

Anthropology News

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN



Greetings to all our Alumna/e and Supporters!

The leaves are turning here in Champaign-Urbana as the temperatures begin to dip for the first time this fall. Many of you will remember the glorious colors on the campus as crisp weather sets in and the many trees change to oranges, reds, and yellows, giving us a festive look on the quad.

We are feeling festive here too as we send you our news. Despite the stresses that public education is facing these days in times of declining support from state governments and rapid changes in leadership, we are proud to share with you so much good news. Back in Davenport Hall we are generating new discoveries and new courses, welcoming new faculty, staff, and graduate students, and garnering many awards as our department continues its history of leadership in the field.

Below are just a few of the highlights from last year. We know you are busy, so we've just included a small bit of clickable news from each of our divisions of bioanthropology, archaeology and sociocultural and linguistic anthropology. Have a passion for more? We hope so! Check out our departmental [website](#) and our updated [blog!](#)

And if you have news of your own you'd like to share, please let us know. We'd love to hear from you. We can post it on the blog to help alumni keep in touch.

One of our stories this year focuses on distinguished Emeritus faculty member Prof. Ed Bruner whom many of you—from many generations—will remember. There's lots of news about Ed's 90th birthday celebration last year.

Sincerely,

Jane Desmond
Newsletter Editor
Professor of Anthropology



The biological anthropology subfield had some big news last year, including one sizeable loss and one considerable gain.

Celebrating Paul Garber

First, primatologist **Dr. Paul Garber** became an Emeritus Professor in 2014. Although Paul is no longer teaching and isn't around Davenport Hall as often, he is still very actively conducting primate field research and maintaining research collaborations in Central and South America as well as China. After more than 30 years of service to the anthropology department, Paul's retirement represents a huge loss to our subfield, department, and campus. Enjoy, Paul! Many thanks and we wish you all the best!

Welcome!

The bioanthropology department is very excited to welcome **Dr. Jessica Brinkworth** to our faculty. Jessica uses immunological and functional genomic techniques to examine immune function and susceptibility to infectious diseases across primates, including humans. Her goal is to add to our understanding of host-pathogen co-evolution, genetic factors influencing disease susceptibility, and the evolutionary effects of diseases. Welcome Jessica! You a terrific addition to our program!

Making a Big Impact

Other exciting news is that two of our bioanthropology faculty have the honor of holding a place in the 2014 top 100 scholarly research articles that captured the most attention by the public. One article, coauthored by U of I bioanthropologist **Dr. Kate Clancy** and published in PLOS ONE, highlighted the prevalence of sexual harassment on field workers. This article was one of the most viewed articles in PLOS ONE and was mentioned in at least 34 news outlets and in over 79 media links. Way to go Kate!

The second article, "Late Pleistocene Human Skeleton and mtDNA Link Paleoamericans and Modern Native Americans" coauthored by U of I bioanthropologist **Dr. Ripan Malhi** and published in Science, describes results of DNA analyses of a nearly complete ~13K year old skeleton from a submerged cave in Mexico. This article was mentioned in over 68 news outlets and in over 130 tweets and their results contribute to a greater understanding of the peopling of the Americas. Way to go Ripan!!

Bioanthropology faculty and students hold many more accomplishments that we don't have space to detail here. Congratulations to everyone! We look forward to another great year in bioanthropology.

Congratulations!

Five University of Illinois scholars, including Anthropology Department's archaeologist **Tim Pauketat**, have received National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships for 2015. The U of I is the only institution to be awarded more than three of these highly competitive national fellowships for the year.

http://news.illinois.edu/news/14/1209NEH_fellowships.html



Pauketat's research project is: "Spirits, Birds, and Luminous Beings: Reconceptualizing Ancient Urbanism." In this work, Pauketat reimagines the future of urbanism by looking back at some of the world's most ancient cities, using new theories and

even newer archaeological evidence from the ruins of cities and city-like places in Neolithic China, Africa, and the Americas before 1492.

Six Urbana campus faculty members were named University Scholars last year, including Anthropology professor **Chris Fennell**. The program recognizes outstanding faculty who exhibit excellence across all three areas of faculty engagement: in teaching, scholarship and service.

http://news.illinois.edu/news/14/0929university_scholars.html



[Christopher C. Fennell](#), a professor of [anthropology](#), is an archaeologist with specializations in historical archaeology and the archaeology of the African Diaspora. He has produced an award-winning book, and is a widely sought-after speaker, lawyer and legal scholar.

His work brings meticulous analysis of the material culture of enslaved African-descendant peoples in the New World to bear on the historical and ethnographic record.

Award Winning Graduate Students Promote Diversity in Archaeology

<https://anthroillinois.wordpress.com/2014/01/12/graduate-students-promote-diversity-in-archaeology/>

Congratulations to Anthropology department alumna **Annelise Morris** in receiving the 2014 first-place award for the Society for Historical Archaeology's Diversity Field School Award, and to graduate students **Jamie Arjona** and **Tatiana Niculescu** for the second-place award. These awards recognized their excellent work as collaborative archaeology project managers and their successes through research designs and public participation in enhancing the diversity of our field of science. The SHA congratulates them for excellence in "making the field of historical archaeology more inclusive of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, abilities, and socio-economic background" and showing "a commitment to increasing diversity in the field." Annelise's field school focused on her dissertation site at Lawrenceville, Illinois, and Jamie and Tatiana's contribution focused on the 2013 field school at the Pottersville site in Edgefield, South Carolina.



Illinois graduate student Ms. Jamie Arjona accepts the 2014 Diversity Field School Award from SHA President Paul Mullins.

Editor's Note: Last year one of our most distinguished Emeritus Faculty members, cultural anthropologist Dr. Edward Bruner celebrated his 90th birthday with a festive gathering held in Urbana. It was an elegant and fun event, attended by a whole crew of family, friends, and departmental colleagues. One of the highlights of the afternoon was this appreciation of Ed, read by Professor of Anthropology Alma Gottlieb. Now, as Ed turns 91 this fall, it perfectly captures some of the wit and wisdom that make Ed such a part of the heart of this department... Enjoy!



Speech for Ed Bruner's 90th Birthday Party in September 2014

By Professor of Anthropology Alma Gottlieb

A fashionable businesswoman, interior designer, and professor of fashion marketing named Iris Apfel, who began her modeling career two years ago at the age of 90, recently said in an interview:

"I think it's pitiful that people lie about their age. What's wrong with getting old? I think if you're lucky enough to get old, you should celebrate it."

<http://www.today.com/videtoday/46745179#46745179>

<http://intothegloss.com/2012/01/iris-apfel/>

Ed is wise enough to get it, and I'm honored today to help Ed celebrate this wonderful moment. Although, across my career, I've tried my hand at a lot of different kinds of writing, remarks for a colleague turning 90 is a brand-new genre for me. I hope I can get this one right.



From the day I joined the Dept. of Anthropology at the U of I, 31 years ago, Ed Bruner instantly became my favorite senior colleague.

At the mailboxes, **brilliant Ed** could always be counted on for a witty throwaway comment on the state of things.

At faculty meetings, **calm Ed** was the one who lowered the temperature when things got heated.

In the classroom, when we twice co-taught a graduate seminar that we concocted together with another then-colleague, Ann Anagnost, **perceptive Ed** was the one who scanned the room to call on the shy student whose hand furtively raised a few inches and then quickly lowered in nervousness; perceptive Ed was the one who offered to give students another week to turn in their paper when he sensed that we'd overwhelmed them with assignments.

Over e-mail, **supportive Ed** was the one who kept sending me notes that he'd recommended me for a prestigious fellowship he once had, and who kept bugging me to submit an application.

In Paris, **charming Ed** was the one who gave such a wonderful talk to a small group of executives of the L'Oréal cosmetics company that when, at Ed's suggestion, the conference organizer invited me to give the next year's lecture, she begged me to just give Ed's talk all over again.

On the page, **honest Ed** was the one who wrote from his passions, following his heart, to research topics you could barely imagine inhabiting the same resumé.

His first publication in 1951 was titled “Pilot Study of a B-50 Air Crew.” As far as I know, his most recent publication is titled “Restless No Longer: *Quo Vadis?*” and is at once a magisterial retrospective look at his remarkable, now 66-year-and-counting career, and a tentative glimpse into some directions that his future scholarly output may take.

Sandwiched in-between these first and latest publications are articles on subjects ranging from African-American heritage tourism in Ghana, to gender differences in graffiti designs on the U of I campus; from urbanization in North Sumatra, to the politics of competing interpretations of the historically resonant archaeological site of Masada in Israel; from a jointly authored paper with his beloved life partner Cookie on early education in Indonesia, to changing terms for relatives in the native American community of Hidatsa peoples; from the nearby reconstructed historical site of Lincoln’s New Salem village, to American tourists’ encounters with Maasai people in Kenya.

Across these astonishingly diverse topics lies the same searching mind, the same brilliant analytic acumen, the same Ed Bruner.

At our annual professional conference, in our early years of friendship, *mentoring Ed* was the one who kept finding senior colleagues to introduce me to.

Ed is now respected enough that he has not only had a session at this conference dedicated to appreciating his career, back in 2005, but at the upcoming conference this December, a second session organized by a different group of colleagues will newly assess his work. And Ed’s work is now so respected that his name is now an adjective: one of the talks in that session will be on “Brunerian Insights into the Tourist Experience.”



Ed received his PhD the year I was born. The demographers would say that time gap puts us in different generational cohorts. Sometimes I enjoy listening to the stories that Ed can tell from times

I cannot know about, firsthand. But more often, I forget about that age gap. Our now-31-year-long friendship spans more than the number of years that separate our births, but from the beginning, Ed became my oldest friend.

And twelve years after we began our friendship, we also became related. When my daughter Hannah turned two, she became aware that the vagaries of family biography had deprived her of a grandfather—both her biological grandfathers had died before she was born—and she directed my husband Philip and me to find her one. We assembled a list of possible candidates—anyone she knew, of the requisite age and gender—and immediately, Hannah picked Ed. Her two-year-old self, always sharp at interpersonal relations, had accurately sussed out the rich grandfather material available in Ed. And, although he already had grandchildren, Ed generously took on this new role. Although Philip and I warned Ed that it could become a serious, lifelong commitment, I secretly imagined it would be a passing fancy that wouldn’t really take much time on his part.

I couldn’t have been more wrong. There’s a reason that generations of anthropologists have spent time analyzing the rich field we call “fictive kinship.” Ed has been the most real of seemingly fictive grandfathers. Since Hannah was two, Ed hasn’t missed the change to give her a birthday or Chanukah gift. But it’s way more than the generosity of the well-chosen gifts that I know Cookie has helped select. Ed has joined Philip and me at Hannah’s gymnastic meets, volleyball games, musical theatre performances. He’s met her boyfriend and offered the appropriate grandfatherly warnings about treating his granddaughter well. He’s been there for her in the way a grandfather should be there.

Before Philip and I took Hannah back to college in New York last month, at Hannah’s insistence, we had a small, private birthday celebration for Ed at our house. Hannah’s card to Ed wrote:

“Dearest Grandpa: I can’t believe you are almost 90 because you are so lively and positive . . . To me, you’re a young man! . . . You are kind, generous, and

nurturing . . . I cannot thank you enough for your active presence and support in my life. I love you endlessly, never forget. Happy birthday! Hannah”

So: Thank you, Ed, for having been not only my favorite senior colleague all these decades, an amazing professional mentor and intellectual conversation partner, but also for having been the one and only grandfather in our daughter’s life.



Eleanor Roosevelt once said, “Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art.” Ed’s beauty comes from, as Oscar Wilde put it, the wisdom of many winters. We in this room are lucky to share in Ed’s generosity, his humor, his patience, and his wisdom. Thank you for your many seasons with us, Ed!



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