



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Department of Anthropology

FALL  
2017

## AFAB Excellence Fund, Digital Scanning Lab

On Earth Day, April 22, 2015, following a year of intensive planning, the Alumni and Friends Advisory Board (AFAB) of the Department of Anthropology held its inaugural meeting at the Nebraska Union. AFAB is the brainchild of Drs. LuAnn Wandsnider and Bruce Rippeteau (retired scientist, state and university agencies director, alumnus and decades-long loyal supporter of the department). In its short existence AFAB has, with the inspiring help of our departmental liaison at the Nebraska Foundation, Joye Fehringer, been successful in establishing an endowed fund, the “UNL Anthropology Endowed Excellence Fund.” We are delighted to report that through the generous support of our alumni the fund has grown to over \$36,000 to date — a tremendous accomplishment! It currently generates over \$1,600 annually in spendable income, which the chair of anthropology, in consultation with the board, will use to support projects that will benefit the department and our students.



The first expenditure from the fund took place this October. But first a little background. Back in November, 2016, the College of Arts and Sciences awarded the department a generous tech grant to purchase equipment for a new Digital Scanning Lab. Plans had to be delayed, however, as we waited for

a suitable space to install the new lab. As of this fall semester two rooms on our floor of Oldfather Hall, 830 and 831, were made available to the department. We then moved ahead with ordering the equipment, including two portable 3D scanners, two 3D cameras, VR headsets for visualizing 3D reconstructions of archaeological sites, equipment for a photogrammetry station, a number of scanners (for large documents, slides, photos, and a mobile scanner for use in the field), and two high-end computers for processing the visual files. All of this equipment is essential for the innovative teaching and research being conducted by our two digital archaeologists, Drs. Carrie Heitman and Heather Richards-Rissetto. We also needed furniture for the lab, and very fortunately we were able to utilize the fund to cover most of this expense.

The Digital Scanning Lab is now officially open to use by our students. Thank you to all our generous alumni for helping to make this possible!

## Welcome Dr. Perdikaris, New Chair

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Sophia Perdikaris, an environmental archaeologist specializing in zooarchaeology, sustainability, and climate change, will be joining the Department of Anthropology as professor and chair as of January, 2018.



Perdikaris is a professor of biological, ecological and human adaptations to climate change in the circum-Atlantic region — specifically in Barbuda and the Caribbean region, along with areas in the North Atlantic. Her research focus is the effects of human activity on island ecosystems through time, and how people have responded to climatic and environmental change in the past. Her work highlights resilience and adaptation, investigating decisions that enhance or reduce adaptive success. She also takes an applied approach to research, working with local communities in the quest for understanding the current and expected impacts of climate change, including threats to coastal heritage.

“I really enjoyed meeting everyone on campus and am very interested in partnerships with other institutions and community leaders. I find Nebraska to be inspiring, and the possibilities for research and growth give me great energy.”

Prior to coming to the university, Sophia Perdikaris was a tenured full professor and chair at the Anthropology and Archaeology Department at Brooklyn College of the City University of NY, doctoral faculty in anthropology and faculty in the Masters for Liberal Studies – Sustainability Science and Education track. She also has been the director of the Human Ecodynamics Research Center at the Graduate Center-CUNY and will remain the director of the Barbuda Research Complex, a science based NGO located in Codrington, Barbuda. Sophia has greatly enjoyed being part of CUNY but is really looking forward to the new possibilities and challenges in the Department of Anthropology and to working with members of the department, students and alumni. She hopes to make a significant contribution to her coastal research from her new home on the prairie. Her two daughters are excited to make Lincoln their new home too.

## A Message from Dr. Priscilla Hayden-Roy, Interim Chair

There is great news to report since our first alumni reunion took place just over a year ago on October 13, 2016, at the Plains Anthropological Conference here in Lincoln! I hope you all enjoy reading about some of the highlights in this newsletter.

As my time as interim chair draws to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to my colleagues here in anthropology, as well as the AFAB members I've had the privilege of working with, for the gracious welcome and the unflagging support you all have given to me over the past three semesters. I also want to recognize the tremendous support the department has received

from the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Joseph S. Francisco, who not only has the vision for a strengthened Department of Anthropology, but also has provided needed resources this past year and a half, in a very tough economic climate, to help make that vision become a reality.

Finally, I am delighted to be able to turn the helm of the department over to our new chair, Dr. Sophia Perdikaris, as of January, 2018, whose vision and leadership will carry the department into a bright future for years to come.

## Student News

### THOMAS EDWARD MCGINNIS MEMORIAL AWARDS

**Kami Ahrens**, outstanding graduate essay: "Coloring the Earth: Culture and Color."

**Laren Vagts**, outstanding undergraduate essay: "Economic Pressures and Cultural Transformation as Seen Through Wayúu Textiles."

An awards ceremony with members of the McGinnis family took place on April 29, 2017.



### STUDENT SUMMER 2017 ACTIVITY

**Abhirup Shome** received an internship at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage in summer, 2017, where he worked as part of a multi-national team, focusing on website and social media management. Shome writes, "I am honored to have been a part of the Center's mission to promote a greater understanding of cultural heritage." Mr. Shome received support from the Ward F. Weakly Memorial Fund.



### TEACHING IN HONDURAS

In June 2017, Dr. Richards-Risetto brought two anthropology graduate students, **Graham Goodwin** and **Cole Juckette**, to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Copan in Honduras to teach the first generation of archaeology students attending the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras* how to apply terrestrial photogrammetry to create 3D models for the documentation, conservation, and preservation of cultural heritage. Funding support came from the Hubbard Archaeology Scholarship and the Ward F. Weakly Memorial Fund.



### ARCHAEOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS

Three undergraduate anthropology majors, **Christina Coon**, **Chase Horn**, and **Breanna Haberyan**, received support from the Hubbard Archaeology Scholarship to participate in Professor Karl Reinhard's (environmental archaeologist, School of Natural Resources at Nebraska) "Mummy Studies Field School" in July/August, 2017, in Sicily, Italy.

## Congratulations to our recent MA graduates!

Morgan C. Beyer *FALL 2016*

Margaret T. Robinson *FALL 2016*

Sean Field *SPRING 2017*

Kami L. Ahrens *SUMMER 2017*

Jonathan E. Ferguson *SUMMER 2017*

Livia A. Taylor *SUMMER 2017*

## Dr. Geib Joins Department

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Phil R. Geib (PhD, University of New Mexico), has joined the anthropology faculty as Assistant Professor of Practice in archaeological methods, beginning August, 2017. Dr. Geib is an anthropological archaeologist with an aerial specialization in the prehistory of western North America, especially the Southwest, Great Basin and Great Plains. He is interested in the role of conflict and warfare in shaping human society, in subsistence practices, particularly plant resources, and in diverse prehistoric technologies as they relate to manipulation of the material and symbolic world, status, and to learning networks and enculturation. His research mainly concerns foragers and preceramic farmer-foragers. Most of his fieldwork experience has occurred on the Colorado Plateau in Utah and Arizona, but with work elsewhere in the US and in Guatemala.



Dr. Geib's duties include directing the department's summer field school. In May and June of 2018, he will take a group of students to the scenic Sandhills of Nebraska, where he will lead two 10-day sessions of survey and one 10-day session of excavation. This six-week field experience will prepare students for careers in archaeology, museums or anthropology in general by teaching them to identify and describe artifacts, locate and map archaeological sites, and excavate a prehistoric habitation site.

### Sand Hills Archaeology



The 2018 University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Archaeological Field School  
May 14 - June 22, 2018



Explore & Document  
Nebraska Heritage



## Faculty News

**Dr. Effie Athanassopoulos's** monograph, *Landscape Archaeology and the Medieval Countryside: Results of the Nemea Valley Archaeological Project*, was published in 2016 by the prestigious American School of Classical Studies at Athens Publications.

► [unl.edu/anthropology/effie-athanassopoulos](http://unl.edu/anthropology/effie-athanassopoulos)

In the past year **Dr. Wayne Babchuk** was promoted to Associate Professor of Practice in the Departments of Anthropology, Educational Psychology, and Sociology, and selected to serve as one of four fellows in the inaugural College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Academy.

► [unl.edu/anthropology/wayne-babchuk](http://unl.edu/anthropology/wayne-babchuk)

**Dr. Raymond Hames** continues his NSF funded research on "Yanomamö Marriage, Kinship, and Reproduction," done in conjunction with long-term collaborator Napoleon Chagnon. In addition, Hames is developing papers on warfare in egalitarian societies and a comparative work on human grooming with other colleagues across the country.

► [unl.edu/anthropology/raymond-hames](http://unl.edu/anthropology/raymond-hames)

In 2017 **Dr. Emily Hammerl** received the College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Award. With **Dr. Raymond Hames** she is developing a new course on human sexuality from an anthropological perspective, to be taught in spring 2018.

► [unl.edu/anthropology/emily-hammerl](http://unl.edu/anthropology/emily-hammerl)

**Dr. Carrie C. Heitman** launched a grant-funded digital project Ohio Hopewell: Ancient Crossroads of the American Midwest, made significant progress developing the NEH-funded Salmon Pueblo Archaeological Research Collection digital project, helped lead three NEH-sponsored workshops for the Digital Native and Indigenous Studies project, and was elected President of the Council for Museum Anthropology.

► [unl.edu/anthropology/carrie-heitman](http://unl.edu/anthropology/carrie-heitman)

In 2017 **Dr. Heather Richards-Rissetto** received a Preservation and Access Research and Development Grant from NEH to support her development 3D models in an open source database; she continues to direct the MayaCityBuilder project using procedural modeling for 3D visualization of ancient Mayan cityscapes. Her digital work has been featured recently by NBC-MACH and the Big Ten Network (see department website).

► [unl.edu/anthropology/heather-richards-rissetto](http://unl.edu/anthropology/heather-richards-rissetto)

At the Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in 2017, **Drs. LuAnn Wandsnider** and **Heather Richards-Rissetto** received a Presidential Recognition Award for their leadership on the task force devoted to developing guidelines for Promotion and Tenure for Archaeologists in Diverse Academic Roles. Wandsnider's research on sod structures in Custer County, NE as symbols and signals is progressing nicely.

► [unl.edu/anthropology/luann-wandsnider](http://unl.edu/anthropology/luann-wandsnider)

## Greeting to Alumni from AFAB Chair Susan Traub

The Alumni and Friends Advisory Board (AFAB) to our department is getting busy. With our formation behind us and a new department chair, Sophia Perdikaris, coming on board in January, 2018, our role in the department with the students and faculty will be greater—and fun! This is the stuff we signed on for!

This fall AFAB started a “meet and greet” series with the department’s student organization, AnthroGroup (AG). I kicked off the series on September 14; Peter Zanderbergen followed on October 18. Openings are still available for alumni who would like to talk about their work as anthropologists with current undergraduate and graduate students. Contact me for details and schedule.



AFAB was pleased to participate in the completion of the department’s new digital scanning lab. As AFAB’s Excellence Fund grows, interest will increase and we will be able to do more. With the installation of the new chair, we look forward to many more opportunities to serve the department. The fun is just beginning!

Come. Join us. Get involved. Questions? Drop me an e-mail.

### Susan Traub

Board Chair

[susan@traubdesignassociates.com](mailto:susan@traubdesignassociates.com)

## Departmental Colloquium Series Recap

### SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

**Dr. Claire Nicholas** (UNL):

“Work in Progress: Craft, Heritage and Development in 21st-Century Morocco.”

### OCTOBER 11, 2016

**Dr. Simon Holdaway** (U Auckland, New Zealand):

“The Desert Fayum Reinvestigated: Landscape Archaeology in the Fayum Depression, Egypt 10,000 to 6,000 BP.”

### OCTOBER 28, 2016

**Dr. Robert Franciscus** (U Iowa):

“Are Modern Humans a ‘Self-Domesticated Species’? Insights from Wolves, Domesticated Dogs, and Tamed Foxes.”

### APRIL 7, 2017

**Dr. Richard B. Lee** (U Toronto):

“The Myth of Hunter-Gatherer Ultra-Violence: A Critique of the Bellicose School.”

### SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

**Dr. Cecil Lewis** (U Oklahoma):

“The Ancestral Microbiome”

### OCTOBER 27, 2017

**Dr. Kirk Dombrowski** (UNL):

“Social Role and Moral Responsibility in an Arctic Community: A Network Analysis”

### NOVEMBER 10, 2017

**Dr. Elspeth Ready** (UNL):

“Fresh Fodder for an Old Debate: Anthropological Perspectives on Food Sharing.”

### NOVEMBER 17, 2017

**Dr. Heather Richards-Rissetto** (UNL):

“Making 3D Models from Photos: Teaching Photogrammetry to Honduras’ First Generation of Archaeologists.”

## CONNECT WITH US

The Department of Anthropology welcomes alumni of all ages and from all parts of the globe to become involved with AFAB:

► [unl.edu/anthropology/alumni-and-friends-advisory-board](http://unl.edu/anthropology/alumni-and-friends-advisory-board)

For more information on the **Endowed Excellence Fund**:

► [nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-and-sciences-department-of-anthropology-unl-anthropology-endowed-excellence-fund-01134320](http://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-and-sciences-department-of-anthropology-unl-anthropology-endowed-excellence-fund-01134320)

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