

# DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY NEWS

University of Florida, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences summer 2009

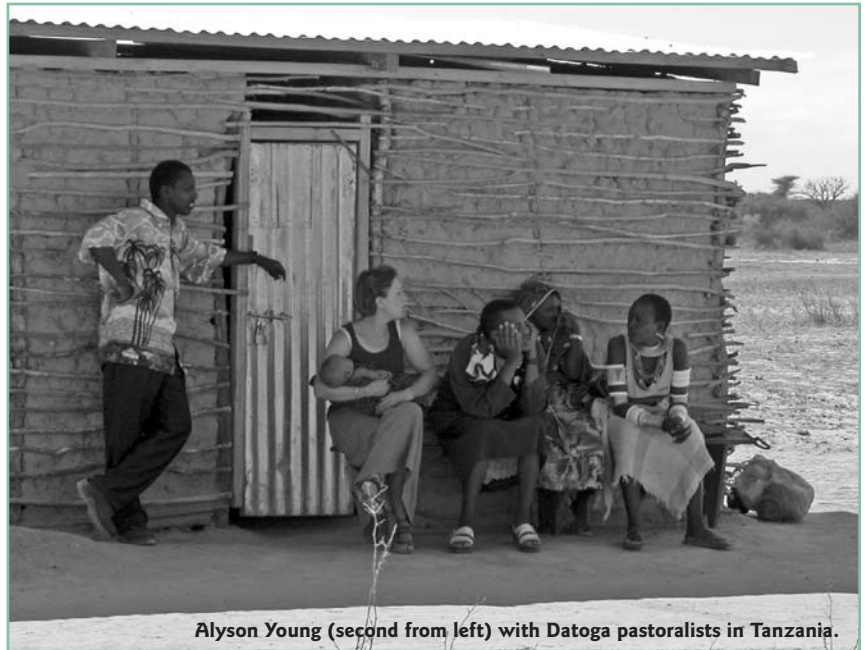
## Waterborne Pathogens, Pastoral Livelihoods, and the Growth of UF Medical Anthropology

by Alyson G. Young

The availability of clean water is a sociopolitical issue with substantial global health consequences. Today, 1.1 billion people in the world do not have access to safe drinking water, and progress on improving water supplies and sanitation is stalling in many parts of the developing world. Sub-Saharan Africa faces a particularly serious water supply crisis. It is estimated that half the population of Southern Africa does not have access to either clean water or sanitation services, and that by 2025 Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe will all face critical water shortages. Instability in water supplies impacts food, political, and environmental security, and often develops into sociopolitical and economic water-use conflicts, increasing the hazardous probability of illness and death. World Health Organization data from 2008 indicate that globally, diarrhea kills five times as many children as does HIV/AIDS, twice as many as malaria, and four times as many as measles.

Pastoral communities are at a particular health disadvantage because they are marginalized from development processes and vulnerable to exclusion from health services as a result of their geographic, political, and cultural environments. This is certainly true among pastoral communities in northern Tanzania. Both colonial and post-colonial policies on land and water use in Tanzania have favored the expansion of agricultural productivity, while pastoralists are pushed to the margins of ecological sustainability. Many pastoral communities in Tanzania and other areas of East Africa suffer disproportionately from serious illnesses directly related to insufficient and unhygienic water supplies.

As a medical anthropologist, I am interested in the intersections of political economy, ecology, and culture in exposures and responses to waterborne illness among Datoga pastoralists of Tanzania. I focus my research on ethnohydrological knowledge, or local knowledge about water, and how this affects perceptions of vulnerability to illness and decisions about water use for humans and livestock. Working with colleagues from Haydom Hospital in northern Tanzania and the University of Dodoma in the capital, my ethnographic research broadens understanding of the way that personal knowledge and social circum-



Alyson Young (second from left) with Datoga pastoralists in Tanzania.

stances shape water-use behavior and exposure to waterborne illness.

This study is the beginning of a research agenda directed toward elucidating the links between poverty, political ecology, and the ways that structural injustices are embodied in the health of marginalized communities in Sub-Saharan contexts. I began this research during summer of 2009 with support from the Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund at the University of Florida. This fall, I will be submitting a grant to the National Science Foundation with U.S. and Tanzanian colleagues to launch a long-term interdisciplinary project on water use. I have worked in Tanzania since 2002, and this research builds on previous research on maternal perceptions and responses to infant vulnerability and illness among Datoga pastoralists living near Lake Eyasi

in the Rift Valley of northern Tanzania.

The current project is one of the first in Tanzania to examine ethnomedical and ethnohydrological knowledge and its relationship to human-livestock interaction and behaviors associated with disease transmission among pastoralists. The relationship is intertwined with beliefs about proactive links between cattle and humans and the significance of water security to the wellbeing of pastoral communities. This project makes an important contribution to understanding global health through the cultural construction of health knowledge, as well as the sociopolitical and economic factors that influence water-borne disease transmission in pastoral communities. This research also has important implications for understanding how behavior contributes to the transmission of water-borne infection and

## Chairmen's Notes

### Outgoing with Thanks *by Kenneth E. Sassaman*

I write this note in my last week as Chair of Anthropology and by the time you read this I will have resumed duties among the rank and file. I have mixed feelings about the transition. On the one hand, I am happy to get back to my research full-time, and especially to working with my graduate students, who have patiently awaited my liberation from administrative duties. On the other hand, I will miss the excitement of promoting this department's mission under challenging budgetary circumstances. I know how strange that must sound to anyone who has lost resources with the recent downturn of the economy. We too have lost much, notably the faculty lines of normal attrition that used to be filled immediately but have lately disappeared. At the same time, we have garnered some new resources to meet the welcomed but relentless demand for Anthropology courses and degrees. On balance, the outcome has been positive and the long-term prospects are bright. We expect to receive authorization to fill at least one, maybe two new faculty lines this year, and hopefully more next year. Our grant-getting, publications, and public-service are all on the rise, and

we continue to serve a large and talented group of students. Above all, we have an incoming Chair with the experience and vision to move us forward.

I am gratified to leave the Chair's office with the department in good shape. The credit for this lies with our faculty, staff, and students. I am especially grateful to Karen Jones and her staff (Pat King, Nita Bagnall, and Pam Freeman) for unparalleled proficiency, grace, and good humor. The cliché "I could not have done it without them" has never been so apt. I am also grateful for the wisdom and dedication of Susan Gillespie, my Associate Chair for four years. Many of the positive changes we have made to policy and procedures were designed and implemented through Susan's superb efforts. For his enthusiastic and compassionate help with our many undergraduate majors, I have John Krigbaum to thank. Jerry Murray, Mike Warren, Mike Heckenberger, and Dave Daegling deserve my thanks too for lending their time and energy to administration of the graduate program. Others who contributed over the years with standing or ad hoc committee assignments, as well those who

fulfilled their usual duties with professionalism and skill, are too numerous to list individually but nevertheless have my enduring gratitude.


I constantly leaned on former chair Allan Burns over the past four years as he served as Senior Associate Dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The relief I feel in turning the office back over to Allan is indescribable. We are very fortunate indeed to have him back at the helm. The economy may be on the rebound, but tough times are not over yet, and we stand to lose ground if we do not continue to promote Anthropology as the most salient and effective framework for facing challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We all have a stake in this—as citizens, as scholars, as educators. Our best work is yet to come.



### Incoming with Vision *by Allan F. Burns*

UF Anthropology is the place to be, and I am most happy to have been chosen to work with the faculty, students, staff, alumni and friends of the department as Chair. Ken Sassaman has been a tremendous leader these past four years, and I only hope that the department can continue to be as welcoming to students, as inspirational to the faculty, and as relevant as it has under Ken's direction. My five-year appointment in the Dean's office was certainly enjoyable and allowed me to learn a lot about other departments and the missions of many parts of the University, but I am an anthropologist, and

working with the department is an honor and a delight. Our department is recognized for the very positive impact it has on society, scholarship, and teaching. As the coming years bring changes to higher education, to teaching, and to the role of anthropology, our department will be the prototype of how to help shape the future through a thorough look at the past and the present. I started out as an undergraduate doing archaeology on Mississippian villages in the Midwest; I wandered into linguistics when I realized that language is one of the most profound parts of culture; I have applied anthro-

pology through research and advocacy in the areas of health and responses to illnesses. But most of all I enjoy working with everyone in anthropology, and in that sense, when people ask why I'm an anthropologist, I say, "people are fascinating." 



# Florida Archaeology Endowment

Through the foresight and generosity of Hyatt and Cici Brown of Ormond Beach, Florida, an endowment was launched in 2009 to facilitate the development of a new, far-reaching program in Florida archaeology. The program combines existing assets of the University of Florida with new research faculty, enhanced student opportunities, and innovative research projects. The overarching mission of the program is to pursue knowledge about Florida archaeology and surrounding areas within five inaugural research domains:

1. ancient cultures of Florida;
2. coastal lifeways;
3. circum-Caribbean connections;
4. wet site archaeology; and
5. ecological sustainability.

Endowed professors will focus their research in one or more of these domains, attract and mentor students with shared interests, and collaborate with existing faculty dedicated to Florida and Caribbean prehistory, history, and natural science. Funds available to endowed professors will support both their individual research projects as well as programmatic goals, including graduate student assistantships, undergraduate research projects, and the laboratory costs of annual field schools. The current Hyatt and Cici Brown Professor of Florida Archaeology is Associate Professor Kenneth E. Sassaman.

## Research Funding for Students

**The Brown Endowment** provides a variety of research funds for graduate and undergraduate students:

**Doctoral Research Grants** are available for graduate students conducting dissertation research consistent with the goals of the endowment. Proposals developed for submission to external agencies (e.g., National Science Foundation) will double as proposals for endowment grants, and may be seeded with endowment funding (see Grants-in-Aid below). Competitive proposals not funded externally will be subsidized by up to \$10,000 with endowment funds. Grant funds can be used for fieldwork, laboratory research, technical analyses, and travel to archives and repositories.

**Doctoral Research Fellowships** are available for advanced Ph.D. candidates for one to two years in the production of a doctoral dissertation. Ideally, candidates will have completed fieldwork and will use funds to offset the costs of living while preparing the dissertation for submission and publication. Annual stipends of up to \$20,000 are distributed over the academic year.


**Grants-in-Aid of Research** are available to undergraduate and graduate students with specific needs in research consistent with the goals of the endowment. Proposals are accepted year round for up to \$3000 of research funding. These grants serve the dual purpose of seeding Doctoral Research Grants, and enabling M.A. students and advanced undergraduates to conduct publishable-quality research.

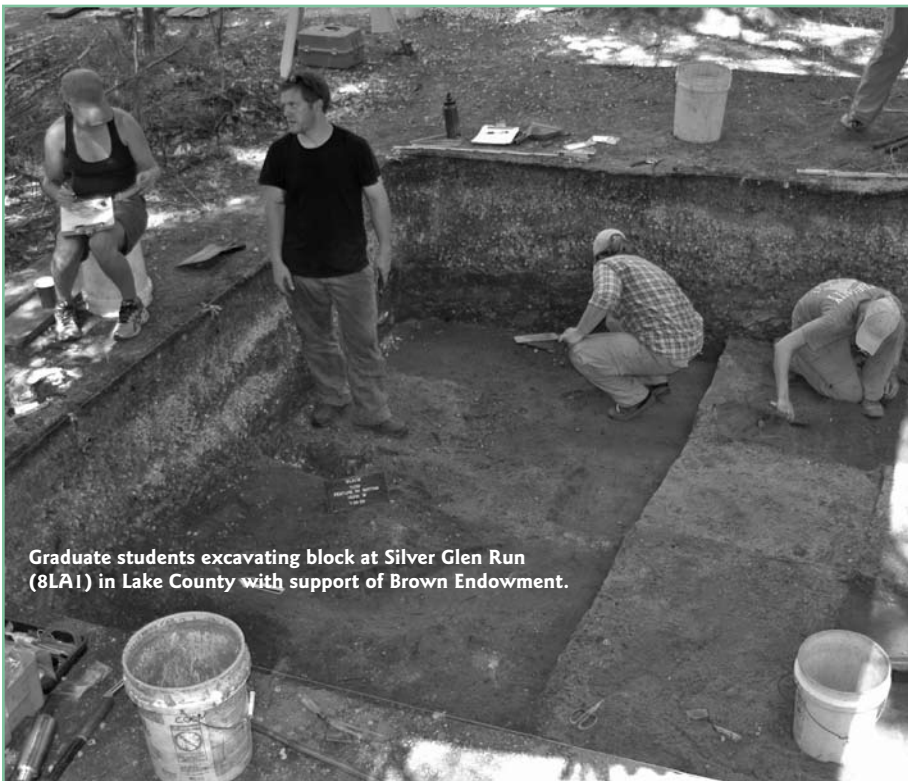
## Field School Support

Endowment funds currently support two field schools with \$3000 supplements to UF funding. The St. Johns Archaeological Field School, under the direction of Sassaman, is held most summers at sites occupied 7000–4000 years ago on the shores of Lake

George, while the Kingsley Plantation Archaeological Field School, under the direction of Dr. James Davidson, is held annually at the northeast Florida plantation where African-American archaeology was initiated in 1968 by the late Charles H. Fairbanks. Each field school accommodates 15 undergraduates in six-week sessions, as well as supervisory opportunities for several graduate research assistants funded by UF.

## Lecture Series

Launched in Fall 2009, the Brown Lecture Series brings some of the top archaeologists in the country to UF to spend time with students and faculty and to present a public lecture on their latest research. Endowment funds defray the costs of travel and subsistence and provide an honorarium to visiting scholars. Dr. Charles Cobb (South Carolina Institute of Archaeology) will present the inaugural Brown Lecture this Fall. 




Graduate students excavating block at Silver Glen Run (8LA1) in Lake County with support of Brown Endowment.





Mike Warren with  
Laurel Freas at  
Pound Lab.


## Pound Lab Gets New Director

The C. A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory was founded in 1991 by the late William R. Maples, one of the nation's architects of forensic anthropology. In 1996 the Pound Lab became part of the Department of Anthropology, where it continues to be a leader in both casework and graduate student training. In January 2009, Associate Professor Michael W. Warren became the Pound Lab's third Director, succeeding Tony Falsetti, who directed the lab since Professor Maples's death in 1997. With new initiatives and enhanced funding, Mike is ushering in a new era of public service, research, and teaching for the Lab and its students. As Mike and his students continue to serve many of the medical examiners' offices in Florida with skeletal analyses, they are expanding research and training operations in their new 2400-square-foot home in the Cancer and Genetics Research Complex on campus. In collaboration with UF genetic anthropologist Connie Mulligan, Mike is also seeking resources to add molecular forensic services and research to Pound Lab operations. 

## No Time to Rest

UF Anthropologists rarely slow down after retirement. Released from the normal constraints of academic life, notably teaching, our retired colleagues often take their research and service to a whole new level. No one exemplifies this capacity more than Tony Oliver-Smith. Retiring in 2008 after 35 years at UF, Tony was one of four scholars appointed as Munich Re Foundation Chairs to organize specific research and training initiatives on social vulnerability at the Institute of Environment and Human Security of the United Nations University (UNU-EHS) in Bonn, Germany. Building on a lifetime of applied research on human displacement and resettlement, Tony has been busy enhancing the Institute's views on the challenges of global climate change and sea-level rise. A variety of international gatherings and collaborations in Bonn have enabled Tony to produce some important new publications, all available free-of-charge on the UNU-EHS website ([www.ehs.unu.edu](http://www.ehs.unu.edu)). *Linking Environmental*

*Change, Migration and Social Vulnerability* (2009) presents the work of seven Ph.D. researchers who took part in a UNU-EHS Summer Academy organized by Tony in 2008. *Sea-Level Rise and the Vulnerability of Coastal Peoples* (2009) is Tony's own prognosis on the local challenges of global climate change for coastal populations. Forthcoming is *Nature, Society, and Migration*, a synthesis of the theoretical underpinnings of applied anthropological work on climate change. These works and many others Tony has completed since retiring from UF underscore the growing salience of research geared toward one of the most pressing human challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Whether it is rising sea levels, potable water shortages, soil depletion,

or accentuated storms, environmental outcomes of global climate change will result in massive human displacements and the ensuing need to relocate and reconstitute displaced communities. We are proud to count Tony among our emeritus faculty members and hope to find some way to help Tony push his research agenda well past retirement. 




## Welcome to Alyson Young

Joining the ranks of our faculty this past year was Assistant Professor Alyson G. Young. Alyson earned her Ph.D. from the University of Arizona in 2008 with research on medical anthropology among African pastoralists of Tanzania. Her dissertation focused on child health and development,

social inequality, and the long-term health and adaptability consequences of structural violence in Datoga society. As Alyson details in the feature story of this newsletter, her research is expanding into the realm of waterborne pathogens and the cultural construction of disease. Alyson was awarded a

CLAS Humanities Grant to seed this research and will be seeking NSF support that will not only advance the project but also provide for student opportunities for fieldwork in Tanzania. Alyson has already established herself as an excellent educator with the increasingly popular Culture and

Medicine class, as well as the 650-seat Human Sexuality and Culture. Graduate students are flocking to Alyson for her expertise in public health, ethnographic method, and biocultural theory. Welcome aboard Alyson! 

## Faculty Achievements & Honors

### Moving Up

We are happy to report that Drs. John Krigbaum and Marilyn Thomas-Houston were each awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor this past spring. Congratulations John and Marilyn!

### Special Accomplishments

Congratulations to Professor Emerita Maxine L. Margolis, who was named a fellow in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the nation's most prestigious honorary societies.

Allan Burns was elected President of the Society for Applied Anthropology.

Mike Heckenberger and colleagues released a second installment in a Fall 2008 issue of *Science* of their evidence for ancient urbanism deep in the Amazon. A *National Geographic* special in November and much associated press surrounded this provocative finding.

Mike Moseley and colleagues published a media-grabbing article in a January 2009 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that reviews evidence and arguments for a severe cycle of natural disasters affecting pre-Incan formative culture.

The Department of Anthropology hosted two Fulbright scholars in 2008–2009: one from Russia, who studied Mayan ethnohistory under the sponsorship of Susan Gillespie; the other from the Czech Republic, who studied genetics under the sponsorship of Connie Mulligan.

Professors Emeritae Helen Safa and Anita Spring established the Women in Development Digital Library Collection at Smathers Library.

Peter Schmidt won the 2009 book award from the Society of Africanist Archaeology for his 2008 book *The Archaeology of Eritrea*, which he co-edited with former students Matthew Curtis and Zelalem Tekla.

### Grant-Getters

Connie Mulligan and Lance Gravlee were awarded a large National Science Foundation Grant (NSF) to investigate the genetic underpinnings of race and disease within a biocultural context. The question driving this research is why African Americans suffer an increased prevalence of hypertension—a longstanding line of inquiry for Lance. Three sets of questions are addressed in this grant:

1. what are the associations between different measures of race;
2. what association exists between genetic ancestry and hypertension; and
3. are associations between candidate gene polymorphisms and hypertension modified when ancestry, measures of skin color, and novel sociocultural data, such as personal social networks, are added to the model?

Dave Daegling and collaborators from Ohio State University and Union College were awarded NSF funding to study skull variation associated with feeding ecology in seven monkey species from Tai forest of Ivory Coast. Their stress analysis of mandibular bone will provide new insight into questions of diet in the primate and human fossil record.

Dave was also an inaugural recipient of a grant from a new CLAS program to enhance faculty success at attracting large grants from external funding agencies such as NSF.

Peter Schmidt was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Research Grant Abroad to support research on the impact of AIDS/HIV on the fabric of social memory in east Africa. Peter will spend the 2009–2010 academic year in Tanzania.


As reported in our cover story, Alyson Young was funded by a CLAS Humanities Scholarship Grant for a new research program in sub-Saharan Africa on the embodiment of structural injustices in the health of marginalized communities. 

## Elizabeth Eddy Endowment

An endowment supporting applied anthropology at the University of Florida will be launched in Spring 2010 with a visiting professorship in the Department of Anthropology. The Elizabeth Eddy Endowment memorializes the career of applied anthropolo-

gist Elizabeth Marie “Liz” Eddy. Chair of UF Anthropology from 1978–1980 and fellow of the American Anthropological Association, Professor Eddy was a leader in educational anthropology and the study of racial integration in urban America. The

endowment, established by Professor Eddy's estate, provides funding of an endowed visiting professorship for an applied anthropologist to spend a semester at UF teaching a course and interacting with students seeking careers in applied anthropology. The endowment

will also support graduate students in their research and for completing dissertations on projects consistent with Professor Eddy's life-long commitment to socially relevant anthropology. 

## Graduate Student Achievements & Honors

This year NSF Dissertation Improvement Grants were awarded to Tim Podkul (Chris McCarty, Chair) for fieldwork in Bolivia concerning social access to irrigation water; Stacy Giroux (Russ Bernard, Chair) for research on the socio-cultural context of changing global diet in France; Gaby Stocks (Tony Oliver-Smith, Chair) for study of dam-induced displacement in Costa Rica; Brian Tyler (Lance Gravlee, Chair) for study of the health effects of social suffering in Guatemala; and David Garcia (Allan Burns, Chair) for his research on changing land-holding regimes in Guatemala. David was also the recipient of an Interamerican Foundation award.

Jeffrey Hoelle (Marianne Schmink, Chair) garnered both a Fulbright-Hays Award and an Institute for International Education Fulbright Award for his study of social groups and cattle ranching in the Amazon. Tim Podkul was also awarded a Fulbright for his work in Bolivia, and Nick Kawa (Augusto Oyuela-Caycado, Chair) earned a Fulbright-Hays dissertation grant for fieldwork in Brazil.

Kiristen Bright (Augusto Oyuela-Caycado, Chair) received a BRASA Initiation Scholarship to support fieldwork in Brazil. Meggan Blessing

(Susan deFrance, Chair) garnered a John W. Griffin Student Grant from the Florida Archaeological Council for her research on isotopic variation in the freshwater snail shells that comprise ancient shellmounds.

Polly and Paul Doughty Research Awards support graduate student anthropological research in the area of international peace, conflict resolution, and/or development, with preference given to a focus on Latin America. This year's worthy recipients are: Sarah Page-Chan, who is researching anti-homosexual nationalism in Jamaica under the supervision of Faye Harrison; Ryan Peseckas, who is studying urban migrant contributions to development in Fiji, with the guidance of Jerry Murray; Michael Lemons, who is investigating permaculture, counter-culture, and sustainability under the chairship of Augusto Oyuela-Caycado; and Camee Maddox, who is studying racial tension and identity in Martinique, under the mentorship of Faye Harrison.

The Department of Anthropology, through a gift of Drs. Alba Amaya Burns and Allan Burns, offers awards for summer research in Latin America for projects in Medical Anthropology, Human Rights, and Applied Anthropology.


The award honors the memory and goals of social justice of Miguel Angel Amaya, a medical student who perished during the Civil War in El Salvador. Miguel Angel Amaya was the brother of Professor Alba Amaya Burns. This year's recipient is Camille Feanny, whose work involves the effects of migration on Garifuna orphans of Belize and Honduras, under the direction of Buzzy Guillette.

John M. Goggin Awards are made to doctoral candidates specializing in sociocultural and biological anthropology who will use the stipend for expenses related to preparation of the dissertation. This year's recipients are: Amy Cox, whose research on the heritage construction of Machu Picchu is under the guidance of affiliate History Professor Mark Thuner; Rachel Harvey, who is studying tourism and cultural heritage in South Africa under the supervision of Brenda Chalfin; and Allison Hopkins, who is investigating intercultural variation in medicinal plant use among Yucatecan Maya, co-chaired by Rick Stepp and Chris McCarty.

Charles H. Fairbanks awards go to doctoral candidates specializing in archaeology who will use the stipend for expenses related to preparation

of the dissertation. Recipients this year include Rebecca Doublerly-Gorman, who is researching continuity and change in St. Marys region pottery of the 515<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, work supervised by James Davidson; and Joshua Torres, who is studying community and political organization of South Central Puerto Rico A.D. 600–1200, under the direction of Mike Heckenberger.

William R. Maples Awards are available for Anthropology graduate students conducting pre-dissertation or dissertation research in forensic anthropology. This year recipients are Carlos Zambrano, whose research on human neurocranial architecture is under the direction of Dave Daegling; and Laurel Freas, who is researching craniometric variation in the modern Thai population, with Mike Warren as Chair.


As usual, the Center for Latin American Studies provided generous support to several of our graduate students through its grants and fellowships. Summer Research Grants went to Karen Coutts, Joe Feldman, Danny Pinedo, and Isaac Shearn. Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships went to Camee Maddox, Tim Podkul, Kiristen Bright, and Andrew Tarter. 

### Medical Anthropology, *continued from page 1*

identifying new ways to help improve human and livestock health among underserved populations living in rural areas of Tanzania.

Like other medical anthropology projects of the Department of Anthropology, my research draws on the various strengths of the University of Florida, including the Center for African Studies, the Water Institute, and the Emerging Pathogens Institute. The project also reflects the greater goals of the Medical Anthropology program, including its commitment to exchange and collaboration across subfields, a tradition of combining basic research and applied anthropology, and an emphasis on research methods and design.

Student interest in these areas of inquiry continues to grow and is reflected in the increasing number of enrollees in both basic and upper-division Medical Anthropology courses. There has been an increase in the number of students pursuing graduate degrees in Medical Anthropology, with a diverse set of research interests that include maternal and child health and mental health across several regions of the globe such as Africa, Latin America, and South America. These students have been successful at securing funding for their research, receiving grants from the National Science Foundation, Foreign Language and Area Studies, as well as a number of internal sources.

Finally, the Medical Anthropology program is continuing the development of new infrastructure and programs. This year, the lab moved into a new, larger space and now hosts six networked computers equipped with software for statistical and text analysis as well as Geographic Information Systems. The lab is also developing a reference collection for the microscopic identification of common bacterial, fungal, and protozoal pathogens as well as expanding its collection of anthropometric equipment and other tools necessary for comprehensive training in biocultural Medical Anthropology. 



## Farewell to Anita and Buzzy


The Department of Anthropology lost two of our faculty colleagues to retirement this past year. Faculty and friends gathered for a dinner at the Keene Faculty Center to honor the careers of Drs. Anta Spring and Elizabeth “Buzzy” Guillette.

### Dr. Anita Spring

A renowned specialist in agricultural development and food security, entrepreneurship, and women in international development, Anita Spring has 38 years of ethnographic experience in 16 countries, primarily in Africa. After earning her M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from Cornell University, Anita joined the faculty of the University of Florida in the 1970s, ascended to the rank of tenured Associate Professor of Anthropology soon after, and on to Full Professor in 1993. She served three terms as Associate Chair for the Department of Anthropology, and, for three years from 1985–1988, was Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, where she oversaw international and interdisciplinary programs, UF’s overseas studies programs, and affirmative action. In addition to innumerable service roles at UF, Anita was Chief of Party for USAID’s Women in Agricultural Development Project in Malawi from 1981–1983. Five years later, Anita was named Chief of the Women in Agricultural Production and Rural Development Service of the Food and Agriculture Organization, where she oversaw FAO’s global operations on women in development. Anita is the author/editor or co-author/editor of eight books, including her sole-authored 1995 book *Agricultural Development and Gender Issues in Malawi*; the 1998 *African Entrepreneurship: Theory and Reality*, edited with Barbara McDade; and the 2000 edited volume *Women Farmers and Commercial Ventures: Increasing Food Security in Developing Countries*. Anita has been a stalwart educator in her years at the UF, teaching a series of undergraduate and graduate courses in

gender, development, and Africa, among other topics, and she has mentored many students who have gone on to successful careers in applied anthropology and related fields of inquiry that have helped to improve the quality of life of people worldwide.

### Dr. Elizabeth “Buzzy” Guillette

Buzzy Guillette is an internationally recognized expert in the methods used to assess the negative health consequences of exposure to environmental contaminants among children and other vulnerable groups. Her work on the effects of agricultural biocides in the Yaqui Valley of Mexico is a gold standard for applied anthropology. Her success in this work led to invitations to develop broader community-based assessment methods around the world. She has been integral to the longitudinal study of chemical exposure in Bhopal and to the impacts of exposure to women involved in cadmium mining in Canada. Her work has strongly influenced policy-making in the international public health arena. Buzzy joined our department as an Assistant Scientist in 2002 after receiving her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the UF in 1992 and serving as Adjunct Assistant Professor at UF for several years. Buzzy’s teaching contributions to the department are legendary. Her usual teaching assignment was the large-enrollment course, ANT 2301, *Human Sexuality and Culture*, and the upper-division course, *Health, Contamination, and Culture*. Buzzy took the opportunity in both classes to fulfill one of her missions in life: to help improve people’s lives by stimulating self-understanding and informed decision-making. She was highly effective in drawing on her own research in reproductive health and her years of prior experience as a registered nurse to reach students with heart-felt, yet objective knowledge about health risks, lifestyle choices, and societal duties. 

## Undergraduate Student Achievements & Honors

The highest honor awarded by our department is the **Brendan O’Sullivan Award for Outstanding Students**, created one decade ago to memorialize the achievements and intellectual spirit of 1999 valedictorian Brendan O’Sullivan. It is fitting that in this, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award, the honor would go to another valedictorian, our top student in 2009, Joshua Robinson. A dual major in Anthropology and Geography, plus a Classics minor, Josh earned a perfect 4.0 GPA while pursuing a diverse, challenging curriculum and conducting independent research as a University

Scholar. Having worked closely with John Krigbaum, Josh is now prepared to pursue graduate training in bioarchaeology and carve out a career in this field that will combine his considerable talents in GIS, archaeological research, and human osteology. Accepted into some of the country’s top programs, Josh chose to attend Emory University, where he will be supported by a generous graduate fellowship.

The 2008 Patricia S. Essenpreis Scholarship to support women in archaeological field training went to Anastasia Palaia, who attended James Davidson’s Summer Field

School at Kingsley Plantation.

University Scholars for 2009 include four students working with department faculty: Kathryn L. Ranhorn will research homelessness and health among veterans in Gainesville under the guidance of Alyson Young; Chelsea Hanson will study youth in Mombasa under the mentorship of Brenda Chalfin; Ashley Valdes will investigate the Fat Admirers subculture with Peter Collings’s help; and Alex Wang will research ancient DNA signals for Caribbean migration with Connie Mulligan as mentor. Three other anthropology majors, Elizabeth

Olsen, Aaron Croft, and Ezequiel Zylberberg, were granted University Scholars awards under the sponsorship of faculty of affiliated units. In related news, Alexander Riehm, a 2008 University Scholar under C. K. Shih, was acknowledged for one of the best papers at the annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. His paper, “Separate Lives, Separate Visions: The Impact of Geopolitical Pressures on Community Relations in Belfast,” was based on ethnographic work he conducted in Ireland in the summer of 2008. Alexander plans to pursue advanced degrees in Peace and Conflict Studies. 

## Become a Friend of Anthropology—You Can Make a Difference!

We need your help, whether you can spare only a few dollars or many more. The Anthropology Department depends on gifts to fund student travel to meetings, undergraduate and graduate scholarships, dissertation and field school awards, lecture series, laboratory enhancements, and other initiatives. It's easy to make your tax-deductible gift through the University of Florida Foundation. Online giving to the Friends of Anthropology Fund with a credit card is now available at <https://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/CLAS.asp>. UF employees can donate to any Anthropology fund through payroll deduction. Or use this convenient form to designate your gift to a specific purpose:

- Friends of Anthropology** (provides for a wide variety of department initiatives and needs)
- Custom Copies Graduate Travel** (to help defray costs for graduate students to travel to professional meetings)
- Patricia S. Essenpreis Award for Undergraduate Archaeology Research** (for female undergraduates to attend field school)
- Brendan O'Sullivan Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Majors** (honors the highest-ranking major at spring graduation)
- Polly and Paul Doughty Graduate Research Award** (for graduate student research in Latin America)
- Burns Amaya Graduate Research Awards** (for graduate student research in Latin America)
- Charles H. Fairbanks Scholarship** (to defray research costs for archaeology Ph.D. students in their final year)
- John M. Goggin Memorial Scholarship** (to defray research costs for Ph.D. students in cultural anthropology, biological anthropology, and linguistic anthropology in their final year)
- William R. Maples Scholarship** (to defray research costs for forensic anthropology graduate students)
- Marvin Harris Lecture Fund** (to honor the late Professor Marvin Harris, one of the nation's leading anthropological theorists)

Gift Amount: \$10 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out and return this page, along with your check made out to the fund name, to Anthropology, PO Box 117305, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611-7305.

*Please make any corrections needed to the address on the above label.*

## Twenty-Five Years in Merida

Twenty-five years ago, Allan Burns and a group of six students went to Merida, Yucatan and started the Autonomous University of the Yucatan/University of Florida exchange program. Since then, over a thousand UF and UADY students have taken advantage of the program. What started as a small program for anthropology majors has now grown to include many departments and programs: the Yucatan program now includes exchanges of medical students, audiology students, veterinary medicine students,

among others. Mark Brenner (Department of Geological Sciences) has brought in students from the biological and earth sciences, and the Center for Latin American Studies recently received a million dollar grant to organize a Master of Arts program in Development that includes the Yucatan and Botswana. "I remember the first group of students very well," Burns said, "One day during the program, I saw their picture in the Merida newspaper. They were outside of the US Consulate protesting U.S. military involvement



in Central America!" The Merida program is for undergraduate and graduate students in anthropology and other disciplines, and will take place this coming summer, 2010, between June 23rd and July 31st. See Allan Burns or Mark Brenner for details. 