

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL &  
CULTURAL STUDIES**

Barnett Hall, Rm 2210  
Truman State University  
100 East Normal  
Kirksville, Mo 63501  
660-785-4667  
[societyandenvironment@truman.edu](mailto:societyandenvironment@truman.edu)

[societyandenvironment.truman.edu/](http://societyandenvironment.truman.edu/)

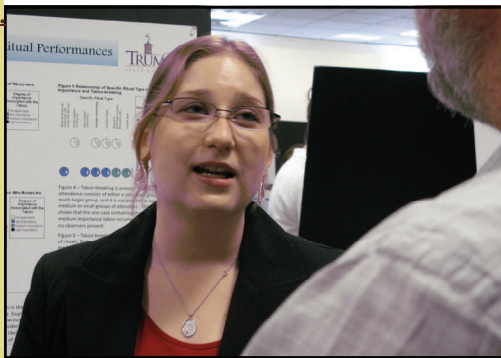
**INSIDE  
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ISSUE:**

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# Department of Society & Environment

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY FALL 2011

## Focus on Student Learning



*Senior Chantae Rudie presenting a poster session on Ritual Performances at the SRC*

Students who graduated in May 2011 were the first class to take most of their courses from the new curriculum – those who graduate in May 2012 will be the first with all their courses from the new curriculum. The final courses in our redesigned curriculum were introduced last academic year: SOAN381:Data Analysis & Reporting, SOAN450: Topics in Sociology, SOAN 451:Topics in Anthropology, SOAN 452:Integrated Topics in Society & Environment, SOAN 490:Senior Seminar I, and SOAN 491: Senior Seminar II.

In this edition of the Society & Environment newsletter, we showcase features of our new curriculum that engage students in their own learning, get them out of the classroom and into the world.

In 2010, we offered the newly redesigned method and theory courses for the first time. In spring 2010, students in SOAN380: Research Design were co-enrolled in either SOAN 360:Sociological Theory or SOAN361:Anthropological Theory. By the end of the semester, they had designed independent research projects and presented their research proposals. In fall 2010, this cohort of students completed the projects they designed in the spring in SOAN381:Data Analysis and Reporting. In spring 2011, many of these projects were polished for public presentation, both at Truman's Student Research Conference and at regional

or national professional meetings, as part of SOAN 491: Senior Seminar II.

In addition to these features of our new Sociology/ Anthropology curriculum, the department housed two Student Initiated Courses as part of a University-wide initiative to encourage students to take control of their own learning.

Out of the classroom, our students have been pursuing independent research through the competitive TruScholars Research Program and as McNair Scholars. They have attended regional and national professional meetings to present their research, studied abroad and engaged in internships to increase their breadth of understanding of the world in which we're living, and won internationally competitive fellowships to launch their careers upon graduating from Truman.

We hope you will share our excitement about the great things our students do in and out of the classroom. —Dr. Amber Johnson

# Data Analysis & Reporting



**Data Analysis and Reporting** follows a semester including both Theory and Research Design in the new curriculum. This course guides students through primarily quantitative analysis of data they have collected and organized to complete the projects they designed the previous spring semester in Research and Design.

Class projects included:

**“The Relation of Globalization on Natural Resource Usage in a Region”**  
by Zach Chapman

**“Media’s Portrayal of Refugees”** by Katherine Olsen Flate

**“The Stigma of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in the Military”** by Elizabeth Rendlen

**“Any Pueblo, U.S.A. Factors Determining the Receptivity of the Native-Born Community Towards Hispanic Immigrants in Rural America: A case study of Milan, MO”** by David Linhares

**“A Cross-Cultural Comparison of North American Caribou Hunting Group”**  
by John Nash

**“Sustenance and Sustainability: The Socioeconomic and Cultural Effects of the Green Revolution”** by Katherine Pawloski

**“Cultural Happiness: Looking for Happiness Values in Short Stories and Nations”** by Nick Riggins

**“The Relationship between Violence and Facility Programs within California’s Juvenile Delinquency Centers”** by Samantha Richardson

**“Gender Discrimination in the Election of Women to State Legislature”** by Ashley Tucker

## Topics Courses

Topics courses have been designed to allow faculty and students flexibility in the range of upper level course topics we explore together. Student Initiated Courses (SIC) mentored in our department are taught as upper level topics courses.

Topics in the last couple of years have included: Globalization, Immigration, Archaeological Method

and Theory, Sociology of Health, Linguistic Anthropology, and Post Colonial South Asia.

The first SIC in Sociology/Anthropology was a course on **Ethnography of Native Americans**, offered last fall by Senior Anthropology major **Tyler Retherford** (Dr. Bonnie Mitchell served as faculty mentor).

This past Spring 2011, a course on **Sociology of Gender Variance** was offered by Sociology major, **Zak Palmer** with Dr. Elaine McDuff as faculty mentor.

Watch a short clip of **SIC courses** in the department on Truman’s video channel on youtube.

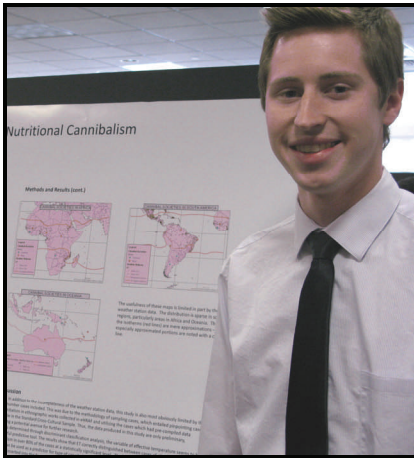
# Senior Seminars

Finally, we've developed two distinct Senior Seminars. In **Senior Seminar I**, taught each fall, majors explore career and graduate school options, write cover letters, develop resumes and CVs, and learn about other opportunities such as the Peace Corps. One of the things we like most about this Senior Seminar is the excuse to bring alums to campus (in person or online) to help current students learn more about grad school and career application process and decisions.

Last September, we hosted an alumni career panel that included: Laura Keck '06, JD '09 from St. Louis University, who works on staff for Missouri Supreme Court Justice Michael Wolff; Lacey Prater '06, MSW '08 from Mizzou who is a licensed Social Worker and Counselor at Missouri River Hospice; and, Ashley Freund '06, MSW '09 from UMKC who works for Jackson County CASA, a nonprofit network of court appointed volunteers who advocate for the needs of abused and neglected children.

In **Senior Seminar II**, taught each spring, majors take the product of one of their upper level learning experiences (research project, topics paper, internship or field school experience) and polish it for presentation to some public audience. Many students present papers or posters at Truman's Student Research Conference. A few present in other venues on campus or at regional or national professional meetings. Many kinds of project are possible, we're looking forward to some creative options in the future.

## Student Research Conference



**Junior Kevin Sack presenting a poster session at the SRC**

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

Oral Presentations included: **"Subsistence Risk Management Variation in Indigenous North America"** by Tyler Retherford. (Dr. Amber Johnson,

Faculty Mentor)\*\*

**"The Family Unit as a Model for Human Actions Affecting the Environment"** by Rita Jokerst. (Dr. Bonnie L. Mitchell, Faculty Mentor)

**"Human Trafficking in Missouri"** by Kathrine Olsen Flaate. (Prof. Julie Flowerday, Faculty Mentor)

**"Patterns of Internal Warfare as Demonstrated in Societal Structure"** by John Topi. (Dr. Amber Johnson, Faculty Mentor)\*\*

**"Environment, Oil Revenue, and Civil Society: A Case Study of the Niger Delta"** by Slok Gyawali. (Dr. Wolfgang Hoeschele, Faculty Mentor)

Poster Presentations included: **"Location, Location, Location: Assessing the Availability and Cost of Groceries in Rural Northeast Missouri"** by Amanda Brown. (Dr. Amber

Johnson, Prof. Julie Flowerday, and Dr. Charles Barrow, Faculty Mentors)\*\*

**"Environmental Factors as Distinguishing Ritual and Nutritional Cannibalism"** by Kevin Sack. (Dr. Amber Johnson, Faculty Mentor)\*

**"Breaking the Rules and Getting Away with It: An Exploration of Approved Taboo-Breaking in Ritual Performances"** by Chantae Rudie. (Dr. Amber Johnson and Prof. Julie Flowerday, Faculty Mentors)\*\*

**"The Relationship Between Race and Racial Attitudes as Measured by Trait-Assignment in the Sims 3"** by Zachary Palmer (Dr. Amber Johnson, Faculty Mentor)\*

\*Data Analysis Project

\*\*Data Analysis Project polished in Senior Seminar II

# Study Abroad—Bangladesh & Capetown



*“... believe in the power of the young...”*

*—Banking Books for Pakistan*



**S**OAN Majors Kathrine Olsen-Flaate and Alex Senger joined Dr. Flowerday, in a study abroad program focused on micro-financing in Bangladesh.

In May, the students attended two courses at Sewanee University to learn first-hand about micro-finance programs in India and Bangladesh. In June they traveled to Bangladesh.

After some site seeing and shopping in India's capital, New Delhi, they visited Agra (Taj Mahal) and the nearby village of Kachpura where CURE, a

NGO (non-government organization) generates livelihood options.

They spent part of their time in the countryside visiting villages and meeting residents involved in micro-finance programs while the remaining time was spent in the capital, Dhaka.

**“Meeting and talking with people who have so profoundly changed the course of others' lives is amazing.” — Dr. Flowerday**

At the end of the Bangladesh Program Kathrine, Alex, and two Sewanee students stayed in Bangla-

desh for another month for internships, an optional component included in the study abroad program.

After this Study Abroad Program ended, Kathrine ('11), a Princeton Fellow, stayed in India to work at an orphanage for children with HIV in New Delhi while Dr. Flowerday traveled into Pakistan for a month to gauge support for the Truman project, **Banking Books for Pakistan: Raising Leaders Not Refugees.**

The goal of this project is to establish a library in Hunza that makes Pakistani textbooks available to children for a small fee and free to those from refugee families.

**I**n one of the most beautiful cities in the world, students participated in a study abroad course titled **AFR 310: Democracy & Human Rights in South Africa** with Dr. Elaine McDuff, and her husband, Dr. Steve McDuff.

Situated in Capetown, twenty-one students learned about the multiple concerns facing South Africa, as it strives to become one of the world's most progressive democracies. The heart of the program is an internship immersing students in the

living history of South Africa by directly involving them with institutions that are wrestling with South Africa's troubled past while helping create a modern, democratic civil society.

The students worked for a month with a non-governmental agency whose mission is to address issues of social injustice and their continuing impact on formerly disenfranchised South Africans, especially women, children and workers. The other days were spent visiting museums and historical

sites, and hearing lectures on contemporary political and economic issues in South Africa.

Molly Skyles a Junior Communications major, (pictured left) wrote articles about the rinderpest cattle plague, Africa Day celebrations, HIV treatments, soup kitchens in Cape Town, the elderly population in the city and corrective rape hate crimes, as an intern for the Cape Argus newspaper.

For a complete listing of student reflections and photos of the study abroad trip, visit their blog at

<http://trumanincapetown2011.blogspot.com/>

# Summer 2010 Field Schools

John Topi '11 attended an archaeological field school near the North rim of the Grand Canyon. The excavation of two nearly contemporaneous Anasazi pueblos, dating to around 1100 A.D., was operated by the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. During the six weeks in conducting excavations, John learned a lot about field methods.

Throughout the dig, each

student had the chance to learn and practice aspects such as: site-mapping, recording, cleaning and analyzing artifacts, digging methods, and geological identification.

Short learning sessions with visiting professors also enabled the students to experience a short, crash-course in flint-knapping, use-wear analysis and experimental archaeology.

For John, "The experience was awesome and helped pique my interest in archaeology. I recommend attending a field school to any student seriously interested in the field of archaeology."



John is pictured holding the remains of an unearthened rodent in a partially-excavated storage pit.

**"The experience was awesome and helped pique my interest in archaeology."—John**

Matthew Willis '12 attended a field school sponsored by Kansas State University.

The field school was located in Leavenworth, KS digging a Hopewell Native American site on the grounds of Fort Leavenworth dating from around

200 AD to 600 AD.

Matt learned all of the basics of an archaeological dig from laying out squares and a datum, to sketching formations and excavating pit features.



Tyler Retherford '11 (pictured right) attended the Owyhee Archaeological Field School (Washington State University) in southeast Oregon while he spent six weeks excavating with a few days of survey as well.

While excavating a pre-historic occupation site,

the group found a wide variety of stone tools, some animal bones, and a few features. In addition to digging, Tyler learned how to take proper field notes, use a transit measuring device, and do basic lab sorting and classifying of artifacts.

Tyler writes, "I not only

learned tons about what archaeological field work actually is, but also developed specific interests within the broader field which helped me decide on, and get into, WSU's graduate program. I'd strongly recommend attending an archaeological field school to anyone who is curious about if archeology is for them."

**"I'd strongly recommend attending an archaeological field school to anyone who is curious about if archeology is for them."—Tyler**

# Student Noteables

**Katherine Olsen-Flaate '11, an international student from Norway and Sociology Major has been accepted into the Princeton-in-Asia (PiA) Program**

**Erika Hulsey '11** "**A Look Inside Arizona's Immigration Bill**" organized a panel discussion **SB1070** with Dr. Bonnie Mitchell and Axel Fuentes, as her capstone project for Interdisciplinary Studies

**Katherine Olsen-Flaate '11**, an international student from Norway and Sociology Major has been accepted into the **Princeton-in-Asia (PiA) program**, Fall 2011. She will be working at an orphanage/NGO in

India that serves 35 children living with HIV/AIDS. Her work consists of grant writing, strategic planning, office administration, teaching English, and caring for the children.

**Emily Love '12** organized & led 20 students from the **Environmental Campus Organization (ECO) to Power Shift 2011** in Washington D.C. Following their trip, ECO presented at the Environmental Studies Conference (which occurs each year during Earth Week).

ECO plans to keep in contact with other Missouri environmental advocates through the Missouri Student Environmental Coalition (MSEC).

**Dwuana Bradley '11** a McNair Scholar just completed a Summer Research Internship titled "**Is Dark Humor Funny?**"

**Chermain Jennings '12** McNair Scholar just completed a Summer Research Internship titled "**Just Because I Break the Law Doesn't Make Me a Criminal.**"

## Outstanding Students



Anthropology Major **Chantae Rudie ('11)** is pictured above receiving the Outstanding Student in Anthropology award from Dr. Johnson at the Annual Academic Honor Awards Assembly in May.

Chantae is from Wentzville, Missouri and has been involved in the Anthropology Club as the President and Secretary, represented the department at

visit events, completed an archeological field school & worked as a TA for World Pre-History.

This Fall Chantae is starting graduate school in the Department of Geography & Anthropology at Louisiana State University. She will be studying Mayan Archaeology.

year" to look at graduate programs. She is interested in education and teaching life skills to those that come from unstable families.

**"..It was wonderful to be able to have one-on-one time with the professors and to discuss things outside of the classroom..." -Krista**

Sociology Major **Krista Goodman ('11)** is pictured right receiving the Outstanding Student in Sociology award from Dr. McDuff. Krista has been involved with Students for Social Change, Peace Fellows, & Campus Christian Fellowship on campus.

Krista is taking a "gap



# New Honor Societies



**Alpha Kappa Delta**, the National Sociology Honor Society started a new chapter at Truman last year. Chapter Kappa of Missouri Charter members are: Lakeisha Joyce, Katherine Olsen-Flaate, Zak Palmer, and Ashley Tucker.

**Cultural & Societal Honors Society**, a joint honors society for Sociology/Anthropology majors, established in 2010 by Jessica Bernstetter and Katherine Olsen-Flaate. Charter members (pictured below) were recognized in an induction ceremony on November 29, 2010.

## Departmental Honors Program

distinguishes majors who have achieved academic success and made an investment in education and personal development beyond the classroom. Those graduating May 2011 with department honors are: Amanda Brown, Krista Goodman, Ameila LaMair, Michelle Noriega, Brandon Pollard, Chantae Rudie, and Ashley

Jessica and Katherine leading the first Cultural & Societal Honors Society Induction Ceremony

**Lambda Alpha**, the National Anthropology Honor Society Chapter Zeta of Missouri has just been started with Charter Members: Rudolph Cesaretti, Katie Dye, Hannah Motes, Kevin Sack, and Alex Senger.



Pictured: Jessica Bernstetter, Rudolph Cesaretti, Katie Dye, Kathrine Olsen Flaate, Emma Flowers, Lakeisha Joyce, Racheal Kisse, Hannah Motes, Zakery Palmer, Nick Riggins, Kevin Sack, Alex Senger, & Ashley Tucker.

## The American Sociological Association

**Association** selected Senior Sociology Major Zak Palmer, to participate in the **Honors Program** at the 2011 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas this August 2011. The Honors Program provides undergraduate sociology students a rich introduction to the professional life of the discipline.

Exceptional sociology students from throughout the country and the world come together for four days and experience all facets of the ASA Annual Meetings.

By participating in the Honors Program, students develop long lasting networks with other aspiring sociologists while their sponsoring departments have a chance to “showcase” their own quality programs and their most outstanding students.



## Meetings

The **Central States Anthropological Society Meeting** was held in Iowa City in April 2011. The Central States Anthropological Society is a subsection of the American Anthropological Association with a four-field focus in Anthropology.

Senior Anthropology major Chantae Rudie presented her research poster on **"Breaking the Rules and Getting Away with It: An Exploration of Approved Taboo-Breaking in Ritual Performances"**

Other students who attended the meeting included Rudy Cesaretti, Tyler Retherford, and Samantha Mormino.

The annual **Midwest Sociological Society Meeting** was held in St. Louis this past March. It is a professional organization of academic and applied sociologists, as well as graduate and undergraduate students from 9 states including Missouri. The theme of this year's meeting was **"The Dynamics of Inequality"** with several keynote speakers and 230 sessions on a wide range of topics. Special sessions and activities were offered for students. Several students from the department along with Dr. McDuff and Dr. Mitchell ventured to St. Louis to attend the conference. Junior Sociology Major, **Joy Bulen** discussed a paper at the **"Comparative Race & Ethnicity"** session.

**Elaine McDuff, Associate Professor of Sociology**, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Midwest Sociologi-

cal Society as the representative for the state of Missouri.

**Bonnie Mitchell, Assistant Professor of Sociology**, was elected President-Elect of the **Missouri Sociological Association** last October and will become President in October of this year.

**Unite for Sight: Global Health Conference** was attended by Majors Katherine Olsen-Flaate & Krista Goodman this April in New Haven, CT as sponsored by the department, school, and Students for Social Change.

It is the world's leading global health and social entrepreneurship conference, with 2,200 professionals, students, and leaders in all fields of global health, international development, and social entrepreneurship.

## Students For Social Change



Students for Social Change (Sociology Club) involved in social justice and change held a Peace Panel Discussion last Fall with Truman State Peace Fellow, AFSC. Several faculty panel members including Dr. Mitchell, Professor of Sociology, led the discussion on the multidimensional word "peace", what peace really is, what it means for the indi-

vidual, can it be attained and how is it possible.

Other faculty on the panel included Dr. Marc Becker and Dr. Michael Rudy.

For more information regarding organizational activities, please email the advisor, [Dr. Elaine McDuff](mailto:Dr. Elaine McDuff).



## Anthropology Club

Pictured left is Visiting Argentine Archeologist Rafael Goni enjoying a backyard cookout with the Anthropology Club at the home of Dr. Johnson, Professor of Anthropology.

Outside of socializing this past year, the club discussed possible Department Seminar topics for special guests, gave field school and study abroad presentations, planned and attended professional meetings, and walked the Cahokia Mounds near St. Louis.

Visit the **Anthropology Club** on facebook for more pictures.



# Tru-Scholars Summer Research Program



This summer Rudy Cesaretti ('12), participated in the TruScholars Summer Research Program with Dr. Amber Johnson as his faculty mentor.

The purpose of the program is to foster collaborative faculty-student research to enhance student learning and

promote a culture of research, scholarship, and creative activities at Truman.

Projects supported by this program should exhibit the potential for scholar-

ly publication, presentation at a regional or national conference, or creative performance. Rudy was one of twenty-five students supported by the program with a stipend of up to \$3,000.

**“School Days Past and Present: A Look at School Consolidation’s Impact on Rural Northeast Missouri**

**Communities”** is the name of Rudy’s project which was inspired by a JINS course in Fall 2010. It involved qualitative research exploring cultural perceptions relating to social change in the form of school consolidation in one rural Missouri school district.

At the end of summer students presented the results of their projects via oral presentations or poster presentations at the TruScholars Research Symposium. Rudy will also present a poster on this research at the American Anthropological Association meeting in Montreal, Canada this November.

<http://osr.truman.edu>

## Department Seminars

Seminars hosted by the Department of Society & Environment continue to promote faculty scholarship and foster discussion of topics relevant to our disciplines.

Last October, **Dr. Wolfgang Hoeschele** presented **“Is there a Place for Abundance in San Francisco?”** — highlights from his fellowship to San Francisco, California on how a perspective of economic abundance might contribute to social and environmental entrepreneurship in that city.

**Visiting Argentine Archaeologist, Rafael Goñi**, presented his thesis research

Next Fall adult learners seeking professional development and continuing education can take Dr. Hoeschele’s **GEOG620: Environmental Geography** online course and complete a **Sustainability & Environmental Studies Online Graduate Certificate** as part of the **Truman Institute**.

on **“Mid Holocene Changes in Land Use in Central Patagonia, Argentina.”**

In the Spring, **Emeriti Professor of Anthropology, Dr. Graber** presented **“Is**

**Chimpanzee Culture Cumulative? Adapting and Applying Guttman Scaling.”**

**Dr. Derek Daschke (Philosophy & Religion)** discussed **“Godwin’s Law: Moral Uses & Abuses of Nazi Legacy.”**

Also in the Spring, **Visiting Sociologist Les Kurtz** (pictured right) spoke at the Global Issues Lecture and department seminar on **“Gods, Guns, and Gandhi: Rethinking Terrorism”** in understanding non-violence to resist injustice.



Les Kurtz

# ALUMNI NOTES

**Charlotte [Cooper] Sunseri '03** is starting a tenure-track position teaching Archaeology at San Jose State University in California.

**Ann Shirley Leymon '04** is in a Ph.D. program in Sociology at the University of Oregon.

**Candice Luebbering '04** has completed a PhD in Geography (Geospatial & Environmental Analysis) this spring at Virginia Tech. She is staying on at VT for now as an Adjunct faculty in the Department of Geography, teaching courses in cartography and human geography.

**Stephanie Malin '04** has completed a Ph.D. program in Environmental Sociology at Utah State University. She will start a Post-doc at Brown University in Providence, RI this fall.

**Christina Pomianek '04** is back from her PhD fieldwork in Borneo, writing, teaching, and planning a wedding.

**Ashley Freund '06** MSW '06 from UMKS is a Case Supervisor at Jackson County CASA.

**Laura Keck '06** JD from St. Louis University Law School, is working on the staff of one of Missouri's Supreme Court Justices.

**Sarah McDuff '06** is starting a graduate program in Global Policy at the LBJ School of International Studies at UT Austin.

**Lacey Prater '06** MSW from Univ of Missouri, Columbia; is now serving as a Social Worker at Boone Hospital Home Care and Hospice.

**Jill Blumer '07** is a Human Resources Generalist at Perfi-cient, a technology management consulting firm in St. Louis; she is also working on an MBA in International Business at Webster University.

**Sean Waters '08** has just started Law School at the University of Tulsa.



Caroline

**Caroline Crecelius '09** just finished a year abroad in the

Siberian town of Irkutsk studying Russian on a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship.

...it definitely would not have been possible without the department's teaching and mentoring."—Lee Anne

**Lee Anne Flagg '09** was just awarded a pre-doctoral fellowship through the Nutrition and Obesity Research Center at University of Alabama, Birmingham.

**Kara Jo Humphrey '09** enjoys being an Admissions Counselor at Truman State University.

**Yen Terefe '10** got an assistantship for this Fall semester at Univ of Florida in their Anthropology PhD Program.

"I wanted an overall cultural experience."—Michelle

**Michelle Noriega '11** lived in Beijing, China this past summer teaching English. Her next goal is to apply to a graduate program in Asian Studies, specifically Chinese, and if accepted, she will be enrolled starting Fall of 2012.

A L U M N I S U R V E Y

**HOW TO CONTACT US:**

**Society & Environment**

**Barnett Hall, Rm 2210**

**Truman State University**

**100 East Normal**

**Kirksville, Mo 63501**

**660-785-4667**

**societyandenvironment@truman.edu**



**John Messina & Justin  
Vilbig—December 2010  
graduates**

**<http://www.societyandenvironment.truman.edu/>**



**HOMECOMING  
RECEPTION**  
**Saturday, October 8th**  
**10am-12pm**  
**Barnett Hall, Rm 2222-  
Anthropology Lab**  
**We hope to see you there!**

Thanks to everyone – faculty, staff, students, and alumni – who have contributed to our successes in the last year. I look forward to sharing this year’s accomplishments with you next fall.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Amber Johnson, Depart-  
ment Chair



**Spring 2011 Graduates**