Letter From the President

by: Amanda Williams

"The Graduate Board of Anthropology Students (BOASgrad) is a student-led organization that serves the academic needs of all graduate students in the Department of Anthropology. We foster both the academic and personal success of our students by providing representation within the department, organizing lectures writing workshops, and offering opportunities for student publication."

On behalf of the Graduate Board of Anthropology Students (BOASgrad), I would like to introduce you to our first newsletter. The first edition of our newsletter highlights some of our important events and activities from the Fall 2015 semester.

The Fall semester was a busy time for our organization. Our group hosted a clothing drive, volunteered at the Northern Nevada Food Bank, organized a fundraiser, and hosted Dr. Doug Owsley from the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. Our group looks forward to organizing more events in the upcoming semesters.

As we head into the Spring term, our organization is continually working on fostering collaborations with our sister organization (The Anthropology Club), continuing to foster student engagement through outreach opportunities, and working towards fostering professional development. Currently, our group is busy arranging several outreach projects, speakers for our brown bag series, and working on plans for our next big guest speaker.

One of our largest events planned for next semester is the Boasian Bash. The Bash is our biggest fundraiser of the entire year, and this year our fundraiser will be held on April 30th at Pub n' Sub. We hope that everyone will consider joining us for a night of professional networking.

The event also provides us an opportunity to give back to our members.
As many of you know, we use some of the proceeds to award a scholarship to a couple of our graduate students. Information about how to apply for our scholarships will be announced in early Spring. The winners of our scholarships will be announced on the evening of the event. Look for more information about the Boasian Bash, our scholarships, and any other events to be announced soon.

If you are interested in becoming involved with BOASgrad, feel free to email boasgrad@gmail.com for more information. We are more than happy to help you become involved with any one of our committees or future events.

Thank you to all members who have organized, planned, or participated in any of our semester events. These events would not have been a success without you.

I look forward to another great semester.

Amanda Williams, MA
BOASgrad President
Spotlight: Jeremy Floyd – Anthropology Liaison
By: Victoria Swenson, Editor-in-Chief

The Graduate Board of Anthropology Students (BOASgrad) would like to congratulate and welcome Jeremy Floyd as our new subject librarian. Jeremy became the Anthropology department’s liaison this fall at the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center. In 2000, Jeremy Floyd began his undergraduate degree in Anthropology with a focus in archaeology at the University of Nevada, Reno. After graduating in 2004, Jeremy worked as a field archaeologist at Mount Vernon in Virginia. While employed at Mount Vernon, his archaeology team discovered a whiskey distillery, which was the first evidence of mass whiskey production in the 18th century colonies. After extensive excavations, George Washington’s distillery and gristmill were reconstructed between 2005-2007 to demonstrate 18th century whiskey production.

After working at Mount Vernon, Jeremy decided to enroll as a graduate student in Anthropology at Western Michigan University from 2005 to 2007. Jeremy’s initial research interest was historical archaeology with a research focus in the African diaspora and Caribbean archaeology. Although the logistics of his project failed, Jeremy shifted his focus to a young biker group in Kalamazoo, Michigan. This particular group of men were in their 20's-30's riding vintage mopeds that were originally manufactured in the early 1970s. According to Jeremy, he was particularly “interested in how people create meaning from artifacts of the past, and what retro and vintage may mean to this particular group.” His interest in how people use things from the past and how they identify with those artifacts in the present led Jeremy to enroll in the applied library science graduate program at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. He was particularly interested in how people perceive history and identities and preserve this for the future. One example given by Jeremy is the way in which descendant communities and genealogists continue to preserve our history and identity by investigating the past.

Jeremy graduated in 2010 and accepted a position as a corporate archivist at the Whirlpool Corporation. Whirlpool was established in Bent Harbor Michigan in 1911, and over the last century grew into an
international corporation. Between 2010-2011, Whirlpool celebrated their centennial anniversary and wanted to preserve their history, artifacts, appliances, and paper records. Jeremy worked with the global marketing team to organize archival material that would be the most useful for the Whirlpool corporation.

Once his temporary position at the Whirlpool Corporation came to an end, Jeremy accepted a special collections archivist position at Texas A & M University Commerce from 2012-2013. Then in 2013, Jeremy took a position as an archivist at the Buffalo State College in New York. Most recently Jeremy accepted a position as Metadata Librarian at his alma mater, the University of Nevada, Reno in January of 2015. One of Jeremy’s responsibilities is to curate library metadata such as non-published materials, special collections, and digital collections, as well as other unique materials. His main focus in this role is to try to standardize these archival resources and make them accessible to the general public. Jeremy and his colleagues are working on an institutional repository for published and unpublished materials along with data sets for public access.

One of Jeremy's projects involved the records of the Western Shoshone Defense Project. These records were donated to the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center by Carrie Dann. The goal of this project was to make the records accessible to the public as a way to inform future generations of the historical legacy, traditions, and rights of the Western Shoshone.

In the Fall of 2015, Jeremy became the Anthropology department’s library liaison. In this position, he uses his experience in Anthropology and knowledge of the library’s collections to help students and faculty find the resources they need for research.

According to Jeremy, the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center offers many services beyond literature including: 3D scanning, ArcGIS, Raspberry Pi (a credit card sized computer developed to teach basic computer science), print circuit boards, virtual reality equipment, and a drone. Additionally, the library has funding to purchase books, media, and even technology for patrons’ (faculty and student) use. While these library purchases are dependent on patron requests and are not always guaranteed, the librarians are always open to providing new materials for the university.

In addition to his responsibilities at the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, Jeremy serves on the UNR Campus Cultural Diversity Board.
with Dr. Louis Forline. Their mission is to “support the academic and social success for all students at the University of Nevada through advisement, leadership development, counseling, student organizations, outreach, and intercultural programming.”

As the Anthropology department liaison Jeremy wants students to “Please use [him] as a resource.” He will work one-on-one with students or student groups. He also offers a brief introduction to the resources offered by the Mathewson-ITC Knowledge Center. Jeremy is excited to become more involved in the Anthropology department. He asks students who are struggling with their research, writing, or need an outside perspective “don’t hesitate to contact me. I am always here to help.” He can be contacted directly at jfloyd@unr.edu. On behalf of BOASgrad, I would like to welcome Jeremy back to the University of Nevada, Reno.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Christopher Morgan
By: Leo Demski

Dr. Christopher Morgan, Assistant Professor and Director of the Graduate program in the Anthropology Department at the University of Nevada-Reno (http://www.unr.edu/anthropology/people/faculty/christopher-morgan) sat down with me recently to talk about his background and interests. He is very erudite and good-natured, with a keen sense of humor and sharp wit. It was a very informal conversation with me furiously scribbling notes as we spoke. The following is the result of that interview:

To begin with, I asked him about his background and schooling.

He a Californian and grew up in southern part of the state. He attended UC-Santa Barbara for his Bachelor’s degree in 1991, double majoring in Cultural Anthropology and Religious Studies. Before declaring his major, he was interested more in non-scholastic pursuits, and cited the many distractions in Santa Barbara for a young person in college. The summer after he declared his major in Anthropology (just
before his junior year), a friend of the family offered him a job in Cultural Resource Management (CRM). Weighing this against the previous summer’s job of house-painting, he decided to give it a try. Although he was originally interested in the more humanistic side of anthropology, it was this CRM background that led him towards a science-based archaeology. He took almost a decade off of academic pursuits after graduating, but continued working in CRM across the western United States. In 1999, he enrolled at UC-Davis to pursue his M.A. and Ph.D. 

**Next, I asked, "When did he know he wanted to be an archaeologist, especially given his cultural anthropology background?"**

He said that while working in CRM, he fought the idea for a long time, trying to leave many times (but not doing so). In the third year of his graduate school program, he had an epiphany and truly committed to archaeology. Coming to this realization was partially by way of letting go of his preconceived ideas of what archaeology was and what it meant. By letting go of what he thought he knew from working in the CRM world, and embracing new ideas and knowledge, he was able to really intellectually engage with archaeology. He especially liked the positive effect that archaeology can have on our understanding of the world, as well as its contributions to the highest levels of anthropological theory.

Before coming to University of Nevada-Reno, he taught at Utah State University for 4 years. This was a good experience, but he found life in rural Utah not exactly his speed, and prefers Reno. While in Utah, he did fieldwork in western Wyoming, which he credits with broadening his horizons for working in western North America, allowing him to better appreciate the Great Basin. He has now been at UNR for 4 years.

**I then asked him about his research interests and theoretical viewpoint.**

He is especially interested in the human behavioral ecology (HBE) of hunter-gatherers, but feels that this perspective should include more nuance. In other words, the near exclusive historic focus on the gastric (food procurement) strategies in HBE can limit investigations into other forms of human behavior. Other aspects that Dr. Morgan examines within the bounds of the ecological approach include kinship, ideology, politics, and social structure. He is also keenly interested in understanding how non-agricultural societies have made the transition...
Field Work Night
(Hosted by Dr. Scott)

Dr. Von Nagy, pictured above, is presenting his summer research to students and faculty at Field Work Night.

Teddy Rodrigue (pictured on left) and Dallin Webb (pictured on right) are enjoying presentations from Field Work Night.

Dr. Morgan works to sedentism, and is actively researching this subject in the field.

**This led to asking what research projects he would like to undertake if funding were not an issue and why.**

He hopes to expand his current program of research, including additional Great Basin high altitude (HA) studies of villages in the White Mountains. Similarly, he would continue examining HA villages in the Argentine Andes, and perform additional research in Mongolia looking at the transition from foraging to pastoralist communities. He did research in Mongolia this past summer, which led to an exciting discovery; his “latest aha moment.” His research team may have found evidence for an in situ switch from hunting strategies to herding in Mongolia, which contradicts the more commonly-held perspective that herding diffused eastward from western and central Asia.

**I then asked him what he sees for the future of anthropology in general.**

He says that anthropology faces big changes (it is not 1920 anymore) in today’s world. The challenge is to maintain relevance as society changes. We are adapting, although maybe not fast enough, but there’s great research happening in the HBE field, which is moving ecologically-based research well beyond subsistence and into the realms of social norms, social learning, and power relationships. Other challenges to the field include finding public funding sources, and dealing with universities being increasingly run as businesses, where "suits, not scholars" are running the show.

**My next question asked about the best (and worst) aspects of his job.**

For Dr. Morgan, the best part of his position is helping students have their “aha moment” when things suddenly fall into place while doing research or working on their thesis/dissertation. The worst is dealing with university level bureaucracy, politics, and the funding situation. He also does not like witnessing the continuing anti-intellectual trend in the United States.
I then asked him about his influences and/or personal heroes.

He told me that his professors in graduate school were and continue to be a big influence, especially Bruce Winterhalder. Outside of anthropology, he likes Kurt Vonnegut (who studied anthropology as a graduate student) especially and sees him as a modern day Mark Twain.

Speaking of the world beyond academia, I asked him about his hobbies.

He said that he enjoys camping, hiking, and exploring the wide open spaces, which is partially why archaeology is so ideal since it often incorporates all these things. He also plays electric guitar and was in a rock band, although they have not been playing much these days. He expressed some regret about this but said that it is okay. He realized there was a direct correlation between increased productivity at work and decreased band time.

Finally, I asked if there was anything else that he wanted to mention.

After a moment of thought, he said that he encourages students to read the graduate student manual and come see him if they have any questions.
Museum Spotlight: South Warner Cave Sandals and Great Basin Obsidian Points

By: Leo Demski

South Warner Cave Sandals (Northern Great Basin)- Multiple Warp Tule variety (700-500 cal. BP) Courtesy of the University of Nevada, Reno Anthropology Museum (Thanks to Aaron Ollivier, Melody Zionch, Dr. Geoffrey Smith) Photo by Leo Demski- CC BY-NC-SA

Great Basin Projectile Points (left to right): Obsidian Great Basin stemmed point (11,000-7,500 C14 BP), CCS Crescent (11,000-7,500 C14 BP), Obsidian Large Side-notched point (8,000-5,000 C14 BP), Obsidian Gatecliff Split Stem point (5,000-2,000 C14 BP), Obsidian Elko Corner-notched point (7,000-1,000 C14 BP), Obsidian Rosegate point (1,000 C14 BP - present), CCS Desert Side-notched point (700 C14 BP - present). Courtesy of the University of Nevada, Reno GBPRU laboratory (Thanks to Aaron Ollivier, Dr. Geoffrey Smith) Photo by Leo Demski- CC BY-NC-SA
Student Spotlight: Laura Wilhelm

By: Teddy Rodrigue - Secretary

Laura Wilhelm is one of our department’s few cultural anthropology doctoral students. Currently, she is working on finishing her dissertation, entitled: “It’s not a collective; it’s a personal experience that happens to be shared...”: How Philosophical Systems of Individualism are Sustained through Masonic Collaboration.

In 2005, Laura graduated with a Bachelor of Science in the Interdisciplinary Program in Social Science from Florida State University in the Republic of Panama. After graduating, she became a full time high school history teacher at the International School of Panama. She also became the director of the school’s Model United Nations debate program. After three years of working as a teacher, Laura decided that she wanted to pursue an advanced degree, but she did not immediately know what field she wanted to study. Due to an interest in primate behavior, she initially considered studying physical anthropology. However, Laura decided to focus on cultural anthropology due to her previous social science background. “Now, I can not imagine that any other field would be better suited to my proclivities, abilities, and worldview” she said.

Laura had originally planned to continue her master’s research on the Panama Canal Zone for her dissertation, however, she discovered an interest in Freemasonry that inspired her current dissertation work. It was after participating in a Masonic celebration during a trip to Colombia and another Masonic event in Reno that influenced her decision to shift the focus of her research. “I found Freemasonry to be profoundly anthropologically interesting and relevant,” she noted. Laura also noted that Freemasonry has been understudied within anthropology, which provides her an opportunity to add to the current academic dialogue. For her research, she decided to take an ‘activity-based approach’ (a term coined by anthropologist Jonathan Marion) which looks at culture found in groups who shared a particular activity rather than the more traditional focus on groups sharing a place or location. In her studies, Laura makes it clear that she is not seeking to provide ‘the’ answer but rather she “hope[s] to provide ‘an’ answer to the question of Freemasonry; as an activity, as a
way of life, and as a sustaining philosophical system of individualism." Laura also cites a conversation with Dr. Marion for this idea of looking for ‘an’ answer versus ‘the’ answer.

After finishing her doctorate, Laura plans to remain in the Reno area. Laura hopes to combine her previous experiences both in social sciences and in anthropology to her future endeavors. She feels that her education and experience have prepared her for a number of different career opportunities. “I will continue to be attentive to opportunities which are well-suited to my strengths and interests, and to which my anthropological training would be an asset.”

Laura is currently writing her dissertation, and she plans to defend during the Spring semester. Please stay tuned for her defense date.

**Student Spotlight:**

**Adam Calkins**

*By: Lauren Walkling*

Adam Calkins graduated from Eastern Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology. Currently, he is a second year Masters student in our department, and his Masters thesis is focused on examining the possibility of using three-dimensional modeling and testing the viability of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to provide a way to monitor and examine landscapes within the archaeological context. UAVs may be used as a photogrammetric method to allow archaeologists to survey for features like pits, can scatters, house features; along with providing a permanent photographic record of an archaeological site. This new technology could be used to not only interpret landscape data, but could be used to build three-dimensional representations of archaeological sites.

The process of using UAVs includes both determining the type of flight and adjusting for other external factors. There are two types of UAV
flights: manual and autonomous mode. Manual flight is when an operator actively controls the UAV device; whereas autonomous mode is automatic (i.e. autopilot). When using the autonomous mode, a flight path is programmed using an application on a tablet computer. The UAV will follow this flight path and systematically collect the data with Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR).

One factor that affects the UAV aerodynamic response is the Feet Above Sea Level (FASL). The UAV needs to be calibrated to the FASL since it not only affects flight patterns, but also its battery life. Although the UAV is calibrated, crashes and sporadic path changes are also potential risks. Adam would also like to note, “Since the Federal Aviation Administration does not allow for the commercial use of UAVs, the anthropology department has only used them for research purposes. No one involved in any of the [following] projects has received any financial compensation for the use of UAVs.”

Adam conducted two pilot studies using UAVs on two archaeological surveys. Adam's first project, in collaboration with Dr. Chris Von Nagy, was to conduct an aerial survey of Silver Terrace Cemetery in Virginia City, Nevada. The purpose of this project was to test the viability of using UAVs to capture three-dimensional data on the Silver City Terrace Cemetery to create several 3D landscape representations. After collecting landscape data, Dr. Von Nagy and Adam analyzed the accuracy of their models and provided the level of detail needed for their investigation.

Adam also worked on a project in association with the Church of Latter-Day Saints in Nauvoo, Illinois. His main focus was to find buried house foundations. Although the foundations cannot be seen from the models that Adam created, the three-dimensional model can be overlaid on Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) data using geographical information system (GIS) to provide an accurate replica of the landscape.

Adam’s thesis centers on the mining town of Aurora, Nevada, in order to test the UAV’s capability to capture data based on differing landscapes. Adam is testing three varying landscapes within historic Aurora: 1) flat, 2) heavily sloped but devoid of vegetation, and 3) both heavily sloped and vegetated. After collecting data, Adam hopes that this research will highlight the three-dimensional modeling software and allow him to demonstrate the possibilities of mapping various terrain.

Adam’s current work is exciting and very promising as a new method for archaeological data collection. He has recently begun a
collaborative project with the Mechanical Engineering Department at the University of Nevada-Reno. Through this collaboration, both parties are designing and building larger UAVs with a higher carrying capacity, looking into the possibility of producing UAVs with LiDAR, High Resolution Imagery and Multispectral Imagery, and testing UAVs on different landscapes to improve data collection. These UAVs will then be employed on various archaeological projects, testing their viability as an archaeological tool. The testing and developmental process is expected to take place over the next several years. The goal of this collaborative project is to explore the many new measurement techniques and sensors that can be incorporated into UAV platforms, which then can be used to measure archaeological sites. For those interested in UAVs or want to know more about Adam’s current research, you can contact him through email at adamcalkins10@nevada.unr.edu.
Recent Departmental Publications


Field School Opportunities

With Our Graduate Students:

The University of Nevada-Sequoia National Forest

Summer 2016
Dave Harvey • dharvey@unr.edu

The Slavia Project-Poland

Jun 27-20, 2016
Jul 21-Aug 13, 2016
www.slavia.org
Dr. Marek Polcyn • fieldwork@slavia.org or
Victoria Swenson • vswenson@unr.edu

Other Opportunities:

Isla Mujeres Ethnographic Field School-Mexico

Summer 2016
www.anthrofieldschool.com
Dr. Todd Pierce • info@anthrofieldschool.com

Southern Transylvania Project-Transylvania

Summer 2016
www.archaeotek-archaeology.org
Andre Gonciar • archaeology@archaeotek.org

Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance Project-Belize

May-Jul 2016
www.bvar.org
Myka Schwanke • bvararchaeology@gmail.com
FAC Short Courses-Tennessee

May-Jul 2016
www.fac.utk.edu/courses
Dr. Giovanna Vidoli • gvidoli@utk.edu

Ecuador Ethnographic Field School-Ecuador

www.fau.edu/anthro/ethnfield
Dr. Michael Harris • mharris@fau.edu

Mercyhurst Forensic Anthropology Short Courses-Pennsylvania

Jun-Jul 2016
www.mai.mercyhurst.edu/applied-forensic-sciences/forensic-anthropology-summer-short-courses
Kathi Staaf • kstaaf@mercyhurst.edu

The Adelphi University-Alaska

Jul 5-Aug 5, 2016
www.anthropology.adelphi.edu/explore/field-research-and-study-abroad/
Dr. Brian Wygal • bwyal@adelphi.edu

Texas State University Forensic Workshops-Texas

Throughout 2016
www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/workshops
Sophia Maroudas • FACTS@txstate.edu
Committee Announcements

Funding Committee
Chris Maier • cmaier@nevada.unr.edu
The funding committee is looking for any new members. We will need lots of help searching for donations for the Boasian Bash. As a reminder, the Boasian Bash is on April 30th, 2016. Contact Chris Maier if you have any questions or if you have suggestions for future fundraisers.

Journalism Committee
Victoria Swenson • vswenson@unr.edu
If you have any ideas or comments for the Spring 2016 newsletter, the Journalism Committee requests that they be sent, as soon as possible.

Lecture Committee
Dave Harvey • dharvey@unr.edu
Kirk Schmitz • kjschmitz@unr.edu
The lecture committee is deciding on our next club sponsored speaker. They have also finalized the schedule for Spring 2016 Brown Bag Lecture Series. If you have suggestions for the Fall 2016 Brown Bag Lecture Series, please contact Dave Harvey or Kirk Schmitz.

Professionalism Committee
Caulder Tempel • ctempel@nevada.unr.edu
If you have not sent in a photograph or summary for your profile online, the professionalism committee requests that they be sent, as soon as possible.

Service Committee
Amanda Rankin • arankin@nevada.unr.edu
The service committee has concluded all semester service projects. Thanks to everyone who donated to our clothing drive! It was a great success! Please stay tuned for more information on our Spring 2016 service events.