Many of our students spend summers doing field work in locations whose heat index makes the rest of us marvel at their zeal as we head for a hammock beneath a tree. This year, though, it seems that we all are in for some temperatures that illustrate the concept of global climate change.

This fall we introduce two new professors, one in anthropological archaeology, and one in biological anthropology. Victor Thompson, an archaeologist whose research centers upon the southeast coast, joins us from Ohio State University, where he’s served as assistant professor and has led several highly praised interactive student field schools. You’ll learn more about him and his work in these pages.

Laurie Reitsema is also joining us from Ohio State, where she has recently completed her Ph.D. Her research is founded in biology and investigates the life processes revealed in ancient human skeletal remains and also in modern primates. Her work poses the question: What is it that makes us human? Dr. Reitsema’s fall course, Introduction to Biological Anthropology, will suggest some responses.

Jim Veteto, Ph.D.’10, and grad student Ted Maclin’s collection, The Slaw and the Slow Cooked was surely published by Vanderbilt Press just to taunt us about the absence of a good barbecue spot near Baldwin Hall. Other achievements include Julie Velásquez Runk’s grants from both national and UGA agencies and her participation in the American Indian Language Development Institute at the University of Arizona.

The many awards received by our graduate students, including grants for Joe Lanning, Brent Vickers, Mike Coughlan, as well as a Fulbright Fellowship for Ann MacFadyen are gratifying, as are the achievements of our undergraduates this spring.

For the first time, the Transnational Seed Swap was hosted at the UGA International Student Life festival—in the Wellspring of American Food Traditions (WAFT) booth—and won first place on their inaugural outing. Congratulations to students in Virginia Nazarea’s lab for this honor.

As we sizzle through the summer, I look forward to seeing you in August.
Dwight Kirkland, M.A. ’94, is president of Southeastern Horizons, Inc., an archaeological consulting company specializing in Cultural Resource Management (CRM) services in southern Georgia and northern Florida. Recently Southeastern Horizons has been employed assisting municipalities with an increasingly more common problem. As new internments are made in older cemeteries, they reveal earlier burials for which no records have been kept. Douglas, Georgia became the firm’s latest client, as the city cemetery regularly discovered pre-existing graves in places reserved for new internments. The previous unrecorded burials dated from the late 19th century. Kirkland and his team excavated in areas where spouses had planned to be buried next to their deceased counterpart to make sure that no pre-existing grave was present in that space. They excavated a total of 33 grave sites and found that seven had pre-existing graves. The City of Douglas made special arrangements to move buried spouses to a location where the surviving spouse could be interred next to his or her loved one. Above, Dwight exposes a pre-existing grave shaft—the orange pattern in the left end—by trowel shaving the floor of a grave site.

Smitha Ganeshan, a rising junior, is spending her summer in New York as a participant in the UGA Honors Internship Program. Smitha, of Johns Creek, Georgia, is pursuing bachelor’s degrees in anthropology, biochemistry and molecular biology. Smitha is now working at the Greater New York Hospital Association. She currently serves as the health and environmental policy director of the UGA chapter of the Roosevelt Institute. She is interested in a career in medicine and health policy.

Bryn Murphy, who graduated this year with both a double major and a 4.0, won the 2012 Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities UGA Libraries Undergraduate Research Award, Senior Division, First Place. Bryn cites the support and resources from her anthropology faculty mentor, Dr. Pete Brosius, as vital in writing her paper, “Prospect Theory and Common Action Problems: Loss Aversion in International Riparian Treaty Compliance.” This is the second year running that Bryn has won this award.

Ann Macfayden has been awarded a 2012-2013 Fulbright Fellowship. Her dissertation project is “Effects of Conservation and Reestimation on Livelihoods in Central Vietnam’s Mountains.” Ann is interested in the social aspects of conservation and development. Her work draws on the literature of feminist political ecology, anthropology of development, and livelihoods studies. Her research focuses on forest classification and gendered livelihoods in the context of a conservation project in Vietnam. Ann’s major professor is Pete Brosius.

Kristin VanderMolen is studying Kichwa for two months in Amazonian Ecuador, on a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship.

This fellowship, worth $6,000 in total benefits, is awarded by the U.S. Department of Education through the University of Pittsburgh. Kristin’s major professor is Don Nelson.

Both Asher Rosinger and Jillian Sico have received LACSI travel fellowships for $1,000 to defray their dissertation research costs. Asher’s proposal is “The Ethnoliquid Profile, Biological Outcomes and Drivers of Hydration Strategies During Rapid Social Change in the Bolivian Amazon.” His major professor is Susan Tanner. Jillian’s research is “The Art of Being Unseen: Perspectives on Invisibility Among Indigenous Columbian Refugees in Panama. Jillian’s major professor is Julie Velásquez Runk.

Ann, in the Vietnamese Highlands
Colleagues and admirers of the late Dr. Kar Burns will host a symposium in her honor at the 82nd meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists in Knoxville, Tennessee. Dr. Burns, an internationally active forensic anthropologist who sought social justice in investigating the losses of “the disappeared” mass murder victims in Colombia, was active in many human rights causes involving victim recovery. She taught here at UGA as well as at the University of Utah, and wrote the *Forensic Anthropology Training Manual* among other works. Her agile mind had many projects going at once, and accommodated many friends. To participate, contact Megan Moore, Assistant Professor at University of Michigan-Dearborn, at mooremeg@umd.umich.edu.

Jim Veteto, Ph.D. ’10, is now an assistant professor at the University of North Texas. He and his fellow editor, Ph.D. candidate Ted Maclin, held a round table discussion about barbecue at a Society for Applied Anthropology conference in Memphis in 2008. Jim and Ted were prepared to discuss heritage livestock and crops as well as sustainability issues and the different traditions discrete regional groups brought to their cooking styles. They were not prepared to hear pitches from publishers. Their book was published by Vanderbilt University Press this January.

In assembling the work, Jim and Ted approached the topic broadly. Much like heading down a sideways road where you hear there might be some good barbecue, Jim and Ted are willing to be surprised or diverted by yet another way smoked meat and those involved create and intersect cultures. Noted food writer and director of the Southern Foodways Alliance John T. Edge contributes an essay on barbecue’s place at the nexus of race and class borders as evidenced at a landmark spot in Arkansas; Rien Fertel examines the shifting identity and loss pervading the traditions of West Tennessee. We also learn barbecue competitions are now big affairs, culminating in whimsical trophies near as tall as a hanging pig, and the barbecue benefit plate isn’t just a Baptist idea—A Catholic church in McEwen, TN, has been keeping their parish and school vital for over 150 years with their annual Irish Picnic.

Jim and Ted’s commitment to the promotion of local foods, heritage breeds and seed-saving was recognized by Gary Paul Nabhan, an agricultural ecologist and MacArthur fellow whose writing places him at the forefront of the U.S. Slow Food movement. Nabhan, at the University of Arizona, wrote the forward to *The Slaw and the Slow Cooked*. Veteto and Maclin also contribute pieces as well as bracket the essays with an both an introduction and a look ahead to new and future practices within old foodways.

Calling your collection *The Slaw and the Slow Cooked* aligns the book (via pun) with the structuralist tradition. The subtitle, *Culture and Barbecue in the Mid-South*, presents local culinary and social variations as experienced by essayists throughout the region. The research for this new book made for pretty fine eating overall, report co-editors James Veteto and Edward Maclin,

The authors, Jim Veteto and Ted Maclin, toast over savory plates at Bozo’s BBQ in West Tennessee, after getting the news that The Slaw and the Slow Cooked had been accepted for publication.

Veteto, an environmental anthropologist specializing in ethnoecology, agrobiodiversity, sustainable agricultural systems and food and culture continues to explore his interest in landrace varieties in “Southern Barbecue Sauce and Heirloom Tomatoes.” Veteto is now director of the Southern Seed Legacy project at UNT, an initiative begun here at UGA by Robert Rhoades and Virginia Nazarea that collects both indigenous plant varieties and the stories associated with their use and cultivation in a process called memory banking. Maclin contributes “The Changing Landscape of Mid-South Barbecue.” Ted describes himself as a “free-range environmental researcher” and his current dissertation research is engaged with conservation. That everyday life was all human-environment interaction was evident in Ted’s upbringing. He grew up on a small dairy farm; it was clear to him from an early age how food was raised. Maclin’s piece looks at a number of factors, from price, to production to politics that make your plate different from your parents’ and grandparents’. Both Maclin and Veteto offer alternatives both tastier and more sustainable than what Big Agriculture now makes available.

Goodness sopped up between two covers; yes indeed
Donors appreciated

Department Head Ted Gragson, invites you to make a gift that will enrich our world as our students go out and make the planet a more sustainable, more equitable place to live, by either what they learn about today’s ecosystems, and their potential for change, or what students and professors decode that may have caused formerly vital civilizations to crash, and work to prevent such a collapse in our century. If you would like to designate a gift, you may do so. Our departmental award funds are the Melissa Hague Field Study Award, the Janis Faith Steingruber Student Travel Award, the Brian Gumbert Memorial Fund for Archaeological Undergraduate Research, as well as the Robert E. Rhoades Pre-Dissertation Travel Award. You may contribute to any of these funds, or donate in honor of any past or present department member. We also appreciate those who donate to the department itself; such donations extend resources and enrich anthropology students’ experience. To donate, visit our Web site, anthropology.uga.edu, and select the link at the top of the home page for giving opportunities. Or, if you’d like to learn more about the department and how you may contribute, please contact Director of Development Jennifer Messer at 706-542-0068.

NSF and UGA award dissertation improvement grants

Graduate Student Joe Lanning, and Ph.D. Candidate Brent Vickers have both received 2011-2012 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants.

Joe’s work, supported by major professor Bram Tucker, takes place in the Republic of Malawi, a landlocked country in southeast Africa. Joe has been intensely involved with Malawi culture for well over a decade; first as a Peace Corps volunteer for a few years, then as a leader of summer immersion programs for the University of Rochester. Joe’s dissertation title is “Calculated, Constrained, and Co-Opted Decisions: Explaining Agricultural Behavior of Malawian Farmers in Times of Uncertainty.” The NSF has funded Joe’s research for $18,000.

Brent Vickers’ NSF DDIG concerns his dissertation work in Samoa. His work is conscious of the looming effect of climate change on Pacific Islanders; not least because of their reliance on local environmental resources. Brent’s work uses the resilience framework as a lens to view Samoa’s capability to respond to climate change. Brent’s major professor is Don Nelson, and the title of his dissertation is “Effects of Increased Market Participation on Community-Perceived Adaptive Capacity and Resilience in Rural Samoa.” The NSF has funded Brent’s research for $19,000.

Ph.D. Candidate Michael Coughlan has received the UGA Graduate School Dissertation Completion Award. Michael’s major professor is Ted Gragson. His dissertation is “Shifting Household Economic Strategies and Pastoral Fire: Long-Term Human Fire Ecology in the French Western Pyrenees.”

Local knowledge, practice, and social relationships may mediate the effects of broad-scale socioeconomic processes on long term fire ecology. Examination provides relevant information as to how people self-organize to achieve sustainable livelihoods, but also for understanding how local knowledge, practice, social organization, and landscape dynamically interact with broader-scaled environmental factors such as climate and political economy.
Melissa Hague Field Study Award
This award was established to honor the memory of Melissa Hague, a student majoring in Anthropology who, at the time of her death, was anticipating her first field work. Hence the award provides funding for students to conduct fieldwork.

Jennifer DeMoss
(major professor: Julie Velásquez Runk)
Jennifer is a first year graduate student from Kentucky who is part of our doctoral program in integrative conservation. With the funding from the Melissa Hague award, Jennifer will travel to New York this summer to gather contacts and evaluate sites for her dissertation fieldwork. Her work examines how environmental conservationists from both the United States and Germany use culturally constructed notions of ‘Indian’ culture to shape their actions and concerns.

Melissa Hague Scholarship
Her family is glad to pass on Melissa Hague’s enthusiasm for study to undergraduate majors who receive financial assistance.

Elizabeth Agee    Christopher Cameron
Anna Jolley     Kristina Johnson     Anna Jolley
Charles Mims     Kyle Norris

Janis Steingruber Student Travel Award
A Phi Beta Kappa, Janis received her A.B. in anthropology in 1974 with honors. She went on to enjoy a long career in library science, yet Janis retained her fascination with ancient cultures and traveled widely to trace them. After her passing in 2002, her family chose to share her joy of discovery with other anthropology students.

Terese Gagnon
(adviser: Virginia Nazarea)
Terese Gagnon is an undergraduate doing both heartfelt and intellectually impressive work with a community of refugees. Terese gardens with local members of the Karen, a group of ethnic minorities from Burma who have been subject to both political discrimination and violence. The Karen living in Athens maintain a relationship with plants from their home. As the Karen cultivate these plants, they enact bonds with the country they have had to leave. Terese is fortunate to share in this a reclaimed tradition.

Robert Rhoades Pre-Dissertation Travel Award
Through the wishes of the late Distinguished Research Professor Robert Rhoades and the dedication of his partner both in life and in research, Professor Virginia Nazarea, this award provides support for graduate students to visit prospective sites for their field research with the goal of enhancing their research and external funding proposals.

Dean Hardy
(major professor: J. Peter Brosius)
Dean Hardy is part of our doctoral program in integrative conservation. With the funding from the Robert Rhoades award, Dean will travel to Ghana this summer to further develop his dissertation project as he builds relationships with cacao farmers, local governments and NGOs. His work will examine how the inclusion of local livelihood strategies in the process of eco-certification development affects the success and sustainability of eco-certification schemes.

Brian Daniel Gumbert Memorial Fund for Archaeological Undergraduate Research
Brian Daniel Gumbert, archaeologist, graduated from this department with his A.B. degree in 1986. Brian went on to become Field Director for R.S. Webb and Associates. His parents chose to honor his career and his enjoyment of field work by creating undergraduate scholarships enabling students to pursue individual field research or to join the department’s archaeological field school.

Shannon Lowman has already been awarded one of two 2012 Brian Gumbert scholarships for her participation in our archaeology field school. Dr. Mark Williams, the field school director, awards these scholarships according to his assessment of individual performance and determination during the eight-week session; another will be awarded in late summer.
More anthropology alumni and students on the move

Archaeologist Ben Steere Ph.D. ’11 joins the anthropology faculty at University of West Georgia in Carrollton this fall. He’ll continue his collaborative research with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. He and his colleagues are using archaeology as a tool to answer questions about the long-term settlement history of western North Carolina, while also contributing to efforts for cultural preservation for the Eastern Band. Ben plans to get students from UWG involved in this research.

Ben will also be continuing his research on houses and households in the native Southeast. He is looking forward to working on future collaborative projects with friends and colleagues at other universities in Georgia, particularly within relationships forged here at UGA (e.g. working with Drs. Jared Wood and Mark Williams on state-wide collections projects, bringing students from UWG to work with grad student Stefan Brannan at Singer-Moye, and working with Dr. Jen Birch on Late Woodland projects).

Ben will have company in Carrollton besides that of other Georgia archaeologists; his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Steere, joins him at UWG as an instructor in English, and the blond fellow checking out the year-end reception with dad is young Alex Steere, who seems to be open to any future path of study or recreation.

As we can see, it is never to early to take up the work. Young Leo Monteban (in green sweater and light blue hat) helps a local family harvest potatoes by adding his own contribution to the pile.

Madalena Monteban, a graduate student studying with both Drs. Virginia Nazarea and Susan Tanner has been engaged with the communities of a communal conservation area called the Potato Park located in the city of Cusco in the southern Peruvian Andes. Though many varieties of the potato were discovered and exported by marauding Conquistadors, the native varietals to the region have faced many challenges from market preferences and climate differences. The Potato Park preserves indigenous varietals, as well as spurs interest on their importance to the culture.

His mom’s dissertation project is called “Maternal Ethnonutritional Knowledge and Public Health Recommendations: Consequences on Breastfeeding Practices and Infant Growth in the Andes.”
Dr. Victor Thompson may be the only professor joining the department who can immediately negotiate the maze of Baldwin Hall. Of course, his having graduated from UGA in 1997 with an A.B. in Anthropology gives him a distinct advantage, as does his having taught here for a year while he finished his Ph.D. dissertation from the University of Kentucky.

Once he’d completed his studies, Dr. Thompson joined the faculty of the University of West Florida for three years, then was hired by Ohio State. Throughout his academic journey, Dr. Thompson has stayed true to “his” Georgians, the coastal groups who occupied the state’s islands during the past 4,500 years. Georgia’s coast is one of the three primary research areas—including the central Gulf Coast and the southwest region of Florida—where he conducts research exploring the long-term dynamics between humans and their environments in the context of ritual, monumentality, and social and political complexity. He explores these issues through a variety of techniques that include the analysis of monumental architecture, shell midden archaeology (including stable isotope and growth ring inquiry), ground-penetrating radar, GIS, ceramics and regional analysis.

Dr. Thompson’s longest-running research focuses on the prehistoric coastal groups who occupied Georgia’s islands, and the majority of his work has been on Sapelo Island and the surrounding smaller islands. These investigations focus on understanding the impact of human agents on coastal ecosystems.

Dr. Reitsema will be teaching Introduction to Biological Anthropology this fall, a four-hour course that includes a lab. In the class, her students will address provocative ideas: Do we belong to a single race? Are we related to Neanderthals? Are humans still evolving today? What does it mean to be human? In this physical anthropology class Dr. Reitsema will introduce a broad biological science that deals with the adaptations, variability and evolution of human beings and our living and fossil relatives. Because it studies human biology in the context of human culture and behavior, biological anthropology is also a social science. Thus the class will give students a solid foundation in biology in a dynamic, relevant context that readies them to pursue other areas of the field. Her interests in primates also extend beyond Homo sapiens: she continues working on a nurturing and weaning study with the Toledo Zoo.

Most recently in her dietary research, Dr. Reitsema investigated how people in the past dealt with sociopolitical transitions through the resultant modification to their diets. She is part of an ongoing project examining changes in the composition of skeletal remains over a 1500-year time span in Poland. Also, Dr. Reitsema is working with a colleague to test the utility of stable isotopes to investigate life history and health in a “osteobiographical” life study of nutrition and its life effects on a medieval Italian population. Her ongoing engagement with stable isotope research enables her to offer a strong background for student research as well as for European research opportunities.

Biological anthropologist: Diet as window to historical conditions

Prehistoric Southeastern groups intrigue new archaeologist

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Dr. Thompson will teach Introduction to Anthropology (ANTH 1102) this fall and is looking forward to interacting with students early in their careers.
As the advertising placard enticed, “Thanks to the latest cloning technology, extinct bipeds aren’t just fossils in museums... They’re part of your family.”

Undergraduate teaching assistants Vivien Tsou and Adriana del Valle promoted, on behalf of newly created corporation HominiCorp, the opportunity for students to adopt their very own pet hominid. Dr. Amber Huff found the idea apt for introducing theories of human origins in her spring Introduction to Anthropology class (ANTH 1102), and her students enthusiastically began to “Choose from ... amazing species.”

The Australopithecus contingent alone provided an array of choices, and the Homo group offered yet more variety. There was just one problem with the new student companions, and it was a big one. Seems our bipedal precursors are smart enough to run away. Even if some just made it look like they “got lost,” these creatures could shuck supervision and escape the confinements of student housing.

A flurry of LOST / MISSING flyers were submitted to Tsou and del Valle, as the company reps. Cleverly, HominiCorp had indemnified itself against just such eventualities, and Dr. Huff was powerless to intercede:

Warning: Species offered by HominiCorp are bipedal and are often extremely intelligent. Because they are adapted to diverse environments, can solve complex problems, and may be able to use tools and fire, your new pet should always be supervised... HominiCorp is not liable for emotional distress or mayhem caused by unsupervised pets.

Yet even the losses of the new but doubtless cherished pets proved educational. The flyers created by students describing the characteristics and habits of their lost pets detailed their heyday, approximate size, region of origin, activity level and style and dietary preferences—One intrepid Homo erectus balanced his preference for meat eating with enjoyment of other foods by hitting the buffet at Golden Corral.

The most detailed of these flyers appeared in the Baldwin atrium display case. As the truth behind them came out, Golden Corral employees likely exhaled in relief—Though we have no quantitative evidence, it is likely “Java Man” could really tear up a salad bar. This was a class project, cleverly designed by Vivien and Adriana and abetted by the industry of the 1102 students.

“I think it was a success,” says Dr. Huff. “The students enjoyed the project, and it helped them learn about human evolution by thinking about how particular evolutionary changes might affect behavior and adaptability in different contexts.”

Dr. Julie Velásquez Runk continues her long-term collaborative work with the Wounaan people of the southeast lowlands of Panamá and northern Colombia. Perhaps 7,000 members of this culture share this region today. The efforts of her fellow anthropologists and linguists center on documenting their endangered language, Wounmeu.

Dr. Velásquez Runk and five Wounaan linguists participated in the American Indian Language Development Institute at the University of Arizona on June 26. The linguists shared both their knowledge and experience of documenting their indigenous language, and discussed the effort of developing bilingual materials for their community.

Two of the Wounaan linguists visited UGA on July 3 for a roundtable discussion, sponsored by LACSI and conducted in Spanish. Chindío Peña Ismare and Tono Peña Ismare first stopped with Dr. Velásquez Runk at Baldwin Hall to visit with Dr. Ted Gragson, our department head.

The National Science Foundation Documenting Endangered Languages Grant supplemental award to “Collaborative Research: Documenting Wounmeu,” of $7,000, and a University of Arizona supplemental award of $29,000 funded Dr. Velásquez Runk and the linguists’ participation in the AILDI Tucson event. She has also received the UGA Provost Summer Research Grant for $5,000 to study political ecology of land reform in Panamá.