

# Anthropology Newsletter

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## Special points of interest:

- Anthropology student, invited to Washington in December to speak at the American Anthropological Association's Meetings.
- Professor made an honorary member of the Eastern Woodlands Métis Nation of Nova Scotia
- Summer Archaeological Field School in Belize

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## Message from the Head, Dr. Robert Adlam

This Newsletter features a number of important developments within the Department. Principal among these has been funding of a major new research initiative under the direction of Dr. Patricia Kelly-Spurles (Anthropology) and Dr. Judith Doyle (Sociology). The project, which focuses on the experiences of mothering, motherhood, and mothers has received major support through a CIHR operating grant. This combined with support through the New Brunswick Medical Research Fund, the CIHR Regional Partnership Program, and support from Mount Allison University should sustain work in this important new area of research over the next

number of years.

The Department has received approval for a **new 4000 level course** entitled: **Globalization and Social Change**. The course, which builds on theory and perspectives introduced in a number of lower level courses in the program as well as through our 3800 ethnography series, explores the relationship between globalization, inequality and poverty, the fate of cultural diversity in a globalizing world, as well as issues of gender, ethnicity, the environment, social justice, and human rights.

In partnership with the Department of Continuous Learning,

the Anthropology Department is sponsoring an **Archaeological Field School in Belize** this summer. Under the directorship of Dr. Grant Aylesworth, the program aims to provide hands on experience in the field archaeology. Find out more on page 4.

Finally, congratulations are in order for Dr. Kelly-Spurles who has received both tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Dr. Kelly-Spurles, who joined the Department in 2002, has garnered the support of faculty and students alike through her commitment to teaching excellence and her careful attention to new avenues of research. Well done Patricia!

## Turmoil on the Miramichi – Reflections on a summer of fieldwork

By Michael Carey

This summer's research provided a unique opportunity for Mount Allison's Anthropology Department to develop closer ties to fishing communities on New Brunswick's northeast coast.

Through funding from the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Subcommittee of the Research and Creative Activity Committee and under the direction of Dr. Robert Adlam, I was able to spend the summer participating in one of Canada's most tumultuous fisheries –

the lobster fishery of the Miramichi Bay area.

Splitting my time between the communities of Tabusintac and Neguac-Burnt Church, camping along the estuary by night and hauling traps/conducting inter-

views by day – a clear picture of the politically charged region came into view.

With the ruling in Marshall of 1999, Mi'kmaq effectively gained a right to a 'moderate livelihood' from fishing. Since then the

Miramichi fishery has had to accommodate a growing number of fishing boats competing for lobster catches in a fishery where hauls have already been dropping since the mid 1990s. Back in 2000 clashes between new arrivals from Burnt Church (Esgenoopetitj) and established Euro-Canadian fishers continued on page 2



## Mother and Baby Research Group



**By Rian Lougheed-Smith**

The Mother and Baby Research Group (MABRG), led by Sociology professor Judith Doyle and Anthropology professor Patricia Kelly-Spurles, is a research group that uses qualitative

methodology to better understand the culture, society, and attitudes surrounding the experiences of mothering, motherhood, and mothers. The current project of the MABRG looks at the child feeding decisions of women in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, both regions with lower than average initiation and exclusive breastfeeding rates than the rest of Canada and hence areas of special interest.

Participants are interviewed during the third trimester of the pregnancy, and then again throughout the first six months of their child's life, or until cessation of breastfeeding. A variety of qualitative techniques are used. Participants create photo

journals and audio diaries that are then incorporated in interviews providing us with in-the-moment self-directed accounts of women's experience. While the demographic and psychological characteristics of women who wean early have been well described, there have been few ethnographic or narrative accounts of the experience from these women's point of view. Few Canadian studies have employed semi-structured qualitative interviews with mothers prior to childbirth and during the breastfeeding period, and none that we have identified have employed this methodology in conjunction with visual and audio diaries.

*Continued on page 3.*

## Turmoil on the Miramichi – continued

led to the damage of property, sixteen arrests, and numerous physical injuries (including a fisheries officer).

This spirit of competition and cutthroat territoriality still lives on in 2007, as fishers from the communities of Neguac-Burnt Church and Tabusintac cut lines, make threats, and carry out

occasional nautical attacks on each other. Fisheries and Oceans Canada throughout the fishing season attempted to mediate a solution between the two sides, only to be met with further violence as fishers, desperate to protect their resource and way of life, compete viciously for a dwindling resource. The paradox is that this culture of violence has led to the damage of expensive equipment and loss of gear (thousands of traps this season alone), further amplifying the desperation and financial woes of fishers.

Living intimately with these communities revealed a sharper image of how these fishers conceive of themselves and their resource. Long hours of salty work on rugged seas are balanced by lobster feasts around campfires, sweatlodges on the reserve, and larger than life tales

spun by old sea captains. What is being viciously fought for by both sides is the continuation of a way of life, a tradition to pass down to younger generations who, as long as the lobster remain, will one day wrestle a living from these same turbulent waters.

Michael pictured (right) at the **Oceans Management Research Network Conference**, at the University of Ottawa, October 2007. In addition to presenting a paper: *What Happens on the Water Stays on the Water*, Michael also submitted material to a 'photo contest' held as part of the Conference. Michael's photo is in the top right hand corner - showing the fishing buoys.



## Traveling to Washington to talk about traveling to the spirit world

Katharine Rae Zywert, Mount Allison University Anthropology student, was invited to Washington in December to speak at the American Anthropological Association's (AAA) 106th annual Meetings. She delivered her paper, *The Shaman's drum in Central Asia: Reflecting and affecting meaning and connection*.

The AAA, which was founded in 1902, has over 10,000 members world-wide. Their annual meetings attract over 5,000 participants, who attend over 300 sessions. "It was an intense experience to be around that many anthropologists, all talking the same language," Katharine said. "It was also a celebrity watch for me. I was excited to see so many of the big names in anthropology present their work, people whose papers I have read for my classes over my time in anthropology at Mount Allison."

"It was a great honour for Katharine to be invited to

speak, especially as an undergraduate student. It is a reflection of the quality of her work," said anthropology professor, Dr. Marilyn Walker. Dr. Walker also presented her own work at the conference, *My Drum is My Ride: The Shaman's Tool Kit in Northern Mongolia*.

Katharine's review paper goes beyond the traditional symbolic interpretation of the Shaman's drum to talk about the drum as an active agent in shamanic culture and also considers how the drum affects the interconnections between shamanic peoples and their social, physical, and metaphysical world. A fourth-year Honours student from Waterloo, she based much of her paper on the work of Dr. Walker.

"Scholars show how the drum can be studied as an active element of a Shaman's life that possesses its own aliveness and conveys and creates meaning. In Shamanic worldviews, the drum connects shamans to



their physical, social, and metaphysical environments," Katharine explains. "The Shaman can bring knowledge from the spirit world but can also take knowledge of the community back. In this way the drum contributes to the development or "becoming" of the shaman."

Katharine's trip was funded by the Dean of Social Sciences and the Students' Administrative Council's Academic Enrichment Fund.

**"I was excited to see so many of the big names in anthropology present their work, people whose papers I have read for my classes ..."**

## Mother and Baby Research Group continued

The research group has hired three research assistants to work on the project, two from Mount Allison's Anthropology department, providing an opportunity for students to gain meaningful research experience in their field.

Students are gaining experience in a range of innovative qualitative methods as well as in researching about a topic that contributes to anthropological understandings of mothering and influences public health strategies.

The project, which began recruiting participants in the summer of 2007, is well underway, currently working with seven women in the area as well as community groups and is looking for other interested participants.

If you have questions about the research being conducted by

**"...providing an opportunity for students to gain meaningful research experience in their field."**

the Mothers and Babies Research Group, or would like to participate, please contact them at [mabrg@mta.ca](mailto:mabrg@mta.ca), or by phone at (506) 364-2631.



## Dr. Robert Adlam presents

Dr. Robert Adlam made a joint presentation with Anthropology student, Michael Carey entitled: *Community-based Management and the Negotiation of Competing Claims to a 'Common Property Resource'* in June in Sackville. They presented at the workshop "First Nations and Natural Resources: Comparing Experiences in New Zealand and New Brunswick." The following day they accompanied one of the participants, Garth Cant, from the University of Canterbury in New Zealand, and Dr. Rob Summerby-Murray, on a tour through the communities of Ne-guac-Burnt Church and Tabusintac-Wishart Point to talk with fishermen.



In October Dr. Adlam presented a paper entitled: *Traps of Contention: Moral Dilemmas in an East Coast Lobster Fishery* at the Oceans Management Research Network Conference, in Ottawa.



The Anthropology Department in conjunction with the Department of Continuous Learning is offering an Archaeological Field School in Belize. During this unique program, students will spend four weeks living and working in a professional archaeological camp in northwestern Belize. This is an intense program, during which students will spend six days/week excavating and participating in related activities at the ancient Maya site of La Milpa.

The program is an experience that will be remembered for years to come as it provides not only a tremendous learning

Finally Dr. Adlam has been invited to join the Executive of the **Canadian Anthropology Society/Societe canadienne [CASCA]** and will serve as treasurer on the Executive beginning in May.



## Mount Allison Archaeological Field School in Belize

experience but an opportunity for personal growth and exposure to the culture of the Latin American/Caribbean area.

The program includes a two-part field course and a field laboratory course (totaling nine credit hours); students must enroll in all three courses. These courses are practical, hands-on experiences of real excavation and basic artifact processing and cataloguing.

There will be field trips to ancient Maya sites outside the research area, including a planned trip to Lamanai on the New River Lagoon. At the end

of the program, a four-night trip is planned to Tikal, Guatemala and San Pedro, Ambergris Caye. This will involve two nights at the island town of Flores and two nights on Ambergris Caye.

For more information visit the Anthropology web site at <http://www.mta.ca/faculty/socsci/anthro/index.html>

Registration forms are available from MTA Continuous Learning.

Phone: 506-364-2266

E-mail:

[Cont\\_learning@mta.ca](mailto:Cont_learning@mta.ca)

## Factors Affecting Avian Influenza in Indonesia

A paper written by Anthropology student Isabel Gertler was published in the Fourth Edition of the *Atlantic International Studies Journal (ATLIS)*. The paper is entitled *A Focus on Factors Affecting Avian Influenza in Indonesia*. The research was done for Dr. Marilyn Walker's Southeast Asia ethnography course.

Isabel said, "This paper looks at the main features within Indonesia which have predisposed the country to avian influenza infection. I examine cultural traditions and organization, such as the prevalence of

small-scale poultry farming, trading, and the variety of different peoples who live in the country. I also explain how the government of Indonesia initially responded to bird flu infection, as well as their current and on-going plans. Then I discuss through comparison how Thailand, Vietnam and most recently Laos have managed bird and human infection. Finally, I end by outlining some strategies the Indonesian government and international world should adopt in response to avian influenza."

You can read the full paper

online here: [http://www.mta.ca/atlis/web\\_journal.pdf](http://www.mta.ca/atlis/web_journal.pdf)

The Atlantic International Studies Organization (ATLIS) was created to foster informed undergraduate participation in international issues through scholarship and social and political involvement. ATLIS is a partner with the Rights and Democracy Youth Network, and promotes human rights, democracy, and a concept of responsible global citizenship. To learn more visit: <http://www.mta.ca/atlis/about.html>



## Dr. Walker made member of Eastern Woodlands Métis

Dr. Marilyn Walker was made an honorary member of the Eastern Woodlands Métis Nation of Nova Scotia in December during a ceremony conducted in one of her classes, Intro to

Anthropology. The ceremony was conducted by Emile Gautreau, assisted by Blair Léger, and awarded by Mary Lou Parker, Chief/Elder. The honour was awarded

because of Dr. Walker's long-term commitment to teaching indigenous studies. Mount A President Robert Campbell is also hosting a ceremony and reception celebrating this event in March.

**"...people could not believe that we were not graduate students based on our work."**

## Students present research at APALA

Last January Emily Crocco and Guy Hermanson presented their research at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Anthropology, Physical Anthropology, Linguistic and Archaeology (APALA) student conference in Manitoba.

Hermanson, who is in his fourth year, presented a paper entitled *Ethnohistorical Sites and Archaeological Diligence: Locating the Church of St. Charles and Colonel Winslow's Camp at Grand Pré*. He has spent several years investigating an Acadian site in Grand Pré whose inhabitants became part of the Acadian expulsion.

Using historical documents, oral accounts, artifacts, stratigraphy, remote sensing, and

archival research, Hermanson helped to locate and describe the former Church and the dimensions of Winslow's military camp.

Crocco, from Woodstock, New Brunswick, presented her work on the formation of identity within the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community.

According to Crocco "In spite of how often it is talked about and how it is linked with personal struggle, I've learned that the concept of identity is a fairly ambiguous one."

Both Crocco and Hermanson found the conference a positive experience. Crocco said "I was surprised that we were some

of the only undergraduates presenting papers. In fact, people could not believe that we were not graduate students based on our work, which was very complimentary."

Hermanson added, "I could not overlook this opportunity to share the insights and the theory behind my conclusions. It gave me the opportunity to learn from others but also to interest other students and researchers in my work in an academic setting."

The students had their papers published by the Manitoba Anthropology Society.



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**The Lessons Stratigraphy Can Reveal**



**By Guy Hermanson**

Last January I gave a lecture and a class assignment to the Introductory Anthropology course based on work I have done in archaeology in Nova Scotia. When Dr. Adlam suggested I do this, I thought how exciting it was to have this opportunity.

In 2004 I became involved with the archaeology excavations at Grand Pré in Wolfville when I attended a field school put on by Saint Mary's University and taught by Jonathan

Fowler. The Grand Pré National Historic Site Field School provided all the inspiration and training I needed to gain future work. I also joined the Nova Scotia Archaeology Society as Secretary and through lectures and networking I attained further work experience.

For the class I prepared a short twenty-minute lecture explaining the Grand Pre research and focused on what stratigraphy can reveal about an archaeological site. The class of 125 students then completed an assignment on stratigraphy designed to teach them how to identify and date artifacts found in various strata or layers of soil. The students also learned some important vocabulary and I showed them some actual artifacts that I brought in as display items.

Teaching archaeology to first-year students is very important. I can remember being in university and not knowing what I would do when I finished. Most people do not understand what archaeologists really do or how they do it. From my lecture the students gathered that fieldwork is complicated and demanding at times. However, I also explained that much of what we do takes place in the lab, identifying, and cataloguing artifacts or at the archives, doing historical research. I hope my lecture inspires some to pursue the discipline of archaeology. With the discovery of new sites and the potential for solving old mysteries, archaeology in the Maritimes can be a rewarding career.

**News from the Anthro Society**

The Anthropology Society had another successful semester. We had a potluck for the faculty and students to kick off the year, and we also had a drumming workshop organized with the help of Dr. Walker.

We are planning to have the ever popular henna workshop with the help of Dr Kelly-Spurles again this semester, as well as a cross cultural workshop. Some other activities are still in the works, so stay tuned.

As usual we have some fabulous people involved in the

society and we're looking



forward to a happy and anthropological 2008! If anyone is interested in participating in the society or any of our

events, contact [righds@mta.ca](mailto:righds@mta.ca) or [litrnbl@mta.ca](mailto:litrnbl@mta.ca). People can also join our Facebook group for information on upcoming events or to contact us.

Laura Turnbull and  
Rian Loughed-Smith