roles in the community, Bubb has demonstrated exceptional commitment to environmental issues and improving quality of life. His faculty mentor, Julie Velásquez Runk, said in her nomination, “He has a holistic vision of sustainability for improving the quality of life, including health, socioeconomics, and minority rights…. Landon is a wonderful embodiment of what we aspire for sustainable community: enthusiastic, committed, and engaged.” Bubb is currently volunteering with the Athens Farmers Market as he considers the next step in his education.

The Office of Sustainability also awarded two anthropology students 2014 Campus Sustainability Grants. It recognized senior Brian Holcombe for his solar charging station for personal electronic devices project, which provides opportunities for solar educational education and research, as well as enables more students to use the Internet outdoors. Sarah Bess Jones (AB ’14) also received a grant, for her UGAarden garden diversity projects. Sarah installed three “keyhole” gardens at the UGAarden learning and demonstration farm to teach alternative means of sustainable agriculture.

Velásquez Runk receives UGA grant for innovative course design

The Center for Teaching and Learning awarded Julie Velásquez Runk one of just 13 campus-wide Learning Technologies Grants; these grants go to faculty members who propose ideas regarding innovative teaching practice with technology. Major factors in the selection are how these proposals are relevant to the university’s priorities, and the potential application to other academic areas.

Her proposal, “Narrative History, Audio and Imagery in an Interdisciplinary Landscape Course,” involved her development of the new course, Anthropology of Landscape, offered in an undergraduate and graduate student split level course. This class provides the theoretical and methodological training necessary for anthropological analyses of space, place, and landscape.

This is the first anthropology department class to use a drone. Velásquez Runk and her students used it to capture aerial photographs used in the development of orthophotos, which transform aerial photos into the equivalent of a traditional map that also preserves the visual information of the photo. Students learn other technical skills in the course, including the use of the geographic information software ArcGIS that enables users to display and analyze geographic data, as well as the use of GPS for mapping. These skills support the creation of a final project, a story map integrating photos, audio or video of a landscape as well as related cultural data. By completion of this project students have become aware of a broader perspective on human-environment relations as a result of gaining methodological and theoretical skills related to the spatial location of culture.

Anthropology of Landscape, ANTH3333, may be offered next fall.

Anthropology journal covers career themes of the late Robert Rhoades

The journal *Culture, Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE)* covers the work of the late Robert E. Rhoades in a special issue. The June issue of the journal, a publication of the Culture and Agriculture section of the American Anthropological Association (AAA), is called “Tending the Field: Special Issue on Agricultural Anthropology and Robert E. Rhoades.” Distinguished Research Professor Robert Rhoades (1942 – 2010) is widely considered the founder of agricultural anthropology. For over thirty years, Dr. Rhoades worked toward “an engaged and useful anthropology for the 21st century.” In addition, Dr. Rhoades was an internationally recognized advocate of the preservation of landrace varieties and cultivation methods, an interest he shared with many throughout the U.S. South.

This *CAFE* publication stems from a session at the 2010 AAA Conference, which gathered together many of Robert Rhoades’s students and peers to expand upon his work in the domain of agricultural anthropology. James Veteto (Ph.D. ’10), Todd Crane (Ph.D. ’06), Tad Brown (doctoral candidate), Kristine Skarbo (Ph.D. ’12), Kristin VanderMolen (doctoral candidate), plus his collaborator for over 20 years, Professor Virginia Nazarea, contributed papers to this *CAFE* issue. These papers engage three themes that were important to Rhoades: agrobiodiversity conservation, participatory and collaborative research, and the multilayered politics of agricultural development.
Professor Ted Gragson has been awarded more than $900,000 as part of a research project and visiting professor appointment funded by the French government. The IDEX—Initiatives d’excellence—program is designed to attract high-profile senior scientists to engage in long-term collaborations with units at the Université de Toulouse. He has been appointed an IDEX “Attractivity Chair” at the Université de Toulouse-Jean Jaurès in France for academic years 2015-2019.

As an Attractivity Chair, Gragson is provided 660,000 euros—more than $900,000—in direct funding to lead a trans-disciplinary team of seasoned researchers, early-career investigators and graduate students in an examination of the historical ecology of the Midi-Pyrénées region in southern France on the border with Spain.

“The region Midi-Pyrénées has numerous prehistoric and historic manifestations fundamental to the emergence of contemporary humans, the formation of modern states and the development of Western culture that are only beginning to be discovered,” said Gragson, who also serves as lead principal investigator of the National Science Foundation-funded Coweeta Long Term Ecological Research Project in the southern Appalachian Mountains.

Gragson will remain a professor in the department and will serve as a visiting professor at the Université de Toulouse for a cumulative period of 12 months over the course of his appointment. He will be attached to TRACES—the Travaux et Recherches Archéologiques sur les Cultures, les Espaces et les Sociétés—a French National Center for Scientific Research research-training unit with 94 permanent members from academia and diverse government agencies. It is the second largest archaeology laboratory in France.

“We are interested in the ‘morphogenesis’ or transformations—structure, function, composition—that have taken place in the organization of households, communities and landscapes over the course of the last few thousand years. These help us understand human dependence and effect on natural resources, the increasing complexity of society and issues of social adaptation and resilience to environmental change.

“Regional projects of any kind are extremely rare in France, and this region of France has been used extensively and intensively by humans for at least the last 100,000-plus years evidenced by numerous painted/incised caves and abundant and diverse material culture,” Gragson said.

The team will be organized to examine the morphogenesis of households, villages and territories; examine the morphogenesis of landscape resulting from human use practices; and establish the chrono-stratigraphy of onset, duration and cessation of human-landscape processes across the Holocene, or the last 11,700 years of Earth’s history. By delving into the millennial history of the Midi-Pyrénées region, the team will contribute knowledge critical to its sustainable use and management into the future.

—UGA Public Affairs

The American Museum of Natural History has awarded assistant professor Laurie Reitsema a 2014-15 research grant for her work on St. Catherines Island.

The island is a privately owned sea island off the northern coast of Georgia that is dedicated to ecological and anthropological research. St. Catherines has a long history of human occupation and has been the subject of a wide range of bioarchaeological research on human biocultural adaptation. Reitsema is a member of a new team of bioarchaeologists working on the island with the American Museum of Natural History, studying diet and mobility of inhabitants of the island around the time of Spanish contact; her research includes a consideration of how the landscape and environment of St. Catherines Island have changed through time. As part of this research she is systematically studying the isotopic diversity of plants from the island. Stable carbon and nitrogen isotope ratios in consumer tissues (such as human bone) reflect a composite of the stable isotope signatures of foods consumed during life. This makes surveying plant isotope variability on St. Catherines Island a critical first-step in reconstructing human diet from stable isotope evidence. By studying the isotope ratios of modern-day plants in comparison to the isotope ratios of charred plant remains from archaeological contexts on St. Catherines, Reitsema’s research helps reconstruct environmental changes on the island over the past two-thousand years and provides a framework for interpreting the ecology and plant adaptations of maritime islands.

anthropology.uga.edu
Lonneman wins National Science Foundation fellowship

Michael Lonneman has won a Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation. This highly competitive program—only 14% of applicants are selected—provides three years of support, a $32,000 annual stipend, and international research and professional development opportunities, as well as supercomputer access.

Lonneman began his cross-disciplinary research in rural communities of the Dominican Republic this summer; his work explores the decision-making processes of farmers under vulnerability. He seeks to learn how they respond to risk in the face of disasters and hazards between both external social and environmental forces placing communities and individuals into a space of vulnerability, and personal and household factors. Vulnerability is created along three lines: the risk of exposure to perturbations such as extreme weather, the risk of inadequate capacities to cope with perturbations, and the risk of severe consequences from the slow recovery from perturbation.

Lonneman selected the Dominican Republic for his research because environmental, economic and political trends have made it an ideal location to examine vulnerability and risk. Extreme weather events (hurricanes, topical storms, droughts and floods) pose a perennial challenge to the livelihood of smallholding farmers there. Neoliberal trade agreements have opened the island to tourism, a change that erodes the farm base, and political developments exclude parts of the population from public services and economic opportunities.

Lonneman will ascertain who is under risk and how their choices are constrained. He’ll investigate farmers’ ways of mitigating such challenges and examine how these behavioral adaptations toward structural and environmental perturbations emerge out of a context of constraint and vulnerability, and are informed by individual experiences, education, available assets, goals and needs. Going forward, he intends for his work to have a positive impact on development and government organizations by illuminating causes behind vulnerability to economic and environmental processes. With these insights policy makers and developers will have more informed engagement with local communities.

The NSF received over 14,000 proposals. Four department graduate students received honorable mentions from the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, an exceptional achievement recognizing the merit of their research objectives and the excellence of their proposals. They are Justin Cramb, Jon Hallemeier, Jake Lulewicz and Jacob Weger. Cramb’s major professor is Victor Thompson; Hallemeier’s major professor is Don Nelson; Lulewicz’s major professor is Jennifer Birch; Weger’s major professor is Peter Brosius. Lonneman’s major professor is Bram Tucker.

Ten graduate students awarded doctorates

Ten graduate students received doctorate degrees during the just-concluded academic year. These anthropologists and archaeologists are involved in some of the most challenging areas in human society and its interaction with ecology and the environment.

Emily Beahm’s dissertation is “Mississippian Polities in the Middle Cumberland Region of Tennessee,” and her major professor is David Hally.

Susannah Chapman’s dissertation is “When Rights Are Rights to Give: Farmer Seed Governance and Emerging Intellectual Property Law in the Gambia,” and her major professor is Virginia Nazarea.

Michael Coughlan’s dissertation is “Fire Use, Landscape Transition, and the Socioecological Strategies of Households in the French Western Pyrenees,” and his major professor is Ted Gragson.


Geoff Kelley’s dissertation is “Big Bend at the Crossroads: Trans-bordering Conservation on the U.S. – Mexico Frontier,” and his major professor is Peter Brosius.

David Meek’s dissertation is “Movements in Education: The Political Ecology of Education in the Brazilian Landless Workers’ Movement,” and his major professors are Peter Brosius and Julie Velásquez Runk.

Richard Owens’ dissertation is “Measuring Smallholder Land Investments in Northwest Vietnam,” and his major professor is Bram Tucker.

Victoria Ramenzoni’s dissertation is “Effects of Socio-Environmental Variability and Uncertainty in Decisions about Fishing Effort of a Small-Scale Tuna Fishery in Ende, Eastern Indonesia, and her major professor is Bram Tucker.

Laura Tilghman’s dissertation is “City Livelihoods and Village Linkages: Rural-Urban Migrants in Tamatave, Madagascar,” and her major professor is Bram Tucker.

Yanxi Wang’s dissertation is “A Regional Archaeology of the Guan River Valley, Henan, China,” and her major professor is Steve Kowalewski.
Recent Publications

Books


**Journals**


---

2014 Ph.D. recipients Laura Tilghman, Yanxi Wang, David Meek and Victoria Ramenzoni

---

**Fall Department of Anthropology Speaker Series**

"Media anthropology: How to make it matter, drawing on research in Brazil” • Conrad Kottak, University of Michigan

October 17 • Room 264 • 3:30 p.m.

"Neoliberal encounters: Political and economic reform in Africa” • Peter Little, Emory University

November 6 • Room G41 • Lunch 12:00 - 12:30/Presentation 12:30 - 1:45 • RSVP debchas@uga.edu by November 3
Monteban wins Graduate School Dissertation Completion Award

Madeleina Monteban has won the Graduate School Dissertation Completion Award for her dissertation, “Maternal Breastfeeding Knowledge and Public Health Recommendations: Consequences on Breastfeeding Practices and Infant Growth in the Andes.” Her research investigates the biological and cultural nature of breastfeeding in the Andes, focusing specifically on the relationship between maternal knowledge and practices and infant growth in highland Peru. Recently, the Peruvian Ministry of Public Health institutionalized infant and women’s healthcare by monitoring child growth and holding workshops focused on promoting the breastfeeding recommendation of the World Health Organization. In this context, she examines how the traditional and public health breastfeeding recommendations coincide and diverge, and how they relate to infant growth.

An important point of tension between public health and popular understanding of mother-infant health emerges around diet. A common theme in interviews with public health personnel was that the local diet was deficient, especially for lactating mothers and older infants. They identify deficiencies in local diets as the cause of chronic-under-nutrition. In contrast, interviews with elder mothers revealed that maternal diets during breastfeeding are permeated with Andean ethnomedical beliefs; the proper balance of hot/cold and dry/wet foods and drinks are perceived as essential for maintaining one’s health and strength. These ethnographic findings show the importance of unveiling the underlying beliefs and meanings of mothers’ behaviors, taking into account the influence of culture on women’s breastfeeding behaviors while considering the socioeconomic constraints that make following public health recommendations difficult. Monteban’s aim is to expand understanding of women’s experiences with breastfeeding and provide insight for public health policy and planning, as the ideological and material context of women’s lives are a vital part of their reality that need to be identified and taken seriously in the development of public health policies.

Monteban’s major professors are Virginia Nazarea and Susan Tanner.

Brown, VanderMolen, receive Graduate School research awards

Tad Brown and Kristin VanderMolen have each received a 2014 Graduate School Summer Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship. The award provides assistance to doctoral candidates in conducting their research and completing their degrees. During the summer both Brown and VanderMolen prepared dissertation-based articles for top-tier journals.

Brown’s dissertation, “Farmer’s Knowledge of Selection and Economic Objectives for Small-Stock Keeping in The Gambia,” addresses farmers’ knowledge of livestock trait heritability and the historic influence of disease ecology on agricultural development and breed conservation. Tsetse fly-borne parasites cause loss of livestock and result in losses of agricultural products. Some breeds have a heritable tolerance to tsetse-caused disease, and others do not. Brown asked village farmers who own sheep and goats about their perspectives on the effects on crossbreeding on household flocks. He found that though they had a working knowledge of heredity, it was separable from breed type. This is a critical distinction for conservation, since the breed’s importance is linked to its possession of disease tolerance, and not solely the breed. Brown’s research findings question the direct association between farmers’ knowledge and the role of conscious selection on the realization of domestic stock trait preferences; he learned that even if farmers know how to influence the heritable conformity of flocks with selection, this understanding does not necessarily translate into the maintenance of disease tolerance over generations. Because continued crossbreeding between local flocks and those from areas not threatened with tsetse parasite disease raises concern about possible negative effects of breed change on rural livelihoods, this aspect of Brown’s work will be significant in efforts to improve livestock production for the poor.

VanderMolen’s dissertation examines the continued longevity of the ethnodevelopment framework in highland Ecuador in light of continued criticisms about its effectiveness in improving the wellbeing of local populations. Ethnodevelopment differs from other frameworks by putting cultural resources, like native crops and traditional knowledge, to use in the development of indigenous populations with the idea that doing so will strengthen local cultures and identities. However, critics argue that ethnodevelopment has been largely ineffective in achieving both its cultural aims and in leading to developmental outcomes such as increased household income and greater access to education and healthcare. Yet, for nearly two decades, ethnodevelopment has remained a predominant model for the development of rural indigenous populations throughout much of the Andean highlands, where it has been supported by indigenous grassroots development organizations and beneficiary populations.

Exploring this apparent contradiction, VanderMolen examines where local interests join to produce support for ethnodevelopment among an indigenous grassroots development organization in highland Ecuador and the local indigenous population that the organization serves. Building a nuanced understanding of the motivations that underlie participant support can help policymakers better adapt existing development frameworks to local contexts. This is especially important for rural indigenous populations throughout Latin America, where the intersection of geographic isolation and ethnic discrimination often results in limited access to state and economic resources, implying that substantial needs go unmet.
Don Nelson is one of five UGA researchers joining with the U.S. Forest Service on a five-year project to calculate how past land use has influenced the present environment and how it will impact the future. They were awarded $1.4 million from an overall $5 million National Science Foundation grant led by Duke University to set up one of 10 national observatories focused on the thin outer layer of the planet most important for human life. Geologists have dubbed it the Earth’s “critical zone,” which includes everything from deep bedrock up to the tops of trees.

These researchers will help establish the new Calhoun Critical Zone Observatory located in the Calhoun Experimental Forest, a unit of Sumter National Forest in South Carolina. Sumter National Forest is a 200,000-acre forest created in the 1930s on abandoned farmland and heavily logged forestland in the southern Piedmont. To restore the land suffering from soil erosion and overall land degradation, the U.S. Forest Service spent decades developing management practices to restore the land by setting up experimental watersheds, planting trees and launching a number of long-term studies to monitor progress on what was called at the time a representation of the “poorest Piedmont conditions.”

Researchers from the anthropology, geology, and crop and soil sciences departments, the Center for Applied Isotope Studies, and the Warnell School of Forestry will participate in this interdisciplinary critical zone observatory, or CZO.

Nelson will study historic and current human interactions with the land and will develop, in partnership with land managers and forest users, ways to effectively communicate critical zone science. Nelson said this project is a great opportunity to work with the public as well as land and forest managers to learn about how past and present land use leaves an indelible imprint on the environment.

“The results of this type of research can help guide long-term management decisions that account for the ways in which people value and understand their forest,” he said.

Long-term data collected by the Forest Service since the 1940s, augmented by recent advances in earth system science, contributes to new models of relationships between ecosystems and human land use. Geological study and the collection of isotope data yield an extensive picture of the impacts of human use and climate upon the land over a broad time span. These resources provide ways to understand changes in forests, soils and landscapes that will guide current and future sustainable ecosystem management.

The NSF and the European Commission fund critical zone observatories for interdisciplinary research of the planet’s surface to better understand how human interactions and land use affects the vital ecological services this critical zone provides. These services include air, water, food, energy, mineral resources, natural habitats and other environmental conditions that support our basic needs. There are 10 critical zone observatories in the U.S. and more are developing around the world.

—Material contributed by UGA Public Affairs

Both the Wenner-Gren Foundation and the National Science Foundation have awarded Karen Allen research grants for 2014. Allen will use these to further her dissertation research in Costa Rica, centered on creating an understanding of the most effective land conservation strategies to promote sustainable land use.

Her research takes place in the Bellbird Biological Corridor (CBPC), a mixed use planning region designed by the government to encourage sustainable development through market-based mechanisms offering economic incentives for landowners to deliver environmental services on private landholdings. In the CBPC these include nature tourism and payments for these services. Though the logic behind such income replacement programs is clear—give people alternate income sources and they’ll stop cutting down trees—it can also have significant negative consequences, since they were developed with little understanding of how cultural, economic and ecological factors influence the values landowners have for particular land uses and how these vary. Since the CBPC’s incentives don’t take into account actual landowner values, they can have the paradoxical effect of increasing landscape degradation.

Allen’s research seeks to work toward an anthropological understanding of the relation between landowner values, private land-use decisions and the ecological integrity of the landscape, and to arrive at a holistic understanding of the relationship between them. She’ll relate this information to national and local sustainable development goals. The broader impacts of Allen’s award-funded work extend to environmental education, tourism regulation, and payment for ecosystem services activities being organized within the CBPC. It will also put in motion a new initiative between the University of Georgia and the Bellbird Biological Corridor to foster training opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students across the region. Allen’s major professor is Ted Gragson.
Department of Anthropology presents internal 2014 awards

The Melissa Hague Field Study Award provides funding for student fieldwork and is endowed by the parents of the late Melissa Hague, anthropology major.

The 2014 recipient, June Brawner spent the summer investigating the socio-ecological dimensions of informal food production in marginalized communities of the south Caucasus region. Her research explores ways in which the maintenance of traditional principals of food production post Soviet-collectivization staves off much of the global industrialization of agriculture in the region and the resultant policy decisions prevalent in so much of the developed world. Such cultural systems contribute to the preservation of genetic diversity by fostering the use of non-“designer” crop varieties. This resistance becomes increasingly important with global climate change. This Eastern research project in the Republic of Georgia and Azerbaijan follows her summer internship at the Central and Eastern European Web for Biodiversity in Budapest. Brawner’s major professor is Virginia Nazarea.

Three graduate students have received the Janis Steingruber Travel Award, funded by the family of the late Janis Steingruber. This award supports graduate students presenting research at scientific meetings and conducting field research, as seen below.

April Dobbs traveled to the University of Pisa to begin her dissertation research by studying diet composition among a 19th-century mortuary population from Benabbio, Italy, who died in the cholera epidemic of 1855. Using dental microwear analysis, she’s examining the dietary differences among those interred to determine whether a link exists between diet and signs of disease, infection and nutritional stress, and to estimate if there are any similarities that may have increased their susceptibility to the epidemic. Her research investigates the link between environmental conditions—specifically dietary stressors—and mortality, which will contribute to our understanding of human biological adaptation to change and evolution. She gathered physical data including dental molds of the cemetery’s individuals and bone samples that she’ll use in future stable isotope analysis. Dobbs’ data collection coincided with her participation in archaeological field work at the site Badia Pozzeveri, which includes cholera victims from the same epidemic as Benabbio. Her major professor is Laurie Reitsema.

Brandon Ritchison conducted archaeological field research on Sapelo Island, Georgia, as part of an endeavor to understand how social inequalities arise, spread, grow and diminish. The Kenan Field site has been occupied consistently over the past 4,000 years, and reconstructions and statistical analysis of settlement structure and land use over this time span have potential to demonstrate how socio-political systems arose, transformed and adapted over this span of time. Ritchison’s examination of collected cultural materials, primarily ceramics, should enable him to identify the size and settlement forms for specific temporal periods from the Late Archaic until European contact, and possibly after. Using similar studies of neighboring regions, he can examine and place socio-political relationships within the various communities that existed there in relation to the larger trajectories of change in social organization that existed there in the Pre-Columbian Southeast. His major professor is Victor Thompson.

Eduardo Romero Diandera participated as a speaker at the Interamerican Conference De/Colonization in the Americas. He discussed his research exploring how processes of interaction between indigenous labor and regional economic cycles have shaped contemporary economic practical senses within indigenous households in Ambiyacu basin. This is a prioritized area for conservation in Peruvian eastern Amazon. His major professor is Peter Brosius.

The Robert E. Rhoades Pre-Dissertation Travel Award, established in honor of the late Distinguished Research Professor and former anthropology department head, funds graduate students conducting pre-dissertation field work.

The 2014 winner is Michael Lonneman, who traveled to the Dominican Republic to potential field sites for his dissertation research and to develop contacts. His work investigates the decision-making processes of farmers under vulnerability. He will examine how the transformation of agricultural livelihoods, through market change, migration, and racial and class conflict, is leading to land use and land cover change in the Dominican countryside. In particular, he is concerned with how the range of social vulnerabilities translates into differential outcomes of land use and land cover change. Lonneman recognizes that neoliberal trade agreements with the United States have led to the ongoing collapse of the rice and bean economy in the Dominican Republic, while opportunities in industry, tourism, and free trade/organic markets have emerged, causing behavioral adaptations, but the persistence of class and race-based stratification moderates the opportunities and constraints for social actors.

The Brian Daniel Gumbert Memorial Fund for Archaeological Undergraduate Research enabled four students to join the UGA archaeological field schools held in the state. The work of the participating students makes real contributions to the ongoing and future work research conducted on the two sites.

Mary Scales and Rhianna Bennett attended the Raccoon Ridge field school, led by Jennifer Birch. Raccoon Ridge contains sporadic evidence of human occupation spanning the Early Archaic through historic periods. The main focus of this project is the extensive Late Woodland/ Early Mississippian settlement (call AD 950-1050) which once occupied this site; the objective is to identify and map settlement remains related to the Late Woodland occupation. Mary Scales and Rhianna Bennett attended the Raccoon Ridge field school, led by Jennifer Birch. Raccoon Ridge contains sporadic evidence of human occupation spanning the Early Archaic through historic periods. The main focus of this project is the extensive Late Woodland/ Early Mississippian settlement (call AD 950-1050) which once occupied this site; the objective is to identify and map settlement remains related to the Late Woodland occupation.

Taylor Davis and Mary Porter participated in the Ossabaw Island site, led by Victor Thompson. The human occupation on the island’s South End site dates back 4500 years. The site contains archaeological midden deposits dating from Archaic up to plantation period components. The objectives during their summer field work were to document and record this site as it lies in an actively eroding creek bank.
German co-investigator on major livelihood examination grant

Laura German is co-principal investigator on a quarter-million-dollar grant from the National Science Foundation to examine how people in poor, rural sections of developing countries are changing their livelihood to cope with deteriorating environmental conditions, shifting social trends and broader changes in governance. With her co-principal investigator Elizabeth King, an assistant professor in the Odum School of Ecology and Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, German is evaluating how the transition to agro-pastoralism in two Maasai communities in Kenya is affecting human well-being, food security and ecological sustainability.

German’s work explores institutional factors underlying socio-ecological vulnerability and resilience, including shifting patterns of authority, decision-making processes and rules/norms governing rangeland use and management. She is particularly interested in how the tensions surrounding enclosure and privatization (of land and labor) are being navigated, and in the hybridization of customary, government and conservation authority.

The NSF Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems grant promotes interdisciplinary analyses of relevant human and natural system processes and complex interactions among human and natural systems at diverse scales. German’s interdisciplinary strengths, theoretical scholarship, and research uniquely benefit this project. Her background includes historical ecological research in Amazonia, including community-based integrative natural resource management; experience exploring large-scale externally imposed land transformations in sub-Saharan Africa with a focus on the role of institutions and multi-level governance interactions in mediating social and environmental outcomes; and collaborative work and publications cutting across the social, agronomic and ecological sciences.

Graduate School’s Innovative and Interdisciplinary Award goes to three

Three graduate students in the Integrative Conservative (ICON) and Anthropology program were awarded the Graduate School’s Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research Grant, an award supporting summer research by students who are conducting interdisciplinary and cutting-edge research for their dissertations. They each traveled for their research: Jennifer DeMoss to Canada, Emily Horton to Brazil, and Linda Kosen to Hawai’i.

Jennifer DeMoss’ project took her to Ontario, Canada, where she spent six weeks on her ongoing research into the Nature Connection Movement (NCM), doing video ethnography at an NCM school. NCM is a 30-year-old social and educational movement emphasizing the creation of emotional bonds with local; it has spread throughout North America and Europe. Its educators, who call themselves mentors, run a variety of experiential environmental education programs for children and adults. Her site is Sticks and Stones Wilderness School (SSWS), where she focused upon learning what sensory and emotional experiences do SSWS mentors intend to facilitate with program participants, and what are the intentions behind their practices? Her work is innovative in its anthropological focus on NCM educators’ practices and in its video approach to anthropology. Julie Velásquez Runk is DeMoss’ major professor.

Emily Horton spent two months in Maranhão State, located in northeastern Brazil. The award has helped fund her research investigating small-scale fishers’ knowledge of the temporal and spatial migration patterns of the Brazilian sardine (Sardinella brasiliensis), a species of economic and ecological value that has experienced notable declines in recent decades. In parallel with this research, she explores the livelihood impacts of a fisheries ban presumed to protect the sardine to assess how this ban is understood by affected fishers, families, and communities. She is collaborating with a fish ecology professor and students from Maranhão State University (Universidade Estadual do Maranhão). She’ll use the gathered information to create a digital “storytelling” map that narrates her findings utilizing digital technologies, including GIS, photos, and video. Horton’s major professor is Don Nelson.

Citizen science is broadly defined as volunteers who collect or process data as part of a scientific inquiry. In Hawai’i, Linda Kosen’s research tracks a variety of citizen science activities. There are different understandings of what citizen science actually achieves, which limit its potential as a conservation tool. This summer Kosen worked with various stakeholders on the island of Kaua’i, focusing on select conservation organizations that use citizen science as a regular part of their programming, in order to evaluate why citizen science is valued and by whom. As a participant and observer during volunteer activities, she worked to further organizational, community and citizen conservation goals, and to learn how citizen science contributes to environmental conservation in broader contexts. Kosen’s major professor is Julie Velásquez Runk.

anthropology.uga.edu