

ANTH NEWS

NEWS & UPDATES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
ANTHROPOLOGY AT TULANE UNIVERSITY

In this issue:

LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

Featuring field reports from
Belize, Peru, Crete and North
Carolina.

KAQCHIKEL LANGUAGE CLASS TURNS 30

Dr. Judith Maxwell celebrates 30
years teaching the Kaqchikel
Language and Culture class

IN MEMORIUM

Remembering our colleague and
friend Dr. Harvey Bricker



A large, leafy tree in a grassy field under a blue sky.

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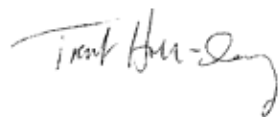
Welcome to the first edition of ANTH NEWS, the Tulane Department of Anthropology electronic newsletter! This is the first installment of what we hope will be a regular feature to keep our current students, alumni, and other friends up-to-date with what is happening in the Department. When Robin Cenac (who put this newsletter together) first sent it to me, my initial reaction was “Wow! There is a lot going on in our department that even I as Chair didn’t know about!” And what’s more is that Robin tells me we already have enough material for a second issue, so “stay tuned.”

As you will see, I am not being hyperbolic when I say there is a lot going on in Tulane Anthropology. We are very excited to welcome three new faculty members to the Department: Drs. Rachel Horowitz, Nicole Katin, and Sabia McCoy-Torres.

Another exciting bit of news is that in May, two of our faculty won School of Liberal Arts awards. Professor Olanike Orie won the SLA Service Award, and Professor Marc Zender won the SLA Teaching Award. Congratulations to them both!

Heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Judith Maxwell, who for thirty years has been teaching an Intensive Kaqchikel language course in Guatemala. You will also read about many of us who are conducting research in a wide variety of places and contexts. We have faculty members and students working in such diverse places as Marksville, Louisiana, to Belize and Guatemala, to North Carolina, Peru, and Crete! And again, this is only scratching the surface of what is going on.

Finally, on a sad note, there is a remembrance of the late Professor Emeritus Harvey Bricker, a huge presence in the Department since 1969. I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter!



Dr. Trenton Holliday
Chair



WELCOMING NEW FACULTY

The department is proudly welcoming three new faculty members during the upcoming academic year.

Dr. Nicole Katin

Nicole is an environmental anthropologist with a PhD in cultural anthropology from Tulane University. Her academic training is interdisciplinary in orientation; she received a B.A. in Biology from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.S. in Environmental Studies from Florida International University prior to pursuing a doctorate. Her professional background includes work as a naturalist, in the area of environmental education, and as a biological technician, as part of wetland conservation efforts. As an anthropologist, her work lies at the intersection of three key themes - nature, culture, and conservation. Her research interests broadly lie in the area of human-environment relations. She has performed ethnographic fieldwork in Belize, and more recently, Brazil. Nicole is excited to join the faculty of the anthropology department and environmental studies major. This Fall, she will be teaching introductory coursework for both programs as well as a methods class in the latter.



Dr. Rachel Horowitz

Rachel is an anthropological archaeologist whose research examines ancient Maya economic organization and the role of different actors in these economic activities. She specializes in the study of lithic technology, using organizational approaches to link tool production to economic organization. She is currently conducting research in western Belize and has previously conducted research in other areas of the Maya world (Mexico and Guatemala), as well as in other regions including the western and southeastern United States and southern Africa. This year she is excited to share her excitement about lithics and archaeology in general with others in the department.



Dr. Sabia McCoy-Torres

Dr. Sabia McCoy-Torres will be joining the Department as an Assistant Professor with a joint appointment in Africana Studies. She earned her B.A. (2005) at Oberlin College, and her M.A. (2011) and Ph.D. (2015) at Cornell University. Her areas of specialization are race, gender/sexuality, transnationalism, and popular performance within the Afro-Diasporic Circum-Caribbean. She is currently revising her dissertation into a book titled *From Limón to Brooklyn: Race, Culture, and Reggae Across the West Indian Diaspora*. The book will draw on two years of field research within the West Indian Diaspora in Brooklyn, New York and three years of ethnographic study on the same diaspora in Costa Rica. The book will demonstrate how Jamaican originated reggae music, performance, and visual media constitute the bases from which Afro-Caribbean immigrants and their descendants navigate ethnic and racial marginalization, and form fluid supra-national Caribbean cultural subjectivities. These emergent diasporic subjectivities, and the transnational economic networks formed through reggae, are critical to racial redress and belonging in adoptive homes, and interpret the specific racial formations of each national context and structures of inequality emerging from them.





LETTERS FROM THE FIELD

EVERY YEAR OUR INCREDIBLE FACULTY AND STUDENTS EMBARK ON FIELDWORK AROUND THE WORLD. HERE ARE A FEW REPORTS THAT OUR FACULTY AND STUDENTS SHARED WITH US ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES IN THE FIELD THIS SUMMER.

LETTERS FROM BELIZE



A FIELD REPORT BY DR. RACHEL HOROWITZ

I spent 9 weeks in western Belize this summer with the Mopan Valley Archaeological Project/Mopan Valley Preclassic Project, directed by Jason Yaeger and Kat Brown of UTSA. I am the Lab Director and project lithicist. This summer I focused on two different projects. The first involved analyzing materials related to my ongoing research concerning the Maya lithic economy in the Late/Terminal Classic period (AD 600-890), including analyzing materials from the Succotz Lithic Workshop. I also began analysis of some Archaic period materials, which will add to our knowledge of early settlement and the transition to sedentism in the area.





A FIELD REPORT

BY: BORISLAVA SIMOVA

My research at the site of Actuncan, in western Belize, focused on the plaza of a Preclassic ritual complex. We braved rains and flooding rivers to carry out excavations in this important space that formed the focus of this ancient Maya community. One of the goals of this year's excavations was to reconstruct the activities that took place in the plaza through the recovery of cached artifacts and collection of soil chemistry samples. With future processing and analysis, I may be able to address how the complex formed and evolved and what this can tell us about the early origins of Preclassic settlements.



LETTERS FROM PERU



A FIELD REPORT BY DR. JOHN VERANO

I am down in Peru again this summer running a lab project where we are analyzing human skeletal remains excavated last year at two different sites in the coastal town of Huanchaco, outside the city of Trujillo on the north coast of Peru: A hilltop sacrifice site with more than 20 children who were offered as sacrifices by the Chimu state around AD 1450, and a cemetery near the town's Colonial church that contains burials from around 100 BC through the early 16th century AD. With me are two Tulane students- Khrystyne Tschinkel, a second year student in our PhD program, and Cristina Freiburger, a recent BA and MA in anthropology.

We are analyzing some very interesting skeletal material! We are grateful to the Carol Lavin Bernick Faculty Grant Program for funding this summer's fieldwork.





A FIELD REPORT
BY: JILLIAN AVENI
OPAT FUNDING RECIPIENT

For approximately 3 weeks in June, I was able to perform research and archaeological excavations in the highlands of Peru (Ancash Region) under the supervision of Professor Jason Nesbitt of the Anthropology Department. Our work at his site of Canchas Uckro -- located in the fields surrounding the town of Huachis -- focused on defining the boundaries and context of two excavation units of varying size, collection of ceramic, bone, lithic, and shell materials, and analysis of these materials. We believe the structures and architecture uncovered may qualify Canchas Uckro as an important part of a trading network centered around the great pre-Inca ceremonial and cultural site of Chavín de Huantar. Our continued study of Canchas Uckro will hopefully unveil more information about the trajectory of this and other periphery sites towards what became Chavín culture.



LETTER FROM CRETE

A FIELD REPORT

BY: FRANCESCA R. LURIA
OPAT FUNDING RECIPIENT

This summer I was one of five Tulane students that participated in the House of the Frescoes Project at Knossos, Crete. The project was a study season run by Professor Emilia Oddo, Classical Studies, and examined ceramic assemblages from the House of the Frescoes. The site is a Neopalatial/Late Bronze Age (1700-1550 BCE) structure that served an unknown function. It was a unique opportunity to work on Professor Oddo's team because although the House of the Frescoes was excavated in the early 20th century, no work has been published on the site – Professor Oddo will be the first scholar to publish material from our findings this summer and the coming study seasons. Our work entailed washing, sorting, and cataloging ceramic sherds from the surviving assemblages. We collected data on the sherds, examining the shapes that were present, the type of wares each shape was found, types of decoration, and assigning each sherd to its appropriate chronological period. This data allowed for us to answer some of our research questions and come up with a lot more to examine in the coming seasons.



For my own research, I studied the patterns of wares, shapes, and decoration in order to attempt to identify ceramic sets within the assemblages. I compared the pottery from the House of the Frescoes to a similar study published by Donald Haggis in the article “Stylistic Diversity and Diacritical Feasting at Protopalatial Petras.” I focused my study to the pottery from three rooms known as the ‘Minoan Hall’. Although the ceramic remains available for study are from a highly selected sample, my research examines approaches to classifying ceramic sets within an assemblage that is biased and of a very small scope. My findings reveal patterns between the frequencies of shapes and their corresponding types of decoration. I am working to highlight the difficulties of working with such an assemblage and comparing how successful Haggis’ argument is to the potential success of identifying ceramic sets from a limited assemblage. I will be submitting my concluding paper to the Tulane Undergraduate Research Journal, so if you are interested, please read more about it! Crete is an incredible place and I learned a lot about conducting research in the field, it was an amazing experience!

MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA

A FIELD REPORT

BY: HANNAH HOOVER
OPAT FUNDING RECIPIENT

Hannah Hoover (B.A. 2018 in Anthropology and classics) visits an exhibit at the History Museum of Burke County, in Morganton, North Carolina, about archaeological investigations at the nearby Berry site, the location of the Native American town of Joara (A.D. 1400-1600) and the Spanish colonial town of Cuenca and Fort San Juan (A.D. 1566-1568). Hannah participated in excavations at the Berry site in 2015 and 2016, and Hannah was a supervisor during fieldwork in 2017. Pictures of Hannah on the museum panel here show her on site during her first and second seasons with the project. An Opat Fund award supported Hannah during fieldwork in 2017, and it has supported her efforts in developing a topic for her forthcoming honors thesis about the construction of Spanish colonial forts.

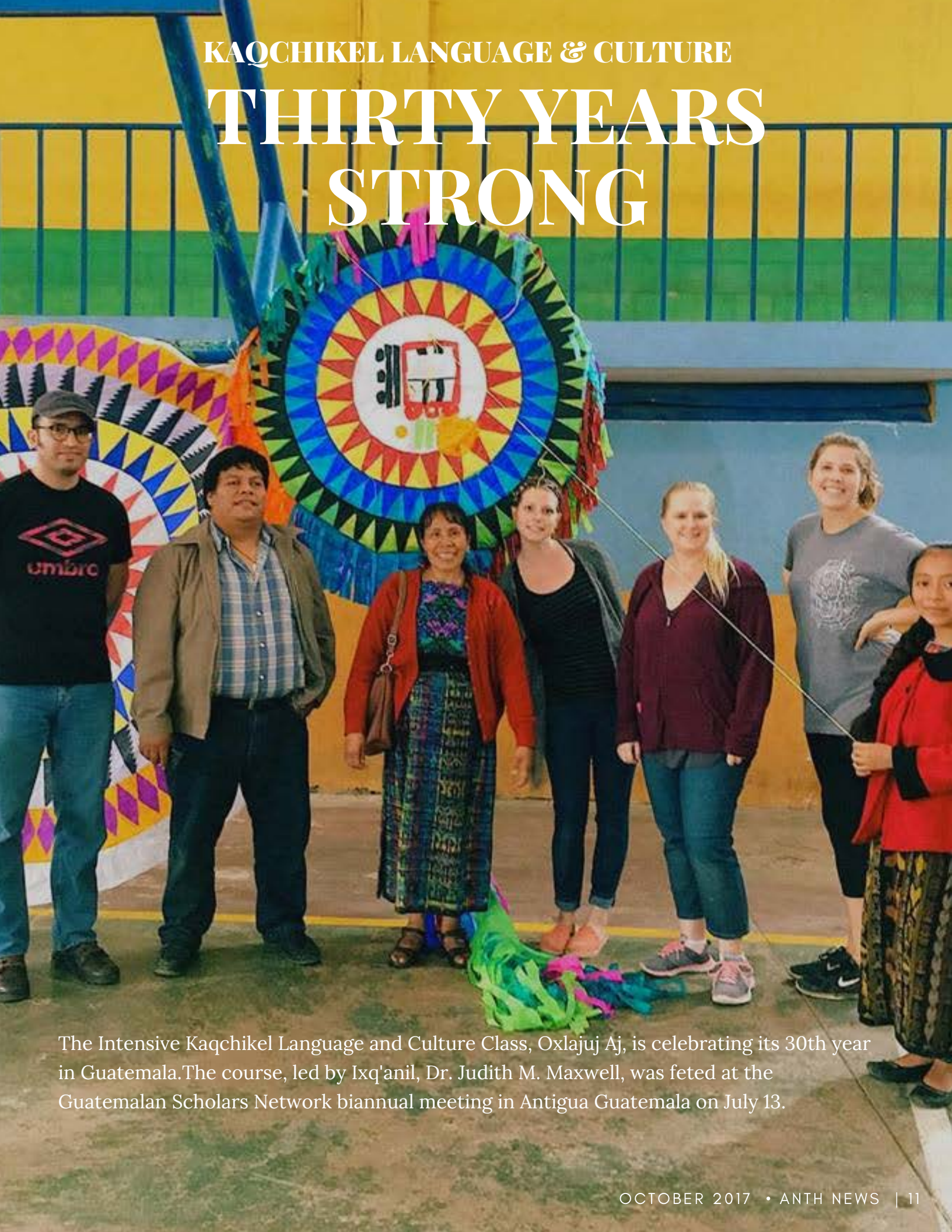




Michelle Pigott (left), David Watt (middle), and Hannah Hoover (right) on a weekend day hike at the edge of Linville Gorge, "the Grand Canyon of North Carolina," in the Blue Ridge Mountains, during the 2017 archaeological field season at the nearby site of Joara, Cuenca, and Fort San Juan.

KAQCHIKEL LANGUAGE & CULTURE

THIRTY YEARS STRONG



The Intensive Kaqchikel Language and Culture Class, Oxlajuj Aj, is celebrating its 30th year in Guatemala. The course, led by Ixq'anil, Dr. Judith M. Maxwell, was feted at the Guatemalan Scholars Network biannual meeting in Antigua Guatemala on July 13.



AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Professor Olanike Orie is the recipient of the 2017 School of Liberal Arts faculty award for excellence in service.

Professor Marc Zender is the recipient of the 2017 School of Liberal Arts faculty award for excellence in teaching.

Mikayla Stern Ellis is the recipient of the TU 34 award, the Watt award in physical anthropology, and the senior scholar award (for honors in anthropology). She also participated in field work with Professor Katherine Jack Costa Rica this summer.



Kerriann Marden (Ph.D. 2011) was featured in an article in Science News (May 27, 2017) for her research on prehistoric skeletal remains from Chaco Canyon, New Mexico. The article is entitled "Seeing Chaco in a New Light: A slew of studies try to piece together an early American society".

Kathleen Boggs (B.A. 2014, M.A. 2016) will enter the Ph.D. program in anthropology at the University of Iowa in Fall 2017.


David Chatelain (Ph.D. candidate) has received a Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship in 2017 for archaeological research in Guatemala.

Darron Collins (Ph.D. 2001) is president of the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine.

Lauren Dodaro (Ph.D. candidate) has received a Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship in 2017 for ethnographic fieldwork in the Ecuadorian Amazon.



Ronald Faulseit (Ph.D. 2012) is a faculty member in the Anthropological and Geographic Sciences Department at Pierce College in Los Angeles; the editor of *Beyond Collapse: Archaeological Perspectives on Resilience, Revitalization, and Transformation in Complex Societies* (Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, 2016); and principal investigator (with Gary Feinman, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois) for a recent grant from the National Science Foundation, "Economic Resilience and Societal Collapse," for a project that ran from 2014 through 2016.



Travis Fink (Ph.D. student) was a recipient of a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship in 2016 to study the Achuar/Shiwiar language in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Scott Johnson (Ph.D. 2012) is author of *Why Did Civilizations Fail?* (2017, Routledge) and *Translating Maya Hieroglyphs* (2013, University of Oklahoma Press).

Tristram R. Kidder (B.A. 1982, faculty member from 1989 to 2003) is Chair of the Department of Anthropology at Washington University in Saint Louis, and he was the recipient in 2015 of a university award for graduate student mentoring.

Gillian King-Bailey (Ph.D. student) received a fellowship in 2016 from the Nacey Maggioncalda Foundation and a research grant in 2016 from the International Primatological Society for research on white-faced capuchins in Costa Rica.

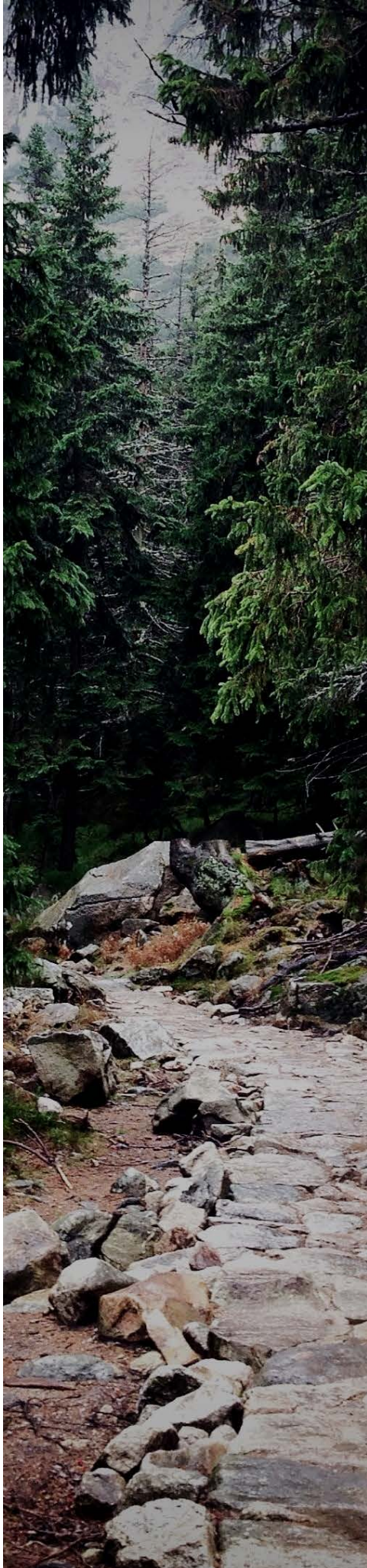
Anthony Ortmann (Ph.D. 2007) is associate professor in the Department of Geosciences at Murray State University.

Erin Phillips (B.A. 2004) earned her Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of Alabama, with a focus on Mississippian iconography in the Native American South, and she lives in Houston, where she is an archaeologist and lab manager for Coastal Environments, Inc., and Moore Archaeological Consulting.

Brian Pierson (Ph.D. 2011) is a faculty member in the Anthropological and Geographic Sciences Department at Pierce College in Los Angeles, the focus of an article in the *Pierce College Roundup* (2016), and the focus of an article in *The Bull Magazine* (2015).

Daniella Santoro (Ph.D. candidate) was one of 20 Charlotte Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellows for 2016, having received this prestigious fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.

Alison Waterhouse (B.A. 2016 in history and anthropology) is pursuing a doctorate in Latin American history at Cambridge University.



Cassandra White (Ph.D. 2001) is an associate professor specializing in cultural anthropology, medical anthropology, and Latin American studies at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

John White (Ph.D. student) was a recipient of a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship in 2016 to study the Achuar/Shiwiar language in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Professor Chris Rodning continues codirecting (with colleagues at Warren Wilson College and the University of Michigan) archaeological investigations of encounters and entanglements between Native Americans and mid-sixteenth-century Spanish conquistadors and colonists in western North Carolina. These investigations concentrate primarily on an archaeological site that is the location of the Native American town of Joara (1400-1600) and the Spanish colonial town of Cuenca and Fort San Juan (1566-1568). Participants in excavations in the summer of 2017 of the fort and the Native American mound and midden near the fort included field school students and krewe members from many colleges and universities, and Tulane participants included field supervisors David Watt (third-year Ph.D. student), Michelle Pigott (first-year Ph.D. student), and Hannah Hoover (Newcomb-Tulane College Class of 2018). Some recent finds from this research are outlined in a recent book, *Fort San Juan and the Limits of Empire: Colonialism and Household Practice at the Berry Site* (2016, edited by Robin A. Beck, Christopher B. Rodning, and David G. Moore, and published by the University Press of Florida); in a chapter by Moore, Rodning, and Beck in *Forging Southeastern Identities: Social Archaeology, Ethnohistory, and Folklore of the Mississippian to Early Historic South* (2017, edited by Gregory A. Waselkov and Marvin T. Smith, and published by the University of Alabama Press); and in recent papers published in the journals *American Antiquity* (2016) and *Historical Archaeology* (2017).

A pair of PhD alumni, **Jeb Card (Ph.D. 2007)** and **David Anderson (Ph.D. 2010)**, have recently published an edited volume about the effects of “alternative archaeologies” on public knowledge about past civilizations and the practice of archaeology. The book, *Lost City, Found Pyramid: Understanding Alternative Archaeologies and Pseudoscientific Practices*, was published by the University of Alabama Press in 2016. CHOICE magazine has summed up its review of the book as follows: “highly recommended.” Card is a visiting assistant professor at Miami University of Ohio. Anderson is a visiting assistant professor at Roanoke College in Virginia.



A team of Tulane anthropology PhD alumni have been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation, for a project, “The Role of Environmental Structures in the Emergence of Cultural Complexity,” which focuses on the cultural landscape of Maya urban settlements and rural hinterlands in the Puuc region of Yucatán, Mexico. This award was made to William Ringle (P.I., Ph.D. 1985, Professor, Davidson College), George Bey (co-P.I., Ph.D. 1986, Professor, Millsaps College) and Tomás Gallareta Negrón (co-P.I., Ph.D. 2013, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mérida, Mexico). The grant and project will run from 2017 to 2020.

David Anderson (Ph.D. 2010) is a visiting assistant professor at Radford College in Radford, Virginia.

Professor William Balee was a recipient of one of the Tulane University President's Awards for excellence in graduate teaching at Tulane in 2016.

Jeb Card (Ph.D. 2007) is a visiting assistant professor at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

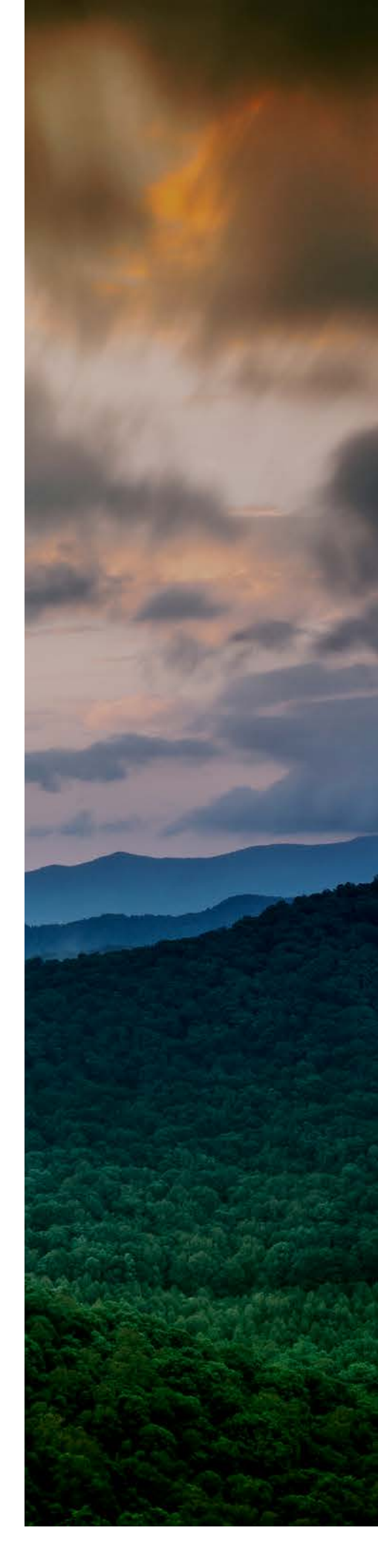
Benjamin Davis (B.A. 2013) will enter the M.A. program in anthropology at the University of Mississippi in Fall 2017, with interests in the archaeology of Native American societies in the Lower Mississippi Valley.

Markus Eberl (Ph.D. 2007) is a tenured faculty member and an associate professor and director of graduate studies in the Department of Anthropology at Vanderbilt University.

Julian Hahnebohm (B.A. 2016) is the recipient of the 2017 Arden King Award from the Department of Anthropology and is pursuing his 4+1 M.A. in anthropology at Tulane.

Eva Frances Joy Hitchcock (B.A. 2017) is the recipient of the 2017 Victoria Bricker Award from the Department of Anthropology.

David Hixson (Ph.D. 2011) is a visiting assistant professor at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland.



Hannah Hoover (B.A. candidate for 2018) is one of 20 recipients from across the U.S. of the 2017 Beinecke Scholarships for undergraduate students with interests in pursuing graduate degrees in their chosen fields.

Sherman Horn (Ph.D. 2013) is a visiting assistant professor at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan.

Rachel Horowitz (Ph.D. 2017) is a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at Tulane.

Erlend Johnson (Ph.D. candidate) has held a summer fellowship at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection in Washington, D.C., during June and July of 2017.

Nicole Katin (Ph.D. 2017) is recipient of one of the Tulane 34 Awards for 2017 and is now a professor of practice in anthropology and environmental studies at Tulane.

Mary Kate Kelly (Ph.D. candidate) will be a junior fellow at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection in Washington, D.C., during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Maxime Lamoureux-St. Hilaire (Ph.D. candidate) will be a junior fellow at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection in Washington, D.C., during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Jayur Mehta (Ph.D. 2015) is a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Illinois.

Tyler Michael (B.A. 2016) is the recipient of the 2017 Robert Wauchope Award from the Department of Anthropology, and he will be entering the doctoral program in anthropology at Harvard University in Fall 2017, with an interest in the archaeology of the period after Spanish contact with native peoples of the American Southwest.

Professor Chris Rodning was the recipient of the 2016 Patty Jo Watson Award from the Southeastern Archaeological Conference for an outstanding paper in the archaeology of the American South published in 2015.



Kathryn Sampeck (Ph.D. 2007) is an associate professor at Illinois State University. She recently held a fellowship at Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research and has held fellowships at Colonial Williamsburg and at Brown University's John Carter Brown Library. She is associate editor of the journal, *Historical Archaeology*, published by the Society for Historical Archaeology, and was guest editor for a special thematic issue of the journal, *Ethnohistory*, published by the American Society for Ethnohistory, on literacy in colonial Mesoamerica.

Stacey Schwarzkopf (Ph.D. 2008) was recently awarded tenure as a faculty member at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas.

Mikayla Stern-Ellis (B.S. 2017) is the recipient of the 2017 Elizabeth Watts Award from the Department of Anthropology.

Mackenzie Walters (B.A. 2016, M.A. 2017) is entering the doctoral program in linguistics at the University of Texas.

David Watt (M.A. 2016) was the recipient of one of the Tulane 34 Awards for 2016.



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2017!



IN MEMORIUM

Remembering our colleague and friend

Dr. Harvey Bricker

1940–2017



It is with great sadness that the Department of Anthropology announces the death of Professor Emeritus Harvey M. Bricker. Harvey was a veritable force of nature here at Tulane University, where he was on the faculty from 1969–2005. He was graduated in history (A.B., Hamilton College) in 1962, and earned his M.A. (1963) and Ph.D. (1973) degrees in anthropology at Harvard. His early work was on the French Palaeolithic. A student of Hallam Movius, he spent many years excavating at, and doing laboratory analyses of, materials from the site of Abri Pataud. He also directed excavations at the site of Les Tambourets. His later research interests (collaborating with his wife Victoria R. Bricker) involved great advances in the field of Maya archaeoastronomy. Among Harvey's many accolades are his being elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and also his being named a "Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques" by the government of France "pour services rendus à la culture française." What his colleagues at Tulane remember best about him, though, was that he cared deeply about the Department and our students (both undergraduate and graduate), whose welfare was of paramount importance to him. He was also wonderfully opinionated, had a strong moral compass, and was a firm believer in faculty governance. We will miss him greatly and wish to express our deepest condolences to Professor Emerita Victoria R. Bricker.