

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS Anthropology News

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From the Chair The fall 2014 issue of The University of Memphis *Anthropology News* focused on faculty updates, awards and Dr. Bennett's retirement celebrations. This spring, we feature some of our outstanding students and alumni. Our program's national reputation reflects the many accomplishments of our graduates, who do so much to improve community health, development, and wellbeing. Their success has also contributed to a remarkable 96% rate of graduate placement in practitioner-relevant jobs and/or or post-MA studies at prestigious institutions. Check out the recent work of some current graduate students and recent alumni and you'll agree that they make a world of difference.

Taylor Arnold (MA May 2015) received a prestigious OHIP (Occupational Health Internship Program) fellowship through the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics. His summer 2014 award served as a practicum that offered practical experience in occupational safety at the National Farm Medicine Center (NPMC). He worked in Marshfield, Wis. on *Seguridad en las Lecherías*, testing culturally appropriate occupational safety and health training for immigrant dairy workers. *Seguridad* is a collaboration of the Farm Center, Migrant Clinicians Network and the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center, funded through a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health grant. Taylor reports, "We were able to talk to numerous Hispanic



workers, participate in safety training, and sit in on interviews and meetings with farm owners. Hearing multiple perspectives and having access to the various facets of the industry allowed us a much more nuanced view of the worlds of agriculture and occupational safety and health, and the complexities involved in merging the two worlds. It opened our eyes to the way that food is produced and the labor-intensive tasks involved. Working with both Hispanic laborers and farm owners helped put a face to the industry. We have a renewed respect for the people that work hard and take great risks in order to put food on the table."

Alicia Clark (MA May 2015) completed a practicum with the grassroots organization Memphis Teen Vision in summer and fall 2014. The coalition supports health outcomes for teen pregnancy and parenting. She collaborated with the coalition's three working groups on separate projects including a parenting resource directory, research support for comprehensive sex education policy, and tools to support teen-friendly clinics. Alicia also continued work on two program evaluation grants at the Center for Research on Women, contributing to the production of two program evaluations on maternal and child health.

Theo Davies (MA December 2014) completed a practicum with Green Leaf Learning Farm. He collaborated on a survey among residents and community members in the Soulsville neighborhood, to gauge their potential involvement in Green Leaf programming and urban farming. The project also included focus groups to plan Green Leaf programming.

Marie Dennon (MA May 2015) has already been hired by The Kitchen Community (TKC) based on her practicum. The grassroots organization's mission is to create community through food. Marie will advance this mission in Memphis by building 100 school-based Learning Gardens. She will work with the Education Team to develop workshops for teachers and garden teams, training them to incorporate the Learning Gardens into classroom experiences. Marie will also develop partnerships to connect other grassroots organizations, nonprofit agencies, institutions, and stakeholders to the Learning Gardens.

Jenessa Gebers (MA May 2015) completed her practicum with Uganda Village Project in summer 2014. She worked in rural Iganga District, Uganda, with an interdisciplinary team which focused on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). The team visited several villages, conducting needs assessments, collaborated with Water & Sanitation Committee and Village Health Teams, facilitated meetings between community members and the District Water Office, and taught WASH in schools. Jenessa also conducted research on barriers to water access, health problems linked to limited access, and the effectiveness of community-based solutions. She plans to present her findings at the SfAA Meetings in March 2015.



Lauren Haley (MA May 2015) conducted her practicum at the VA Hospital and is working on a telephone support group for spouses of deployed soldiers, offering education, skills building, stress management techniques, and resources and support. Lauren aided data collection to determine participants' perceptions of the project, and analyzed results from a 2012 project called Spouse READI, which helped with spousal reintegration as service members returned home from deployment..

Kevin Newton (MA May 2015) worked through a consultancy agency with a major research hospital in Memphis, to identify major donors. Research included intercept interviews with supporters and non-supporters, documenting and analyzing this data for common characteristics within groups of interviewees. Findings identified research hospital supporters and non-supporters for three different charity fitness events, and guidance to increase donations and convert some non-supporting personas into supporters. One tangible implementation was a combined fitness training and donation program for one of the events researched.

Steven Payne (MA December 2015) published an article on the Kellogg's Factory lockout in *Jacobin Magazine* (visit <https://www.jacobinmag.com/2014/11/accumulation-by-lockout/>). Steve



also helped the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) to unionize adjunct professors at private universities. Steve reports, "My dad was an adjunct while I was growing up, so I was already aware how difficult a job it was. I was shocked to learn some statistics about higher education - more than 50% of faculty are now part time, and wages are

very low. Professors at one school I worked at earned less than the unionized janitors on campus. Benefits are non-existent. At one school where we organized, adjuncts were the only group of people on campus who were not allowed to use the campus gym - something the university president changed once the union campaign began! Most adjuncts don't have offices, instead working out of their cars, as they rush from one university to another to teach." Steve worked as a researcher on the organizing campaigns, providing background information and support for a campaign.

Sanne Roijmans (MA December 2014) conducted a practicum at strategic business growth firm Southern Growth Studio. Sanne worked as an Ethnographic Researcher on a marketing strategy for a major children's research hospital. Her multidisciplinary team explored fundraising through fitness events, identifying key donors and tangible and innovative solutions to increase donations. Research was modeled after the Design Thinking Method used in the world of innovation and design. The practicum also allowed her to visit New Orleans, Austin, and Nashville. Upon graduation Sanne was hired by St. Jude/ALSACs, based on her donor expertise.

Kyle Simpson (MA May 2015) worked on a study sponsored by The Nature Conservancy in Tennessee, aimed at understanding public perceptions of forest health and common forest management techniques such as herbicide use and prescribed burning in urban natural areas. The project focused on two state natural areas in Memphis: The Old Forest at Overton Park and the Lucius Burch Jr. State Natural Area at Shelby Farms Park. Each area is threatened by invasive plants or non-native plants that can outcompete native plants and "choke out" the forest. The removal of these plants is considered crucial to protecting the future health of the natural areas. Kyle also spent summer 2014 writing a forest management best practices report for The Nature Conservancy. The report was based in part on telephone interviews with park managers and ecologists at Forest Park in St. Louis, MO and Radnor Lake State Natural Area in Nashville, TN. To understand views about nature, forest health, and the removal of invasive species, Kyle also surveyed each park and interviewed stakeholders. He plans to add focus groups with park user and advocacy groups.



Carolyn Trimble (MA Dec. 2015) completed a summer 2014 practicum to empower a historically marginalized South Memphis community to preserve historic Mt. Carmel and Hollywood Cemeteries. Her model was the Florida Public Archaeology Network Cemetery Resource Protection Training to help local volunteers preserve, clean, maintain, and repair historic gravestones. She also assisted a grassroots community group to form a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.

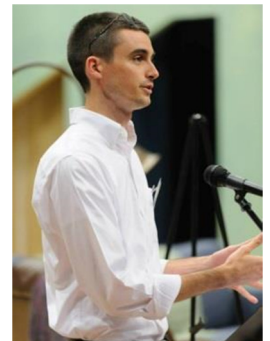
Kay Zagrodny (MA May 2015) is completing a practicum with Friends For Life. She is evaluating the short- and long-term impacts of their food pantry on the health and well-being of people living with HIV/AIDS, supporting pantry sustainability.

CH Nash Museum at Chucalisca recently hosted its fifth AmeriCorps team, which upgraded hands-on exhibits for the Brister Archaeology Discovery Lab (right):



Students enrolled in Dr. Robert Connolly's fall 2014 Museum Practices seminar worked on projects for the new Museo de Hualcayán in Peru. Projects were based on the Peruvian community's expressed needs. See: <http://wp.me/pJf2X-1cS>.

Kenny Latta (MA May 2014) was hired as a community mobilizer for the Center for Transforming Communities (CTC). The nonprofit community development agency works in various neighborhoods throughout the Memphis metro area. As a community mobilizer, Kenny divides his time between direct engagement with CTC community partners, research and evaluation of CTC programs, and fundraising and development to support CTC and its work.



Melina Magsumbol (MA 2004) is Senior Research Fellow at the Public Health Foundation of India. Her pilot study of birth outcomes and air pollution was documented in the *Times of India*, India's highest-circulating English language paper. PHFI is also working with the Ministry of Health to collate evidence of air pollution's impact on health. Read more at http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/45379136.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Traci Ruhland Petty (MA 2013) is a Research Associate in the Department of Psychology at the University of Missouri - Kansas City. She assists the Community Health Research Group on a series of projects, and is currently working on two CBPR grant projects that focus on reducing health disparities in the African American community using church-based, multilevel health promotion interventions.

Amy Santee (MA 2011) co-edited a volume in the journal *Practicing Anthropology* on "Practicing Anthropology in the Private Sector," which featured articles by Amy and alum **Allison Hennie** (MA 2011). Read more about the issue at <http://sfaa.metapress.com/content/kp0kt55053p1/?p=037853f52f284bfb9d138cd8de6b8817&pi=0>

Congratulations to December 2014 MA graduates Carolyn Trimble, Sanne Roijmans, Cole Bradley, and Theo Davies.

