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Department of Society & Environment

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

FALL 2013

Sabbatical to Department Chair

After six years of service as Department Chair of the newly formed Society & Environment Department, **Dr. Amber Johnson, Professor of Anthropology**, has passed the baton to Dr. Elaine McDuff, Professor of Sociology. Dr. Johnson will be on sabbatical during the spring and fall semester of 2014, doing research for a book entitled *“Using Frames of Reference: A Guide to Binford’s Datasets, Program, and their Research Potentials.”* The book manuscript is designed to guide interested teachers, students, and researchers through strategies for using data organized by anthropologist Lewis R. Binford. She plans to offer workshops for colleagues interested in learning how to use the data, and to take the revised product to Argentina as the basis for teaching a graduate seminar.

Dr. Johnson is looking forward to moving from administrative responsibilities

to full-time research and teaching. Also, Dr. Johnson was married on October 10th to Dr. John Smelcer, author and Native American scholar. **Congratulations, Dr. Johnson!**

Dr. Elaine McDuff, Professor of Sociology, has just returned from a year-long sabbatical to take on a new role as Department Chair.

Dr. McDuff spent her Sabbatical year (2012-2013) working on a research project on *“The Causes and Consequences of the Feminization of Zimbabwean Migration.”* She interviewed Zimbabwean migrants in South Africa and the UK in order to learn about the feminization of Zimbabwean migration, and the impact of migrant experiences on gender roles and family dynamics.

She spent three weeks in the U.K., four weeks in Cape Town, three weeks in Johannesburg, and finished with a month spent in Zimbabwe.

After returning to Kirksville from her travels, Dr. McDuff had Truman students transcribe her interviews. She

will present her findings this November at a Global Issues Colloquium, entitled *“Women’s Voices from the Zimbabwean Diaspora: Migration and Change.”*

Dr. McDuff also directed a Truman Study Abroad program on Democracy and Human Rights in South Africa from May 14-June 19, 2013. This program enabled fifteen students to work for four weeks as interns in non-profit social justice, social service, and health agencies in Cape Town, South Africa.

In July, she took over as Chair of the Department of Society and Environment and is adjusting to the new administrative pace.



Dr. Elaine McDuff, Professor of Sociology

Study Abroad

Cape Town “Finding Ubuntu”



Elonwabeni Children’s Home jumping for joy after a day spent with Truman Students

Many majors in the department have participated in study abroad experiences during the past year. One of the most popular among majors is led by Dr. McDuff, Professor of Sociology, and her husband, Steve, to Cape Town, South Africa. It is a bi-annual trip offered for five weeks in May & June in one of the most beautiful cities in the world, in a country that faces ongoing problems with poverty, inequality, racism, gender violence, and crime — yet which is, full of hospitality, sacrifice and smiles. *They call it “Ubuntu”.*

Fifteen Truman students, including seven SOAN majors, were immersed in the living history of South Africa by working twenty hours a week in non-profit organizations in Cape Town, which address issues of human rights, social justice and equality, especially

with regard to women, children, workers, immigrants, and the environment. The other days were spent visiting museums and historical and scenic sites around Cape Town.

As part of the program, students are required to post reflections about their experiences on a course blog, and complete a research paper which they present in the spring at the Student Research Conference.

Sociology and English double major, Conner Maguire worked as a Teacher’s Assistant at **Thandokhulu High School**. Here is a highlight from Conner’s blog post:

“South Africa seems to be full of some of the most horrible problems, and the most wonderful people. In talking with the learners and marking many of their papers, I have been able to hear and read their stories and get to know where they come from. Just earlier this week I was reading a learner’s

paper, and this is what she had to say about her life in Khayelitsha: ‘As I said living in Khayelitsha is not good. Life is not perfect everything that is bad is there. *Every human trafficking is there, every drugs is there, every abusing people are there, criminals are there, gang groups are there. I find that life is too hard for me there... The life we live there is bad in such a way that the teenagers are become the destroyers of their freedom and future.*’ This is one excerpt from one paper, and sadly these kinds of stories are the norm, not the exception.



Students eating a “smiley”, a sheep’s head that has been cleaned, boiled, and roasted over a fire with spices to eat.

Almost all of the teachers at Thandokhulu are also Amakhosha and live in the townships. As they have told me, ‘Yes it is sad, but these are simply the lives we live. Everyone has nothing. We can only do what little we can to help those around us who have even less.’ A teacher’s salary in South Africa is fairly small. However, one of the teachers, Cana, was telling me about how, when she was teaching in a primary school, the teachers and administrators would identify learners that were in the most need of assistance, and the teachers would essentially adopt them. They would pay for their school fees, transportation to and from school, and help provide lunch and books. Teachers would even collect used clothes from their family and bring them in for the learners. **They would pour their own small amount of resources back into their learners, because they knew that the learners needed it more than they did.”**

Conner’s blog sums up his Cape experience in these words: **“South Africa has extreme, concentrated poverty that feeds into problems of drug addiction, violence, sexual exploitation, and gangsterism, all on a scale that we could not possibly imagine in the United States, but it is also full of the most amazing people,**

people who are always willing to give all they have and more to help someone else. It’s not charity; it’s a part of the culture. It’s Ubuntu, human kindness, and it’s alive and well in South Africa.”

All fifteen students shared similar experiences such as **Sociology Major Rikki Watts** who wrote about drinking tea with her boss, **Phindi, at the Economic Justice Network (EJN)**, an NGO devoted to working for justice on issues of tax equality, food security, climate change, and trade fairness. Rikki states, **“Going for a tea break to Phindi’s office is probably the best thing I’ve done here, and not just because rooibos has high levels of antioxidants, but Phindi invited me into her life as a friend.”**

Sociology Majors Ashley Repka and Andie Davis worked in Khayelitsha, a two-hour ride every morning past beautiful beaches to a large, impoverished township. They worked at the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC), an HIV-Aids Advocacy Organization with branches throughout South Africa.

Ashley shared the following about her experience: “Lwazi, from TAC, explained to Andie and I one day that he loved the

community in Khayelitsha, in spite of its poverty. He asked us how well we knew our neighbors—I wave at mine sometimes. He explained that he knew that if he ever needed anything, he could go to a neighbor and they would reach in their pocket and give him what they could. **I suppose this is the ‘Ubuntu’ we heard so much about, and it is an idea that will stick with me long after the trip.** I have learned that each of us has beautiful things to share from our own life—many times in our background—and that each of us has knowledge that can benefit others whether it is from a book or experience; The important part seems to be that we share them.”

Andie had the following to say about TAC: “Being given the opportunity to aid in the condom distribution to gather the personal stories with people living in the Khayelitsha was an incredibly powerful experience. It really helped bring some of the concepts that I’ve been learning about in abstract into reality. They were given a face and a voice through the individuals living in the township, and I was able to see firsthand the important work that the Treatment Action Campaign is doing.”

Visit Trumanincapetown2013.blogspot.com

to read more stories and to learn about the Cape Town Study Abroad Program.

Ireland Study Abroad



Dublin, Ireland

“It was very interesting not only to learn about Irish society, but to take one of my major courses in another country and see how it was taught there.”
—Kelsie Howle

Senior Sociology Major Kelsie Howle studied abroad in Ireland this past Spring, at

National University in Maynooth with a student body of about 6,000 and located fifteen miles from the Dublin city center offering strong fields in anthropology and sociology.

Kelsie took several Celtic and Irish studies courses, along with a Sociology of Work and Employment course. **Kelsie states, “It was very interesting**

not only to learn about Irish society, but to take one of my major courses in another country and see how it was taught there.” Kelsie was able to travel and see sights outside of studying including places in Europe such as Cork, Galway, Belfast, England, The Netherlands, Belgium, Barcelona, Budapest, Berlin, the Basque region, and Croatia.

Ghana Study Abroad

Sociology major Danielle Clemons, spent her Spring semester doing a study abroad in Ghana as part of the **International Student Exchange Program (ISEP)** that gives scholarships to students with no previous collegiate-level study abroad experience.

Danielle traveled to places like Cape Coast

to see the slave castle and to walk under the canopy in the national forest. Danielle states..

“Studying abroad enhanced my self-awareness and understanding of my own culture by providing opportunities to compare and contrast host country customs, values, and traditions with my own.”



Danielle Clemons

Internships

This past summer **Sociology Major Matthew Miller** interned at the Human Resources Department of **Express Scripts** as a Pharmacy Benefit Manager. What Matt learned in his sociology classes assisted him with the tasks that he was responsible for completing during the summer. Matt was given a nine-week project in which he created a “quick start” guide for new hires in the HR department at Express Scripts.

Employees lacked the guidance they needed for their first week on the job and Matt’s project was to provide that guidance. The project required using research skills that Matt gained in the Research Design course during his sophomore year. Matt began by studying successful practices at other compa-

nies. Afterwards, he hosted internal discussion groups and conducted surveys of Express Scripts employees to find out what most new hires needed during their first week of employment. The strategies that Matt used in his discussion groups and surveys were also a result of the Research Design course.

Matt states, **“This internship allowed me to see how I can apply what I learned in school to the real world and gave me valuable experience that will assist me in finding a job after I graduate in the spring. I cannot stress enough how helpful an internship can be for any college student. This has been my third summer internship and they have each taught**

me a lot about what I want to do with my future. A summer internship experience is much different than anything you can learn in a college classroom and can give students and advantage in the post-graduate job market.”

“A summer internship experience is much different than anything you can learn in a college classroom and can give students an advantage in the post-graduate job market.”—

*Matthew Miller,
Sociology
Major*



Matt Miller

Last Fall, **Logan Riney** interned at **Localogy**, a northern New Mexico non-profit that puts the locals in charge. Through an integrated summer camp, public school partnership, art, grassroots media, agriculture and sustainable design programs. Localogy turns passive consumers into active producers. Localogy connects people to themselves, each other, the rest of the

natural world, and our collective potential, through experiential learning, media, local food and energy production, travel, and collaboration.

Logan’s responsibility was as an animal care taker on the ranch. He fed the horses daily and milked goats a few times a week, setting up new grazing areas with fencing and water for yaks, sheep,

and goats.

In addition to the animal care, Logan helped Localogy’s Executive Director with the various projects, including the earth brick house. Also on Fridays, a group of 3rd-5th graders from the local school came up and Logan would give them tours and allow them to take part in many of the activities on the farm such as produce picking and animal care.

Field School Experience



"It was a great learning experience -- basically a free field school. I learned how to excavate, and found more pottery sherds than I can count."

Anthropology Major Rachel Kreher volunteered this past summer at **Cahokia Mounds in Collinsville, IL**, a preserved prehistoric native

civilization near St. Louis.

Dr John Kelly of Washington University - St Louis opened two excavation sites, and Rachel spent a month working on the site pictured to the left.

Rachel learned how to properly excavate, take elevation, screen, clean scrape, and map units.

Rachel also learned how to use the Munsell chart to describe soil colors, take a FLOT sample to recover microscopic re-

mains and survey with a total station and prism.

Also, Rachel washed artifacts and learned how to sort and inventory many different objects including types of stone, charcoal, charred botanical or bone remains, ochre, animal bone, chert, shell, ceramic, brick, and incised and/or punctated pottery.

Lastly, Rachel attended a hands-on demonstration of flint-knapping, and worked her own arrowhead.

Anthropology Club Hosts Speaker

This past Spring the Anthropology Club along with Multi-Cultural Affairs and the English Department hosted **award-winning author Dr. John Smelcer** to visit classes and participate in a series of public events on campus.

Dr. Smelcer is one of the last speakers of the Ahtna language, a severely endangered Alaska Native language. He has authored 45 books in an eclectic range of interests and disciplines. Aside from Smelcer's many novels and poetry collections, he has published works in histo-

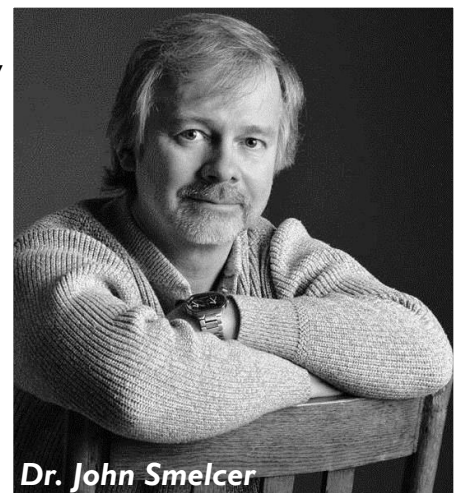
ry, mythology, anthropology, archaeology and linguistics, as well as anthologies, plays, screenplays, dictionaries and children's picture books.

Smelcer presented a talk called **"The World Raven Made: Ahtna Athabaskan Culture, Language and Myth"** and The University Press hosted an open house and book signing meet and greet for Dr. Smelcer.

Dr. Smelcer talked in several classes including Comparative Cultures, Mythology, and Contemporary

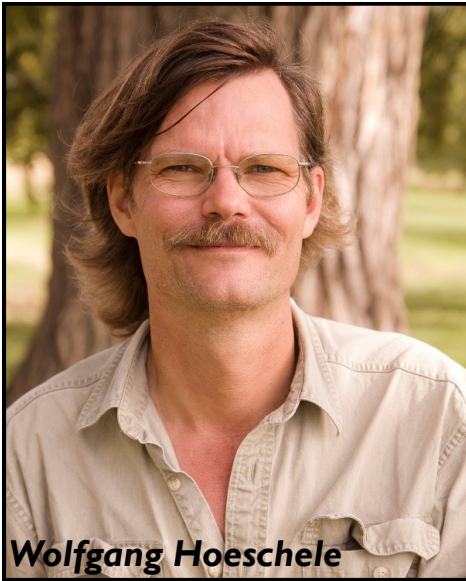
Literary Criticism, The McNair Program and gave a Poetry Reading at the Student Union.

Smelcer's newest adventure novel, **Lone Wolves**, was just released Oct 15th.



Dr. John Smelcer

Published Book to Civic Engagement



Wolfgang Hoeschele

responsibility for shared resources, of the commons.

Ulatowska had dreamt of a commons-based global community linked internationally by people who all in their own ways contribute to a world that works for all, and where communications and collaboration would be promoted globally via

the United Nations; she added the desire for such a network to support advocacy for the commons. And, from there the Commons Abundance Network work was born, CAN for short, to mean "yes, we CAN!"

The network now has over 80 active members in the US, Europe, Australia, and Asia.

In the fall 2012, SOAN majors in **Dr. Hoeschele's Environmental and Economic Geography classes** helped to create the content for CAN's website and this fall, majors will continue to add to the website, including Dr. McDuff's Globalization course students. They are

helping to write to a larger audience that may help to inform people about how to solve environmental and social problems.

A wiki- search engine is available on the website providing knowledge and data on Needs, Organizational forms, Resources for Abundance of Commons in their various forms.

SOAN majors Logan Riney, Rikki Watts, Nanda Christanto, Samantha Galloway, and Racheal Kisee provided content on seed saving, urban farming, barefoot college, Land for nature preservation, US-government-designated nature reserves, and libraries, respectively.

Several other students in Dr. Hoeschele's Environmental and Economic Geography courses contributed content such as Scientific Commons and Sustainable Buildings.

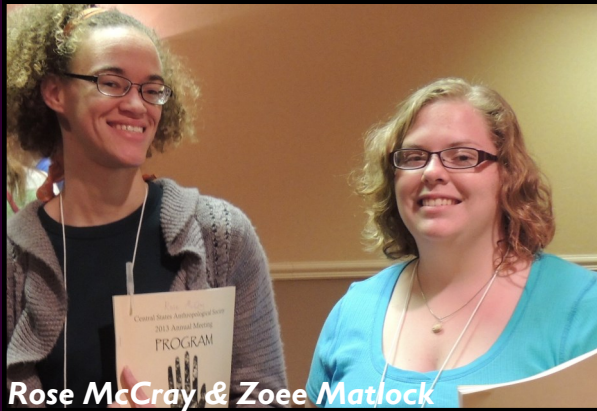
For an account about how the website evolved, see: <http://commonsabundance.net/can-history/>.

**Commons
Abundance
Network,
CAN for
short – "yes,
we CAN!"**

While traveling in Europe last summer to European countries discussing his new book **Economics of Abundance**, the idea for the Commons Abundance Network was born in a small town near Amsterdam by its co-founder **Dr. Wolfgang Hoeschele, Professor of Geography, in the Society & Environment Department.**

Gathered with friends at the home of **Lisinka Ulatowska**, founder of the **Commons Action for the United Nations**, Dr. Hoeschele shared his recent thoughts about creating an online social network to help people learn from each other and innovate in order to build an economy of abundance, of shared

MEETINGS



Rose McCray & Zoe Matlock

Last April, the annual **Central States Anthropological Meeting** was held in St. Louis, MO.

Five anthropology majors from Truman, **Kathryn Hedlund, Racheal Kisse, Zoe Matlock, Rose McCray, and Julianne Meyer** attended the meeting with **Dr. Amber Johnson**, Professor of Anthropology.

Hedlund and Meyer presented papers at the meeting. Hedlund's paper was entitled **"Cultural Views and their Impact on Mental Illness: An Analysis of Schizophrenia, Recovery, and Attitudes about Mental Illnesses across Cultures."** Meyer's paper was entitled **"The Devil Lives in the Apple Orchard and other Kansas City Ghost Tales."**

"..MSS gave me the opportunity to witness how what I learn about in the classroom comes into direct action.."

- Sociology Major, Andie Davis

At the **Missouri Sociological Association Annual Meeting**, **Dr. Elaine McDuff** represented the Midwest Sociological Society Board of Directors, accompanied by **Sociology Major Aaron Albright**, who presented his research from Data Analysis & Research Design courses. Aaron won 2nd prize in the MSA Undergraduate Paper Competition for his work on **"The United States Use of Drones."**

Erin McCann, and Sarah Westfall attended the conference along with **Dr. Elaine McDuff, Professor of Sociology.**

Senior Samantha Galloway (pictured right) won third place in the 50th Annual MSS Undergraduate Student Paper Competition. She is receiving the award from **Dr. Linda Lindsey**, Professor Emeritus at Maryville University in St. Louis and President of the MSS.

Gender Stereotyping in Advertisements as Measured by Super Bowl and Primetime Commercials."

Tasheka Graves also presented, **"Achieving Success: Exploring the Necessity of Attending Graduate School,"** at the MSS Undergraduate Poster Session.

The annual **Midwest Sociological Society Meeting** was held in Chicago, Illinois. **Six Sociology majors, Andie Davis, Samantha Galloway, Tasheka Graves, Aaron John-**

Samantha was mentored by **Dr. Amber Johnson, Professor of Anthropology.** Her paper was entitled **"It Depends on Who's Watching: The Relationship between Perceived Audience Size and**



Samantha Galloway

Student Research Conference



Miriam Mahder

Several of our students presented their research at the Student Research Conference in April.

Oral Presentations included:

“Black Nationalism and the ‘Back to Africa’ Movement in Twentieth Century America” by Aaron M. Johnson. (Dr. Amber L. Johnson, Faculty Mentor)

Poster Presentations included:

“Public School Inclusion and Skill Development Among Children with Autism” by Kyle G. Shaughnessy. (Dr. Amber L. Johnson, Faculty Mentor)

“Makeup and Perceptions: Does altering appearances affect how one

is perceived?” by Erin K. McCann. (Dr. Amber L. Johnson, Faculty Mentor)

“It Depends on Who’s Watching: The relationship between perceived audience size and gender stereotyping in advertisements as measured by Super Bowl and primetime commercials” by Samantha R. Gallo-way. (Dr. Amber L. Johnson, Faculty Mentor)

“Buying Into Objectification: An Examination of the Objectification of Models in Magazine Advertisements” by Miriam E. Mahder. (Dr. Amber L. Johnson, Faculty Mentor)

“Patches, Pitches, and Piccolos: The Positive Effects of Extracurricular Activity Type, Variety, Breadth, and Leadership on

the Self-Esteem, Life Satisfaction, and School Connectedness of Middle School Students” by Shelby L. Hewerdine. (Dr. Amber L. Johnson, Faculty Mentor)

“Women in Cinema: Examining the Lead Female Character in Movies during the Second Wave Feminist Movement (1940s-1980s) to observe how the Roles of Women have changed throughout Time” by Sarah J. Trosen. (Dr. Amber L. Johnson, Faculty Mentor)

“Is It a Major Choice? An Examination of Undergraduate Degrees and Their Relationship to Current Employment 5-10 Years Removed from College” by Matt C. Garcia. (Dr. Amber L. Johnson, Faculty Mentor)

“New Perspectives on Rehabilitating Psychopaths” by Nicholas M. Riggins. (Dr. Amber L. Johnson, Faculty Mentor)

“The Functions of Witchcraft in Society” by Zoe Matlock. (Dr. Amber L. Johnson, Faculty Mentor)

“The Show Must Go On: Perceptions of Local Theatres of the Past Through Photography” by Racheal A. Kisse. (Dr. Amber L. Johnson, Faculty Mentor)

Faculty Notables



Anton Daughters

Dr. Anton Daughters, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, gave a lecture as part of the Global Issues Colloquium series on **“Globalization at the Ends of the Earth: Rural Livelihoods and Wage Labor in Southern Chile’s Archipelago of Chiloé.”**

Dr. Daughters also published the article **“Grave Offenses Worthy of Great Punishment: The Enslavement of Juan Suñi, 1659”** in *Journal of the Southwest*, Vol. 54. He presented a paper at Coe College entitled **“The Short and Unhappy Life of Juan Suñi: A Case of Cloning, Theft, and Enslavement in Seventeenth Century New Mexico.”**

He also presented a paper about **“Southern Chile’s Archipelago of**

Chiloé: Subsistence Livelihoods and Identity Pushback” at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology in Denver. His Folklore Colloquium presentation, **“Moquis and Kastilam: A History of the Hopi Indians and the Spaniards,”** focused on Hopi history from the 16th to the 18th centuries.

Dr. Elaine McDuff, Professor of Sociology, will present **“Women’s Voices from the Diasporas Migration and Change”** at the Global Issues Colloquium in November.

Dr. Wolfgang Hoeschele, Professor of Geography, presented **“The Commons Abundance Network: Toward a Global Network of Local Initiatives for Abundant Life,”** as part of the Global Issues Colloquium. And, this Fall he gave a talk about the Commons Abundance Network at the Vincent and Elinor Ostrom Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis at Indiana University.

Dr. Amber Johnson, Professor of Anthropology, finished a paper titled **“Exploring Adaptive Variation Among**

Hunter-gatherers with Binfords Frames of Reference” published in the *Journal of Archaeological Research*. Dr. Johnson also gave a **short talk about the archaeology of Northeast Missouri** at the Ruth W. Towne Museum.

She also travelled to the University of Connecticut with alumnus Rudy Cesaretti (SOAN ’12) to participate in a micro-workshop on modeling prehistoric and historic agrarian carrying capacity. Rudy is currently work with an international research team on this project.



Dr. Elaine McDuff walking through the farmerworker’s compound in DeDoorns near Cape Town while on Sabbatical

Outstanding Students



Julianne Meyer

Anthropology major, **Julianne Meyer '13** is pictured receiving her **Outstanding Student in Anthropology Award** from Dr. Amber Johnson.

Julianne is from Lone Jack, Missouri and she is working toward her MA in Folklore

from the University of Oregon.

Sociology major **Shelby Hewerdine '13**, from St. Peters, MO, graduated in May, Summa Cum Laude and with Departmental Honors. Shelby is pictured receiving her **Outstanding Student in Sociology Award** from Dr. Elaine McDuff.

Shelby was active on campus in political organizations, the Pre-Law Club, Alpha Kappa Delta, and the Sociology Honor Society.

She also completed an

internship with the Missouri Archives, and interned in the State Attorney's Office in Cape Town, South Africa, as part of the "Democracy and Human Rights in South Africa" study abroad program. In the fall of 2013. She has just entered law school at St. Louis University.



Shelby Hewerdine

Student Notables & Honors

Elizabeth Salley '14 Anthropology Major helped organize the **Local Foods Dinner as a project of the Environmental Campus Organization (ECO)**, a Truman student-led organization committed to promoting sustainability on a local and global level and intended to foster community relations and promote campus and community sustainability.

Danielle Clemmons '13 Sociology Major and McNair Scholar presented

"The African American College Experience: Perceptions of Campus Environmental Influences at a Predominantly White University in the Midwest" at the Annual McNair Research Conference last Fall. (Dr. Elaine McDuff, Faculty Mentor)

Tasheka Graves, Erin McCann, Sarah Trosen, and Rikki Watts were inducted into the **Cultural and Societal Honors Society**.

Samantha Galloway, Aaron Johnson, and Sarah Westfall were inducted into **Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honors Society**.

Kathryn Hedlund and Zoe Matlock were inducted into **Lambda Alpha, the International Anthropology Honors Society**.

Samantha Galloway, Shelby Hewerdine and Erin McCann earned **Department Honors**.

Alumni Notes

Julie Mauchenheimer '95 helped refugees start small business for 13 years and completed an MA in cultural anthropology.

Patrick Granada '96 works in Chicago as a Dialysis Social Worker for the UIC Nephrology program, providing services for patients who are on dialysis in the clinic, as well as home and peritoneal dialysis, in two nursing homes.

Amy DeBaets '97 is an Assistant Professor of Bioethics at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, and was named this year as Faculty Scholar for the University of Chicago Program on Medicine and Religion, which is a two-year grant which funds a project in osteopathic philosophy and physician spirituality. Amy will be in Kirksville working in the archives at several points over the next two years.

Shannon Twenter '98 received a Masters in Education (10 years after graduating from Truman) from George Mason. She has worked as a teacher in traditional and non-traditional schools and for a non-profit program developer, all in the urban education world (Baltimore, NYC, and KC). She says that her skills as a sociologist and anthropologist have been used throughout her career.

Kathleen Sheppard '01 finished her PhD in the History of

Science at the University of Oklahoma in 2010 and did a post-doc at the American University in Cairo from 2010-2011. Since Fall 2011 she has been an Assistant Prof. in the History and Political Science Department at Missouri S&T. Her first book, *The Life of Margaret Alice Murray: A Woman's Work in Archaeology*, just came out this Fall.

Christina (Pomianek) Dames '04 finished her Ph.D. in Anthropology in 2012 at Mizou and was offered a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at Lindenwood

This fall, senior seminar students will enjoy live conversations on **skype with alums** who share their graduate school and job experiences and lots of useful advice. If you would be willing to participate in one of these conversations, please email [Dr. Elaine McDuff](mailto:Dr.ElaineMcDuff).

University. She is also a Fulbright and Boren Awards Advisor and is serving on the IRB Committee. Her dissertation made the list of "best cultural anthropology dissertations" in 2012.

Donivan Foster '05 will complete the course work for a PhD in Higher Education Policy in 2014.

Steven Lewis '05 works as a

Information Technologies Consultant.

Brian Woll '06 completed his Masters in Non-Profit Management at Washington University in St. Louis in 2010. He now works as a Policy Advocacy Assistant for the American Civil Liberties Union. His most recent work involved the legalization of same-sex marriage and the legalization of recreational marijuana.

Kara Jo Humphrey '09 was recently promoted to Senior Admission Counselor here at Truman State. Her son, Eli, has celebrated his first birthday.

Amanda Brown '11 has been working at L'Arche Farms and Gardens in Tacoma, WA with individuals who have developmental disabilities as part of Jesuit Volunteer Corps. Amanda says she is excited to grow vegetables and build relationships.

Mary Heppermann '12 is a Community Support Specialist for the North Central Missouri Mental Health Center.

Jessica Bernstetter '12 is a second year master's student and teaching assistant at Northern Illinois University. She spent four weeks this summer doing field work in Sicily and collecting data for her thesis. She hopes to graduate with a Master's in 2014 and apply for a Ph.D. program.

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Thanks to everyone – faculty, staff, students, and alumni – who have contributed to our successes in the last year. It is a privilege to be a part of you. Feel free to email us and let us know what you are doing. We enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Elaine McDuff, Department Chair



**Ayiana Smelcer & Rose McCray
Spring Picnic, 2013**