Dr. Ritterbush & Logan

During the month of June 2016, 12 K-State undergraduates joined Drs. Brad Logan and Lauren W. Ritterbush in exploring the prehistoric cultural landscape of the Manhattan area through the Kansas Archaeological Field School. The students learned standard archaeological field techniques for recovering data from various prehistoric archaeological sites in the Wildcat Creek drainage. Their experience included survey and excavation designed to evaluate the significance of two adjacent sites for the National Register of Historic Places. They also surveyed several specialized upland sites including one where ancestral Native Americans tested and recovered chert for making stone tools, perhaps over thousands of years. During their final weeks they practiced mapping skills (using a total station and GPS), establishing a grid, site plan drawing and photography, and various excavation skills on yet another site. The state archaeologist of Kansas joined the crew for this unique experience widening the breadth of student learning and discovery. These were also expanded through field trips to an ongoing archaeological project at an historic site in Council Grove, the First Hills Discovery Center, and the Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site. The team of students bravely weathered the unusually hot June with good humor, gained much knowledge and experience, and enjoyed the training, discovery, and camaraderie.

http://www.k-state.edu/STATE/anthro/fieldschool2016.html
http://www.k-state.edu/sasw/anth/fieldschool16.html

Dr. Durband

Dr. Arthur Durband joined the Anthropology faculty at K-State in Fall 2015. Before his move to Manhattan he taught at Texas Tech for 10 years, and was a Fulbright Senior Scholar to Australia in 2014. He received his doctorate from the University of Tennessee in 2004, and in 2009 he was a paleoanthropologist in the origins of modern human evolution research. As an anthropologist he is teaching a variety of courses at K-State, including new courses like Myth and Mystery in Physical Anthropology and Introduction to Human Evolution. He will also teach upper level courses in Paleanthropology and Primates Behavior while splitting the introduction to Physical Anthropology teaching duties with Dr. Alfonso Durband. He is working with colleagues in Zurich, Switzerland to digitally reconstruct the Australian fossil skulls, including Lake Mungo 3, currently the oldest known human skeleton in Australia. He is working with colleagues in Zurich, Switzerland to digitally reconstruct

Dr. Falcone

Cultural Anthropology professor, Jessica Falcone, received an NEH Faculty Development Grant to fund participation in ‘Buddhist Asia: Traditions, Transmissions, and Transfor-
mations’ a 10-week Asian Studies Development Program Summer Institute at the East-West Center in Honolulu in the summer of 2015. The NEH grant provided for a very educational and productive summer, which enabled her to prepare an American Religions syllabus for our K-State students in Spring 2016. While at the East-West Center, she used the University of Hawaii archival finds during the 2016 Kansas Archaeological Field School. She subsequently received permission to begin research at the Zen center in Kona; archives to start work on her next research project on Japanese students in Spring 2016. While at the East-West Center, she used the University of Hawaii

Dr. Wesch

Dr. Wesch continues to explore the potential for telling anthropological stories in new ways. After finishing up a 3D virtual reality application with students and Jennifer Knoeckler and living with Albinism with the Spring 2015 Digital Ethnography team, he went on to teach himself how to animate and re-leashed his first animation “The Sleeper.” In August 2015, he also learned how to do handstands, an endeavor which land-

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Dr. Alfonso-Durruty

In the last period, Dr. Alfonso-Durruty has published two articles. The first paper was published in the American Journal of Physical Anthropology, and addressed the antiquity and distri-

Archaeological field school students learn about earthlodge construction and longevity during the 1998 K

Dr. Alfonso-Durruty is currently directing her own research on the genetics of ancient and modern populations of Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia. This study is being funded through the Geographic program of the National Geographic Foundation. Results of this project were pre-

Dr. Alfonso-Durruty is the international expert in two grants, one of them examines the interactions of marine and terrestrial groups in Fuego-Patagonia during the prehistoric times, and the other one explores dietary changes during the Late Intermediate Period in the central Chile. Both grants are funded by FONDECYT (National Funds for the Advancement of Science and Technology Chile). Thus, during the summer months, Dr. Alfonso-Durruty conducted fieldwork at the National Museum of National History in Santiago, Chile, where she analyzed the Gusinde Collection from Isla Dawson, Patagonia. Additionally, she traveled to Northern Chile where, during an archaeological project, she served as Project Manager, becoming a partner with Commonwealth Archaeological Projects.

In the last year, Dr. Alfonso-Durruty is currently directing her own research on the genetics of ancient and modern populations of Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia. This study is being funded through the Geographic program of the National Geographic Foundation. Results of this project were presented in a talk and a poster at this year’s Annual Meetings of the American Association of Physical Anthropology (Atlanta). Two other presentations, regarding genetic data, and 3D modeling of the mummies, led to two study ancient DNA were given at the Prinsco Foundation for Anthropological Research and the Society for American Archaeology (Ontario).

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Alumni:

Dr. Rob Prins

Dr. Prins co-authored revised editions of two international textbooks in anthropology and is con-

Dr. Prins successfully completed his PhD at the University of Michigan with a dissertation on the prehistoric life history of indigenous peoples in coastal Maine, on which he will present at the Transat-

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