



## Alumni Newsletter of the IU Department of Anthropology

# PROCESS

College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association

Spring 2012

### Professor Paula Ben-Amos Girshick on to New Projects



Professor Paula Ben-Amos Girshick has decided to retire from teaching after a twenty nine-year career with the Anthropology Department at Indiana University to devote more time for her research. In this issue of the Process, we want to celebrate Professor Girshick, one of the most dedicated and beloved professors of the department, and take a look at her lifetime achievements as a pioneer in the anthropology of art.

As a specialist of the anthropology of art, Girshick's principal areas of concern have been (1) the nature, symbolism, and history of the art of the Edo Kingdom of Benin, Nigeria, (2) the social history of the art world in South Africa, and (3) the history and theory of the arts in anthropology. When she first began her scholarly research, there were few intensive local studies of visual art in Africa and still fewer attempts to understand its creation independent of Western assumptions. Research on African aesthetics, for example, mainly consisted of showing photographs of museum objects to people who had never seen photographs, never viewed their creations in a museum, and never attempted to rank them in a hierarchy of value. Western biases of this kind pervaded the study of African art on every level. Early on, Girshick determined that only through the systematic exploration of the art of one African culture could she begin to pursue the more general question about the nature and role of art in non-Western societies. This decision led to extended periods of field research, since it is through fieldwork that one can study at first hand the workings of an art tradition and its meanings. The brass and ivory sculptures of the Benin Kingdom are among the best known and most discussed art forms in the literature on African art. At the time that Girshick began her work in Benin, however, the vast majority of these studies were concerned with the formal problems of establishing a style chronology and tracing influences from outside Benin.

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### Meet the Women behind the Scenes of the Anthropology Department

Most people may not know very much about the Anthropology Office's members Agatha, Ania, Debra, Jena, Linda, and Susie, but they are the ones who work with great experience, commitment and enthusiasm to make sure that our department runs smoothly. This issue of Process is proud to introduce you to these six smart, dedicated, interesting, and fun women who actually make possible getting over the administrative and bureaucratic procedures. Each of these six women is responsible for different tasks but all of them share one thing: they see the department as their family rather than a work place and they strive for achieving the best for its members.



From left to right: Linda Barchet, Agatha Wong, Susie Bernhardt, Ania Peczkalska, and Debra Wilkerson (Jena Hanes not present)

**Linda Barchet** has been the Administrative Assistant and Fiscal Officer of the Department since 2005. Along with being responsible for the efficient operation of the departmental administrative office and supervision of staff, Linda must stay abreast of the changes in university policies and procedures affecting the department. She serves as the liaison with the College of Arts and Sciences in areas such as funding transfers, verification of faculty teaching loads/leaves, and AI allotments.

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### Professor Virginia J. Vitzthum Elected AAAS Fellow

Professor Virginia J. Vitzthum (Department of Anthropology and The Kinsey Institute) has been elected Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). This is a recognition of Prof Vitzthum's outstanding contributions to anthropology, particularly for her evolutionary models of women's reproductive functioning and for international work bridging science and policy. The tradition of AAAS Fellows dates to 1874 and represents an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers. New Fellows will be presented with an official certificate and a gold and blue (representing science and engineering, respectively) rosette pin on Saturday, Feb. 18, at the AAAS Fellows Forum during the 2012 AAAS Annual Meeting in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Congratulations Virginia!



(Photo courtesy of Kevin Atkins)

## AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

### Letter from the Chair: People Who Make a Difference

This is a special issue of Process! It gives attention to a special group of colleagues working at the heart of the department, our incredible staff. We are also celebrating the outstanding career of Prof Paula Girshick and her dedication to the department for the last three decades. Paula is an example of collegiality and commitment to the department, always ready to participate, actively engaged with departmental services and mentoring of students and new faculty, always calling for the highest academic standards. We are privileged to continue to have her as an active member of the IUB anthropology community. Each issue of Process gives us a glimpse of the success of many faculty members and students, a sample of the incredible research and teaching productivity of this community. We congratulate Prof Virginia Vitzthum for her election to the prestigious group of fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). We also congratulate the many successes in fellowships, publications, and research achievements of our graduate and undergraduate students. We are pleased to welcome a new faculty member, Prof Ling-yu Hung, who joined the faculty this past January. She brings new areas of expertise to the department expanding our archaeology program to East Asia and brings new courses and research projects to work in collaboration with colleagues and students. She is also a member of the Department of East Asia Languages and Cultures (EALC). We welcome our new staff colleague Agatha Lay Hee Wong, who in a short time has filled with grace an important role in the office.

The department has a special staff whose commitment is a key part of the foundation of the anthropology community on campus and beyond. They make sure that we walk into a familiar and friendly environment everyday; their competence provides assurance that every faculty and student will receive the support they need. They are great friends who are ready to comfort us during times of stress and to stay that extra hour to make sure our needs are covered.

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### Recent Faculty Publications

The Anthropology Department faculty is prolific. In the last year, the faculty published over 160 books, articles and chapters. Here is just a small sampling of recent volumes.

*Becoming An Ancestor: The Isthmus Zapotec Way of Death*, Anya P. Royce. SUNY Press.



*Antropologia Sztuk Widowiskowych: Artyzm, Wirtuozeria, I Interpretacja w Perspektywie Miedzykulturowej*, Anya P. Royce. Warsaw University Press.



*Residential Burial: A Multiregional Exploration*, edited by Ron L. Adams and Stacie M. King. Wiley-Blackwell.



*Crónicas Culturales: Investigaciones de Campo a Largo Plazo en Antropología*, edited by Robert V. Kemper and Anya P. Royce. Universidad Iberoamericana and Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social.



*Queer Indigenous Studies: Critical Interventions in Theory, Politics, and Literature*, edited by Qwo-Li Driskill; Chris Finley; Brian J. Gilley; Scott Lauria Morgensen. University of Arizona Press.



### Welcome New Faculty, Staff

Please join us to welcome new faculty, Ling-yu Hung, and staff member, Agatha Lay Hee Wong!

**Ling-yu Hung** specializes in East Asian Archaeology, with a focus on the development of social complexity in prehistoric mainland China and Taiwan. She received her PhD from Washington University in St. Louis in 2011. She holds M.A. degrees in Anthropology (Washington University) and Archaeology (Peking University, China), and a B.A. in Anthropology (National Taiwan University, Taiwan). Her dissertation investigates pottery production, mortuary practice, and social complexity in late Neolithic NW China. Working with experts from different disciplines, she is currently involved in three international collaborative archaeological projects in China.



**Agatha Lay Hee Wong** has joined the Department as the Office Services Assistant. She worked with Bloomington Juvenile Correctional Facility, State Parole Office, and IMU Catering Services before the Anthropology Department. She also had an eighteen-year-career with the Oil and Gas Industry (Sarawak Shell Berhad) in Malaysia.

## FACULTY & RESEARCH NEWS

Under **Kevin Hunt's** directorship, Semliki Chimpanzee Project Team launched a new website: <http://www.indiana.edu/~semliki/>. The Semliki Chimpanzee Project was initiated by Kevin Hunt in 1996 both to study the unique diet, habitat and behavior of chimpanzees in an unusually dry habitat and to protect and conserve the chimpanzee population there.

**Stacie Marie King** received a grant from National Geographic Society for her project entitled "Zapotec Sacred Worlds in the Aftermath of Conquest: Exploring the Hidden Caves of Cerro del Convento." She published a co-edited volume (with Ron L. Adams), *Residential Burial: A Multiregional Exploration* (2011). She authored a chapter and co-edited another one in the book. She also published a journal article, "Soundscapes of the Everyday in Ancient Coastal Oaxaca, Mexico" (with a digital appendix of sound recordings) with Gonzalo Sánchez Santiago in *Archaeologies*. She also gave two public presentations, "Nexos, vínculos e intercambios culturales fuera de los Valles Centrales: La zona de Nexapa durante la transición Posclásico-Colonial" and "Diversidad cultural en zonas intermedias: Nuevos hallazgos arqueológicos en la región de Nejapa y Tavela, Sierra Sur" on her research in Oaxaca, Mexico. The latter was highlighted in Mexico's National Institute for Anthropology and History's press release. Accompanied by graduate students Eli Konwest and Alex Badillo, King led archaeological investigations in the Nejapa region of Oaxaca, Mexico during the past spring and summer. The National Science Foundation-funded project was designed to examine the impact of conquest and colonialism along heavily-traveled trade corridors between the arid highlands and the Pacific coast of southern Mexico. Project members documented over 60 previously unrecorded archaeological sites during survey and excavated test pits at several sites containing materials related to Zapotec and Spanish presence. In July, the team presented findings at a special exhibition held during the annual fiesta in Santa Ana Tavela and in public talks at different venues in Oaxaca City.



Stacie King and her team members at the site of Majaltepec in the mountains of Santa Ana Tavela, Mexico.

**Philip LeSourd** spent the month of July, 2011, in New Brunswick, Canada, working with the Native Studies program of St. Thomas

University at the St. Mary's reserve, a Maliseet First Nation community in Fredericton. He taught two three-week courses on the structure of the Maliseet language, which is highly endangered. Three students from the summer classes are now putting their training to work as language teachers, helping a group of about fifteen young adults with some knowledge of Maliseet to start to speak the language on a regular basis. The goal of the St. Thomas program is to train these young men and women to become fluent enough so that they can lead classes of children and begin a revival of the Maliseet language.

**Beverly Stoeltje** attended an international conference on Performance at the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and gave a paper entitled, "Performing Politics with the Ritual of Curse: Crossing a Threshold in Ghana." She gave a paper at the American Folklore Society meetings called "Comic or Corporate: The Suits Meet the Saint" on the Nasreddin Hoca Festival in Aksehir, Turkey. She will give a paper at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association entitled "Performing Politics with the Ritual of Curse in Ghana." She is also one of the organizers of a symposium on Human Trafficking to take place at IU on December 2, 2011. Stoeltje was an organizer and representative of the African Studies Program for the Symposium entitled Human Rights and Legal Systems Across the Global South held April 9-10, 2010. Sponsored by the African Studies Program and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and the Maurer School of Law, the Symposium brought 16 scholars representing scholarly work in Africa and Latin America. The papers are recently published in the *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies* (vol. 18, Issue 1, 2011). Most recently, she published an article entitled, "Paredes and the Hero: The North American Cowboy Revisited" in a special issue of *Journal of American Folklore*, commemorating the intellectual legacy of Americo Paredes and celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of his now classic work, *With His Pistol In His Hand. A Border Ballad and Its Hero*.

**Daniel Suslak** published an article entitled "Ayapan Echoes: Linguistic Persistence and Loss in Tabasco, Mexico" in *American Anthropologist*.

**Frances Trix's** book, *The Sufi Journey of Baba Rexheb*, was translated into Albanian by Veton Surroi as *Udhëtimi Sufist i Baba Rexhebit* and published by Koha in Prishtina, Kosova. She received a NCEEER (National Council for Eurasian and East European Research) grant to study "Cultural Survival Strategies of the Turkish Minority in Macedonia." While in Macedonia in May and June, 2011, she also researched other smaller ethnic minorities. She received a Title

VIII fellowship to study Macedonian in the summer that she supplemented with fieldwork among Macedonian immigrants in Indianapolis. Trix presented an invited paper on "Laments and the Reburial of Village Saints in the Post-Communist Spring" in Skopje, Macedonia, at the International Balkan Annual Conference sponsored by Istanbul University and Sts. Cyril and Methodius University in May, 2011. She presented "Ethnic Minorities of Macedonia: Turks, Roma, and Serbs," at an international conference on Macedonia, sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Peace Research Institute & the Norwegian University of Science & Technology, to be held in Oslo, Norway in October, 2011. She presented a paper, "Secondary Language as Legitimizing in Field Research: To also Speak like a Refined Grandmother," in a sponsored panel, "Language Matters... Or Does It? Today's Answers to Malinowski's Call for Fluency," at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting, held in Montreal, Canada, in November, 2011. Finally, she will present an invited paper on my research on Bektashi tekkes in the western Balkans at a conference on "The Alevi-Bektashi Communities in the Ottoman Geography: Historiography, Sources and Paradigms," sponsored by the Department of History & Harvard University, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, and held at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul, Turkey, in December, 2011. Most recently she was awarded a residential fellowship grant by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars for the 2012-13 academic year at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, DC.

**Andrea Wiley** was on sabbatical Fall 2012 at the School for Oriental and African Studies Food Studies Centre in London, England. She is working on a book, tentatively titled, *Cultures of Milk: Biocultural Perspectives on Milk and Dairy Products in India and the United States* that will be published by Harvard University Press. In November 2011, she had a research trip to India from the UK. In spring 2011, she co-organized the plenary session "Human Biology Eats: Contemporary Research and Future Directions" held at the Human Biology Association meetings in Minneapolis, MN, and the papers will come out in an upcoming issue of *American Journal of Human Biology*. Her medical anthropology text, *Medical Anthropology: A Biocultural Perspective*, which she coauthored with John Allen, will come out in its second edition in 2012.

## STUDENT NEWS

### Graduate Students Present, Earn Grants and Awards

**Kate Bishop** was awarded the Office of the Vice President of International Affairs Pre-Dissertation Award to conduct research in Ziguinchor, Senegal.

**Julián A. Carrillo** conducted an internship at the Center for Traditional Music and Dance (CTMD) on a grant awarded by the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA). CTMD's newest initiative is with the Haitian population in Brooklyn (the largest outside of Haiti). Carrillo conducted ethnographic fieldwork among this community to identify local artists, cultural activists, institutions, and resources that could move the initiative forward. He documented some of the traditional musical and dance traditions practiced by Haitians in NYC.



Julián A. Carrillo's photography shows that Haitian music and dance in Vodou are part and parcel of NYC's vibrant culture.

**Madeline Chera** served as an intern to southern Belize's Peninsula Citizens for Sustainable Development as part of Dr. Richard Wilk's ethnographic field school in the anthropology of food. The September 2011 issue of *Roots and Reef*, a local conservation newsletter published by PCSD, included a profile of Chera. PCSD also posted an interview with Chera and their acting director, Adrian Vernon, on Youtube. On October 28, 2011, Chera presented to students and faculty at IU's Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) on her research in summer 2011 with Dr. Richard Wilk's ethnographic field school, which was supported by CLACS through a Tinker 2011 Summer Field Research Grant. On November 12, 2011, she presented a paper entitled "Ideologies of Fermented Food" at Bryn Mawr College's Eighth Biennial Graduate Group Symposium. She also received the 2011 Christine Wilson Graduate Student Paper Award from the Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition, a sub-group of the American Anthropological Association, for a paper called "Locating the Microbe: Politics and Ideology in Food Fermentation." She wrote the original paper for Dr. Andrea Wiley's course B545 Nutritional Anthropology last spring.

**August Costa** spent two months in India preparing and studying animal fossils which

he collected during eight months of fieldwork that he conducted as a Fulbright fellow in India in 2010. The Ice Age fossil site which he discovered is the first of its kind in the state of Gujarat and it represents a unique paleoenvironmental context. The animal remains so far documented include wolf, rhinoceros, wild cattle, tortoise, wild ass and a few animals unknown to science. In the past year Costa published the book chapter "A Geometric Morphometric Assessment of Plan Shape in Bone and Stone Acheulean Bifaces from the Middle Pleistocene Site of Castel di Guido, Latium, Italy" in the book *New Perspectives on Old Stones: Approaches to Paleolithic Technologies* (2010), and the article "Were There Stone-Tipped Armatures in the South Asian Middle Paleolithic?" in *Quaternary International*. He also co-authored an article titled "Tracking Early Humans in Coastal Western India: The Gujarat Palaeoanthropology Project" in *Antiquity*.



**Jason Hatfield** accepted Indiana University's 2011-2012 American Indian Studies Research Institute Fellowship and matriculated to the doctoral program in Linguistic Anthropology at IU Bloomington. In addition Junko Records will release Hatfield's 7th album of original music, "American Falls," later this year. This year Hatfield is working to co-found the Indiana University Society for Visual Anthropology & Linguistics, with the support of Dr. Hilary Kahn, Director, IU Center for the Study of Global Change, and several fellow graduate students in Linguistics and Anthropology.

**Chi-Hoon Kim** was chosen to be a student blogger for the special series on Food Studies for the well-known GRIST environmental website at <http://www.grist.org/food/2011-09-28-food-studies-why-i-love-in-flight-meals>.

**Anthony Krus** published an article entitled "Bridging History and Prehistory: The Possible

Antiquity of a Native American Ballgame" and a review of "Cultural Resources Archaeology: An Introduction, Second Edition" in *Native South and Southeastern Archaeology*, respectively. He recently published two articles entitled "Refortifying Cahokia: More Efficient Palisade Construction Through Redesigned Bastions" in *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology* and (co-authored with T. Baumann, G. W. Monaghan, C. Peebles, C. Marshall, and J. Marshall) "The Legacy of Lilly, Black, and the WPA at Angel Mounds near Evansville, Indiana" in *SAA Archaeological Record*.

**Staffan Peterson** has published two co-authored articles and has a third in review, since he completed his Ph.D. in Dec. 2010. In September 2011, he collaborated with IU Anthropology alumni and current USI professor Dr. Mike Strezewski on a public archaeological excavation at Abraham Lincoln's boyhood home in Spencer Co., IN. He is collaborating with colleagues at Yale on new volumes for the popular Archaeologist's Toolkit book series. Peterson is currently a research associate in the department. He is also an associate faculty at IUPUI and cultural resources manager at INDOT.

**Elizabeth Pfeiffer** received a NIH pre-doctoral training fellowship that is administered through the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CTSI) at the IU School of Medicine.

**Rebecca Riall** passed the bar exam and was sworn in as a Louisiana attorney on October 20, 2011. She took the exam at the request of an Indian tribal chairman whom she worked with during her dissertation fieldwork. Drawing on her anthropological training and knowledge, she will use her attorney's license to do public interest work on behalf of Indian tribes and individuals in Louisiana.

**Wendell Schwab** published two articles "Establishing an Islamic Niche in Kazakhstan: Muslim Publishing House and Its Publications" in *Central Asian Survey* and "Traditions and Texts: How Two Young Women Learned to Interpret the Qur'an and Hadiths in Kazakhstan" in *Contemporary Islam*.

**Katherine Wiley** spent September 2010 through July 2011 in Mauritania, West Africa conducting her dissertation research on a Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant. She also received the College of Arts and Science Dissertation Year Research Fellowship to write up her dissertation tentatively entitled "I Sit and I Stand: Haratine Women's Work and Gender in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania."

## CONFERENCE NEWS

### Hoosier Area Food and Sustainability Symposium

On November 5, 2011, IU Anthropology, its Food Studies program, and the IU Food Studies Working Group hosted the Hoosier Area Food and Sustainability Symposium.

The day-long Symposium provided the opportunity for food scholars from Indiana and the surrounding region to share their work, discuss avenues for future research, and grow regional research collaboration networks. Nearly 100 faculty and graduate students from seventeen universities attended the Symposium, and over forty scholars gave presentations on a wide variety of current research projects.

Topics included sustainable agriculture, food security, urban food systems, food and health, and the cultural meanings of food. The workshop presented a great representation of the range of food research being explored today.

Rick Wilk (Anthropology) and Peter Todd (Informatics, Cognitive Science, and Psychology) co-organized the Symposium, and Ryan Kennedy (Anthropology) assisted by coordinating the event. The Symposium was funded with a Sustainability and Environmental Literacy Leadership Award from the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs at Indiana University.



### Faculty and Graduate Students Attend Outreach Events

Ed Herman and Rebecca Barzilai gave a series of lectures to Lacy Hawkins' six world history classes at Bedford North Lawrence High School. Hawkins expressed that prehistory was one of the most difficult areas for her to teach and for her students to understand. She expressed that Herman and Barzilai's lectures provided an opportunity for the students to get hands on experience with flint knapping, using stone tools, and shooting with the atlatl, a spear thrower that is used for dart-throwing. This experience, stated Lawkins, "would not only help them conceptualize but also spark their interest in the field of anthropology and archaeology."



### Human Trafficking: International Law and Local Strategies Symposium Took Place with Anthropology Department's Co-sponsorship

Anthropology Department co-sponsored Human Trafficking: International Law and Local Strategies Symposium that took place at IU on December 2, 2011. Professor Beverly Stoeltje of the Anthropology Department was one of the co-organizers of the symposium. The multi-disciplinary symposium addressed human trafficking and provided multiple perspectives on the topic in the areas of socio-legal studies, international legal cooperation, human rights, transnational crime, and public policy. Discussions included the humanitarian crisis created by a growth in human trafficking, and efforts by state governments, the international community, and members of civil society including a network of non-governmental organizations.

## ALUMNI NOTEBOOK

### 1970s

**Sara Hunter Wiles**, BA'70, MA'77, is the author of *Arapaho Journeys: Photographs and Stories from the Wind River Reservation*, published in May by the University of Oklahoma Press. Through more than 100 images and 40 essays, award-winning photographer Wiles creates a visual and verbal mosaic of Northern Arapaho culture, which has thrived for centuries in what is now Colorado and Wyoming. Depicted in the photographs are people the author met at Wind River while she was a social worker, anthropology student, and adopted member of an Arapaho family. An independent photographer, writer, and scholar, whose photographs have been exhibited nationally, Wiles lives in Lander, Wyo.

**Robert B. Graber**, BA'73, is a professor emeritus of anthropology at Truman State University in Kirksville, Mo. He writes, "My current research attempts to determine whether chimpanzee culture yields quantitative evidence of a cumulative tendency." Bates continues to perform research and publish in the field of anthropology but recently has begun publishing poetry as well. His anthropological works include *Plunging to Leviathan? Exploring the World's Political Future* (Paradigm Publishers, 2007) and *Valuing Useless Knowledge* (Truman State University Press, 1995). As a poet, he has been influenced by Shakespeare, Tennyson, Robert Frost, and Richard Wilbur. When a friend

innocently asked, following Pluto's provocative demotion as a planet, in 2006, "Is plutonium an element?" Graber was inspired to write *Plutonic Sonnets*, a 165-poem epic sonnet cycle around and about the discovery and naming of planets and elements. The sonnets, mostly in "Shakespearean" form, are full of history, myth, science, and romance. Graber lives with his wife, Rose, MS'73, in Kirksville, Mo., where he enjoys bicycle racing, backyard astronomy, and classical guitar.

#### 1980s

**Janine R. Wedel**, MA'81, is the author of *Shadow Elite: How the World's New Power Brokers Undermine Democracy, Government, and the Free Market*, published in 2009 by Basic Books. In the book Wedel notes that while governments and administrations come and go, a new breed of power brokers always seems to pop up wearing different hats and pushing their agendas in venue after venue. According to Wedel, these are the "shadow elite," the prime movers in a new system of power and influence. The author charts how these players make public decisions without public input — in realms from domestic to foreign and financial policy. Maneuvering through their many spheres of influence, they challenge both governments' rules of accountability and businesses' codes of competition, ultimately answering only to each other. Wedel is a professor in the School of Public Policy at George Mason University in Arlington, Va. She lives in Washington, D.C.

**Linda D'Amico**, BS'85, MA'88, PhD'93, is the author of *Otavalan Women, Ethnicity, and Globalization*, published in September by the University of New Mexico Press. While doing fieldwork in Peguche, Ecuador, D'Amico found herself working with, and befriending, Rosa Lema, an indigenous woman who had previously worked with anthropologist Elsie Clews Parsons. One of the founding mothers of anthropology, Parsons's 1940 fieldwork in Peguche laid foundations for the development of feminist anthropology and ethnic studies. Lema's efforts to bring changes to her village and her country afford a unique view of the rise of interculturalism as an indigenous ideology. Gender is at the center of *Otavalan Women, Ethnicity, and Globalization*, as D'Amico looks beyond the overlapping lives of these two women — both innovators and able to cross cultural boundaries — to explore the interrelationship between gender, ethnicity, and globalization. D'Amico is associate professor of global studies and women's and gender studies at Winona State University. She lives in Winona, Minn.

In July, **Joyce L. Ogburn**, MA'88, dean of the Marriott Library and university librarian at the University of Utah, became president of the Association of College and Research Libraries. Ogburn received her master of library science degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. From 1999-2005, she was associate director of libraries at the University of Washington, and prior to that she was assistant university librarian at Old Dominion University. Ogburn has also served as chief acquisitions librarian at Yale University and as an acquisitions librarian at Penn State University. She lives in Salt Lake City, Utah.

#### 1990s

**Sónia P. Silva**, MA'95, PhD'99, is the author of *Along an African Border: Angolan Refugees and Their Divination Baskets*, published in 2011 by the University of Pennsylvania Press. The divination baskets of south Central Africa — known as lipele — are woven for a specific purpose. The baskets contain sixty or so small articles, from seeds, claws, and minuscule horns to wooden carvings. Each article has its own name and symbolic meaning, and collectively they are known as jipelo. For the Luvale and related peoples, the lipele is more than a container of souvenirs; it is a tool, a source of crucial information from the ancestral past and advice for the future. In *Along an African Border*, Silva examines how Angolan refugees living in Zambia use these divination baskets to cope with daily life in a new land. Silva documents the special processes involved in weaving the baskets and transforming them into oracles. She speaks with diviners who make their living interpreting lipele messages and with their knowledge-seeking clients. To the Luvale, these baskets are capable of thinking, hearing, judging, and responding. They communicate, interact with people and other objects, punish wrongdoers, assist people in need, and, much like humans, go through a life course that is marked with an initiation ceremony and a special burial. As Silva demonstrates in the book, lipele help people maintain their links to kin and tradition in a world of transience and uncertainty. Silva teaches anthropology at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., where she lives.

#### 2000s

Last year, **Amanda Robbins Rosenfried**, BA'02, MAT'04, and her husband, Ernesto, welcomed a new member to their family. "Jake was born in June 2010 and is lighting up our lives," she writes. Amanda is now a stay-at-home mother. The family resides in Coconut Creek, Fla.

Biological anthropologist **Julienne Rutherford Goehl**, MA'04, PhD'07, was awarded a prestigious National Institutes of Health faculty scholarship from the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health program, sponsored by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the NIH's Office for Research on Women's Health. Rutherford Goehl is assistant professor of oral biology and adjunct assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She lives in Chicago.

**Lucinda M. Carspecken**, PhD'08, is the author of *An Unreal Estate: Sustainability and Freedom in an Evolving Community*, published in October by Indiana University Press. In the book, Carspecken takes an in-depth look at Lothlorien, a Southern Indiana nature sanctuary, sustainable camping ground, festival site, collective residence, and experiment in ecological building, stewardship, and organization. She notes the way fiction and reality intertwine on this piece of land and argues that communities such as Lothlorien have the power to be a force for social change. Lothlorien's organization and social norms are in sharp contrast with its surrounding communities. As a unique enclave within a larger society, it offers to the latter both an implicit critique and a cluster of alternative values and lifestyles. In addition, it has created a niche where some participants change, grow, and find empowerment in an environment that is accepting of difference — particularly in areas of religion and sexual orientation. Carspecken is adjunct professor in qualitative research methods and anthropology at Indiana University Bloomington.

"Following graduation from IU Bloomington, I completed an internship at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis in the summer of 2010, writes **Stephanie M. Petsche**, BGS'10. She adds, "Currently, I work as a fashion consultant and specialist at David's Bridal in my hometown of South Bend, Ind. I also do occasional freelance writing for a few online blogs. I am eager to get a position in the publishing or entertainment business as a writer. I hope to move to New York City in the very near future." Petsche can be reached at spetsches@gmail.com.

## AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

### Letter from the Chair: People Who Make a Difference *(continues from page 2)*

Carrying one of the highest loads of faculty/staff in the College, they have increasingly absorbed new tasks and developed new skills to manage the ever-growing procedural demands and systems of the digital age. Agatha, Ania, Debra, Jena, Linda, and Susie, Thank You for your dedication! We are so fortunate to have you as colleagues

As part of this supporting community, we are also privileged to have our colleague Moira Marsh as the Anthropology Librarian, always working and ready to support our research and teaching needs.

It is humbling to see how faculty, staff, students, and alumni are committed to the department beyond their self-interest and in doing so contribute to improve the whole anthropology community on campus and beyond. We are proud to have an engaged alumni community, supportive of the department and our students. In the cycle of retirements and hiring, arrivals and departures, admission and graduation, it is the continuity provided by our staff, the sense of community created by our alumni, and the commitment of the faculty and graduate students that make the department an ever better program, and a meaningful contributor to the university and to society. The sense of community, attitude of collegiality, and contribution to departmental governance represent our most important assets, taking us forward through the ups and downs of the economy and periods of restructuring higher education. These values will continue to nurture the outstanding reputation of our department.

### Meet the Women behind the Scenes of the Anthropology Department *(continues from the front page)*

As fiscal officer Linda is responsible for the fiscal integrity of the department. Having the responsibility of the department and faculty accounts demands organization, accuracy, and compliance at all times. Even the most minute of details, such as being sure to get receipts for every little thing, are not to be overlooked. Linda explains the complexity of her work as “keeping a lot of balls in the air at the same time and trying not to drop any of them.” Though her job is not always easy, it is rewarding. “The Anthropology Department is a great department to be a part of. The atmosphere is positive, the environment collegial, and the faculty, students, and staff are a pleasure to work with.”

**Susie Bernhardt** is the Scheduling Officer and has been a member of the Anthropology Office for fourteen years. She is in charge of putting the anthropology course offerings and schedule together. Susie is also responsible for payroll processing. She contends that since she first began working in the office, “the department has gotten larger and technological developments have changed so we have to do things in a different manner.” Susie gained a B.Sc. degree in Elementary Education at IU. She states that she loves being around academic life and students. In addition, although Susie has never taken an anthropology course during her training at IU, she enjoys reading ethnographies. Susie is one of those persons who believe that “if you are not learning, you are not living.” She also enjoys playing piano, journaling and riding her bike.

**Jena Hanes** has been working as the Grant Administrator at the Department for four years. She is responsible for the assistance with and oversight of externally-funded anthropology grant proposals and awards. Jena was born and grew up in Bloomington. She holds a B.S. degree in Microbiology and a M.S. degree in Secondary Science Education, both from IU. Jena’s name can be found on a plaque in Jordan Hall for her extraordinary success. Aside from her position in the Anthropology Department, Jena is also a Sustainable Travel Consultant and she works part-time at the Midwest Political Science Association. She is married with two daughters. She has many unusual pets, including an axolotl from the old IU colony. She loves roller coasters and to snorkel. Jena is one of the most important persons with whom advanced graduate students work during their grant applications. She once again reminds the graduate students that the way IU handles internal processing and grant funds has

changed a lot recently, so “people need to be most aware of the new internal deadlines: proposals must be completed five business days prior to the agency deadline.”

**Ania Peczalska** is the Undergraduate Academic Advisor. She has been a member of the Department since August 2011. She is also the Undergraduate Academic Advisor at Eastern Asian Languages and Cultures. In the Anthropology Department, Ania works with the undergraduate students so they can fulfill academic requirements and make academic choices that will help students progress towards graduation as well as be useful in their future endeavors beyond IUB. This involves giving advice on class choices and helping students with any academic difficulties they might have. Ania holds an M.A. degree in Ethnomusicology from IU and she thinks that it helps her communicate and understand Anthropology undergraduates’ needs better. Although sometimes students come to her with hard to answer questions that are difficult to solve, she welcomes the challenge and always invites students to ask her questions or make appointments to see her. She states that in the Anthropology department people are extremely helpful and cooperative which makes things easier and creates a friendly, welcoming environment. Ania loves travelling and reading books about culture, politics, and China as well as spending time in nature.

**Debra Wilkerson** is the Administrative Secretary and Graduate Administrator. She has been a member of the Department for about twenty-five years. She helps the students in scheduling and going through their academic processes that they are required to complete in order to gain their degrees. She also prepares the documents for student academic appointments and works with the graduate affairs committee to nominate students for outside awards. Since Debra first started working with the Department in the 1980s, there have been considerable changes in the student body and in the ways things are done. “There was an e-mail system but it only worked inside of IU and everything was on a black screen with yellow dots that formed the letters. Things have definitely changed. The whole department has gotten bigger. I had eighty grads when I first started, now I have twice that many. Twice the people, twice the work” she says. Yet, she enjoys having more students around who she thinks are “the most wonderful, intelligent, and interesting people to work with.” Having the graduate students around carries a personal meaning for Debra. So, next time when you need her help, it will delight her if come to her office and talk to her face-to-face instead of sending an e-mail down the corridor because she does not like to stand all day long in front of her computer.

**Agatha Wong** joined the department this last August. She worked with the Oil and Gas Industry (Sarawak Shell Berhad) in her country of origin, Malaysia for 18 years before she came to Bloomington. Agatha worked with Bloomington Juvenile Correctional Facility for about 8 years. After that she and her family went back to Malaysia, where they stayed for a year and a half. They returned to Bloomington in June of 2007. Agatha worked with the Bloomington State Parole Office and IMU Catering Services before coming to the Anthropology Department. Agatha takes care of the daily mail, routine office activity, answers the phones, updates and distributes the Week in Advance of Anthropology, departmental travel, assists the Graduate Secretary and Administrative Assistant. In addition, she is currently updating the department website. She thinks that updating a website is one of the most difficult but most exciting tasks she has ever dealt with in her work career. Agatha has found the faculty, staff and students to be very friendly and helpful. She likes working with everyone.

These six professional women contribute more than just the skills necessary to provide a seamless continuity to an amazingly efficient department. They provide a place where the departmental community can go knowing they will be taken care of in a respectful, kind manner. This caring attitude definitely carries over to one another. “Most of us work eight hours a day, five days a week together” says Linda, “It’s important that we have each other’s well being at heart. And we always have each other’s back.”

## Professor Paula Ben-Amos Girshick on to New Projects *(continues from the front page)*

Only a few studies were based on field research, and these were undertaken for limited time periods. Girshick was, therefore, the first anthropologist to investigate Benin art in depth and to concentrate on questions of meaning, exploring the relationship of art to cosmology, mythology, ritual, and gender.

On the surface Benin art appeared to be well studied by anthropologists and art historians but their work evidenced severe limitations in methodology, chronology and interpretation. Much of Girshick's work over 20 years was spent in documenting the variety of art forms not just the world famous "bronzes," ivories, and terracottas made by the royal guilds but also the mud sculptures and masks made by artists who worked in the villages far from the urban-based royal guilds. As John Picton pointed out in his review of her book *The Art of Benin*, 1995 "Ben-Amos gives proper consideration to a variety of forms that usually do not make their way into books about African art in general. These include...wrought iron, shell mosaic, mural decoration, textiles, feathers, and beadwork."

The various artists and chiefs with whom Girshick spoke consistently reiterated their desire that she delve into the history of the arts and so she turned her focus to a particularly interesting period, the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, when the monarchy suffered a crisis of legitimacy which was accompanied by a flourishing of new art forms and images. In analyzing their iconography she looked for answers in the political, social and economic issues that faced the reigning monarchs and their supporters and analyzed how they utilized artistic imagery to further their agendas. It turned out that for them artistic imagery became a means of formulating new ways to view the political process and most especially political legitimacy. In his review letter of the resulting book, *Art, Innovation and Politics in Eighteenth Century Benin*, Warren d'Azevedo comments that "The wealth of historiographic resources, the command of relevant literature, the ethnographic research and prudent use of oral traditions, give this work a high degree of intellectual excitement ...a landmark in the field."

In 1998 Girshick decided to shift her geographical focus to South Africa. In order to achieve a general understanding of the relationship between history and material culture in the post-Apartheid period she examined the planning of a highly contested battleground museum in KwaZulu Natal as the lens through which to explore the tensions inherent in the new government's policy of reconciliation and nation-building as it came face-to-face with the complexities of long-standing ethnic nationalisms.

Currently Girshick's research focuses on the social history of the African art world in South Africa. Studies of "traditional" African art in the world market have focused on its impact on Western art, its classification and circulation in Western institutions or its status as a commodity produced for export. To date there has been no analysis of the collecting, display and high-end gallery sale of African art on the continent itself. South Africa has a long history of collecting and is a particularly interesting site of analysis because the collecting and exhibiting of traditional African art developed and flourished during the least expected time period – that of Apartheid. Her research aims to explain how this came about.

Girshick is working with South African colleagues, both anthropologists and art historians, on two projects. The first is a volume for journal publication which will include papers interrogating the history of museums. The essays seek to place museums (including archives, historical and heritage sites) within the context of the changing role of heritage and cultural institutions in South Africa since the end of apartheid in 1994.

The second explores the creation of art worlds in situations of political tension and upheaval. It does so by focusing on one individual – Egon Guenther – in his varied roles as participant and catalyst in the creation of modernist art worlds on two continents: Europe and Africa. The planned book will examine his life and activities in his various roles as collector, dealer, gallery owner and promoter of both traditional African art as well as Western modernist art first in the immediate postwar context of Mannheim and later in the fraught racial scene of apartheid Johannesburg. How Guenther found his way and what he contributed to both art worlds will be the focus of this book.

Girshick has long been interested in the history and theory of the arts in anthropology. In 1984 she was asked by the Joint Africa Committee of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council to prepare an overview paper on social science approaches to African art which was presented at the annual meetings of the African Studies Association and subsequently published in the Association's journal *African Studies Review*. Girshick's was the first in this series to deal with art and the first overview within the field of African art generally to address theoretical issues. In this essay she demonstrated how theories of functionalism, historical particularism, and structuralism within the mainstream of anthropology shaped the study of African art from the 1930s to the 1980s. She pointed out the implications of using these models for art studies and suggested new directions of research. More recently Girshick has treated the period since the 1980s in an essay which addresses such current theoretical concerns as globalization, the social life of things, and the politics of collecting in "New Directions in the Anthropology of Art" in the book *World Art Studies: Exploring Concepts and Approaches*, edited by W. van Damme & K. Zijlmans, 2008.

Girshick studied for her PhD in this department under the guidance of Alan Merriam and John Messenger, both sociocultural anthropologists with interest in the arts. But the main influence on her came from Roy Sieber in the Art History Department, one of the foremost Africanist art historians in the country. After receiving her degree she taught in the Art History Department at Tyler School of Art, Temple University and then became a curator (well, technically a "keeper;" the title 'curator' was then reserved for men) of the African Section at the University of Pennsylvania Museum. There she modernized a very out-of-date display and worked on several outside exhibitions, including one at UCLA and another at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. In 1984, Girshick was invited to return to the Anthropology Department at Indiana University where she has been ever since.

Girshick's research over time has been funded (often several times) by the American Philosophical Society, the Social Science Research Council, Joint Committee on African Studies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Rockefeller Foundation Residency Fellowship in Art History and Anthropology, The Johns Hopkins University, and the J. William Fulbright Senior Scholar Teaching/Research Fellowship, as well as support from Summer Faculty Fellowships, the Office of International Programs, the President's Council on Overseas International Programs, Projects and Activities, and the College Arts and Humanities Institute – all at Indiana University.

Recently Girshick has been given the 2006 African Art Recognition Award, Friends of African and African American Art by the Detroit Institute of Arts and the 2009 Visiting Eminent Scholar, Humanities Center, University Of Alabama, Huntsville. She has served on grant review panels for the ACLS-SSRC Joint Committee on African Studies, the NEH Program on Museums and Historical Associations, the NEH Research Programs, and the ACLS Fellowship Selection Committee as well as being a Nominator for MacArthur Fellowships. In addition, she has served on editorial boards for Indiana University Press, *Studies in Visual Communication*, and *Msunduzi/Voortrekker* and *Ncome Museums Journal* as well as being the founder and editor of *Working Papers in the Traditional Arts*.

Congratulations Professor Girshick on your retirement! We would like to thank you for your dedication towards your work and students in the Anthropology Department. You have made a remarkable contribution to the department and have touched the lives of your students in immeasurable ways. We hope to continue to have you as an active member of the IU Anthropology community and to receive your guidance for longer years. Best wishes in your next ventures!

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