Message from our Chair, Paul Leslie

AnArchaey Notes often features an interview with the Chair of the Department. Paul Leslie is currently Chair and is completing his second term. He has been in the office for eight years altogether. Colin West had a chance to sit down and ask Paul a few questions.

Colin: How has the Department changed in the last five or six years?

Paul: There have been two main changes. One is that we have grown considerably; we have added more faculty. We’ve also increased faculty diversity. I don’t remember offhand what the faculty size was at the time the last AnArchaey Notes came out but we now have about 30 regular faculty. That’s about five more than we did when I started out as chair nine years ago. There has also been a bit of turnover. We have some new faces around here and I feel our new hires have been very good ones. The areas of expertise have changed and expanded. We’re also beginning to see some retirements among our long-time faculty, but overall growth is one of the changes that we’ve seen.

The other big change has been the budgetary problems due to the declining economy in recent years. When I became chair we were in relatively good times -- faculty salaries were going up, there was more money for equipment, travel and various things, especially support for graduate students. That has not been the case for the last few years and we went through a real crunch that is only now beginning to ease. We have found it harder to support graduate students who really deserve it. It is harder to provide resources for faculty travel and for them to get projects going. It is hard to get money to take students places, purchase research equipment, or get other things that students and faculty need. This has been a major shift and we are coping with it. We are really now at the point where further cuts would cause real problems for us structurally -- seriously diminishing our ability to support graduate students as TAs and give them teaching experience. It is very important for them to teach their own sections in order to be successful on the job market -- and not get ulcers when they finally do get a job and have to juggle the teaching and other aspects of the job all for the first time. Fewer TAs may also mean larger class sizes.

That makes the teaching experience itself less rewarding and may compromise the quality of undergraduate education as well. These changes affect the morale of both faculty and students.

We have an excellent faculty and our students do a really good job. If conditions were to continue to deteriorate, we could lose some of them (both faculty and students) and that would be a real shame. At this time it appears that the budgetary cuts and the decline have bottomed out. Next year’s budget will be a bit better, but the long term prospects are uncertain.

Colin: Is this the worst you’ve ever seen it at UNC?

Paul: It is the worst since I’ve been here and I’ve been here now over twenty years. There were other years where there were cuts but we have never had a series of years such as this. There have been years when there were no raises or token increases for faculty, which is, of course, not the only indicator of how well we are doing. But, this is the first time we’ve had multiple years with no raises -- three years with nothing at all, and finally very modest increases this past year. So, yes, this is the worst it has been in quite some time.

Colin: Have there been innovations to cope with these cuts? For instance, I know you have helped fund anthropology students with IGERT grants through the Carolina Population Center (CPC). Under adversity, are people finding their own solutions to these problems?

Paul: Well, I’m not sure that any of these solutions are really new. I think that some people are using old means more intensively or carefully. The IGERT you referred to is a training grant. The Carolina Population Center in collaboration with the Curriculum for the Environment and Ecology started that program long before there was a budget problem. It has actually ended now and we continue to try to get other training grants through the CPC. We do have some but it is not really something new. The declining budget is an impetus to look harder perhaps and find new sources.

If you look around the University you find that there are some innovations that make life better for chairs and departments. For
Chair’s Message (continued from previous page)

instance there are some endowments that provide Chairs with some funding to make things happen. There is one called the “Just Say Yes Fund” to provide faculty and students with some travel money or equipment for their lab or seed money for innovative ideas. It is not “big bucks,” but does help provide some research assistance or new furniture to improve the ambiance of the department. This can be new chairs – not like me, “The Chair” – but ergonomic ones so that people don’t hurt their backs while you’re slaving away at the computer. This can also pay for new sofas in the lounge or guest speakers. This was started back when I first became chair and a little bit of money can go a long way. These were not started due to hard times but in times like this, it becomes even more important and crucial. It is far from being a solution to all our problems but it can help. Our students are looking more widely for support and it can be hard to find.

Colin: Do you know how our situation compares to other departments here on campus or to anthropology departments at other universities?

Paul: Within the College of Arts and Sciences I think we are doing reasonably well. We have been able to hire new or replacement faculty, which not all departments have been able to do. The number of searches for new faculty has been less than in the past, but we have been able to complete searches. We have also been able to get some Target of Opportunity hires, which is good altogether. Like I said, our department has been growing even after times got tough. This is a mark of the favor with which the College looks on our department. It is a strong department and a strong program. Our graduate students bring us credit. They get prestigious awards, fellowships and grants, as do our faculty. That is recognized by the College and by the Graduate School.

Compared to other departments in the country . . . Well, it’s all over the map. In terms of other state institutions, there are some that are considerably worse off than we are in North Carolina. For others, it is perhaps not so bad.

Colin: Since you started here, in what way do we continue to be unique compared to other programs?

Paul: I came here in the fall of 1991. We continue to be unique in terms of our structure. We have three “concentrations,” which was very unusual back then. It was called the Carolina Model and came to be known around the country by that. It was intended as a means of cross-cutting the traditional sub-disciplines within anthropology. It was a way of potentially avoiding some of the divisiveness and problems other anthropology departments were having because of those traditional sub-disciplinary boundaries and silos. We still have that structure, though it’s not the only program in the country trying to do something similar.

There are some departments that have distinct “wings” or “programs.” In other places, the faculty tend to be associated with just one of those, which means you are dividing up the department. Here, the faculty are free to associate with and participate with more than one concentration. In fact, we encourage them to do so. We also encourage graduate students to participate with more than one and interact with them in different ways. We don’t see these concentrations as independent silos but as statements of where we see our strengths. They signify what we are good at and how we advertise ourselves to the rest of the world.

Of course, we also have two programs: the Program in Archaeology and the Program in Medical Anthropology. In principle, these can cross-cut the concentrations and help integrate them. We’ve tried various ways to make that happen, have had some success, and I hope we have more. All that said, it’s healthy to reevaluate the structure of the program periodically, to ensure that it continues to reflect and serve our evolving needs, expertise, interests, and opportunities.

Colin: So, the Archaeology Program and the Medical Anthropology Program, did they start under your tenure as Chair?

**Chair’s Message continued on next page**

Editor’s Notes

It has been a few years since the last issue of *AnArchaey Notes* rolled off the press. The last issue appeared in 2008 under the editorship of professors Valerie Lambert, Michele Rivkin-Fish, and Matthew Hull. Those of you who follow this newsletter of our Department of Anthropology at UNC Chapel Hill will note it has changed substantially. The current issue is more condensed and features less content. Part of this is due directly to me, Colin Thor West, the new Editor of *AnArchaey Notes*. I wanted to make our newsletter easier to read and easier to produce. Previous *AnArchaey Notes* numbered about 24 pages and there was a five-year lag between the last two issues (2003 to 2008). Each issue reflects the unique view and quirks that the editor (or editors) has on our department and what is going on among our faculty, staff and students. I am new to Carolina and am still learning about my colleagues and their work. Thus, this issue reflects my limited knowledge. It also reflects my feeling that less is often more and that a shorter, more concise *AnArchaey Notes* would serve the same purpose just fine – keeping people affiliated with our Department of Anthropology informed of our latest achievements since approximately 2008.

So, instead of chronicling all of our accomplishments individually for the past three years, this *AnArchaey Notes* describes those that this Editor and members of the Communications Committee deemed most relevant to you, our reader, an idea of what is going on in The Department of Anthropology at UNC, Chapel Hill.

I would like to especially thank Dr. Fatimah Jackson who did the formatting and layout for Volume 9. I’d also like to thank Drs. Bob Daniels, Amanda Thompson, and Jean Dennison who are members of the Communication Committee and helped put this all together.

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— Colin Thor West
Chair’s Message
(continued from previous page)

Paul: No, they have both been around for a long time. The Medical Anthropology Program has changed since I started as Chair in that it has broadened considerably. It now includes people in all three of the Concentrations. Before it did not include people in the Ecology and Evolution Concentration and now it does. So, we’ve really got a unique program. We are also reaching out to other units on campus with that program – to people in the School of Global Public Health, in the School of Medicine, and in other departments within the College of Arts and Sciences as well. Anthropologists have infected all sorts of other disciplines!

Colin: Yes, it’s amazing. You bump into other anthropologists on campus who are part of the Department of Social Medicine, Religious Studies, African and Afro-American Studies, Health Behavior, Maternal and Child Health, and numerous others.

How do you think the Department is going to change in the next five years? What new trajectories do you see it going off on?

Paul: In the next few years, I don’t see a lot of change. Of course, Colin West may change everything . . .

Colin: Yes, he might scare everyone away!

Paul: No, really, I don’t see any major programmatic changes, yet. We will be changing some of the ways we teach undergraduate courses. We’ll try to maintain the quality of courses while maintaining enrollments under serious budget constraints. I’m hoping the budget situation will recover before too much damage is done, and there has in fact been a bit of improvement in the past year. But, the nature of the department is going to depend a lot on our new faculty – what their interests are, what kinds of collaborations they come up with both within the department and other units. It’s wide open! It’s very exciting to have new ideas floating around. We don’t have any specific plans for revising or restructuring the program right now, and we’ve just completed a revision of our undergraduate major, but we’ll be discussing other possible changes over the coming year or two.

Colin: So, one of the things you talked about in the last issue of the AnArchaey Notes is that our department tends to be particularly collegial and places a large premium on collegiality. That is different from some other departments and other units. I was wondering if you could just comment on that.

Paul: That was true and I think it is still true. That’s not to say there are never any tensions or disagreements. But, overall pretty much everyone gets along and respects everyone’s right to do the kind of work that they do. There is a general mutual respect. The kind of department “culture” which I was referring to is very much valued. When we hire people, we pay attention to how we think we will get along with them. It is not just a matter of finding a superstar or a rising star. That’s great and we want excellence and we want people who want to do great things. But, we’ll pass up people who may be brilliant and productive but would not play well with others. They would not be good department citizens and pitch in. They may not be good people to have around for collaborating and training students. That is not to say that everybody has to be involved in collaborative research but we want people who are good to have around because they like to share ideas, develop new classes and work with students.

Colin: Did you consider serving a third term as Chair?

Paul: Only briefly. There are a lot of things I like about being Chair. There are many things that are rewarding. In some ways it is also very wearing. And then there is also something to be said for just getting a fresh face or a fresh body in the office. Everybody is good at doing different things. It would be good to have someone who emphasizes different things or is better at certain things than I am. The Department and Dean have chosen Rudi [Colloredo–Mansfeld] as our next chair and I’m completely confident that he’ll do a great job in the position.

Colin: Well, that is pretty much all I wanted to ask. you. Is there anything else you’d like to say – to be part of history and the record?

Paul: Hah! It’s really nice to have umh, uh, someone else in the department who appreciates brewing beer.

Colin: Alright! So, that may not find its way into the AnArchaey Notes but I’ll leave it in as part of the record.

Thank you very much, Paul.

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Staff News

We would like to thank the Department of Anthropology Staff for all the hard work they do behind the scenes that keep our office and department running smoothly. We would also like to introduce Matt McAlister and Nicholas LeBlanc who recently joined us as Accounting Technician and Registrar, respectively. Matt has been on staff for three years and Nicholas a little over one year. We would also like to recognize two very familiar faces: Carrie Stolle, our Business Officer, and Suphronia Cheek, our Student Services Specialist. We’d like to celebrate Carrie’s 25 years of service and 39 (!) years of service Miss Suphronia has dedicated to the Department.

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MOCHE – Mobilizing Opportunity Through Community Heritage Empowerment

“To do archaeology and to do meaningful archaeology, you have to be engaged with the communities.”

-- Brian Billman, Associate Professor, UNC Department of Anthropology

Students usually enroll in archaeology field schools in order to learn how to dig things up. Excavating features and artifacts is fundamental to learning about people’s prehistoric past. In the Department of Anthropology’s MOCHE Field School, however, students learn to dig in ways that benefit local people for the present. For going on five years, the Mobilizing Opportunity through Community Heritage Empowerment (MOCHE, Inc) has integrated community service projects with archaeological training in order to protect heritage sites on the north coast of Peru.

Dr. Brian Billman and his host-country colleagues have developed partnerships with several communities in the Moche Valley along Peru’s Pacific coast. Moche civilization flourished from 100 to 800 AD in one of the most arid environments on the planet. The Moche culture constructed huge irrigation works and enormous monuments. They had elaborate gold, iconography, and a distinct ceramic tradition. Unfortunately, however, Moche archaeological sites are seriously threatened. Early Spanish conquistadors raided tombs for their gold, and people today destroy sites in order to build homes in unregulated squatter settlements. Dr. Billman believes that local people care about their heritage and will work to protect it, but this protection has to yield real and tangible benefits before communities can commit time and resources toward protecting what is left.

Billman has worked with students in the Moche Valley since 1998. As an academic archaeologist, Billman never really expected to be involved in community development. Over the years, he witnessed more and more destruction of Peru’s rich past but struggled to find a solution. Slowly, Billman started asking community members simple questions about what they wanted or what they needed so that the field school could help them lead a better life. Their answers were simple and straightforward – “clean water,” “access to health care,” and “schools.” Now UNC students and other volunteers spend part of their time digging excavation units and another part of their time digging latrines, potable water delivery systems, or sewage lines. Other UNC organizations such as A Drink for the Future, Nourish International, and Engineers Without Borders collaborate with the field school to design and build small-scale sustainable development projects such as health clinics, VIP latrines, and potable water systems. Together with these student organizations, over the last 6 years MOCHE has raised over SUS 150,000 for community heritage preservation and development projects.

As individual communities partner on MOCHE projects, they begin to value their prehistoric heritage and see its relevance for the present. Leaders sign formal agreements to preserve and protect local archaeological sites. The UNC MOCHE Field School has become a unique model for community development AND archaeological training.

Learn more and watch a video on MOCHE, Inc. at: www.savethemoche.org

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Engaging and Understanding Diverse Communities: Teaching and Research in the RLA

Meg Kassabaum, 8th year Ph.D. student, UNC

During my years as a graduate student at UNC, I have worn two hats; I have been a scholar of the American South and a teacher. I split my time and energy between conducting research in Mississippi and engaging with the public through UNC’s Research Laboratories of Archaeology (RLA).

Digging up the Past in Mississippi

For the past six years, I have been excavating at the Feltus Mounds, an ancient civic-ceremonial center which dates ca. AD 700-1000. Most of this has been through UNC’s Burch Field Research Seminar Program led by Dr. Vin Steponaitis. Undergraduate students participate in three months of intensive training in archaeological methods and theory. Not only do students learn about the archaeology of the region, they also interact daily with residents of Natchez, MS. Downtown Natchez is an area infatuated with the past—both history and prehistory. It is an incredibly welcoming place to be an archaeologist, and the people there expect to see a lot of you . . . you never know when you might be asked to attend a dinner party or ice cream social at an antebellum mansion, lead a site tour for the Garden Club, or discuss the importance of the archaeological site you are excavating while being dolled up in a hoop skirt! Connecting the material culture of these archaeological sites to the modern culture of Natchez has always been a distinctive focus of our field program.

Building Bridges to the Past in Chapel Hill

Making our distant past relevant to the present for the people of our state is also part of my role as the Public Outreach Coordinator for the RLA. Every year, I plan two large family archaeology day events—one in the fall, associated with Jordan Lake’s Heritage Day, and one in the spring, associated with the UNC Science Expo. My job is to introduce K-12 students and teachers to archaeological concepts while making the public

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RLA continued on next page
Chapel Hill and get them involved in the archaeological community. Our outreach has been extremely successful. As evidence, a 6-year-old girl turned to a 60-year-old artifact collector at last year’s Heritage day and stated, “Grandma said this would probably be boring… but it’s awesome!!”

**Bridging Contemporary Carolina and Ancient Mississippi**

My dissertation research focuses on the Coles Creek tradition in the Lower Mississippi Valley (AD 700—1000). Coles Creek platform mounds are often viewed as precursors to similarly shaped Mississippian mounds. In Mississippian times, platform mounds are understood as indicators of social inequality, but Coles Creek sites lack other characteristics commonly used to support this conclusion, such as maize agriculture and burial practices indicating differences in status. My project aims to determine rather than assume the nature of the community that gathered at Coles Creek mound sites by focusing on Feltus and the two primary activities that took place there—mound building and feasting. By examining the ceramic, plant and animal remains from the site, I argue that the mounds at Feltus likely provided locations for communal ritual activities and that perhaps their purpose was to stimulate group cohesion and a sense of identity and equality with participating community members. This is exactly what happens at our field schools and outreach events. People gather, eat and learn. In so doing, they develop a connection to the past and recognize their common place in the present.

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Completing pottery puzzles to learn how archaeologists reconstruct vessels when they are found on sites. — with Soph A Loaf and Natty DeMasi at Jordan Lake.

**UNC-CH/Anthropology Offers Certificate in Participatory Research**

This spring the Administration approved an interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Participatory Research to be housed in Anthropology. The certificate will certify completion of training in the theoretical bases, rationale, methodologies, challenges, and motivation for carrying out research in equitable partnership with the community that the research is intended to benefit.

Relevant participatory methods, ethical considerations, and research paradigms come from diverse sources across campus, including professional schools such as Public Health and Social Work and the College of Arts and Sciences, especially its humanities and social science departments— anthropology, geography, history, city and regional planning, and sociology. The Certificate program provides faculty mentorship and guidance to help students develop facility with methods for their respective projects, connects graduate students with each other and with faculty and community experts, and establishes forums for discussing, sharing and refining participatory ethics and methodologies. It also aims to provide opportunities for students in all fields to gain experience by linking them to ongoing projects.

UNC-CH has a strong history of community-engaged participatory research, particularly in Public Health. The Department of Anthropology is pleased to play a role in building this tradition. Dorothy Holland will serve as the first Director of the Certificate Program. ******
Notes from the Field: Challenges to the Sustainability of Banana Farming in St. Lucia

Caela O’Connell is a PhD student who has been documenting the effects of Fairtrade agreements on banana growers in St. Lucia, an Eastern Caribbean nation near Martinique. She has conducted three phases of fieldwork in the country since 2010. These are her notes from her final session and she writes:

I spent April and May of 2012 in St. Lucia, completing the final phase of my dissertation research thanks to a grant from the National Geographic Conservation Trust. My research centered on examining the impacts of Fairtrade on smallholder banana farmers and the conservation of the watersheds in which they live through the lens of crisis. Unfortunately, both a hurricane and a fungal disease outbreak beleaguered the banana farmers during my fieldwork. Throughout these unfortunate circumstances I documented Fairtrade farming practices for St. Lucian farmers and their sense-making of both the hurricane’s destruction and the ongoing conservation practices.

In 2010 Hurricane Tomas, the most destructive hurricane to ever hit the island of St. Lucia, delivered record-breaking rains and triggered landslides and flooding across the island. Tomas crippled the banana industry, St. Lucia’s primary export, for nearly a year. As people began to recover, farmers were presented with a new disaster—a plague of Black Sigatoka (Mycosphaerella fijiensis). This devastating fungal disease can destroy an entire plantation in just two weeks (see above).

Expensive to manage and nearly impossible to eradicate, the disease thrived in the post-hurricane conditions of water logged soils, hot Caribbean sun and uncontrolled growth because farmers could not afford fungicide. Though slower in onset than a hurricane, Black Sigatoka presents a continual crisis for farmers and the banana industry to this day. After Hurricane Tomas, while surveying the damage to his banana farm, Andrew told me “When I first came, when I saw my farm, I just have to laugh. I said I would not continue in bananas.” However he made great strides in the months following the hurricane, rehabilitating his plots of bananas. I saw this response repeated over and over by the farmers, despite minimal assistance from Fairtrade or any other organizations. However when Black Sigatoka arrived, the response changed; the blow was hard. Farmers could see a way forward from a hurricane: how to rebuild homes and infrastructure, replant their fields, but things are not so clear with this fungus that will not be eradicated and threatens people’s livelihoods. As one farmer described shaking her head in frustration, “that there, that disease, it will end us all.”

Part of my dissertation research tracked the rehabilitation and conservation activities of ten banana farmers that I worked with regularly and surveyed their farms monthly for one year. During these visits, I would help them with agricultural activities such as planting banana shoots harvesting fruit, and “trashing” by cutting away leaves infected with Black Sigatoka.

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Banana (continued from previous page)

Through this participant observation, I learned about many of the micro-processes of banana growing and the complex issues growers face as they try to conform to Fairtrade policies, which don’t always make sense in St. Lucia. For instance, they are not supposed to use certain kinds of herbicides and fungicides, however the types that are approved are not always available on the island. Complying with this was troublesome but possible when Black Sigatoka was isolated, but now it is nearly impossible. The fragile (im)balances involved in global agricultural trade, local communities and the natural environment are acutely exposed in my research and will help us to better understand and ultimately improve trade policy, environmental conservation practices and even our relationships with the natural environments in which we live.

Wrapping up my fieldwork in St. Lucia was bittersweet, I was excited to finish my 20-months of research, return home and begin writing my dissertation, but leaving was also hard. I spent a lot of time saying goodbyes, attending farewell parties, and promising the people with whom I have worked for nearly two years that I would eventually return. Now in the process of writing my dissertation, I often wonder if there will even be a banana industry in St. Lucia to return to.

On-going Faculty Research Efforts

Research on Food and Farming for All (ROFFA)

Since 2011, Don Nonini has been engaged with Dorothy Holland of the Department and two research associates of the Research on Food and Farming for All (ROFFA) project in data analysis and the writing of a book on activism around sustainable farming and emergency food provisioning. Don and Dottie have served as Principal Investigators of the ROFFA ethnographic research project, which has been funded for a three-year period by the NSF, and has mobilized a research team of ten people to carry out research on food activism in 2010-2011 in four highly diverse locales in North Carolina. One of the unique characteristics of the ROFFA project was the presence of four community resident researchers, who provided local expertise and have assisted in the dissemination of our findings. The book is slated for completion in late 2013 or early 2014.

On another front, Don has completed Getting by’among Chinese in Malaysia: an Historical Ethnography of Class and State Formation. The book is based upon intermittent ethnographic and historical research in Malaysia over three decades, and is forthcoming (2014) with Cornell University Press.

Faculty Research continued on next page

Updates on our Medical Anthropology Program

The Moral Economies of Medicine Faculty-Student Working Group, now in its 5th year, provides a vibrant forum for discussions of the cultural and political dimensions of health and care. We focus on the ways anthropological inquiries related to ‘moral economies’ offer a critical angle onto the co-constitution of ethics and terms of exchange, notions of obligation, reciprocity, payment, and more. Activities this year include discussions of various articles and works-in-progress, and several talks: Pierre Minn from UCSF spoke on "Components of a Moral Economy: Interest, Credit and Debt in Haiti’s Transnational Medical Landscape," and Nikolas Rose, from King’s College London, discussed his new book (co-authored with Joelle M. Abi-Rached) Neuro: The New Brain Sciences and the Management of the Mind (talk co-sponsored by the Department of Social Medicine, the Institute for Arts & Humanities, the College of Arts & Sciences Interdisciplinary Initiatives, and the Center for Bioethics). Additionally, we were thrilled to have our own faculty present their research: Mara Buchbinder (UNC Social Medicine) spoke on her recently co-authored book with Stefan Timmermans, Saving Babies?: The Consequences of Newborn Genetic Screening; and our own Peter Redfield discussed his new book, Life In Crisis: The Ethical Journey of Doctors without Borders.

On October 4-6, 2013, the Medical Anthropology Program and Center for Bioethics, with support from UNC’s College of Arts and Sciences, Institute for Arts and Humanities, Departments of Social Medicine, Anthropology, Philosophy, Bioethics at UNC (BUNC) and the UNC Program in Ethnicity, Culture, and Health Outcomes, will host a 1 ½ day workshop examining disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to health inequalities and justice.

The workshop will begin on Friday, October 4, with the keynote address by Professor Ruth Faden, PhD, MPH, Philip Franklin Wagley Professor of Biomedical ethics and Director, Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics and co-author with Madison Powers of Social Justice: The Moral Foundations of Public Health and Health Policy (2006).

On Saturday, October 5, conference participants will present original research on topics related to historical and cultural formations of knowledge about justice, fairness, and entitlement in health care; the ways that market forces shape the politics and practices of care; the globalization of medical knowledge and ethics; adequate theoretical models to account for the demands of health related justice in complex systems from the global economy to local institutions; and the myriad ways that emerging health care technologies, interpreted within ethical frameworks, contribute to transforming the goals of medicine, and more.

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Faculty Research continued on next page
Cancer Patient Willingness to Participate in Pharmacogenomic Studies: A Pilot Study

Cancer is genetically complex and novel genomic variants in both patient germline and cancer tumors can influence response to therapy. However, without access to these genetic variants, the progress of pharmacogenomic anticancer drug discovery is stymied. In this pilot study, we propose to investigate the roles of ethnicity, cancer site and stage, and sociodemographic background on 50 cancer patients’ receptivity to participate in pharmacogenomics studies. 25 patients will be self-identified African Americans and 25 patient will be self-identified European Americans, all currently receiving treatments at the North Carolina Cancer Hospital, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. We seek to identify and understand their attitudes, beliefs, and practices regarding DNA donation for anticancer drug development and we seek to assess the acceptability of a culturally modified health education brochure on the importance of cancer patient engagement in pharmacogenomics studies. Data from this pilot study will be used as preliminary data in a larger grant proposal for external funding.

PI/PD: Fatimah Jackson, PhD (UNC-Anthropology)
Co-Is: Lynn G. Dressler, DrPH (Mission Medical Facility, Ashville, NC); William Carpenter, PhD (UNC-SPH); Randall Teal, MA (UNC-CHAI Core); Kimberly Keller, RN, MSN, OCN (UNC-NC Cancer Hospital); Christine M. Walko, PharmD, BCOP (UNC-SOP); Paul Mihas, PhD (UNC-Odum Institute); Charles Price, PhD (UNC-Anthropology); Paul A. Godley, MD, PhD, MPP (UNC-SOM); Niobra M. Samuel-Peterson, MA (UNC-Anthropology)

Artistic Depictions of Enslaved Africans and African Americans on Sauratown Plantation, NC

Short biographies have been uncovered and expanded upon for 100 Africans brought from Antigua to the hinterlands of North Carolina in 1773. This unusual group traveled together and remain on the Sauratown Plantation is quasi-isolation for 75 years. We seek to produce facial portraits of these individuals to reflect their diverse African origins, occupational assignments, ages, and genders. Our goal is to humanize these individuals and memorialize their story. We are currently producing several depictions to use as preliminary examples for subsequent applications for external funding.

Co-Pls: Charles Rodenbough (UNC-Anthropology) and Fatimah Jackson, PhD (UNC-Anthropology) with Twaina Jones (UNC-Journalism) plus various other local artists.

Gender, Health, and Social Change in Russia

Michele Rivkin-Fish continues to work on gender, health, and social change in Russia, while also developing new research on the US health care crisis. Over the last few years, she has published an edited volume, *Dilemmas of Diversity After the Cold War: Analyses of “Cultural Difference”* by US and Russia-Based Scholars, co-edited with Elena Trubina of Ural State University, and published by the Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She also published two articles examining reproductive politics in Russia: “Pronatalism, Gender Politics, and the Renewal of Family Support in Russia: Towards a Feminist Anthropology of ‘Maternity Capital’” *Slavic Review* 69(3): 701-724; and “Conceptualizing Feminist Strategies for Russian Reproductive Politics: Abortion, Surrogate Motherhood, and Family Support After Socialism” *SIGNS*, 38 (3):569-593. Her work on health care in the US investigates the underlying assumptions and structural constraints shaping projects that aim to reduce inequalities. In a recent article published in a special issue of *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry* devoted to Clinical Subjectivation: Anthropologies of Contemporary Biomedical Training, she examines the implicit messages about patient and expert deservingness and responsibility that health professional students learn from community service. “Learning the Moral Economy of Commodified Health Care: Community Education, Failed Consumers, and the Making of Ethical Clinician-Citizens” 35(2): pp. 183-208.

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On-Going Faculty Research Efforts

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NSF Funding for Collaborative Maya Archaeology in Yucatán, México

Patricia McAnany received a planning grant from the National Science Foundation to initiate an archaeological study of the work of ancestral Maya women—especially spinning cotton and weaving textiles—in association with dwellings that were occupied between the 10th and 17th centuries. During the Colonial period, Spaniards marveled at the weaving prowess of Maya women and extracted heavy tribute in woven cotton-cloth. To date, no one has examined how Colonial work demands changed daily activities at dwellings of the Yucatán Peninsula. Dr. Ivan Batun Alpuche of the National University of the East (UNO), which is located in Valladolid, Yucatán, is collaborating with Dr. McAnany; students from both UNO and Chapel Hill will participate in the project, notably UNC graduate student Maya Dedrick.

The front facade of a colonial church in Tixhualactun, Yucatan, Mexico—one of 3 sites to be mapped this summer.

This project is part of a larger organization co-founded by McAnany that is devoted to indigenous heritage issues (InHerit: Indigenous Inheritance Passed to Present, www.in-herit.org).

During the summer of 2013 the team will survey and map three sites that will be the local of more intensive study: Tixhualactun, Tahcabo, and Chebalam. The interest and potential engagement of local Yucatec communities in designing and participating in cultural heritage programs that will accompany archaeological research forms as an important part of this study. A related goal of this project is to demystify archaeological research and to initiate a dialogue with communities regarding not only the research process but also heritage conservation. If you would like to learn more about other activities of InHerit, please visit www.in-herit.org.

Politics and Ontology in Colonial Indonesia

Margaret Wiener is finishing up her book manuscript, Magic in Translation: Politics and Ontology in Colonial Indonesia. It concerns the role played by the category of magic as a connecting device as colonial rule transported it to places it never had previously existed. I track ways colonial agents deployed such concepts to characterize Indonesian practices and practitioners and follow the unanticipated consequences of efforts to establish distinctions between European and native, nature and culture, reason and superstition, fact and fetish. While assertions about ‘native magic’ produced familiar asymmetries, engagements on the ground proved more complicated. Artifacts and agents characterized as “magic” often gained strength, invading the everyday lives of European residents of the colony and circulating far outside their former networks. Thus among the unexpected figures appearing in the book are contemporary Europeans who seek to rid themselves of Indonesian daggers they fear are causing them bad luck; European men bewitched by their (colonial-era) native or Eurasian mistresses; and endlessly repeated tales of mysterious hidden forces. Several sections of the book have already appeared as publications.

I also have two other projects underway. In 2008 I returned to Indonesia for the first time in nine years to observe centenary commemorations of the conquest of Klungkung, historically the main kingdom on the island of Bali. A major sacrificial ritual organized by members of Klungkung’s royal family and an array of speeches capped weeks of performances. The highlight of the commemoration took the form of a visit by an heirloom dagger taken after conquest that now resides in Indonesia’s National Museum. I have given some papers on these events and am working on a short book addressing different attitudes towards the past in contemporary Bali, organized around these celebrations.

I also made a visit to China and Bali in 2010 for a new project on animals and humans in contemporary Asia. I visited zoos, tracked a new craze for imported breed dogs in Asia’s new middle classes, and volunteered at the Panda Breeding and Research Center in Bifengxia in China. I am planning several courses on this topic, and will be pursuing further research on both dogs and pandas.

Finally, I served a stint as the President of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, a sub-section of the American Anthropological Association. In that role I organized a conference on the theme of Religion and Materiality in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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Anna Agbe-Davies is an historical archaeologist with research interests in the plantation societies of the colonial southeastern US and Caribbean, as well as towns and cities of the 19th and 20th century Midwest, with a particular focus on the African diaspora. These intersect with her emphasis on engaged scholarship and “applied archaeology.” Anna received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania after completing a dissertation examining locally-made clay tobacco pipes from rural and urban sites in and around Jamestown, Virginia. Prior to that, she was a staff archaeologist for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation’s Department of Archaeological Research, and even earlier, an undergraduate at the College of William and Mary. Before coming to Carolina, Anna was assistant professor in the anthropology department at DePaul University. Her current research projects include excavation and community collaboration at the sites of New Philadelphia, Illinois, and the Phyllis Wheatley Home for Girls on the south side of Chicago.

Jocelyn Chua is a medical anthropologist interested in questions of mental health and the practice of psychiatry in globalizing south India. Jocelyn first joined the department as a postdoctoral fellow after completing her PhD in Anthropology at Stanford University in 2009. She is currently working on a book manuscript that explores the ethical management of life and death in the context of the south Indian state of Kerala’s high rates of individual and family suicide. Jocelyn also has a developing interest in the political, economic, and social conditions of vulnerability that shape migration between Kerala and the Arab Gulf states.

Jean Dennison is a citizen of the Osage Nation. Her 2012 book from UNC-Press, *Colonial Entanglement: Constituting a Twenty-first Century Osage Nation*, examines the context of the Nation’s 2004-2006 citizenship and government reform process. In particular, it looks at how blood, culture, natural resources, and sovereignty are negotiated as nodes of limitation and possibility. The primary goals of her academic endeavors is to explore how various American Indian people today are negotiating and contesting the ongoing settler colonial process. Dennison’s areas of interest include representation, visual anthropology, and North American Indian citizenship, governance, and sovereignty.

Patricia A. McAnany is Kenan Eminent Professor of Anthropology. A Maya archaeologist, she serves as principal investigator of the Xibun Archaeological Research Project and formerly of the K’axob Project (see www.bu.edu/tricia) and is particularly interested in the intersection of ritual and economy and also in cultural heritage rights for indigenous peoples. She is the founder of the Maya Area Cultural Heritage Initiative (www.machiproject.org) and more recently co-founded an organization devoted to indigenous heritage issues (InHerit: Indigenous Inheritance Passed to Present, www.in-herit.org). She is the author/co-editor of several books, most recently *Textile Economies: Power & Value from the Local to the Transnational* (2011) co-edited with Walter E. Little; *Ancestral Maya Economies in Archaeological Perspective* (2010); *Questioning Collapse: Human Resilience, Ecological Vulnerability, and the Aftermath of Empire* (2009) co-edited with Norman Yoffee; and *Dimensions of Ritual Economy* (2008) co-edited with E. Christian Wells. Her recent journal articles include “Casualties of Heritage Distancing: Children, Ch’orti’ Indigeneity, and the Copán Archaeoscape” (co-authored with Shoshanna Parks), *Current Anthropology* Vol. 54 (2012); “Thinking About Stratigraphic Sequence in Social Terms” (co-authored with Ian Hodder), *Archaeological Dialogues* Vol. 16 (2009); and “Rational Exuberance: Mesoamerican Economies and Landscapes in the Research of Robert S. Santley” (co-authored with Christopher A. Pool), *Journal of Anthropological Research* Vol. 64 (2008). She is the recipient of several research awards from the National Science Foundation and of fellowships from the Institute for the Arts & Humanities (UNC, Chapel Hill), the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Radcliffe Center for Advanced Study at Harvard University. She teaches both large and small undergraduate courses, such as Habitat & Humanity, Crisis & Resilience (a first-year seminar), and Ancestral Maya Civilizations. She also offers graduate seminars in Maya archaeology and issues in cultural heritage.

Colin Thor West is an ecological anthropologist who joined the faculty in 2009. He earned his PhD in Anthropology (Global Change minor) from the University of Arizona in 2006. Colin was a NOAA Global and Climate Change Post-doc at the University of Alaska Anchorage before coming to UNC. Most of his research focuses on the human ecology of households as they adapt to global processes of environmental and social change. Colin conducts research primarily in the northern Central Plateau region of Burkina Faso among rural Mossi communities. He also has an ongoing NSF Human and Social Dynamics project in Western Alaska studying Yup’ik and Cup’ik subsistence practices.
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**Rudi Colloredo-Mansfeld**
Being at Carolina has let new faculty member Rudi Colloredo-Mansfeld, develop his work on community economies in a number of interesting ways. For the classroom he created the First Year Seminar “Deep Economies,” that uses cases spanning from Maine lobsterring communities to Kalahari gathering and hunting bands to look at how people acts as stewards of their community’s key resources. Drawing on his years of work in the Ecuadorian Andes, he published the book *Fighting Like a Community: Andean Civil Societies in an Era of Indian Uprisings*. It details how one of Latin America’s more powerful indigenous movements has its roots in the way new wealth came into and sparked conflicts within peasant communities. He has also worked with colleagues in the Department of Anthropology and elsewhere on campus to research North Carolina’s vibrant local food economies and the way stores and growers form partnerships.

**Townsend Middleton**
is a political anthropologist of South Asia. To date, my research has organized around questions of ‘tribal’ recognition, belonging, and autonomy in the Indian Himalayas. I am currently working on a number of projects including: a book titled *Ethnological Contemporaries: Recognition and the Politics of Belonging in Darjeeling, India*; a guest-edited special issue on the untold roles of research assistants in ethnographic practice; and several other research articles. I continue to gather data for my second project, On-Edge: Political Subjectivity at India’s Margins. My path to UNC has been winding one (via Virginia, Chicago, Cornell, and Duke). Now here, I am thrilled to be developing UNC’s offerings in South Asian anthropology, while helping to develop new directions and connections within the department and beyond.

**Fatimah Jackson**
is a Professor of biological anthropology with a research emphasis on human genetic variation, human-plant coevolution, and modeling population substructure. Joining the Department of Anthropology in 2009, I am currently collaborating with colleagues on several research projects variously connected with the biological consequences of the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans and the impact of this major demographic event on contemporary health disparities. Recently I was awarded the Nick Norgan Award for 2009 Best Article Published in *Annals of Human Biology* for my work on ethnogenetic layering. Last year I was the first recipient of the Ernest E. Just Prize in Medical and Public Health Research, Avery Research Institute, College of Charleston and Medical University of South Carolina (University of South Carolina) and I was coined by Rear Admiral Dr. Helena Mishoe, National Institutes of Health, NHLBI and US Public Health Service.

**Amanda Thompson** is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology and a Fellow at the Carolina Population Center. Her research focuses on understanding how early life experiences shape long-term health and obesity risk. She combines laboratory, anthropological and epidemiological approaches to explore the effects of early environments on growth, body composition, and reproductive development. Her current research focuses on: the effects of early diet on the development of the intestinal microbiota, the impact of maternal feeding styles on early weight gain and the creation of an obesogenic environment, and the impact of changing social and physical environments on the development of inflammation in Chinese children, adolescents and young adults. Amanda received a Masters in Public Health in Global Health/Nutrition and a PhD in Anthropology at Emory University.

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**Research Directions:**

**Workshop on Emerging Knowledges**

Living in times of intense environmental, economic, and political transformation—of disruption, dysfunction as well as possibility and expanded means of communication, many communities (broadly defined) are generating “emerging knowledges”. They are collectively creating new ways of living and being. Building on the legacy of UNC-CH’s interdisciplinary Social Movement Working Group, which conceived movements as knowledge creators, the Department and the Institute for Arts and Humanities sponsored a two day workshop on April 1st and 2nd, “Disclosing the Emergent: Theories of “Writing” Emerging Knowledges with “Communities””. Presenters included Jean Lave (UC, Berkeley), Jeff Boyer (ASU) and, from UNC-CH, Dorothy Holland, Arturo Escobar, Jean Dennison, Don Nonini, Michal Osterweil, and Peter Redfield. The aim of the workshop was to put theory, ethnography, and action into dialogue, examine connections between such diverse methodologies as critical ethnographic research and participatory research, and apply Gramsci, Haraway and other relevant theorists in order to reconceptualize current processes of change especially the production of emerging knowledges.

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