

MILLSAPS COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY WORLD DISPATCH

Fall 2011

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E-mail corrections to news-
letter editor Erin Sanders at
sandeet@millsaps.edu.

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MILLSAPS
COLLEGE

We're building a bigger, better alumni community. E-mail your updates to sandeet@millsaps.edu. Include your name, graduation year and everything what you've been up to and you'll be included in the next edition of the newsletter. Become a part of the alumni network at the Millsaps College Sociology Anthropology Alumni group on Facebook and connect directly with your former classmates and professors.

Project at Kiuc Filmed by National Geographic



In the summer of 2011, Dr. George Bey, Professor of Anthropology and Associate Dean of International Education, took seven Millsaps students - Mandi Strickland, Whitney Gilchrist, Phillip Boyett, and recent graduates Brittany Tourelle (2011), Andy Kennedy (2011), Katharine Veron (2010) and Evan Parker (2011) - with him to the Kiuc Biocultural Reserve in the Yucatán Peninsula to carry out archaeological excavations at the sites of Kaxil Kiuc. Dr. Bey has been working on this project, officially known as the Bolonchen Regional Archaeological Project (BRAP) for the past decade, but was joined this year by film crews from the National Geographic Society as well as a Japanese broadcasting company from the Tokyo Broadcasting System, which brought in a Japanese movie star (Nao Ohmori) to narrate.

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New Technology in Department

Two recent upgrades have enhanced the technological capacities within the Sociology / Anthropology Department. These upgrades will benefit learning inside and outside of the classroom and connect to ongoing faculty and student research projects.

Technology continued page 2

National Geography Films in Kiuic continued from page 1

National Geographic is creating a special documentary, to be broadcast nationally on PBS in the first half of 2012, about new ideas concerning the rise of the Maya civilization and the eventual abandonment of sites like Kiuic. The crews were in Yucatán for the entire six-week duration of Dr. Bey's stay and filmed at sites such as Kiuic, Uxmal, Xocnaceh, Yaxhom, and various archaeological sites outside of Merida. The Japanese company was filming for a five-hour special highlighting current archaeological projects all around the world.

The crews filmed not only Dr. Bey and his students but also Tomás Gallareta Negrón, Millsaps scholar of Maya studies, and William Ringle of Davidson College and his students who were carrying out survey and test excavations at the

Maya sites of Yaxhom and Nohoch Cep.

Dr. Bey said, "We were really excited because it's important for people outside of academia to learn about the Maya and see what archaeology looks like. This is also a great opportunity to highlight what Millsaps is doing." Dr. Bey also said that the students had a lot of opportunity to work with the crew, even if it was a bit cumbersome.

Millsaps student Mandi Strickland said, "I was so taken aback by the beauty of the structures and their excavations, that I cannot wait to see it again through the eyes of National Geographic. It was a little hectic and working with them came with the price of hard work, but I hope that they were able to capture the unique first hand experiences that I had with the artifacts and their corresponding excavations. I feel so lucky that I was a part of this and that it was caught on film."

New Technology continued from page 1

The departmental seminar room (SH 347) is home to a new flat-screen TV that was purchased using departmental funds, including gifts by alumni. The TV will allow for enhanced viewing of videos and make it much easier for students and faculty to make digital presentations and use digital media in seminar classes. Groups like the anthropology club will also be able to use the TV for video screenings. Students have already noticed that this TV is a vast improvement from the old TV that sat atop a cart in the corner of the room.

The department also received a computer, donated by William and Susan Jeanes. This gift was designed to aid student work and research in the department. This computer provides a significant upgrade over the computer that currently resides in the departmental commons area. The gift will also allow us to have a computer permanently connected to the new TV for ease of use.

Both the TV and computer will be put to good use and are very much appreciated. Anybody interested in watching the NatGeo special on the new TV?

The REAL Greek Week

The Millsaps Department of Classical Studies invites everyone to attend The REAL Greek Week, a week-long celebration of all things Greek! The REAL Greek Week will include a talk by Dr. Joe Rife on the archaeology of a Roman port, a demonstration of Greek military formations in the Bowl, and a folk-song based on Homer's *Odyssey* performed by Joe Goodkin.

The REAL Greek Week kicks off September 27 with "Besieging the Bowl," a demonstration of Greek military tactics performed by fifty Millsaps students in the Bowl, which will be followed by a showing of the movie *300* at 7 PM in AC 215.



A modern rock opera of the *Odyssey* by Joe Goodkin will be performed in the Recital Hall on Wednesday, September 28 at 7PM. The final event, a lecture on the funerary practices of the Greeks living under the Roman Empire in the port city of Corinth, "The Quick and the Dead," will be given by Dr. Joe Rife at 4 PM in AC 215.

"We hope that The REAL Greek Week will showcase the number of programs at Millsaps that interact in some way with ancient Greece and how the study of the ancient world has something to offer to everyone," said Dr. David Yates, assistant professor of Classical Studies.

Supported in part by the Central MS Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America, the Millsaps College Department of Sociology-Anthropology, European Studies Program, Office of International Education, Divisions of Arts and Letters, Division of Sciences and the Heritage Program, The REAL Greek Week promises educate as well as entertain.

Annual Archaeology Expo on Campus

To celebrate Mississippi Archaeology Month and National Archaeology Day, the Mississippi Archaeological Association had its annual Archaeology Expo. Held in the Millsaps College Bowl, this fair is geared towards providing children and adults with hands-on activities. The fair was free and open to the public. This year's expo, which was held on October 22, 2011, is a day-long event that lasted from 10AM to 4PM and features activities such as:

- * Artifact identification
- * Atlatl (spear) throwing
- * Pottery design/making
- * MS Band of Choctaw Indian Tribal Social Dancing and Chanting
- * MS Band of Choctaw Storytellers
- * Civil War re-enactments
- * Rock wall art
- * Flintknapping
- * And much more!

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The goal of the expo, as described in the press release, is to promote awareness of Mississippi archaeology by providing the public with an accurate picture of archaeology and the past. According to Dr. Michael Galaty, professor of anthropology at Millsaps College, "The Mississippi Archaeology Expo, which we are lucky to host here at Millsaps, represents a fantastic celebration of our state's incredible past. It also looks to the future. The archaeological record of Mississippi is under constant threat and our best hope of protecting it is to educate children and their parents about archaeology. The Expo does just that."

When asked about the expo James Turner, adjunct professor of anthropology at Millsaps College, said, "We are especially excited about the fact that this year's Expo is corresponding with the Archaeological Institute of America's National Archaeology Day. With this being the 4th year for the Archaeology Expo, we have obtained a good idea of what works well and what does not, of what is well received and what is not. We have been trying to develop activities that will pique the interests of children and adults alike. We are very excited about the expo this year!"

This year's expo included demonstrations by members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians as well as recognize the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Sponsored in part by Millsaps College, the Millsaps Anthropology Club will be volunteering at the expo.

We want to hear from you!

Send your updates to
sandeet@millsaps.edu
to be included in the next edition of
the newsletter!

Be sure to check out our
online alumni community
by joining the Sociology Anthropology group
on Facebook!

Student Presents Poster at Conference

In November, Kailey Rocker travelled to Montreal, Canada for the the 110th annual American Anthropological Association meeting at the Palais des Congres, where she presented a poster entitled "Promoting and Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Drisht Castle, Shkodra, Albania: The Local Stakeholders' Role in Cultural Heritage Management". Kailey's poster was part of a session sponsored by the Society for Visual Anthropology and organized by Deb Rotman (Univ. of Notre Dame) and Augusten Fuentes (Univ. of Notre Dame). The poster session was entitled First Rites: Innovated Undergraduate Student Research in Anthropology, and included around 43 participants. That makes Kailey one of only 43 undergraduate students from across the country to present at the national conference for anthropologists.

When asked to describe her experience at the conference, Kailey said, "I enjoyed the poster session. It was rather laid back and casual. Usually interested persons would mosey on up to the board and ask questions. I met a few anthropologists interested in cultural heritage management and was invited to attend a cultural heritage conference in Switzerland this upcoming summer that's focused on a value-based approach to cultural resource management. I was not only able to meet anthropologists in my particular area of interest but also other students (undergraduate and graduate) who, like me, were passionate about anthropology. Overall, there were a massive number of anthropologists who attended the conference and they are all insane!"

While at the conference, Kailey attended sessions on the blur between the virtual and the "real" world as well as a session on surveillance and securitization in a punitive state. She stayed in Old Montreal at the La Maison du Patriote hostel and ate fried avocados during her trip. She met up with Chelsi West, a former Millsaps anthropology student, as well. She's still trying to figure out a way to get to Switzerland for her next conference.

Students Complete Honors Projects

Each year Millsaps students who meet certain academic criteria have the opportunity to pursue independent research as participants in the College's honors program. Honors students in our department typically base their honors theses around original field research. This fall, three seniors -Will Lammons, Phillip Boyett, and Kailey Rucker -completed honors projects in the department.

Will Lammons



Will Lammons' project is titled "Putting Your Válvula on the Pulse of the City: Transnationalism, Ritual, Identity, and Politics in the Graffiti of Mérida, Yucatán." This project examines graffiti in Merida, the capital of Yucatan, as a transnationalized urban art form that is placed within the local cultural context of Merida and Yucatan and is used to construct individual identity for the "graf-fiteros" (graffiti artists). Merida presented a unique opportunity for Will to conduct research because all graffiti that takes more than twenty five minutes to paint is also painted on the facades of peoples' houses with their permission, making it one of the few legally petitioned graffiti cities in the world. With local cultural content of the art, often including "Maya-esque" imagery, graffiti is also used as a means of constructing community identity and even building on the idea of a modern Yucateco identity that combines elements of Classic Maya with the contemporary Maya and arguing that all Yucatecos are connected through this. This in turn is co-opted by the government through the commissioning of graffiteros and the allotment of governmental buildings as painting space in order to propagandize what seems to be an organically constructed theme of Yucatecan pride and a transnationalized street art.

When asked about the process of research for his project, Will said, "It has been an amazing process, and I hope that this project will be able to carry the stories and work of Merida's graf-

fiteros to parts unknown. It has also helped me grow in a strange and discomforting way that I feel Kurt Vonnegut could only begin to understand."

Phillip Boyett

Phillip Boyette's project, "Mickey Mouse Conquistador: Disney's Ambivalent Conquest of Yucatán," focuses on the presence of American culture, specifically Disney, in Oxkutzcab, Yucatán. Phillip challenges the notion of "cultural imperialism" (that is, the notion that American or Western culture is subverting local culture) and the related idea of cultural degradation (the notion that the incorporation of American culture is something to be lamented or detested). By observing how Disney products and images are used and conducting interviews with parents, Phillip found that Disney has become an important symbol locally for three reasons: Disney is a symbol through the consumption of which people view themselves as cosmopolitan or modern; parents consider Disney to have the ability to teach educational lessons and important values to children growing up within an ideologically dangerous landscape; and, finally, Disney and American culture in general is considered very much a part of their own culture due to the frequent migrations of friends and family members to and from the United States.

Acknowledging these local meanings associated with Disney,

Phillip continued on page 6

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Phillip argues that the notion of cultural imperialism is invalid because people are actively appropriating Disney images and narratives for their own ends. Moreover, he believes that the opinion that the popularity of American culture in the area is a sign of cultural degradation is ethnocentric (or, more bluntly, racist) in that such an idea seeks to confine a group of people to their past and not allow them to progress into their own modernities.

Phillip said about his project, "Although I found writing my ethnography a very daunting task, the energy and enthusiasm I gained for the project while I was doing field research allowed me to push through some tough times and seemingly insurmountable writer's block. I absolutely loved meeting new people, practicing Spanish, and trying to understand the worldview of a group of people that I would never have been able to meet otherwise. For me, this project was primarily cultural understanding and personal growth; I strove to attain empathy and understanding with other people across a language barrier and to learn more about myself and my place in the world-- writing, editing and defending the work itself were secondary."

Kailey Rocker

Kailey conducted the research for her project, "Promoting and Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Drisht Castle, Shkodra, Albania: The Local Stakeholders' Perspective in Cultural Heritage Management," in Albania.

Kailey's project focuses on how cultural-heritage tourism is becoming a popular solution used by developed and developing nations to preserve significant archaeological sites, while also providing economic benefits to local communities. In most developing nations, these cultural-heritage projects are mainly sponsored and supported by the federal government, involving little or no discussion with local stakeholders. This results in little input and buy-in from the local populations that will be most affected by such projects. Should there be more of an effort made to involve the local population in the preservation and development of archaeological resources, and if so, what factors might cause the local population to either accept or reject a cultural-heritage project? Kailey's study focuses specifically on the castle complex and town of Drisht near Shkodra, Albania, and its potential for cultural-heritage development and tourism. An ethnographic survey of the families living within the walls

of Drisht was performed.

Kailey collected information regarding their views of the cultural significance of Drisht and the heritage projects proposed for the castle, and their family histories, and economic situation. Architectural information regarding the size, functionality, and state of conservation of each of the houses at Drisht was also recorded. A relational database and geographic information systems (GIS) were used to spatially and visually represent and query both the architectural and ethnographic survey data. Her results indicate that local stakeholders must be consulted and considered in any proposed cultural-heritage project, whether in Albania or elsewhere in the world.

The work of these three students is an excellent example of the high quality independent research that students in the department engage in on a regular basis. It is also a wonderful testimony to the field experiences (local and international) that our students have during their time at Millsaps.

Where Are They Now?

Michele Smith '08

After Millsaps, she attended the University of Texas School of Law and just graduated in May 2011. Michelle earned a 2 year post-graduate fellowship to work at the Texas Civil Rights Project on her prisoners' rights project. You can read about it at the following website:

<http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/node/2379>

Sheena Gardner '05

She is an employee and Ph.D candidate at Mississippi State University. As a research associate at the Social Science Research Center, she works on a number of projects that include implementing electronic reporting and report generation for the Mississippi Highway Patrol and working as the data manager for the Juvenile Justice Research Consortium and the Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education Program (MASEP). She has recently defended her dissertation proposal titled "Multiracial Identities: Societal Expectations, Social Participation, and Their Consequences for Lived Experience." This research project expands upon research that has focused primarily on documenting the various types of multiracial identities and the adoption of those identities among individuals by considering how identity choices impact the experiences and daily practices of multiracial people. Data for the project will be collected through the qualitative techniques of participant observation and in-depth interviewing.

Joan Fabbri

Her passion is the education and welfare of the young people of Mississippi. She has been teaching high school since Millsaps and continues her work as a child advocate. She travels often domestically and internationally and continues to gain perspective as she navigates the socio-cultural experience of travel. Service is very important to Joan, and she has served with the Diabetes Foundation of Mississippi for many years. She works to educate and train young people in the art of altruism. She supports efforts to end abuse against women and children. Joan tutors at rusk students as well.

Shawn Barrick '92

Since June 2010 Shawn has been loom knitting hats for donation to shelters, orphanages, cancer patients, and Mission trips overseas. Over the summer she attended a knitting circle at Galloway UMC where everyone quickly became interested in the loom knitting. As a result, she has since been teaching the Galloway Crafts Ministry how to loom knit. She gives loom knitting demonstrations during each of the services at the request of Revs Joey and Connie Shelton. During each service she completed a hat to show the congregation how quick and easy this project is in order to encourage more people to come and loom knit with us.

Christie Kokel '09

Christie has been up to no good in grad school at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She has been kicking ass and teaching intro classes to undergraduate students.

Roy H. Ryan '52

Roy serves on The Mayor's Committee to "Make Tupelo a place of life-long learning." They recently sponsored 4 city-wide events around the theme of the book by Mitch Albom, "Tuesdays With Morrie", about dying with dignity. He Moderated a panel-discussion with the two Medical Doctors (including Dr. Sharon Douglas of Jackson, who is Chair of the AMA's committee on "Ethics and Bio-medicine). Also serving on the panel

was the Director of Pastoral Care at the North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo.

Evan Parker '10

Evan is in his first year of graduate school at Tulane University. He is working under Dr. Marcello Canuto, Director of the Middle American Research Institute, though his research continues to be guided by Dr. George Bey. Evan will spend part of the summer of 2012 mapping at the site of La Corona in Guatemala.

Bill Crosby '61

Bill works in business development for New Jersey based general contractor renovating hotels across the country. Much of his free time is spent doing "church things," including three mission trips to China, one to Zambia, and numerous trips to Memphis. His grandchildren are very important to him, and his wife of 46 years, Marilyn, keeps him reasonably in line most of the time. Bill returned to Millsaps in October to celebrate his 50th class reunion.

Annah Marshall Joseph '01

She worked as a paralegal in Washington D.C. for two years before attending graduate school at the University of Alabama. After earning a Masters in Social Work, Annah worked for four years as a clinical social worker at a VA medical center, where she provided case management and therapy services to veterans suffering from combat-related PTSD. She and her husband, John, live in Birmingham with their irrepressible, two-year-old daughter, Claire. They also are expecting a second child in March! She also reviews restaurants for a local paper. She has been a stay-at-home-mom since 2009, her greatest accomplishment.

Katie Vizenor (nee Roberts) '99

Katie is finishing her Ph.D in anthropology through the University at Buffalo. Her work is focused on disability community development and maintenance in Virtual World and Massively Multiple Online Games. She received an MLS from the University of Maryland-College Park and now lives in DC with her husband, Lowell Vizenor and her little girl Ava Rose. She is the Senior Research Associate for the American Foundation for the Blind and works out of their Public Policy Center.

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Fun Fact:

This October, the SOAN Department continued its tradition of hosting an annual Halloween party! This year's theme was "Social Scientists Gone Native." Guests were asked to dress as their favorite sociologist or anthropologist as though they had decided to join the culture they study. Attendees came dressed as famous as well as lesser-known sociologists and anthropologists from inside and outside the department including Dr. Michael Galaty dressed as Franz Boas and Dr. Julian Murchison dressed as Dr. George Bey.