



Department of Anthropology & Sociology

OCTOBER 2012

PROGRAMS:

ANTHROPOLOGY

- Anthropology
- Forensic Anthropology
- Cherokee Studies

SOCIOLOGY

- Sociology
- Women Studies

News from the Department Head

The Department of Anthropology and Sociology continues its expansion this year with a move into the former Social Work area in the ground floor of the McKee Building. This expansion includes the addition of a Forensic Anthropology Program office, a new laboratory/classroom, a student lounge, faculty offices, and improved forensic anthropology and archaeology facilities. It reflects the continued growth of our Anthropology programs, which now have close to 200 majors and are forecasted to continue growing into the future.

This expansion takes place as we are also implementing a new engaged-learning requirement to make sure that our students take advantage of the resources available to them while they are here at Western Carolina University. It will encourage them to produce professional portfolios that reflects their accomplishments both in and out of the classroom. Of course, our students are not strangers to this type of engaged research, as is evident from some of the stories contained in this newsletter. But now all students in our programs will be expected to work with their departmental academic advisors to complete projects that will help them to become established in their respective career paths.

This year will also see the formalization of the connection between the Anthropology Program and the Native American Health Certificate Program, directed by Medical Anthropologist Lisa Lefler and recently relocated to the College of Health and Human Services. As a result of this collaboration, students in the Anthropology Program may take courses that will allow them to acquire an Undergraduate Certificate in Native Health while also completing their major in Anthropology.

We also welcome a new faculty member to our department. Nicole (Nikki) Jastremski is our new Lecturer in Forensic Anthropology. She is working on her Ph.D. from Binghamton University and teaching a variety of anthropology courses this year. See the feature inside for more information about Nikki and her doctoral research in Ecuador.

WCU's Department of Anthropology and Sociology continues to thrive in a variety of ways. We had another successful study-trip to Kenya last summer, with a new summer trip to England, Ireland, and Scotland in the works. The Forensic Anthropology Program continues to attract students, many of whom will be taking part in this summer's field-school directed by Dr. Johnson. In short, we are looking forward to another exciting year!

Philip E. (Ted) Coyle

Please extend a warm welcome to our new Lecturer, Ms. Nicole Jastremski



Nicole is a doctoral candidate at the State University of New York at Binghamton. She hails from Swansboro, North Carolina.

Nikki's dissertation research focuses upon an early colonial ossuary in Cuenca, Ecuador. She is attempting to identify the ancestry of the decedents, including any admixture. The ultimate goal is to determine whether the ancestry of the individuals in the ossuary correspond to the perceived social identities of the larger population of colonial Cuenca.

Other interests of hers include: mortuary analysis, forensic anthropology, human variation, and paleopathology. Although the majority of her research has focused on Andean and coastal bioarchaeological sites, she have also done work in Sicily and in the Northeastern United States.



Dr. Patrick Morris: WCU Cultural Anthropologist, 1937-2012

Dr. George Patrick Morris, 75, a resident of Cullowhee, NC died at his home on July 13, 2012. Born on May 18, 1937, in Chicago, IL, he was the son of the late Charles Morris and Edna Birkenmair.

Enabled by scholarships and fellowships, Patrick attended Indiana University, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa. He received a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of California-Berkley. A research grant permitted him to live in a remote village in Rjastham, India, for two years to conduct a study of the changing local and regional social structure. He later conducted similar studies elsewhere in India and in Nepal. In the late 1960s he was professor of anthropology at the University of Colorado in Boulder and later at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC. At Western, he served as department chair from 1973-1982. For many years he led student trips to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico to study Mayan culture and archaeology. He was greatly admired by the many students he inspired and influenced before he retired in 1997.

Throughout his life, Patrick sought to catalogue the strangeness and beauty of human life. He traveled frequently with a deep desire to understand the countries he visited and developed a special interest in Asian philosophy and culture. He was profoundly changed by a month spent studying Vipassana meditation at a Buddhist monastery in Thailand.

At the home that Patrick hand-built, a memorial wake was held during which family and friends shared memories and tribute in celebration of Patrick's life. The family wishes to thank friends, former colleagues, and students for the support and many expressions of sympathy they received. (Excerpt taken from The Sylva Herald, August 16th, 2012).

Fall 2012 Brownbag Lecture Series

Wednesday, September 26th

"The Role of Higher Education in Maintaining Biolinguistic Diversity."

Hartwell Francis, Cherokee Language Program Director, and Tom Belt, Coordinator of the Cherokee Language Program.

Wednesday, October 10

"Investigating Biological Ancestry and Social Identity in Colonial Cuenca, Ecuador"

Nikki Jastremski, Lecturer in Forensic Anthropology

Wednesday, November 14th

"Community Gardening as Intensive, Sustainable Agriculture: The Sylva Community Garden in Comparative Perspective."

Philip E. (Ted) Coyle, Professor of Anthropology

The WCU Anthropology & Sociology Brownbag Series is an opportunity for faculty and students associated with department to share research and ideas with the WCU and Western North Carolina Community. For more information contact Peter Nieckarz (227-3837) or Heather Laine Talley htalley@email.wcu.edu

Sociology Club sponsors
“New Lens Film Series”

September 27th, 2012 7:00 – 9:00

UC Theater

Food, Inc.

October 23rd, 2012 7:00 – 9:00

UC THEATER

The Price of Pleasure: Pornography, Sexuality and Relationships

November 1st, 2012 7:00 – 9:00

Co-sponsored with the Women's Studies Program and Feminists on Campus

UC THEATER

Miss Representation

December 4th, 2012 7:00 – 9:00

UC THEATER

What Would Jesus Buy?

January 22nd, 2012 7:00 – 9:00

UC THEATER

Walmart: The High Cost of Low Prices

February 12th, 2013 7:00 – 9:00

UC THEATER

Black Power Mix Tape, 1967-1975

March 5th, 2013 7:00- 9:00

Co-sponsored with Feminists on Campus

UC THEATER

Iron Jawed Angels

March 20th, 2013 7:00 – 9:00

Co-sponsored with Feminists on Campus

UC THEATER

Women's Art Revolution

April 2nd, 2013 7:00 – 9:00

UC THEATER

We Were Here

Forensic Anthropology Alum Establishes Cadaver Dog Training Program at WCU

A group of four-legged students possessing powerful senses of smell visited the Western Carolina University campus recently as 66 dog handlers from across the eastern United States brought their canine partners to Cullowhee to take training in human remains detection. The handlers and their dogs, commonly referred to as “cadaver dogs,” traveled to WCU from 25 states (and one team came from Canada) to take part in field exercises and listen to lectures given by WCU faculty members and outside speakers – all with the intent of improving the skills of the dogs and handlers when they are called upon to assist in searches for human remains.

The cadaver dog training at WCU was held in cooperation with the university’s **Forensic Anthropology Program** and was



coordinated by **Paul S. Martin**, a graduate of that program who has specialized in human remains detection since 2000 and who has conducted searches or consulted on cases for local, state and national agencies. The sessions at WCU are the brain-child of Martin and **Cheryl Johnston**, a WCU associate professor of forensic anthropology who also leads research and education at the university’s Forensic Osteology Research Station (FOREST.) Martin enrolled in the forensic anthropology program as a transfer student in fall 2010, and soon after he and Johnston began discussing the possibility of offering instruction in human remains detection for handlers and their dogs.

The cadaver dog training has proven to be extremely popular, Martin said.

With 30 slots available, the November 2011 session filled up through online registration in nine minutes. The results were the same for the most recent intermediate-level sessions. Martin said the training held at WCU, with a combination of field practice and classroom lectures, is something the dogs and handlers “can’t get anywhere else.” A big lure of the WCU sessions is that dogs and handlers have an opportunity to be exposed to full body decomposition at the FOREST, he said.

Classroom lectures were provided by Cheryl Johnston along with Tom Johnson, WCU assistant professor of criminology and criminal justice, and **John A. Williams**, director of WCU’s forensic anthropology program, whose career experiences has included mortuary operations at the site of the World Trade Center terrorist attacks. Several guest speakers from off campus also gave presentations for the handlers, including **Arpad Vass**, a forensic anthropologist at **Oak Ridge National Laboratory** in Tennessee who is an expert in decomposition odor analysis.. Martin said plans are in the works to hold more cadaver dog training at WCU in the fall. For more information about future sessions, contact WCU’s Office of Continuing Education at 828-227-7397. Photo and story courtesy of WCU Office of Public Relations.

Kenya Summer Travel Course

Twelve students traveled to Kenya with Drs. Mwaniki and Hickey this past May to study grassroots development, the third year in a row that WCU has sent students on this trip. After spending the spring semester in class learning about Kenyan history, politics, culture, and literature, the students spent three weeks in Kenya. Two weeks were spent in Wongonyi, a small village in the remote Taita hills of the coast province. While there, students visited the local hospital and schools to learn about health and educational issues. They also met with local church leaders and the area chief to discuss community leadership, as well as other issues related to community welfare. They also became familiar with a variety of development initiatives including an agriculture project involving fish and vegetable farming using a manual water pump, a biosand water filtration project, a forest conservation project in the Taita hills watershed, and others. The trip was a wonderful training experience that combined theory and practice. The students were also happy to have the opportunity to meet Joyce Mwawaza, a local student who is being sponsored by funds generated by the WCU Sociology Club. Drs. Mwaniki and Hickey are already planning their fourth Summer Travel Course to Kenya in Summer, 2013, and the Sociology Club has established a number of initiatives to deepen Western's partnership with the people of Kenya.



From left to right: Drs. Mwaniki and Hickey, Emily Myers, Zulekya Hamilton, Cindy Miller, Lydia Baxfield, Papa Alexander, Stephanie Hribar (hidden), Sarah DiSanto, Caroline Cage, Mama Florence, Josh Matthews, Ashley Pimental, Carlee Raeff, Ashley Hussey, (hidden) and Kit Sudol.

Clay County Proves Strong Partner for WCU Anthropology Program

Anthropology students at WCU are experiencing hands-on learning in Clay County through archaeological digs and participation in the ongoing construction of an outdoor museum exhibit that portrays a Cherokee village from 1650-1750. The Anthropology connection to Clay County began in 2005, when interested parties reached out to **Dr. Jane Eastman** to conduct a field study on the site of a planned housing development adjacent to the Spike Buck Mound and the Quanassee village archaeological sites in Hayesville, about 60 miles southwest of Cullowhee. Archaeological evidence indicates that the mound and the areas surrounding it were a substantial Cherokee settlement, with parts of it existing as early as the 14th century. The development never materialized, but since 2006 Eastman has worked toward a broader picture of the area by leading students on summertime digs there.



More recently, Eastman has engaged her students in the development of the outdoor Cherokee Homestead Exhibit, a project of the Clay County Communities Revitalization Association in partnership with the adjacent Clay County Historical and Arts Council Museum (housed in the community's former jail). The exhibit features to-scale replicas of a Cherokee summer house, winter house, and corncrib against the backdrop of a large-scale mural featuring details of elements of Cherokee life, including basketry, pottery, and weaponry, and with contemporary metal sculptures referencing the seven Cherokee clans and other symbols of

the tribe. The exhibit, under construction since 2007 and a couple blocks from the central square of downtown Hayesville, is a striking visual for passersby.

"I think it becomes much easier to imagine what life was like for a Cherokee family," Eastman said, "and to appreciate their skills when you have some experience to relate to other than simply what you've read in a book. To me it releases the imagination in a way that is otherwise impossible." Her students agree that the experience outside the classroom lends a fresh perspective on the eras they study. "Learning some of the ways that they've done stuff in the past is informative for the future," said Jenna-vieve Smith, a senior anthropology major from Franklin and one of 12 students who traveled to Hayesville in April to work on the project. With a mother who organizes historical homestead reenactments, Smith grew up interested in history. "This is a great program," Smith said, adding that she wished there was more funding for such projects.

"The process of developing this exhibit would have been much more difficult without the help of Jane and WCU students," said WCU alumnus Rob Tiger, an active member of the Clay County Communities Revitalization Association, commonly known by the shortened CCCRA. Tiger, a Clay County native and fourth-generation owner of Tiger's general store in downtown Hayesville, graduated from WCU in 1973 with a major in archaeology. He actually participated in digs in the Spike Buck area while he was a student, and for the past two summers his organization has provided transportation to Eastman and her students for their digs. Eastman also remains committed to the project. "I'm proud of what we've accomplished here in Hayesville and proud to be able to associate with such hard-working, forward-thinking people who want to improve their home community, educate people about the Cherokee heritage of Western North Carolina, and provide a public venue for Cherokee craftspeople and performers to tell their own stories and practice their cultural traditions," she said.

Photo and story courtesy of WCU Office of Public Information.

Dr. Talley Serves as Scholar-Activist at Political Convention

Heather Laine Talley participated in the Democratic National Convention as a scholar activist writing for *The Feminist Wire*.

The Reporter: What inspired your initial interest in sociology?

Talley: When I took my first sociology class, I felt like I found an intellectual home. Sociology gave me language and a way of seeing the world that helped me to identify the historical, cultural, political and economic forces that shaped individuals' personal stories. I believed then, as I do now, that the sociological imagination is a critical tool for solving social problems and by implication making people's lives better.

The Reporter: How did you get involved with The Feminist Wire?

Talley: Two years ago, Tamara Lomax, a graduate school colleague (who is co-founder of The Feminist Wire and now assistant chair and assistant professor of African American Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University), got in touch. When she shared her vision with me for The Feminist Wire, I was immediately taken. The idea was to invite scholars, activists, artists and organizers to bring their divergent expertise to bear on pressing ques-



tions of the day and to employ a feminist lens in our writing. It is important to say that The Feminist Wire is not exclusively or even predominantly about women. We understand feminism as a perspective that is invested in justice and equality broadly speaking, so ultimately all of our work is invested in asking about social dynamics that impact human well-being, either positively or negatively.

The Reporter: How does what you are doing with The Feminist Wire connect to your scholarly expertise?

Talley: Increasingly there is a movement within the discipline of sociology towards what has been termed “public sociology.” In many ways, the vision of public sociology echoes the notion of engagement that we subscribe to at WCU. The idea is to bring your scholarly expertise to bear on pressing questions of our day. At the same time, public sociologists often see writing in non-academic spaces as one route to bringing a sociological lens to a larger audience. Of course at WCU, we are familiar with this model of academic engagement, given that so many faculty model their work on similar ideas.

The Reporter: What do you expect to share with your students about your experience?

Talley: So many things. In sociology we often talk about the media's role in “the social construction of reality.” Now, I have countless examples about how news stories are created and how those potentially shape our perspective of current events. I also thought about my students, especially my feminist theory students, quite a bit during the convention. The need to establish women's parity in elected office was mentioned multiple times at the DNC. There are structural issues, like campaign financing, that would need to be addressed to truly facilitate this process, but the idea of simply encouraging people to run for office came up. I think I have several students who would make fantastic elected officials.

Interview by Teresa Killian Tate published in edited and condensed form

Abridged article courtesy of The Reporter - <http://thereporter.wcu.edu>

Status updates from departmental alumni...

Brian Burgess and **Beau Carroll** are both tribal archeologists for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Beau Carroll was recently quoted in the *Smoky Mountain News* discussing his collaboration with the University of Tennessee Archaeology program.

Dawn Kurry is a reporter at the Richmond County Daily Journal in Rockingham, NC

Travis Bugg is a GIS specialists at Centennial Archaeology, Inc. in Fort Collins, CO.

Camille Casses teaches at the John F. Kennedy School in Queretaro, Mexico.

Ivy Stephens is a make-up artist living in Asheville, NC.

Jer-Mayne White recently gave birth to a handsome baby boy.

Richard Ray is a location manager for Aramark, in Greenville, SC.

Matthew Bradley is ABD in Anthropology from Indiana University and lives in Massachusetts.

Rudy Edwards is teaching English in Thailand.

Jessica Phelps graduated from Kaplan International Colleges and is living in Miami.

Rob Ferguson graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a Ph.D. in History, and is currently teaching at WCU.

Heather Nichols is living in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Heather Burd is an admission coordinator at the University of Alabama.

Jared Gallamore is studying for his M.A. in Appalachian Studies at ASU.

Katie Dixon recently gave birth to her daughter, Mirren, and lives in North Wilksboro, NC.

Amber Swann is studying to be a Pharmacist at Presbyterian College.

Colin Townsend is a graduate assistant in the Latin American Studies program at the Univ. of South Carolina.

Joanna Loops is a software trainer at DonorSnap and lives with her son, Ronan, in Medford, Oregon.

Magnus Solestar Cain is living in New York City.

Travis Hurdle is an archaeologist at Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. in Knoxville, TN.

Paul Denkenberger works at Haywood Community College in Waynesville, NC, where he lives with his wife and daughter.

Paul Martin and **Elaine Tolbert** are both graduate students in Anthropology at the University of Mississippi.

Holly Williamson is a graduate student in Human Biology at the University of Indianapolis.

Shane Steward-Cowan is studying for his Master of Divinity degree at Hood Theological Seminary.

Jamie Patterson completed her M.A. degree in Folklore from UNC-Chapel Hill and is living, writing, and making music in Asheville, NC.

Stephanie Crosby is loving nature in Delhi, NY.

Stephen Barksdale is a pilot with Ocean Aerial and lives in Chapel Hill.

Elizabeth Wright is a manager at Dollar General in Meadows, NC.

Tonya Capps (Teague) is a Senior Financial Analyst, CPA, at Volvo and lives in Carlisle, PA.

Melissa Lowe works at Books-a-Million and lives in Charlotte, NC.

Josh Hopper is a mechanic helping people get down the road in Western North Carolina.

Paul Graham is an avid fisherman and STEPS coordinator at Southwestern Community College.

Brittany Nutt is starting her Basic Law Enforcement Training with the goal of becoming an FBI agent.

Will Roberts is Program Director of Cultural and Community Investment at the Arts and Science Council in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Hunter Grodner is a stay-at-home mother and wife in Winterville, NC.

Aimee Gornto is a property examiner at the South Carolina Department of Revenue.

Elisabeth Hall lives in thriving downtown Sylva, NC.

Lizzie Lukowski is living in Apex, NC.

Jerel Jackson serves in the United States Army.

Brooke Barnette is a dispatcher for the Haywood County Sheriff.

Alexander Patterson is a sales associate at AFLAC and lives in China Grove, NC.

Sarah Foley works for the City of Asheville, in Asheville, NC.

Bobbi Brooks lives with her family in Millville, New Jersey.

Elizabeth Montgomery is a Veterinary Assistant at the NC State Small Animal Hospital.

Status updates from departmental alumni...

Kimberly Wiggins is a full-time USMC wife and EMT. She lives in Jacksonville, NC

Krista Backs lives in Mills River, NC and works for Regional Elite Airline Services.

Breanne Lasorso is studying for her teaching degree in Pittsburgh, PA.

Annie Pfeuffer is the front-house manager at the famous Howard's Pub on Ocracoke Island, NC.

Brandie Fields is the Executive Director of the Orange County Historical Museum and lives in Mebane, NC.

Dugan Adams works at Edward McKay Used Books in Winston-Salem.

Lauren Levine is a teacher at the M.I.L Language Center and lives in Chiba, Japan.

Aly Wisely is the owner of Precision Clerical and lives in Asheville, NC.

Edna Woyee is a graduate student at George Mason University

Shakita Holloway is a graduate student at Catholic University in Washington, DC.

Stephen Heatherly is an M.D. working at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital.

Shannon Weatherby works at Open Text and lives in Tallahassee, FL.

Cameron Lacquement earned his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Alabama.

Susan Abram completed her Ph.D. in History at Auburn University and teaches at WCU and SCC.

Shawn Jones is currently working for the National Park Service in Alaska.

Jeffery Duckett is working with the National Park Service.

Robert Noell is working with the National Forests in North Carolina.

Wayne Pitts is on the faculty of the University of Memphis in Tennessee.

Jim Errante is a Cultural Resource Specialist for the United States Department of Agriculture in North and South Carolina.

Patrick Pearce lives in Cary, NC. He recently obtained his real-estate license and would be happy to help alumni find a home in the Triangle area.

Sam Morgan is a Registered Nurse at the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville, NC.

Lauren (Wagoner) Carnes is a physical therapist.

Christine Bassett is working on the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee.

Joel Hardison is working on the Uwharrie National Forest in North Carolina.

Lambda Alpha National Collegiate Honors Society for Anthropology

WCU's Anthropology Program is now associated with the **Theta** chapter of **Lambda Alpha National Collegiate Honors Society for Anthropology**. The Lambda Alpha Honors Society recognize superior academic performance among anthropology undergraduates throughout the country. Members may apply for the society's annually awarded national scholarship of \$5,000 given to a deserving graduating senior majoring in anthropology.

To become a member an anthropology student must be a Junior or Senior with at least twelve semester hours in anthropology, with an average grade of no less than 3.0 and a cumulative quality point average of no less than 2.5. In those departments like ours with a joint Anthropology/Sociology department, Sociology courses not to exceed six semester hours may be included for membership qualifications. Alumni of any qualified institution may become members of our chapter within five years of graduation provided the same qualifications are met.

All members must pay with a twenty-five dollar (\$25) Individual Lifetime Membership Fee. Contact Anthropology Club Advisor Dr. Anne Rogers to join.

Departmental Fund-Raising

Send checks (with “Department of Anthropology and Sociology” in the memo line) to:

Western Carolina University
Office of Development
201 H.F. Robinson Administration Building
Cullowhee, N.C. 28723

More options for making donations to the Department of Anthropology and Sociology may be found at give.wcu.edu, or you may contact us directly to discuss your gift.

If you have any news (with or without photographs) to share, please send it to our department email: anso@email.wcu.edu

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