

CALU

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Anthropology Newsletter

Greetings from Cal U!

We are excited to be sending out our fourth issue of the Anthropology Program Newsletter. This issue contains articles written by students and the faculty. Indeed, it is our desire that most of the space within the newsletter be devoted to student and alumni contributions. For this to happen, we will need material from you, the readership, at least a month in advance of the distribution date. Please send a picture of yourself so the readership will be able to see the author of each story.

Please make note of the new masthead for the newsletter. Leighann Wharton designed it and she will be assisting me as assistant editor for the next year. Leighann brings to the task of assistant editor a skill set that I do not have. She will also be responsible for the final design of each issue.

We hope that you will enjoy this issue. Please send comments, etc. along with information for the next issue of the newsletter no later than the end of April to nass@calu.edu.

Best wishes to everyone for a terrific 2018.

John Nass, editor

MABIG Conference by Leighann Wharton



Back from left to right: Leighann Wharton, Ivy Savidge, Thomas Seltzer, Britney Chiccarello Front: Nicolette Clements

Dr. Kuba, myself, and four other students attended the Mid-Atlantic Bioanthropology Interest Group (MABIG) conference which was held at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA on October 14th, 2017. The presentations were divided into groups of four, followed by a discussion.

Notable presentations include *Zika in American Samoa: Disability, Stigma, and Disease*, by Michaela Howells from University of North Carolina, Wilmington; *Studying A Captive Breeding Bornean Orangutan From Breeding to Post-Partum*, by Marie Vergamini, Meredith Bastian, and Amy L. Rector, from Virginia Commonwealth University; and *Sandal Stealers: Robbing and Bartering Behavior in Balinese Macaques* by Kate Woolard, James Loudon, and Michaela Howells from University of North Carolina, Wilmington.

Zika in American Samoa: Disability, Stigma, and Disease

This presentation focused on the stigma associated with Zika in American Samoa, as well as the inadequate medical resources for the prevention and treatment of the disease. Many affected Samoans are not able to afford treatments from doctors, and even those who can afford it likely do not receive adequate care.

Studying A Captive Breeding Bornean Orangutan From Breeding to Post-Partum

This presentation focused on a pregnant orangutan and how she spent her time before, during, and after the pregnancy. It was found that she spent much less time foraging for food after having the baby. Also, the pictures of the baby orangutan were very cute.

Sandal Stealers: Robbing and Bartering Behavior in Balinese Macaques

I found this presentation to be the most interesting. The presenter, Kate Woolard, had studied abroad at the Ubud Monkey Forest in Bali. It was found that the monkeys would come from the forest and steal merchandise from the shops just outside of the forest. The monkeys would refuse to return the items until they were given food.

History of Historical Excavations by California University of Pennsylvania Part II

by John Nass



Few of us are aware of the prehistoric site excavations undertaken by then California State University between 1970-1985. The site excavations are confined to Fayette, Greene and Washington Counties. These are listed in chronological order. Those field schools that post date 1985 will be described in the next newsletter.

Speers (36Wh125) and Vesta (36Wh126) Sites

During the first six week field school in 1968, students under the direction of Dr. William Womsley tested the Speers and Vesta Late Prehistoric village sites. Dr. Womsley was particularly interested in studying Late Prehistoric Monongahela sites, having just completed his Ph.D. at Pennsylvania State University that focused on the subsistence of Monongahela village sites from southwestern Pennsylvania. Vesta and Speers were two large sites, presumably

village occupations, near the university and each offered the opportunity to gather subsistence and settlement information about the Monongahela culture. Both sites were situated on terrace/floodplain land forms located between State Route 88 and the Monongahela River. The existence of each site had been known for several years and large surface collections from both sites were in the ownership of local collectors.

Excavations at Vesta took the form of three large excavation blocks paralleling the river. The standard size excavation unit was a ten foot square. The excavation of approximately 120 square meters (1300 square feet) revealed an artifact rich plowzone in each of the three areas, but the absence of any intact subplowzone midden. Truncated features were identified at the base of the plowzone. Although nine cultural features, presumably shallow refuse-filled pits, were listed in the site excavation catalogue, no further details are available. A final map locating the precise placement of excavation blocks and associated features is not available.

The largest single artifact category from Vesta consisted of ceramic sherds (n=5387). Of this number, 5090 were body sherds and 297 were rim sherds. The remaining artifact classes, in descending order of frequency were chipped stone debris (4077) consisting of cores, shatter, and debitage; faunal elements (892); stone tools (245) consisting of retouched flakes, drills, bifaces, and unifaces; discoidals (8), bone and antler tools (6), ceramic pipe fragments (3), and one net sinker, one stone pestle, and a broken pottery trowel. Although not listed in the above tally, several ornamental items such as drilled animal teeth were also recovered.

The Speers Site is located less than 1.5 kilometers northwest of Vesta. Excavation was more concentrated in one area at Speers. The excavation of approximately 93 square meters (1000 square feet) using ten foot squares as the standard sized excavation unit revealed the presence of a partially intact site midden and the presence of intact pit

features and two burials. Although cultural features, presumably shallow refuse-filled pits, were listed in the site excavation catalogue, no further details are available.

Again the single largest artifact category from Speers consisted of ceramic sherds (6915). Of these, 6589 were body sherds and 326 were rim sherds. The remaining artifact classes, in descending order of frequency were chipped stone debris (1411) consisting of cores, shatter, and debitage; faunal elements (561); stone tools (44) consisting of retouched flakes, drills, bifaces, and unifaces; bone and antler tools (12); bone beads (9); ceramic pipe fragments (6); and discoidals (2).

Fullers Farm (36Fa28), Labash, and Campbell Farm (36Fa26) Sites

In 1969 Womsley directed test excavation at three additional Late Prehistoric sites: the Fullers (36Fa28), Labash, and Campbell Farm (36Fa26).

Fullers (also known as Fullers Hill) is located on a knoll just to the south of Perropolis. Suffice to say that no less than 40 square meters was excavated at Fullers. The latter site, Campbell Farm, became the focus of a multiyear excavation.

Labash is located in Rostraver Township in Westmoreland County. Excavation at this site took the form of several 10 foot test units.

Results of testing at the Fullers and Labash sites have been presented at a prior meeting of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology meeting.

Campbell Farm - 36Fa26. Between 1968 and 1972, excavations under the direction of Dr. Joseph Marino, Dr. William Womsley, were conducted at the Late Prehistoric Campbell Farm site, located in Redstone Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. The site is situated on a nearly level upland bench at an elevation of meters above mean seal level and approximately 1.5 km northeast of the Monongahela River. In 1972 William Johnson (then a graduate student at Pitt) supervised excavations for California through 1974. Johnson continued periodic excavations at the site until 1980 using volunteers.

When work concluded at Campbell, approximately 2229

square meters of the 1.6 hectare (4 acres) site was excavated. Over 320 cultural features, several dwelling outlines from two temporally separate, yet overlapping village occupations, and one palisade line encircling the villages were exposed. Although several of the circular domiciles from both villages exhibited evidence of rebuilding, the site did not possess an extensive, deep sheet midden. Several semi-subterranean, pear-shaped storage features were identified. These represented both free-standing and attached examples. Thousands of artifacts were recovered, including some ceramic vessels believed to be trade items. However, lithic debitage and stone tools were sparse in comparison to the number of ceramic sherds. A single calibrated radiocarbon date of A.D. 1275 exists for the Campbell I occupation, and three calibrated dates of A.D. 1400, 1430, and 1525 exist for the Campbell II occupation.

Novak Site - 36Fa34. During the fall of 1978, 1982, and 1983, excavations under the direction of Dr. Ronald Michael were conducted at the Late Prehistoric Novak Site, located in Redstone Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. The three hectare habitation site is situated on a broad saddle between two rises at an elevation of 368 meters above mean sea level and approximately 5.2 km southeast of the Monongahela River.

The existence of the site had been known to collectors for over 50 years. At the time of the investigation by California University, the cultivated field was owned by John Novak. Due to years of intensive cultivation the plowzone had attained a depth of up to 27 cm across areas of the site.

Hand excavation of three separate blocks (one per field season) exposed some 219 square meters of the village. The standard size unit was a three meter square. Hoeing and troweling within the excavated areas delineated the existence of 63 pit features, the partial outlines of four separate stockade lines, and three complete and two partial dwelling outlines. Two dwellings contained remnants of central hearths. On the basis of the post mold pattern, the five dwellings were circular in shape. These varied between three and four meters in diameter (calculated average was 3.6 meters). All dwelling outlines were confined within the inner most stockade. In addition, excavation identified the existence of an intermittent sheet midden of variable thickness.

The single largest category of pit feature was oval shaped, shallow and deep basins (n=28), followed in descending order with

circular shaped, shallow and deep basins (n=15), hearths (n=6), post-enclosed pits (n=5), irregular-shaped pits (n=4), burials (n=3), and stone-filled pits (n=2). All pit features within each 3 meter square were mapped in plan view, cross-sectioned, documented, and then the remaining portion excavated. Likewise, post molds within units were mapped and excavated.

Most of the recovered materials were retrieved from feature contexts and were associated with the Late Prehistoric Monongahela cultural entity. Most of the assemblage consisted of pottery, chipped stone items, manufacturing debris, and bone items. In descending order of frequency, the following classes of material items were recovered: shell tempered pottery sherds (n=5118), chipped stone items (234), complete and broken bone beads (n=96), ground and pecked stone tools (n=22), bone and cannel coal pendants (n=7), shell beads (n=10), bone tools (n=3), and ceramic pipe bowl and stem fragments (n=3).

Of the 5118 recovered shell tempered sherds greater than 1 square centimeter in size, 244 were rim sherds. Over 95% of the body sherds manifested direct or indirect evidence of cordmarked surfaces. Decorations in the form of incising, grooving, cord wrapped stick impressions, cord-wrapped paddle impressions, and stick or dowel impressing embellishments were confined to the lip region of 118 rims. The remaining rims exhibited undecorated, rounded, and flattened lips. Three rim sherds also sported appendages in the form of "lug handles." Rim profiles varied between inverted, everted and straight and cross-cut lip decoration.

Formally shaped chipped stone artifacts took the form of triangular points and scrapers. While the majority of the 234 lithic items were derived from locally available Monongahela, Uniontown cherts, and glacially derived materials, formally shaped tools were manufactured from non-local lithic items, cherts, and flints such as Coshocton and Flint Ridge.

Ground and pecked stone tools took the form of celts, hammerstones, discoidals, and pitted stones. These items were recovered from both the plowzone and from feature contexts. While celts, hammerstones, and pitted stones are frequently recovered from a variety of temporally different contexts, discoidals appear in a more limited temporal

context and are considered to be a diagnostic of the Monongahela Cultural taxon (Mayer-Oakes 1955).

Bone tools are another ubiquitous type of artifact found on Late Prehistoric habitation sites. Awls and beads are the most commonly recovered types of artifacts manufactured from bone, especially birds such as turkey, mammals such as deer, and turtles such as the box turtle. Often these provide the only evidence for the exploitation of specific types of animals such as elk, wolf and black bear.

Internments found at the site consisted of children less than three years of age. One of these was accompanied by two drilled elk-canine pendants, two marginella beads, and one bead carved from a conch columnella. Aside from the one example of burial inclusions, no discernable pattern of mortuary behavior could be determined.

Finally, flotation of soil from features recovered wood fish scales, charcoal, nut shell fragments, and corn kernels. A finer grain identification of the botanicals has not been completed.

On the basis of these data, excavators posited a middle Monongahela chronological assignment for the Novak site which corresponds with the Campbell Phase, ca. AD 1250-1590. Although only 18% of the village was excavated, a single settlement appears to be represented. This belief holds true for all possible expansions of the stockade. Given the spatial extent of cultural remains (the stockade lines), a maximum site diameter was estimated at 72 meters.

Redstone Old Fort – 36Fa8. During the fall of 1980, students under the direction of Dr. Ronald Michael, conducted test excavations at Redstone Old Fort, a late Prehistoric Monongahela settlement situated on a high hilltop overlooking the Monongahela River in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. The site is located 1.5 miles northeast of the present borough of Brownsville at an elevation of 456 feet (139 meters) above the Monongahela River.

The existence of the site by local collectors had been known for over 50 years. Prior to the visit by archaeologists from then California State College in 1976, some prior archaeological research at the site had recovered several burials and artifacts. Prior to the construction of a residential dwelling upon the northern portion of the site in the 1960's, it was still possible to

visually delineate the remains of an earthen defensive work surrounding the northeast and southeast side of the site.

The principal goals of the excavation were twofold: 1) to obtain settlement pattern data to help ascertain the size and configuration of the settlement, and 2) to obtain diagnostic artifacts to help establish the chronological placement of the site within the established Monongahela chronology. Because the site had sustained damage from the construction of a house and associated landscaping, a systematically arranged series of soil cores were taken using a tube-type soil probe to identify areas of least disturbance. This process resulted in the identification of an area on what was believed to be the eastern portion of the site. An initial area measuring five meters by 18 meters in size was gridded, the plowzone removed, and excavated. Upon completion of this block, a second contiguous area measuring three meters by 13.4 meters was gridded, the plowzone removed, and excavated. Although both areas were hand excavated, the plowzone was not screened to recover artifacts. Together the two areas exposed approximately 113 square meters of the site.

Hoeing and troweling within the two areas ultimately identified 19 cultural features. Seven historical features consisted of stone-line post holes and a hearth. The 12 prehistoric features consisted of a stockade and associated stockade trench, refuse-filled pits, and one burial. In addition, hoeing and troweling identified numerous post holes. The stockade consisted of approximately a 7.2 meter (23.6 feet) section of a single stockade line and an 8.5 meter section of a double stockade line. The associated trench was located outside of the stockade alignments. Presumably the soil from the trench was thrown up against the base of the stockade to provide support. Michael also felt that the earthen support of the palisade was responsible for the low earthwork that existed at the site. Testing of the trench recovered a quantity of animal bone and several pottery sherds.

Three refuse-filled pit features were exposed and investigated. Two were sectioned and one of these, feature 2, was completely excavated. Hand excavation and later flotation of the feature's fill recovered several hundred carbonized maize kernel. The third refuse-filled pit, feature 3, was completely

excavated. Exposure of this feature revealed that it represented a pear shaped semi-subterranean, post-enclosed storage facility. The feature measures 185 cm by 101 cm in size and obtained a maximum depth of only 12 cm into the subsoil. Excavation recovered animal bone, pottery sherds, debitage, fish scales, mussel shell, bird bone beads, carbonized plant remains and a single marginella shell bead. Not all of these features are attached to dwellings. Richard George, for example, reported the existence of several unattached, post-enclosed storage features at the Ryan Site. Unattached storage features have also been found at other Monongahela village site.

The single burial consisted of a semi-flexed juvenile. Except for a flat, sandstone rock placed within the grave, no other inclusions were found. Excavation also identified a large number of postholes in the second, smaller excavation block.

Excavation recovered an array of artifact classes: 560 shell tempered ceramic sherds, 10 ceramic pipe fragments, chipped stone including two triangular points, 10 specimens of ground or pecked stone, 3 shell beads, 11 bone beads, 1 bone awl, mussel shell, abundant animal bone, fish scales, and carbonized botanical remains.

In the absence of any radiocarbon dates, assigning a placement for the site within the Monongahela chronology is somewhat tentative. However, given the presence of a stockade and a pear shaped, semi-subterranean, post-enclosed storage facility, Michael assigned Redstone Old Fort to the middle Monongahela, c. A.D. 1200-1500. Today the middle Monongahela is referred to as the Johnson Phase.

An Interview with a Six Year Old by Cassandra Kuba

Dr. Nass wanted me to contribute to this newsletter, but I must admit that I did not have anything particular in mind. So I reflected upon when people hear about what I study and the mixed bag of responses I get after I tell them. Some find the fact that I do human skeletal analysis to be incredibly fascinating, and I soon learn that they often have a very rabid, morbid curiosity about the dead and homicide and have put way too much thought into disposal of bodies. Others are the opposite and are quite repulsed by it. As another faculty member told me, it is creepy, weird, etc. but still cool.



Riding home with my son Max (who is now 6), I thought I would get his take on things. The following is a transcript of my Interview with a Six Year Old (some may find that scarier than vampires).

What does mommy do for a living? You study bones, you carry dead bones and you mostly do gross stuff.

Do you think it is weird? No, it is something usual for someone who has to do that.

Do you think it is interesting? Yes.

Why? Because you get to study all the different bones.

Do you think we can learn stuff from looking at bones? Yes. You can learn different kind of bones. You can say them faster. Learn different words.

What can I learn about a person from the bones? You can tell how old they are from their teeth. You can see how big their melon is so you can tell when they died or something.

What about boo boos? You can tell because if they have holes in their things, like teeth. They have cavities. You can see some of their dried up skin, too.

Why do you think other people might find this weird? Because they don't do your job. Because of the names and you have to touch the dead things.

Have you touched dead things? (He has been to the lab)...Yes, I touched dead dog bones. [whispers] It was dis-gus-ting.

You looked like you were having fun at the time. Well, yes. I did. But it was gross. I knew my long bones.

So what do you think you want to go to school to study? Bones, rocks, fossils, tornados, thunderstorms, rainbows....everything.

You will be in school for a long time. Yes, I will probably be in school a thousand years.

What is the meaning of life? Well, you have to go to school. Then you have to eat and sleep. You have to brush your teeth so you don't get cavities. And also, without life, you won't even be alive. So you should appreciate the earth. And without food, you won't survive either. And without liquid, you will pass out forever. Actually, without anything, you will just dry up into old bones, and the last thing that will be on earth will be dried up plants and nothing but bones. And then after three days, the earth will probably explode from the sun.

And so there you have it.

Eastern States Archaeology Federation Meeting by John Nass

In November, I attended the annual ESAF meeting held in New London, Conn. Rather than driving, Jean and I decided to travel by Amtrak. Although the trip was long, with a change of trains in Philadelphia, traveling by train was a fun experience.

New London is a very old community, dating to the mid-17th century. It also had a lot to offer in terms of restaurants and historical sites, such as Mystic Seaport, located about 20 miles north along the coast.

Also attending the meeting were Eddie Inman, Robert Milhoan, Matt McKinney, and Andrew Malhotra, pictured below with Jean.



Alumni News

Maxine L. Neiberg

After graduating from Cal U with a Bachelor's in Anthropology in 2012, I went on to a graduate program at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. I held a departmental assistantship during the time I was there pursuing my degree. I received my Master of Arts in Anthropology in 2014 and promptly moved back to the Pittsburgh area. Since that time, I have been an adjunct anthropology instructor at the Community College of Allegheny County's main campus. As the sole anthropologist, I am busy with a full load every semester. I thoroughly enjoy working with the diverse student body that the urban setting brings forth. I also had the privilege of teaching the Seminar in Physical Anthropology course at Cal U in the Fall semester of 2014. Over the last two and a half years I also successfully completed the Master of Forensic Science program through National University. In addition to teaching at CCAC, I took on the role of academic advisor at the college as well. I enjoy working with students and assisting them through each step of their junior college journey. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing them finish and move on to the workforce or on to another institution to further their education.



Corry Laughlin, Richard Petyk, and Karrie Kamp working on a Phase II project in Maryland, GAI Consultants, Inc.

December 2017 Graduates



Ashley Barr

Stacie Hough & Kara Klinkebiel



James Barno



Eddie Inman

Hello everyone!

My name is Cara and I graduated with my undergraduate degree from CalU in 2015 with a Bachelor's in Forensic Anthropology with a minor in Criminal Justice, as well as graduated from Cal with my Master's degree in Applied



Criminology with a Post-Baccalaureate Certification in Behavioral Crime Analysis just this past May. I am currently employed at the Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner, where my position is entitled Forensic Accreditation Specialist. Down at the office, my position takes many forms, mainly ensuring that our office meets the standards of NAME accreditation (National Association of Medical Examiners). Our office first became accredited in 2014, which means that on a national level, we can provide the expertise to medicolegal death investigation that is essential to the effective functioning of the civil and criminal justice systems. Those who are accredited through NAME, our office included, seek to promote excellence in the day to day investigation of individual cases as well as to improve the interaction of death investigation systems with other agencies and political entities that interface with death investigation in each jurisdiction in this country. We must meet certain standards through policies, procedures, or documentation to become accredited. Part of my job is making sure we have the various policies, procedures, or documentation to satisfy the standards under law. Not only do I ensure that we meet the standards that we need to be accredited each year, but I also assist in autopsies and death investigations. I have completed about three supervised autopsies, as well as have gone to dozens upon dozens of death scenes with Forensic Investigators to help in the removal of the deceased and obtain information that is pertinent to the scene investigation.

I love what I am doing down at ACOME, especially because I am using my undergraduate degree, as well as my Master's degree, to its utmost potential. I examine the deceased for the presence of livor mortis, as well as rigor mortis. We use these biological changes to help assist in estimating the time of death in scene investigation, especially examining decomposition changes. I also use my knowledge in osteology to examine the remains, especially when we receive

skeletonized remains. Everything I have learned in forensic anthropology applies to this job, and it helps me understand the changes of death in a real-life scenario. With this being said, when Dr. Kuba says you will never forget the smell of death, I can assure you that you will not!

A Fairy Tale Story

by Angela Novak

If you told me this time last year that within 2 months of graduation, I would have a full-time job that related to my degree, internship, personal preference, etc... I genuinely wouldn't have believed you.



After four years of attending Cal U, I graduated in May 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts (Forensic Anthropology) and a Bachelor of Science (Criminal Justice). I entered college with an idea that developed a little bit more, every semester. All I knew was, I like forensics, but hate chemistry... what can I do with that? I originally was only enrolled as a major in Criminal Justice: Forensic Science, but this obviously changed.

Luckily, during my first semester I was enrolled in Anthropology 101. Dr. Kuba had this special way of glamorizing the field of Forensic Anthropology, and for that I am forever thankful. "Death, decay, and destruction, mixed with a little bit of science" is how I would jokingly explain this field whenever someone asked. Like I stated earlier, my career preferences would develop throughout my educational career at Cal U, and this was just another chapter of "what-ifs." I contemplated a career in Forensic Anthropology for quite some time, but I realized I wasn't convinced to pursue it 100%. Nevertheless, I knew the education and experience that this major provided would only benefit me in the long run. The new question I was facing was what other careers/professions are as involved in death investigation as forensic anthropology? The obvious answer is a death investigator!

This is when I applied for my internship at Westmoreland County Coroner's Office. There, I was able to create an amazing work relationship with the deputy coroner, and I was weirdly

fortunate to deal with a plethora of mechanisms of death. In five months, I experienced overdoses, gunshot wounds, hangings, natural deaths, plane, train, and motor vehicle accidents. To put this oddness in perspective, after two months at my job at the Lancaster County Coroner's Office, 90% of my cases are natural, 5% are overdoses, and 5% are suicides. I was extremely fortunate during this internship in Westmoreland. During my last semester, I applied for jobs all over the country; however it wasn't until a Westmoreland deputy informed me of an opening in Lancaster County, PA as a Coroner Investigator. I took a shot in the dark and applied. I knew it would be a long process, so in the meantime I moved to Ocean City, MD and worked seasonally at their police department. I think this experience gave me an edge; a quick but thorough outlook on the day in the life of a police officer. In late July, I was given the opportunity to interview in Lancaster County, PA and was subsequently offered employment. I was to quit my current job, move, and begin my new one in a two week period. My direct supervisor specifically told me that he appreciated the schooling I received, and the experience I had gained. Moral of the story, it's okay to be indecisive, and to have no clue where you're going to be in the future. However, if you have a dream, stick to it. You're going to get sidetracked, but do your best to point every action towards achieving your goal. Build that resume! If I can do it, then you can, too. Trust me.

Upcoming Conferences, Meetings and Trips:

The Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference, Virginia Beach, Virginia,
March 16-18.

Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology annual meeting, Dubois,
April 6-8.

2018 SPA Bus Trip to visit Mississippian related sites in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois, June 12-17.

Lambda Alpha

The annual Lambda Alpha dinner will be on Friday, April 27th at the SAI Farmhouse. Hope to see you there!

Sarris Candy Fundraiser

This semester, Lambda Alpha is selling Sarris Candies. To purchase online, go to www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com and type in our Group ID# 10-2084.