

F A L L 2 0 1 4

# Anthropology News

Wayne State University  
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

## A Year in Anthropology Join the Experience at Wayne State!

*Thomas W. Killion, Associate Professor and Interim Chair*

The 2014-2015 academic year in Anthropology promises several exciting events and opportunities for faculty, students and alums to engage the anthropological experience at Wayne State University.

On Tuesday, October 7, the Grosscup Museum of Anthropology will open a new exhibit entitled *Follow the Lines: Environmental Legacy, Health & Fishing on the Detroit River*. The exhibit showcases medical anthropology research on urban riverine environments, community health and fishing traditions in southeast Michigan. The show lasts through May 2015 and is the product of an enormous effort by Drs. Andrea Sankar and Mark Luborsky, students in anthropology, and a host of dedicated volunteers (see details opposite column).



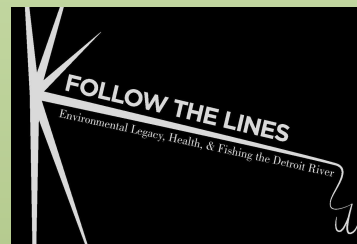
On Monday, October 27, the Department is hosting *Alumni Day 2014*. The event is designed to engage alums in the life of the Department and seeks continued financial support for a growing number of student research and travel initiatives. Alumni are invited back to campus for a noon luncheon featuring comments by *WSU alum and Michigan State University Professor Linda Hunt*. Dr. Hunt will talk about her training at Wayne State, doctoral work at Harvard and a highly successful career path in Medical Anthropology. After lunch, Dr. Hunt will meet with students and visitors for an informal Q and A session and at 4:30pm she presents a public lecture at the University Welcome Center entitled "*Building Markets for Big Pharma: Cultivating and Sustaining the Chronic Pill Consumer*". Faculty, students and alums are all welcome to attend. (Year in Anthropology continued, p. 9)

## *Follow the Lines*

*Environmental Legacy, Health & Fishing  
the Detroit River*

The Gordon L. Grosscup Museum of Anthropology announces a new exhibit opening on October 7, 2014!

The exhibit is based on a study of Detroit's urban fishermen conducted by WSU anthropologists in partnership with the Michigan Department of Community Health, the CDC, the EPA and the Erb Family Foundation. *Follow the Lines* examines how fishing on the Detroit River



encourages a sense of identity and family, and is a nexus of an informal economy in the lives of

urban fisherman. The exhibit takes the anthropological insights of urban fishing research as a starting point for encouraging a proactive approach to educating the public on safe fishing techniques. The objective is to ensure the strength of Detroit's fishing traditions and improve the health of its fishermen. Exhibit visitors will learn about shared benefits and responsibilities inherent in this industrial legacy, and the environmental and health challenges along the river. ■

**Contribute to Anthropology @ Wayne  
(back page)**

## Sabbatical News



### Tamara Bray

Professor Tamara Bray's sabbatical and research leave during AY 2013-14 focused on completing various writing projects, several of which had to do with disseminating the results of interdisciplinary, multi-year research project at the archaeological site of Inca-Caranqui in northern highland Ecuador. Six articles, in Spanish and English, were completed during this period and have been published or accepted for publication in journals, and an edited volume. She also initiated work on a book manuscript with her project co-PI, entitled "*At the End of Empire: The Caranqui, the Inca, and the Northern Imperial Frontier*," which aims to situate the site within the larger context of the Inca Empire. Dr. Bray made significant progress on two other book manuscripts, one a study of the echoes of the Inca Empire in modern Andean nation-states for the Pluto Press series "Roots of Imperialism", and another on imperial ceramics and the Inca state. She also edited a volume entitled "*The Archaeology of Wak'as and Explorations of the Sacred in the Pre-Columbian Andes*" for the University of Colorado Press. Several of these writing projects were facilitated by a post-doctoral fellowship in April at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C.

In addition to her writing projects, the Secretariat of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Ecuador selected Dr. Bray as a 2014 Senior Prometeo Investigator. As a Prometeo awardee, Dr. Bray spent four months in Ecuador this year where she was involved with local archaeological research efforts, capacity-building, and conservation efforts at the site of Inca-Caranqui.

Her time in Ecuador allowed her to begin the groundwork for a new project to focus on the role of salt as a scarce resource of great political and economic significance during the pre-Columbian and early colonial eras. During her sabbatical period, Dr. Bray was named to the Fulbright Program Senior Specialist Roster for a five-year period from 2013-2018. ■

### Todd Meyers

Professor Todd Meyers' new research is at the intersection of medical anthropology and medical history wherein he poses, "a deceptively simple question that has driven much of my research – 'what is a patient?'" Of course the question is impossible to answer fully without first taking into account a series of other questions (what type of disorder? what forms of diagnostics and therapies exist? how are therapies accessed and used?). The question is even trickier in situations where either no therapy is available, no treatment is sought (does sickness alone make one a patient?), or when symptomatology differs greatly between individuals. The answer to 'what is a patient?' is a target set in motion by social, historical, and individual circumstance. More than anything, this question highlights an anthropological concern—a concern grounded in human experience, which as we know, is already an uneven terrain. Over the past year I have been working on an historical project that, at its core, addresses how individuals respond to disease and disorder, and how these responses in turn form a basis for defining the individual in relationship to illness (biologically, experientially). The project, titled *The Whole on the Verge of Collapse: Shock, Balance, and Disequilibrium in Physiology and Related Disciplines around WWI*, is funded by the American Council of Learned Societies, and is conducted

in collaboration with my colleague Stefanos Geroulanos, Department of History, New York University. By using primary historical materials to trace the experimental and therapeutic



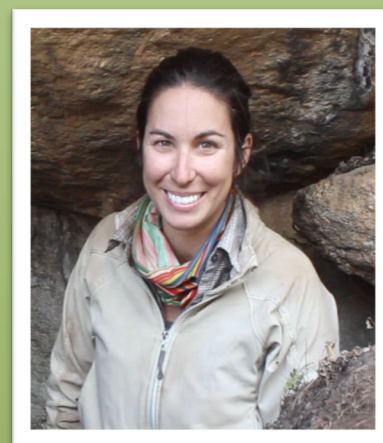
(Continued, p. 8)

## New Faculty Members in Anthropology This Fall



**Jessica Robbins-Ruszkowski** is a sociocultural and medical anthropologist interested in aging, memory, personhood, kinship, morality, and political economy. Her research is motivated by a concern for how some older people become valued and socially included, while others are devalued and excluded. She seeks explanations for these moral processes in the links between personal experience, discursive imagination, and transformations in political economy. Dr. Robbins-Ruszkowski explored these issues through ethnographic research in Poland this summer, a place where radical sociocultural and political-economic transformations have occurred during the oldest generations' lifetimes. She is now planning two new ethnographic projects: the first is a study of memory in palliative and hospice care in Poland in political-economic context; the second is a comparative study of urban gardens (allotment gardens) in Detroit and Poland as sites of wellness-seeking among older people. This project explores links between urban change, personal and community health across the life course, and connections to land and environment. Dr. Robbins-Ruszkowski is a teaching and research faculty member in Anthropology and a research scientist in the Institute Of Gerontology.

**Julie Lesnik** is a biological anthropologist specializing in the evolution of the human diet. Dr. Lesnik received her PhD in anthropology and MS in kinesiology from the University of Michigan in 2011. Her dissertation assessed the nutritional role that termites would have fulfilled in the diet of South African robust *australopithecines* and identified which taxa of termites would have been the most likely candidates for consumption. Her work contributes a new model for the diet of these hominins by utilizing an interdisciplinary and multiple-subfield approach. She will be investigating this topic more broadly in an upcoming book titled *Entomophagy and Evolution: The Past, Present, and Future of Eating Insects*. In addition to reconstructing the role of insects in past diets, Dr. Lesnik is involved in collaborations to make insects a more acceptable and more available resource for present day diets. She is planning an international conference for people interested in all aspects of insects as “food and feed” in Detroit in 2016. This event will also include opportunities for the public to take part in tastings of insect-based foods prepared by local chefs as an effort to broaden perception of this long-used food source. Please plan to attend her Anthropology Learning Community event this winter semester featuring the “entomophagy” cupcake bake-off! YUM!



**Congratulations and Welcome to Julie and Jessica!!!**



## Student News and Research

### Daniel Harrison and the Corduroy Road

Wayne County now has a National Park. On July 2, 2014, the “Hull’s Trace Unit” was added to the Monroe-based River Raisin National Battlefield Park. The archaeological site preserves a wooden remnant of a critical military supply road from Ohio to Detroit built during the War of 1812. The preservation and interpretation of the site became the Master’s project of doctoral student Daniel Harrison, whose research has already led to its listing on the National Register of Historic Places and a state historical marker.

The discovery of a rare 1817 map in the archives of the Defense Department leads Harrison to believe that the site has not yielded up all its secrets. “Within five years of its construction, Hull’s bridge over the Huron was gone, replaced by a ferry. By the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the river had been re-channeled and the bridge site filled in.” Through it all, the rough wooden corduroy road” remained.

“With the resources of the NPS, and the support of community and corporate sponsors, this site will be a way for people to connect with both the past and the environment,” says Harrison. Their “Ticket to Float” program combined archaeology, history, ecology and adventure, as hundreds of novice paddlers 7 years and older experience the site on a (2014) summer-long series of guided kayak tours. For more on the Battlefield and its programs, visit <http://www.nps.gov/rira/>



### Tareq Ramadan in Jordan

In 2013, PhD Candidate Tareq Ramadan traveled to central Jordan to excavate a 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> century early Islamic palace complex upon the invitation of Brown University Professor of Religion, Dr. Nancy Khalek. In association with Mu'tah University's Department of Archaeology, both Jordanian and American students worked together to uncover what was believed to be, at one point, a multi-acre, multi-room Umayyad compound that has been referred to locally as Shuqayra Al-Gharbiyya, Arabic for “Blonde of the East”.



### Maya Stovall's *Time Travel*

Doctoral student Maya Stovall's *Time Travel* - a choreographic installation based on the works of David Philpot and Gilles Perrin, was presented at the N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art as part of the N'Namdi's dance event, *The Fluid Image*. The piece explored relationships between survival, performance, and Africanist experiences. Pictured are collaborating artists from left: Natasha Foreman, Cecelia Sharpe, Seycon-Nadia Chea, Red Stovall, Kristi Faulker, and Maya Stovall.





## The Lexiculture Papers -- Stephen Chrisomalis

Have you ever wondered why 'awesome' means 'good' and 'awful' means bad - but they are both full of *awe*? Do you cringe when someone says the word *cronut* - then wonder how can a word produce such a negative reaction? We call Dr. Killion the *chair* rather than the *chairman* of the department even though we do not sit on him - why?

If these are the sorts of questions that interest you, you're not alone. This past year, Dr. Stephen Chrisomalis and his undergraduate students in *Language and Culture* have completed the first volume of the *Lexiculture Papers*, a multi-year open-access collection of student papers focusing on the relationship between modern English words and their historical and social contexts. Lexiculture, or 'the culture of words', is a research approach in which



detailed analysis of individual words sheds light on sociocultural patterns. Over the past few years, a number of free resources for investigating words, such as Google's Ngram Viewer

(<https://books.google.com/ngrams>)

have become available, putting this sort of research capacity within the reach of non-specialists.

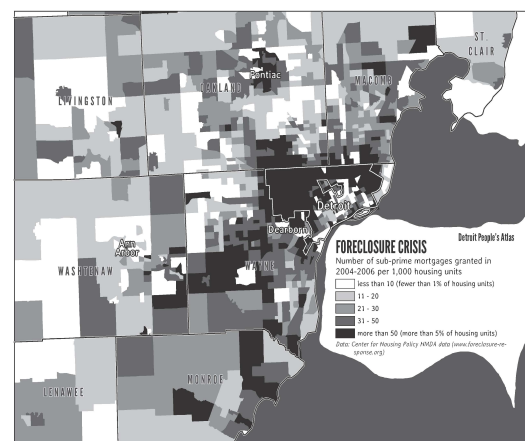
Each student selected an English word that became the focus of their project. Words are not just labels for things - they are tools for social action, and so understanding them is more than just defining them. We developed and explored research strategies for understanding the history of each word, how its meaning changed over time, how people thought and talked about the word, and how it reflected broader social patterns in some part of the English-speaking world. In the end, eight students published their papers online, on words like *eleventy*, *nymphomaniac*, and *punk*.

Volume 1 of the *Lexiculture Papers* is available online on Dr. Chrisomalis' blog, *Glossographia*, at <http://glossographia.wordpress.com/lexiculture/>. ■

Contribute to Anthropology @ Wayne  
(back page)

## Anthropology Students, Faculty, and Residents Collaborate on an Innovative Social Atlas of Detroit -- Andrew Newman

What is a map? Whether what comes to mind is an old-fashioned foldout or a smart-phone app, many people think of maps as simply a guide from point A to B. Since 2012, however, a team consisting of Wayne State University students, Detroit residents, Dr. Andrew Newman of WSU Anthropology, Sara Safranky of UNC Chapel Hill, and Linda Campbell of the Building Movement Project have been radically rethinking what maps are for, how spatial data is collected, and to what end maps are used. *Detroit: A People's Atlas* draws upon a globally influential approach to mapping called counter-cartography that was pioneered at Wayne State University in the 1960s by William "Wild Bill" Bunge. Now the *People's Atlas* is garnering international visibility, having been the only North American-based project to receive funding by the UK-based Antipode Foundation through its scholar-activist award program. Wayne State Students Heidi Bisson, Olivia Dobbs, Mikey Elster, Isra El-Beshir, and Jeremy Whiting contributed to a large team that also includes residents and the leaders of community based organizations. The project convened mapping workshops throughout the city and collected quantitative GIS data a variety of topics ranging from employment to housing data. Tim Stallmann, a North Carolina-based cartographer, is now crafting maps and cartograms that cover a variety of topics, ranging from historical sites related to The Underground Railroad to contemporary data on land purchases and foreclosures (see illustration - map by Tim Stallmann). Approximately thirty maps will be included in the finished Atlas, alongside stories, essays, poetry, and photography from two-dozen contributors, most of whom are residents of the city.





# A Year In Pictures



## Anthropology



## My Peer Mentor Experience

Natalia Lewandowska (BA, Anthropology, 2014)

Over the past three years I've been active in the Anthropology Learning Community (ALC), serving as a Peer Mentor (PM) during my senior year. As a PM I had the opportunity to work frequently with Anthropology faculty and make many new friends. Being a PM enriched my undergraduate experience and gave me the chance to develop skills and knowledge for guiding other students in coursework, research, and a variety of other undergraduate concerns. As a PM, I helped coordinate professional training workshops, brown bags, game and movie nights, and a number of other social events. Additionally, I helped initiate the



Department's volunteer certificate program that allows students to work directly on faculty research projects. The certificate program gives students' valuable hands-on research experience and training as a

regular part of their undergraduate education. The program makes the Anthropology Department unique because it helps students engage in professional development in so many ways outside of the classroom.

Personally, my involvement in the ALC gave me an inside look at the department and opened up new connections for me as I prepared for the next phase of my life. Being a PM gave me a chance to be part of a community, to engage in academic discourse, and help my fellow students have a more meaningful college experience. I learned a lot about being the liaison person between faculty and students became familiar with university policies and procedures and greatly enhanced my course toward graduation. I feel that I will be able to apply the skills I gained from being a PM to all aspects of my life and am grateful for the experience and all the friends and memories I take with me! ■

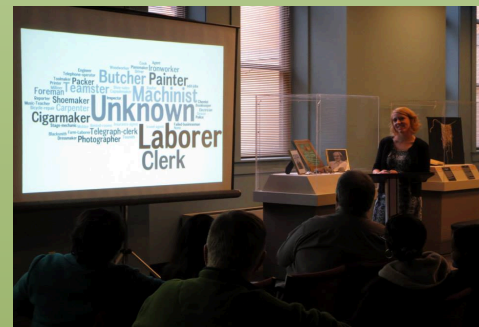
## Congratulations to Dr. Meyers on his new books!!!

Read an interview with Dr. Meyers about *The Clinic and Elsewhere* at <http://pointsadhsblog.wordpress.com/2013/07/11/the-points-interview-todd-meyers/>

## Learning Community Events for 2014-2015

### Todd Meyers

We've got a number of exciting Learning Community events coming up in 2014-15. In addition to our monthly Brown Bag talks and Game Nights, on **October 10th** the department will host a "Welcome to the Major" event in the museum for all new undergraduate anthropology majors. During the event faculty will talk about their ongoing research and ways students can become involved. On **October 11th** the Learning Community will join the Greening of Detroit and the US Forestry Service for a volunteer day to plant trees along I-75 as part of a carbon emissions reduction program. On **November 1**, the Learning Community gets physical with the "Race of the Dead/Day of the Dead" 5k/10k run through two historic cemeteries in Southwest Detroit. We've got several events in the works for the Winter 2015 semester, including an "entomophagy" cupcake bake-off, behind the scenes museum tours, and more!



Brenna Moloney giving a talk at a monthly LCI Brown Bag talk.



## Todd Meyers (continued from Page 2)

efforts of researchers working in physiology and related fields (including psychiatry, surgery, neurology, endocrinology, and gastroenterology), we examine a shift in understandings of how the human organism responds to bodily injury.

The project has been a collaborative effort between researchers in two related but distinct disciplines (anthropology and history). More than simply residing between two perspectives, the project has been a chance to explore mutual disciplinary commitments, including those that extend into contemporary issues of medicine. As we sort through vast amounts of material (detailed case studies, field reports, elaborate laboratory studies, treatment guidelines, lectures and correspondence) spread across archives in London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Cambridge, Montreal, and New York, we continually return to the question of patienthood—its biological, social, and individual dimensions, made especially precarious in times of violent political, environmental, and corporeal change. ■

## Unearthing Detroit

A new project directed by Dr. Krysta Ryzewski focuses on the urban historical archaeology collections housed in the **Grosscup Museum of Anthropology**. The project combines academic research and public archaeology, and is funded by Wayne State's President's Research Enhancement Program. Currently, the *Unearthing Detroit* research team involves over a dozen Anthropology students, many community volunteers, and faculty archaeologists Drs. Bray and Killion.

Beginning in August 2013, the team returned to the Renaissance Center collection (excavated from nine city blocks in 1973-74). Owing to the constraints of time, budget, and personnel, the vast majority of the Ren Cen collection has yet to be fully catalogued, studied, or published. During the first phase of the *Unearthing Detroit* project's collections-based research, the team thoroughly inventoried the collection and gathered field notes and other documents about the Ren Cen excavations from the Grosscup Museum archives.

A highlight of the year was meeting with Principal Investigator C. Steve Demeter's widow, Nancy Demeter, and Kent Taylor, who shared stories and information related to the project. The Demeters and Taylor are alumni of the Wayne State Anthropology program. During the summer of 2014 the research team doubled in size. Research activities included artifact interpretation, archival research, 3D and digital imaging, faunal analysis and community-oriented archaeology.

In January 2014, MA student Katie Korth presented the team's work at the **Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA)** conference. The research team will present at the **Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference** in September 2014 and at the SHA meetings in Seattle in January 2015. In the coming year, *Unearthing Detroit* will continue its work on the Ren Cen collection and will develop a public archaeology initiative, designed to train younger students and improve access to the rich history and archaeology of the city. *Unearthing Detroit* posts regular updates on the project's [Facebook page](#), [Twitter](#), and [blog](#). ■



The Summer 2014 Unearthing Detroit research team. Top (l-r): Susan Villerot, Kaitlin Scharra, Samantha Malette, Sarah Beste, Slava Pallas, Krysta Ryzewski; bottom (l-r) Katie Korth, Mark Jazayeri.

## ImagineTrains USA Project

### Allen Batteau

Professor Batteau recently received a three-year grant to work on a project under the auspices of the Mobile Lives Forum in Paris, France. Its objective is to understand how Americans imagine rail travel and high-speed rail, such as the Northeast Corridor's Acela, pictured right. America lags behind many other nations, including France, Germany, and China in building high-speed passenger rail transport as a safe and sustainable alternative to air and automotive travel.



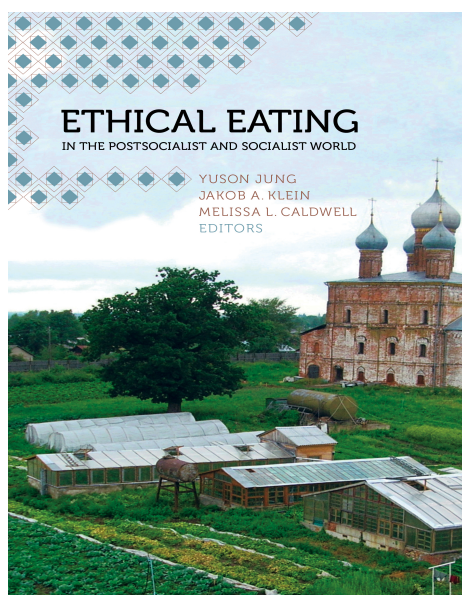


**Dr. Killion** (Year in Anthropology continued from Page 1)

The **Anthropology Learning Community** (ALC), led this year by Dr. Todd Meyers, continues to grow involving faculty and students in a variety of activities and experiences outside of the classroom. The ALC is quickly becoming a core element of Anthropology experience at Wayne State. Regular extra-curricular opportunities for undergraduates and graduate students include field and lab research in historical archaeology, medical and business anthropology and a variety of urban-centered anthropology research projects in Detroit and beyond. Students and faculty meet on October 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss research opportunities and develop work schedules for the coming year (see more page X). Volunteers are welcome to participate.

This summer, Professor Guerin Montilus will once again lead his enormously popular **Study-Abroad Trip to Cuba**. The program will include visits to the cities of Havana and Santiago de Cuba as well as learning experiences in medical anthropology, archaeology, food, music, religion and more. Dr. Montilus introduces students to Cuban scholars and practitioners with lectures, learning experiences and immersion in Cuban culture and society for the 3-week visit in late June and early July, 2015. Places on this trip will be limited so stay tuned for more details or contact Dr. Montilus directly through the Department.

The *Year in Anthropology 2014-2015* at Wayne State promises to be an exciting ride. We hope you'll join us! ■



Congratulations to Yuson Jung on her book, *Ethical Eating in the Postsocialist and Socialist World*, University of California Press, 2014.

**Ancestors Returned to the Earth:  
Repatriation comes to Wayne State 2013-14**

The Department of Anthropology released Native American skeletal remains and funerary objects to three federally recognized tribes in Michigan this past year. In December representatives of the **Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe**, led by Mr. William Johnson of the Ziibiwing Center in Mt. Pleasant, MI, recovered human remains and objects from Delta, Macomb, Oakland, Saginaw and St. Clair counties. In January, Mr. Wesely Andrews (NAGPRA representative for the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odowa Indians) received remains for the **Little River Band of Ottawa Indians** in west-central Michigan. In May the Department returned remains from Monroe and Wayne counties to the **Nottawaseppi** (Fulton, MI) and **Pokagon** (Dowagiac, MI) **Potawatomi** tribes led by Mr. Jeff Chivias, Nottawaseppi Potawatomi Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. The Department looks forward to more research and collaborative ventures with these communities in the near future. Interim Chair, Dr. Thomas Killion and other members of the Department were invited to participate in reburial ceremonies on tribal lands. ■



Members of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe repatriation delegation (led by Wm. Johnson, third from left) pose with archaeology doctoral student, Brenna Moloney (second from left) and acting Grosscup Museum director Dr. Krysta Ryzewski (center) as the human remains are prepared for transport to Mt. Pleasant.



Late Breaking News! (September 17, 2014) : Krysta Ryzewski "Unearthed Detroit" to a standing room only crowd at Tony V's Restaurant and Bar on Cass Avenue in Detroit.



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