Message From The Chair

This semester has brought some new changes to our department. We welcome the addition of the Environmental Studies Program to our department. This interdisciplinary program was previously housed in the Interdisciplinary Studies Department, but joined Geography and Anthropology over the summer. The program focuses on sustainability and the analysis of environmental issues. Our own Dr. Mark Patterson is the coordinator of the program. We hope that the proposal for the major will be submitted to and approved by the Board of Regents soon. Our faculty have continued with innovative teaching, in the classroom, online, in the field, and abroad. We continue to be a leading department in terms of our international work (with field projects taking place in Belize, Greece, and India in summer 2012) and in our community engagement, with the second summer of the Watershed Assessment and Analysis course and with our 33 internships for the spring and summer. Our students are making a difference in the community and the world. I would also like to take this time to welcome two Full-Time temporary faculty members to our ranks. Ms. Uli Ingram has taught GIS in our department for a number of years, and we are pleased that she is will us full time this year. Ms. Megan Tucker is teaching a number of upper division physical anthropology and archaeology classes this year. We welcome them both to their new roles in the department this year. I hope that you will enjoy reading about all that our department has been engaged in this year, and be in touch to find out what is happening now.

News and Events

Dr. Brandon D. Lundy was selected as the Interim Associate Director of the International Conflict Management Ph.D. Program (2012-2013). Dr. Lundy has been invited to return to the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany to present a paper at the 4th International Conference of the Research Group “Integration and Conflict along the Upper Guinea Coast” in September. He will also be presenting a paper at the African Studies Association’s 55th annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA as the organizer of an invited session titled “Critical Engagement—Interdisciplinary Position: Locating Guinea-Bissau in the World” sponsored by the Lusophone African Studies Organization. In 2012, Dr. Lundy has already published two refereed journal articles, three book chapters, two reviews, and three encyclopedia entries.
Faculty Awards & Publications

Holder Professional Development Awards-
**Lynn Patterson and Vanessa Slinger-Friedman** (geography and anthropology), travel related to the development of digital interactive modules for social issues/geographic perspectives course.

**Mark Patterson and Nancy Pullen** (geography and anthropology), travel support for development of materials to enrich student online learning in physical geography

Clendenin Graduate Fellows: (Funds up to two years of Master’s level studies)
**Dana Russell** – MSc in Human Osteology and Funerary Archaeology, University of Sheffield, England

Publications:


*Student

Faculty Grants

Dr. JC Seong (UWG) (principal investigator) and **Dr. Mark Patterson** (co-PI) have been awarded $23,500 from the US Geological Survey (USGS) under AmericaView program. GeorgiaView is part of the AmericaView consortium, whose mission is to train users (K-16 students, public and private sector employees) and to conduct academic research using satellite imagery to address the needs of states. In Georgia, GeorgiaView has placed many student interns, held several workshops and conducted research on water quality, invasive species and coastal erosion. Since the AmericaView program began Drs. Seong and Patterson have been awarded $499,000 in funding from the USGS.
Archaeology Field School in Belize

This past June, Dr. Terry Powis held an Archaeological Field School at the Pacbitun Archaeological Project studying the Maya in the Cayo District of Belize. Throughout the month, we visited other Maya archaeological sites. We went to Cahal Pech, where Dr. Powis worked, Xunantunich, where we climbed to the top of the second tallest Maya temple in Belize, Caracol, where we climbed to the top of the highest temple in Belize, as well as Actun Tunichil Muknal, which is an amazing cave system where you have to swim into the entrance and through other parts of the cave. We also spent a weekend in Guatemala visiting Tikal. Visiting these sites helped us gain perspective into our own site of Pacbitun. A lot of interesting work went on this summer at Pacbitun and provided for a great learning experience. We got the chance to work at the base of a temple, the edge of caves, house foundations, as well as observe some cutting edge technology in the form of LIDAR. We learned just how important placing a unit was while digging at the base of one of the temples. If we had been a third of a meter to one side, we potentially would have missed a major find. The field school was an amazing experience, not only for the archaeology, but also for the cultural experience as well.

The Electrical Current of Culture Shock in India

Although we have both travelled to Belize as part of the KSU archaeology field school, our trip to India, left us feeling somewhat over-stimulated and in an inquisitive frenzy of excitement. The initial stroking of the senses felt more like an electrical current to us as we had never traveled to this incredibly diverse country. Swirling traffic, animals in the streets, the call to Islamic prayer, and street vendors wearing brilliantly colored saris selling marigolds for Hindu temple offerings are sights, sounds, and smells that were incredibly overpowering to us. We struggle to describe our initial experience upon arrival into this environment so different than the world in which we have been reared.

All of this took place while the hypothalamus stimulating, heat of the Indian summer burned down on our failed attempt at appropriate conservative dress. Nonetheless, our initial shock slowly wore away as we became immersed in the first true cultural anthropological voyage of our aspiring careers.

While the Indian experience was a whirlwind of sorts, the educational benefits from this month could have never been taught from a text in a classroom. After encountering the street children of Delhi, the talented artisans of Jaipur, the beauty of the palaces and lakes of Udaipur, the majesty of the Taj Mahal, and the friendly people of the tiny village of Gilund, we were forced to awaken to the incredible reality of our approaching careers as budding anthropologists. An experience such as this should never be passed up or taken for granted. We believe that all students of anthropology should strive to participate in a study abroad experience as it offers an essential element to career development.
Watershed Assessment and Analysis Course

A Success For KSU and the Community - By Dr. Nancy Pullen

Under the direction of Dr. Mark Patterson and Nancy Hoalst-Pullen, students restored a section of an impaired urban stream, completed their assessment and analysis of two streams and their associated watersheds, created an integrative wiki of the entire project, and presented the findings in an open venue to the community of Sandy Springs.

Launched in summer 2011, this is the second year that the multidisciplinary course entitled Watershed Assessment and Analysis has been offered. A total of 26 students - including a Directed Applied Research (DAR) undergraduate and an upcoming Masters of Integrative Biology graduate student - worked with Dr. Patterson and Hoalst-Pullen to assess and analyze the condition of two urbanized streams and their associated watersheds. Long Island Creek and Marsh Creek, both located within the jurisdiction of Sandy Springs, Georgia, are tributaries of the Chattahoochee River.

Within each watershed, students studied six specific locations along the stream. Students collected environmental data such as pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, stream discharge (flow), and analyzed water for levels of nitrate-nitrogen, phosphate, E.coli and total coliform and chlorophyll. A fish survey with the assistance of Dr. Bill Ensign (Biology) was completed to provide a biological assessment of the stream, and all students completed a USDA risk assessment of the trees adjacent to the site locations. Additionally, students used remote sensing techniques and assessed the land cover change, particularly the percentage of impervious surface (like asphalt and concrete pavement) of the two watersheds since 2003.

Under the assistance of the instructors, all data were compiled in a wiki, a web creating platform that provides a real-time writing environment for students as well as an integrative website environment for interested readers. Findings were presented on July 11, 2012 at Fulton Annex to members of the Watershed Alliance of Sandy Springs (WASS), the National Park Service (NPS), the City of Sandy Springs and the general public.

Overall, the results are contributing to a better understanding of the water quality, land use and other physical, ecological and chemical attributes of these urbanized watersheds. Moreover, the course provided students hands-on learning of water quality testing, stream restoration techniques, web and geospatial technology tools and techniques, technical writing and presentation skills, and general civic and political engagement needs regarding watershed management.

Key to the success of the course was the integration and overarching importance of community engagement. Over a three dozen individuals, agencies and organizations were used or provided some form of assistance, including access to the sites, data collection, data analyses, and expert knowledge. Special thanks to WASS, NPS - Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, the City of Sandy Springs, Arlington Memorial Cemetery, Georgia AAS, the Department of Geography and Anthropology, the Department of Biology, the Environmental Studies Program, the GISc Program, Patty Berkowitz, Dr. Dick Farmer, Dr. Bill Ensign, Allyson Read, Jack White, Fred Merkel, Sharon Smith, Jason Ulseth, Celia Klardie, Angela Parker, Michael Barnett, Mary Lanning, Dr. Troy Mutchler and all the property owners that allowed us access to the sites.

For the course wiki: watershed2012.wikispaces.com

Giant Map of South America at KSU

This fall the Georgia Geographic Alliance hosted the National Geographic Giant Map of South America. Students scaled the high peaks of the Andes, followed the Amazon River from its alpine headwaters thousands of miles through the Brazilian rain forest to the Atlantic Ocean. Students traversed the fertile Pampas on their way to historic Buenos Aires, where they bravely set sail southward around Cape Horn and out to the Pacific Ocean to visit the Galapagos Islands! The map was on display in the Atrium of the Social Science Building from October 27th through November 1st. This new map of South America invites students to explore the amazing physical features of this continent. The map measures approximately 26' x 35' and comes with a trunk of fun and content-rich activities, props, and other educational resources. For more information or to make a reservation for future giant maps go to www.GAofGeorgia.org.

“Follow the Amazon River from its alpine headwaters thousands of miles through the Brazilian rain forest to the Atlantic Ocean.”
By Rosemary Warner

I’ve handled bones before. I’ve peeled pork ribs out of mushy flesh that smelled equally of pork roast and detergent to examine the trauma they had incurred from my arrow heads. I’ve collected the tiny bones of a dried-out squirrel from the side of the road out of my own curiosity. I handled dog, cat, cow, and human bones in the forensic lab I took this spring. The one thing all these bones had in common? They had that nice structural integrity that held them together in recognizable bone shapes.

The bones in Crete lacked this nice structural integrity. They were so old that they often simply crumbled as I removed the dirt holding them together. There were several instances in which one of us would exclaim over a full skull encased in a giant blob of dirt, only to have it break into tiny little pieces as we scratched dirt away, and by the time we were ready piece it back together the thing would have become the most advanced 3D jigsaw puzzle imaginable. The sinuses and the temporal bone were the worst. Ever tried to put sinuses back together? I have, and it is impossible.

But do you know what I can put back together? The majority of a human skull. I can also tell apart a radius, ulna, and fibula from just a few inches of the shaft of the bone. I have encountered a humerus with a massive callus where the bone had broken and knitted itself back together. I’ve watched as an ancient glass perfume bottle emerged from a dirt clod, as my classmate squinted through a magnifying glass to ensure she didn’t damage it as she picked the dirt away. I’ve seen an infant’s brown skeleton laid out on white tissue paper in our basement lab, looking miniature and fragile in comparison with the four-foot tall Minoan urn in storage just beyond it.

These things cannot be experienced in a classroom. Although there was no great academic discovery to be found amongst our bones, there were fifty little discoveries in them for me. I tell people now that my experience in Crete is the one thing that makes me an interesting person, and I’m not entirely joking when I say it. My study abroad experience put me in contact with materials that most people will only ever view from behind a thick sheet of glass. I’m smarter and, yes, so much more interesting for it, and I am so glad I went.

Symposium of Student Scholars

“The Symposium of Student Scholars is an event to showcase student scholarship conducted at KSU during the past year.” - CETL. The symposium is held every Spring and students are able to present their research in the form of posters, performances, oral presentations, etc. In 2012 the Department of Geography and Anthropology contributed the most student presentations to the Symposium of any other department with thirty poster presentations. The Department also contributed one oral presentation and eight faculty mentors. The Geography and Anthropology Advisory Board chooses winners from each major for best poster presentation. For the 17th Annual Symposium of Student Scholars in April 2012 the winners were:

First Place Anthropology (Rosemary Warner)
First Place Geography (Samantha McAvoy)
Honorable Mention Anthropology (Kate Sherman)
Honorable Mention Geography (Kelly Gantek)

Summer Study Abroad in Greece

Brittany Nixon, Kate Sherman, and Rosemary Warner washing archaeological skeletons in Crete
The Annual High School Invitational World Geography Bowl (HSIWGB) is an event organized by geographers in the Department of Geography and Anthropology with assistance from departmental staff and volunteer KSU geography students. Geography professors Harry Trendell, Garrett Smith and Mark Patterson first instituted the Geography Bowl competition as a way to stimulate interest in the study of geography among local area high schools. Its purpose is to provide a way to counteract negative media reports concerning the geographic knowledge of U.S. students when compared with their counterparts in other countries. This competition is patterned after the college level Geography Bowl, developed by Dr. Neal Lineback at Appalachian State University. The college Geography Bowl is a signature event for undergraduate and graduate geography students at both the annual regional and national meetings of geographers.

The first HSIWGB competition at KSU took place in the spring of 2000, with six high schools attending. This community outreach initiative is now in its fourteenth year, as ten high schools, representing five school systems, are expected to attend from Atlanta’s north metro area, on Friday April 19, 2013. The KSU competition is limited to high school students in the ninth grade who are taking World Geography classes. This gives these students a chance to represent their high schools in an intellectual competition and possibly bring home a trophy for their efforts. The fun and educational format of the competition underscores the importance of Geography in today’s global society. The geographers in the Department believe that they are in the business of expanding geographic horizons and the annual High School Invitational World Geography Bowl is an excellent vehicle for that purpose. The competition not only involves the community-at-large but, allows participation by college geography students at KSU who write questions for the competition and serve as judges, scorekeepers, timekeepers, and competition facilitators. KSU geography professors act as question editors, moderators and masters of ceremony for the competition to provide community visibility for the Department of Geography and Anthropology and Kennesaw State University.

Mission Statement
“The Department of Geography & Anthropology prepares students for better global citizenship by educating them about the world and its peoples.”

Focus
Critical thinking about cultures, environments, space and place is central to this mission. As the pace of globalization increases in the 21st century, these elements are vital in fostering an awareness, understanding and ability to conceptualize, articulate and influence the forces that are changing the Earth’s human and environmental landscapes.