

Department of Classical Studies, Anthropology & Archaeology

NEWSLETTER

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<http://www.uakron.edu/colleges/artsci/depts/csaa>

Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences
The University of Akron



Message from the Chair Greetings to alumni and friends of the Dept. of Classical Studies, Anthropology and Archaeology (CSAA). The 2008-09 academic year passed in a blur of classes, seminars and conferences. Last year, I anticipated "more over-achievement in the coming year." It's no surprise to report that CSAA met this year's expectations.

We are a small but highly productive dept. that continues to contribute out of proportion to our size. In 2008-09, our seven full-time and 12 part-time faculty taught over 2,000 students and attracted nearly \$600,000 in grants from institutions and agencies outside the University. Our majors continue to grow in number, and we are graduating more than ever.

Maintaining CSAA's standard of excellence in the current fiscal climate is a growing challenge that, with the help of alumni and friends, we hope to meet.

NEWS, ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES

We are excited by two additions to CSAA. But it's important to note that they replace faculty who departed. *We are not increasing the size of our faculty, just maintaining the status quo.*

Dr. Christine Thompson joined us in Fall 2008 as Assistant Professor of Classical Studies. Dr. Thompson earned her PhD at UCLA (2007), coming here after a National Endowment for the Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in

Jerusalem in 2008. Dr. Thompson's courses include Greek Mythology and Archaeology of Greece. In the coming year she also will teach Egyptology. Her research focuses on the production and exchange of precious metals in the ancient Mediterranean economy. Dr. Thompson continues CSAA's tradition of good teaching and active scholarship.

In Fall 2009, we welcome **Dr. Ann Reed** (Indiana Univ. PhD 2006) as Assistant Professor of Anthropology. Dr. Reed studies heritage

What is this? Answer, Pg. 2.



tourism in Ghana among African-Americans. With the generous support of a private donor, Dr. Reed's research will be funded by CSAA

for her first three years here. She will teach Human Cultures and Anthropological Theory among other courses. Dr. Reed's husband, **Dr. Sebastian Braun**, joins our adjunct faculty. Dr. Braun has extensive teaching experience in anthropology, and researches native American cultural ecology in the northern Plains.

DEPARTURES

Dr. Julie Fairbanks accepted a two-year position at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she will establish an anthropology program and teach a full range of courses. Her experience in teaching courses from our introductory Human Diversity to upper-level courses should help Coe's program.

Dr. Jessica Westin has taken a full-time position at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

There, she will teach human evolution and develop introductory and upper-level classes.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Prof. Carolyn Behrman enjoys a reputation as one of UA's most challenging and stimulating educators. The Honors College recognized her sustained teaching excellence with its 2009 Distinguished Teaching Award.

Prof. Clayton Fant was named Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford, and National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the National Humanities Center. He also was named to the University of Akron Press Editorial Board.

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

The 2008-09 year was a typically productive one for faculty. CSAA teaching and research are complementary vocations. Research-active faculty enhance students' education and provide them opportunities to participate in faculty research or conduct their own.

Prof. Carolyn Behrman presented papers at the Society for Applied Anthropology conference in Santa Fe and at the University of Pennsylvania. She manages the **Active Research Methods Lab**, a jewel that houses state-of-the-art social science interview and research facilities matched only at a handful of research universities in the US and funded in part by her \$150,000 National Science Foundation grant.



A student poses with a Mason School 5th grader after data collection in Prof. Behrman's methods class.

Prof. Clayton Fant's fellowships at All Souls College, Oxford and at the

National Humanities Center in North Carolina supported his continued research on the Roman marble trade. In 2009 he published two papers, including *White Marbles in the Triclinium of the Casa del Bracciale d'Oro, Pompeii* in *Bulletin de Correspondence Hellenique* (Suppl. 51), lectured at the Assoc. Internazionale dell'Archeologia Classica in Rome, and lectured at the Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M, Oxford University, and the University of North Carolina.



UA's Kayt Roberto (in black), of Prof. Fant's Pompeii team, lecturing to tourists at the famous Italian site.

Prof. Timothy Matney continues his 10-year excavation at the Assyrian city of Tepe Ziyaret (TZ) in Turkey, funded partly by a \$270,000 NEH grant. Prof. Matney also worked at

Sisupalgarh in India. He published four scholarly papers, including *Recent Archaeological Discoveries at an Assyrian Provincial Capital in Southeastern Turkey* in *Ma'alta*, Vol. 3. Prof. Matney presented papers at scholarly conferences in the U.S. and Turkey.

Prof. Matney reported from Turkey on the recent discovery of cuneiform tablets at TZ. The pg. 1 image proves that tablets are not photogenic, but then, a page from a 3,000-year old book (tablets essentially are sheets of paper in clay) would look even worse. The TZ tablets are among the most noteworthy archaeological discoveries in the world this year.

Prof. Michael Shott began a 3-year project on prehistoric obsidian quarries in the Great Basin, funded by a \$110,000 federal grant. He published three papers (e.g., *Lower Paleolithic Industries, Time, and the Meaning of Assemblage Variation in Time in Archaeology: Time Perspectivism Twenty Years Later* [Univ. Utah Press]). Shott lectured at Harvard University and at the Assoc. Latinoamericana de Antropología Biológica in La Plata, Argentina. With Elisabeth Bacus, he co-edited an issue of the international journal *World Archaeology*.

Prof. Christine Thompson directs the Hacksilber Project, on ancient Mediterranean silver mining and coin production. She won a Faculty Summer Research award to continue her metallurgical

research in Cyprus. Prof. Thompson published *Three 20th Dynasty Silver Hoards from the Egyptian Garrison* and was invited to lecture at Germany's University of Tübingen.

Linda Whitman manages our thriving Community Archaeology Program (CAP). In the past year, MetroParks for Summit County awarded her 3 grants totaling \$32,000 for local archaeological research. She presented a paper for the Soc. for Applied Anthro.



Students excavating in Linda Whitman's Summer 2009 field school.

CAP connects community outreach with research, and CSAA students with hands-on learning.

UA alumna and part-time instructor **Dr. Gaelyn Aguilar** presented a paper on her Mexican research at the Central States Anthropological Society meeting. Dr. Aguilar will continue teaching here while she begins an appointment in an on-line graduate program at Goddard College in Vermont.

Dr. Eugenia Gorogianni (part-time faculty) received the PhD from Cincinnati for her dissertation *The Archaeological Site of Ayia Irini, Kea, and the Production of Archaeological Knowledge*. Dr. Gorogianni received a \$19,000 grant from the Inst. for Aegean Prehistory for 2009 fieldwork in Greece.



Dr. Lynn Metzger (Distinguished Senior Lecturer Emerita) added the 2008 Buchtel Award to her long list of accomplishments (left). Our colleague and Advisory Board Member Jack Gieck received the honor in 2007. Dr. Metzger continues to collaborate with Linda Whitman and CAP. Her *Canal*

Fever: The Ohio & Erie Canal From Waterway to Canalway will be published soon by Kent State University Press.

GEOPHYSICAL PROSPECTION

With generous endowment support, CSAA employs geophysical prospector **Ann Donkin**, a rare feature of departments even at research universities. In 2008-09, Ann continued her geophysical consulting, working with the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute in Syria, Sisupalgarh in India, as well as with the Linda Whitman and the CAP. She mapped obsidian quarries in Nevada with Shott, and hopes to expand both local and international consulting next year.

STUDENT RESEARCH

Through the generosity of donors, many UA alumni, CSAA awards grants to assist students in conducting their own research or accompanying faculty to the field. Few undergraduate programs offer such opportunities to students, making Akron and CSAA leaders in this area.

Fall 2008 awards were made to:

- D. Gargano** "Documenting Sherden Connections with Ugarit, Egypt, Northern Israel and Sardinia"
- C. Jalbrzikowski** "Directed Laboratory Research in Archaeology"
- S. Williamson** "Trauma and Its Effects on the Juvenile Skeleton"
- K. Zoler** "Mapping Geological Sources of Silver in the Mediterranean and Near East"

Spring 2009 awards were made to:

- J. Butch** "Physical Activity and Mental Concentration of Grade-School Students"
- L. Durinsky** "Forensic Anthropology Short Course, Washington, D.C."
- R. Fox** "Forensic Anthropology Short Course, Washington, D.C."
- S. Gordon** "Phoenician Expansion in Iron Age Cyprus"
- C. Jalbrzikowski** "Magnetic Gradiometry at Ziyaret Tepe, Turkey"

Congratulations to IA major **Mary Benedetto**, who conducted fieldwork in street art in Barcelona, Spain in Fall 2008 supported in part by a departmental award. Mary's Honors project, supervised by Dr. Gaelyn Aguilar, won the 2009 *Ben Auburn Award in Cultural Criticism* from

UA's Honors College, along with a \$400 cash prize. Mary also was awarded Best Paper in the Social Science Division of the University's Undergraduate Student Research Conference for her presentation there on her research, and Best Undergraduate Paper .at the Central States Anthropological Society meeting for her paper "Como Caracoles."

Congratulations to Anthropology majors who made the Deans' List in Spring 2009:

Sandra Bannister, Mary Benedetto, Jana Castellanos, Thomas Derrig, Laura Durinsky, Malarie Eagle, Kathleen Firth, Rachel Fox, Stephanie Gordon, Barbara Harsh, Chelsea Jalbrzikowski, Mary Kenep, Nicole LaNasa, Katherine Lee, Elisa Marchone, Kevin Naughton, Shalyn Pavolillo, Bobbi Schneider, Jeremiah Shepherd, Emily Stenger, Krystal Wamsley, Jessica Wilson, Jesse Woodard.

CALLING ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

With this newsletter, you've again heard from us. Now we'd like to hear from you. We encourage alumni and friends to contact us with reports of recent activities, career or life changes, or to reminisce about the department and campus. Please send e-mail communications to shott@uakron.edu, cbanig@uakron.edu, or to your favorite professor or CSAA contact.

NEEDS

Despite CSAA's growing accomplishments, our needs remain great. In particular and despite the University's best efforts, student expenses rose rapidly in the past two decades as state support declined. Most of us who attended public universities like UA paid much lower costs, even adjusted for inflation, than do current students.

Despite other urgent needs, this year we ask you to consider only one beneficiary: our students. Today's annual costs for tuition and fees approach \$9,000. Even \$500, \$1000, or \$2000 can help a good student to complete his or her studies.

DONATION

I AM PLEASED TO SUPPORT CSAA STUDENTS WITH MY GIFT OF:

\$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other
\$ _____

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