

INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:

New Faces  
Field Schools &  
Study Abroad  
Notables &  
Honors  
Research  
Faculty Notables  
Alumni Notes

# Department of Society & Environment

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY WINTER 2016

## New Faces

It seems like every year recently, the big news for the newsletter has been something about faculty coming or going. This year is no different. **Dr. McDuff has retired**, I am back from sabbatical (and back to being Department Chair), two of the temporary faculty we had last year have moved on (**Dr. Ujjaini Das and Dr. Christopher Kelley**), and we have new temporary faculty teaching in sociology (**Dr. Stephen Christ, and Dr. Victoria Mayer**), including one also teaching some geography (**Dr. Cory Anderson**).

Amid all the coming and going students are learning in and out of the classroom, engaging their world through **study abroad, research, internships, field schools, and service learning**, and graduating into life after Truman where they continue to find a wide variety of exciting opportunities. This newsletter showcases our student achievements in all of these areas.

### Introducing our new faculty:

**Dr. Cory Anderson's** interests focus on the persistence of the plain people (Amish, Mennonites, etc.) amidst the greater ethnic and religious homogenization of the West. In addition to publishing on this subject, he is also founder and co-editor with Dr. Joseph Donnermeyer (Ohio State University-Rural Sociology) of *The Journal of Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies*.

His background includes both sociological and geographic dimensions. **Dr. Anderson received his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University.** He teaches Sociological Inquiry, The Geographic Perspective, Introduction to GIS, a variety of sociology topics courses such as Amish Society, and Sociology of Religion.

In his research, **Dr. Stephen Christ** examines



Dr. Cory Anderson

the everyday experiences of Mexican immigrants in the United States that contribute to Mexican-American identity formation. More specifically, how Mexican Americans experience daily life at home, at work, in public life and in how these experiences impact their sense of personal identity, their relationships with natives, their interactions with their families and community, and the identity work that goes into producing such categories and social worlds.

Stephen is currently preparing his dissertation project, *"Authentic*

*continued on page 13*

# Field Schools



Leslie Hickman, Anthropology Major

One of the avenues that makes Truman distinct is students engaging in real-world opportunities and Anthropological Field Schools are one such opportunity. Last summer Anthropology majors earned credit in practical field-studies here and abroad. A few majors share their experience.

Junior **Anthropology Major Leslie Hickman** spent July at a field school through Muhlenberg College called **Archeology in Maine** in Brooklin, Maine on Harriman Point, a 100 acre plot of colonial land owned by a wealthy family during the 1700s and early

1800s. The goal of the study was to learn about the settlers' ways of life from what was found.

Leslie learned to be flexible when no artifacts were found and from the weather forcing her to work in a laboratory.

She learned how to set up a grid, work a total station, record unit levels and other basics of archeology.

Leslie finally realizes her dream of trying archeology. The experience gave Leslie a chance to follow through in a long standing interest.

*“When I first heard about archaeology, I was in the seventh grade. I randomly picked up a book my dad had bought at a garage sale about an archeologist/forensic anthropologist who solved centuries-old murders and I immediately fell in love with everything archaeology, especially the idea of unveiling the past.”*

Leslie enjoyed exploring the history of Maine, as well as, modern Maine with her fellow archeologists making her summer memorable. (Leslie is pictured on the far right.)

**Senior Anthropology Major Jessi Falvey** participated in a field school through the **Heritage and Archaeological Research Practice (HARP)** in Scotland mapping a military road in the Scottish highlands. The road was created by General Wade in an attempt to make the area more accessible following the Jacobite uprisings of the 18th century; the attempt of the English government to gain control of Scotland. The road was an influential trade route and now considered to be the modern roads of Scotland today.

In the field, Jessi used plain tabling, field surveys, monument recording, and photographic surveys to collect data.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) created a



Jessi Falvey, Anthropology Major

realistic mapping of the military road and over two-hundred sites were recorded that contributed to the Scottish Historical Society. Field schools will be run every year

until the military road is completely mapped.

Jessi states that this was one of the most meaningful experiences in her life where she

formed a special bond with her peers both professional and personally.

*“We learned to work well as a team, so we were able to collect better data that contributed to a project that many people are very passionate about. In addition, I got the opportunity to learn a variety of field methods that sitting in a classroom could never teach me! This experience couldn’t be replicated.”*

**Senior Anthropology Major Sarah Lamkin** attended the **Strathearn Environs and Royal Forteviot (SERF) field school** in Perth, Scotland through the University of Glasgow. The anthropology professors were interested in learning about the history of the area surrounding Forteviot, a small town a half hour from Perth and home to Pictish Kings hundreds of years ago.

They worked in three sites: two being Early Neolithic (about 6000 years old) and one more recent hillfort.

Sarah and her partner dug a pit complex at one of the Neolithic sites. She learned archaeological techniques and excavation by working with trowels and mattocks includ-

ing the recording of different context layers of dirt. One pit yielded nearly 200 sherds of pottery and pieces of a polished stone axe. Sara’s pit contained a post pipe, the only one found on site, suggesting the post was significant.

*“Although the digging could get repetitive at times, it was wonderfully exciting to be excavating bits of history that had sat in the Scottish dirt since they were left there by Neolithic peoples living nearly 6000 years ago.”*

Sarah declares the experience was incredible and enjoyed very much learning about an ancient culture excavating places where people lived and worked. She concludes, “It was very multicultural; I got to know people from Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Sweden, Bulgaria, Canada, and the US.” Today, Sarah still keeps in touch with her team.



Sarah Lamkin, Anthropology Major

# Chile Study Abroad: Globalization and Culture Change



**Boating near the Osorno Volcano in the Archipelago of Chiloé are Anthropology Majors Allison, Hope and Daniel**

This past Winter Interim, Dr. Anton Daughters led a study abroad trip to the Archipelago of Chiloé, a cluster of islands, off the coast of Chile.

Three Anthropology Juniors **Hope Berntsen**, **Allison Kelly** and **Daniel Wagner** along with Romance Language Major **Clara Miller-Broomfield** and Philosophy & Religion Major with a Spanish Minor, **Kaitlin Walker** spent one month being immersed into the culture of southern Chile.

Once considered a rural backwater of Chile, Chiloé has—in a span of three decades—become one of the world's leading exporters of farmed salmon and a significant draw for Chilean and foreign tourists. Villages that thirty years ago had neither electricity nor running water now

boast internet cafés and call centers.

Strong elements of Chiloé's rural and semi-isolated past persist to this day in the form of fishing and farming subsistence livelihoods, reciprocal labor practices, local artisanry, and unique religious festivals.

Students explored this juxtaposition of old and new, rural and urban, local and global through the traditional methods of cultural anthropology: participant observation, formal and informal interviews, and general immersion in local events and practices.

They also experienced daily life in the town Achao, island of Quinchao, and visited smaller islands and villages for overnight homestays in rural households.

As a point of contrast, they spent several days in Chile's capital city Santiago, where modern high-rises stand as paeans to the national government's violent and divisive shift to neoliberal economics forty years ago.

Altogether, the students gained a strong understanding of Chiloé and its uniqueness in relation to the rest of Chile while witnessing firsthand the daily rhythms of the archipelago.

Pictured below is Hope Berntsen, an anthropology major, holding up fresh-caught hake and conger eel on the island of Lingua in Chiloé.



*Hope Berntsen, Anthropology*

# Meetings

Sociology Majors **Karlea Harbaugh, Natalia Albanese, Melissa Kern, McKenzie Parker, Emily Crickard, Caitlyn Lee, Chelsea McCoy** and **Jenny Kuhn** along with **Dr. McDuff, Professor of Sociology**, attended the

**Midwest Sociological Society** annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

Karlea presented, *“The Favoritism and Discrimination of Identities in Small Group Tasks,”*

Melissa and Emily presented, *“Quantitative Analysis of Behavior in Gendered Tasks within Mixed*

*Sex Groups,”* and McKenzie and Caitlyn presented, *“Changing Status Characteristic in Higher Education.”* The students were mentored by Dr. Christopher Kelley, Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology.

Amandine Lebrun attended the **Association of American Geographers** in Chicago, Il.

**N  
o  
t  
a  
b  
l  
e  
s**



Shelby (right) and Kirsten

**Connor Maguire, Aaron Albrecht, Megan Todd** and **Indran Fernando** scored over **96% on the Sociology Major Field test.**

**Megan Todd** received a grant from the Office of Student Research for her research on *“Teacher Preparedness and Stress”* for **SOAN 381: Data Analysis and Reporting.**

Dr. Johnson’s research assistants received Office of Student Research grants for summer 2015: **Luke Edward “Macroecological Analysis of Recent**

**Kalahari Site Structure” Kayleigh Mrasek “Ecological Factors Conditioning pastoral Land Tenure Systems: Testing a Theoretical Model”** and **Gabriel Gowen & Jordan Lambay: “Ecological Factors Conditioning Hunter-Gatherer Subsistence and Mobility: A Comparison of Two Modeling Strategies”**

**Andrea Klipsch** was *“Dog of the Week”!* Andrea plays second base on the Truman Softball team, and made the **Schutt Sports/National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division II Player of the Year watchlist.**

**Senior Anthropology Major Ronnia Estes** has completed the **2015 McNair Scholars Program.** Nia’s research builds on preliminary work done as a capstone project by alumna Deborah Miller (SRC 2010). Anthropologists have long

puzzled over how to the pattern of sexual division of labor we find in the ethnographic record.

Nia conducted research to test ideas in the literature about what factors structure the sexual division of labor. **Dr. Daughters** served as her Mentor and **Dr. Johnson** as her Research Supervisor. Nia’s research will be published in the McNair Review.

**Junior Sociology Major, Shelby Kovak,** earned a **\$5,000 study abroad scholarship from Achieve Today.** Shelby picked the topic of the power of positive thinking, as it is something she strives to uphold in her own life. Her video submission beat out 30 other videos and more than 50 essays of students nationwide.

She used the scholarship to study abroad for eight weeks in Salamanca, Spain with her sister, Kirsten.

# Student Research Conference



Shelby Kovack

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

#### Oral Presentations included:

**“Extended Breastfeeding and Appropriate Weaning Age: Perception in Nursing Students”** by Mariah Vande Lune. (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

**“Effects on Marriage Dynamics, Homogamy, and Perception of Women as Womens College Enrollment Increased OverTime”** by Andrea G. Klipsch (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

**“Natural Resource Distribution Between Israel and Palestinian Territories”** by Sean J. Lynn. (Dr. Anton

Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

**“The Cemetery Project”** by Kimberly A. Allen. (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

**“Disability, Witchcraft, Gender Violence and Civil War in Sierra Leone: One Girl’s Story”** by Hannah R. McDaniel. (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

#### Poster Presentations included:

**“Chicks and Flicks: A content Analysis of the Portrayal of Women in Romantic Genre Films”** by Shelby E. Kovack (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

**“Does the Marital Status of Truman Parents Affect their Children’s GPAs, Campus Involvement, and Romantic Relationship Statuses?”** by Kelsey A. Porter. (Dr Paul D. Shapiro and Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentors)

**“The Effect of Modernization on Religiosity”** by Melissa L. Kern, (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

**“Greek or Not?”** by Margaret H. Braunfield. (Dr. Paul D. Shapiro and Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentors)

**“Truman State University Students’ Perceptions of Prostitution and Human Trafficking”** by Haley I. Delgado. (Dr. Anton Daughters, and Dr. Paul D. Shapiro, Faculty Mentors)

**“Media Consumption and Apathy”** by Kelley R. Bauer. (Dr. Amber Johnson, Faculty Mentor)

**“Attitudes About Sexual Assault at Truman”** by Jennifer R. Fowler (Dr. Amber Johnson, and Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentors)

**“Tibetan Nomads: Assessing the Disturbances in the Lifestyle of the Tibetan Nomads; Its Impact on the Ecosystem of Tibetans and Vice Versa”** by Dechan Sherpa. (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

**“THE status of women in AFRICA”** by Monalisa Gurung (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

**“Influence of Respondents Number of Sexual Partners on the Individuals Desired Age of Marriage”** by Anastassia A. Dambroukaya (Dr. Anton Daughters, Faculty Mentor)

# Service Learning



**Students in Dr. McDuff's Structured Inequalities course in fall 2014** participated in local service projects as part of their course requirements. The service learning project provided an opportunity for students to

learn first-hand about the impact of structured inequalities on the lives of ordinary people. In doing service learning, students work with community members as partners, with a goal of greater justice and community empowerment.

Specifically, students were asked to do 10 hours of community service at one of the following agencies: Headstart, Adult Basic Education or ESL at the Kirksville Area Technical Center, Hope's Kitchen, Project Homeless Connect, the Food Bank of Kirksville, and/or the Peace Afterschool Program. Students pictured here were doing the cooking for a Saturday meal at Hope's Kitchen.

## Student Honors



**Mariah Vande Lune—  
Outstanding Student in Anthropology**

Last spring, **Philip Bliese**, **Alison Notter**, **Sarah Lamkin**, and **Abby Harrison** were inducted into the **Cultural and Societal Honors Society**.

**Daniel Wagner** was inducted into **Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honors Society**.

**Kymberly Maine** and **Paige Cline** were inducted into **Lambda Alpha, the International Anthropology Honors Society**.

**Megan Todd** (**Outstanding Student in Sociology**), **Mariah Vande Lune** (**Outstanding Student in Anthropology**).

**Aaron Albrecht**, **Margaret Braunfeld**, **Haley Delgado**, **Missy Kern**, **Andrea Klipsch**, **Rebecca Lenger**, **Connor Maguire**, **Megan Todd**, and **Mariah Vande Lune** earned **Department Honors** at the May 2015 graduation ceremony.

# Dr. Elaine McDuff Retires



Steve and Elaine McDuff

**Dr. Elaine McDuff, Professor of Sociology**, first came to Truman in 2001, and since that time she has taught classes for over 2000 students, supervised more than 40 interns, advised approximately 300 majors and minors, mentored over a dozen McNair Scholars, taken more than 60 students to professional meetings, studied student stress at Truman with the help of three student research teams, and written countless letters of recommendations for graduate school, Peace Corps, Americorps, Teach for America, and a variety of jobs.

In addition, Elaine and her husband, Steve developed a six-week, internship-based, faculty-led study abroad program on **“Democracy and Human Rights in South Africa,”** and took 50 Truman students to Cape Town, South Africa between 2009 and

2013. The students were given an opportunity to learn about some of the challenges related to social justice and human rights in South Africa through both academic study and active participation in South Africa’s ongoing history – as interns in social institutions that are working to create a more just and democratic society.

**Dr. McDuff reflects, “I have thoroughly enjoyed every opportunity to share my commitment to the value of sociology, both for expanding our understanding of the social world, and for finding effective ways of bringing about social change to create a more just, equitable, and sustainable society. Truman is without a doubt a fantastic place to teach, and that’s because of our wonderful students – and SOAN majors and minors are the best of the best!”**

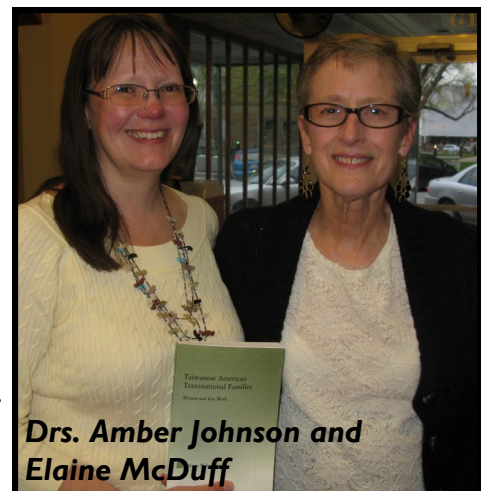
Dr. McDuff has also expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to not only teach, but to learn from her students over the years. She will miss her students and classes, but looks forward to traveling and spending more time with family – especially her three kids and two grandkids. Dr. McDuff also plans to continue research on the feminization of Zimbabwean mi-

gration she began on her sabbatical in 2012-2013.

Students from the **Cultural and Societal Honors Society and the faculty in the Department of Society and Environment** planned a banquet to honor Dr. McDuff’s contributions to the program and the university at Steve’s Deli last April where Dean Clark recognized Dr. McDuff’s many contributions to Truman. Students, local alumni and faculty also participated.

Many alumni have written to share their appreciation of Dr. McDuff’s passion, kindness, and generosity. If you have not had a chance to wish Dr. McDuff well in her new adventure, feel free to email her at [emcduff@truman.edu](mailto:emcduff@truman.edu)

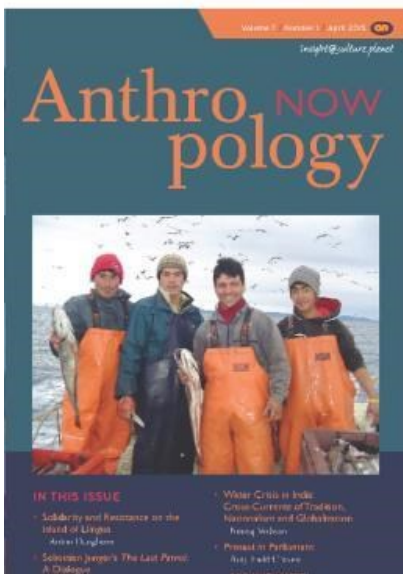
Pictured right is Dr. McDuff receiving a book from friend & colleague Dr. Amber Johnson, Professor of Anthropology, on behalf of the department.



Drs. Amber Johnson and Elaine McDuff



# Faculty Notables



**Dr. Anton Daughters**, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, article *“Solidarity and Resistance on the Island of Llingua”* has been published in the April 2015 issue of *Anthropology Now*. A photo from the article appears on the issue’s cover. Based on participant observation

fieldwork, the article profiles an island community in southern Chile that has carried on with rural farming and fishing livelihoods despite the industrialization of the surrounding region.

Dr. Daughters also co-edited a book titled **Moquis and Kastiilam: Ho-**

**pis, Spaniards, and the Trauma of History. Vol I, 1540-1679.**

This volume, the first in a two-part series, covers the history and culture of the Hopi from 1540 (the year of first contact with Europeans) to 1679 (the year before the Pueblo Revolt). It represents a

fifteen-year collaboration between anthropologists and Hopi tribe members. Volume II, spanning the years 1680 and 1780, is due out next year.

**Dr. Amber Johnson, Professor of Anthropology & Chair**, has a new publication, with **Anthropology alumni Jacob Freeman, Adolfo Gil and Gustavo Neme**, in the **Journal of Anthropological Anthropology, vol 38, pp. 52-58**, titled

*“Hierarchical Method Using Ethnographic Data Sets to Guide Archaeological Research: Testing Models of Plant Intensification and Maize Use in Central Western Argentina.”* This is a special issue honoring Lewis Binford’s contributions in archaeology.

**Dr. Elaine McDuff, Professor of Sociology**, has a new publication in **Irinkerindo: A Journal of African Migration**. The article, *“Women’s Voices from the Zimbabwean Diaspora: Migration and Change,”* is based on research carried out in the UK and South Africa during her 2012-2013 sabbatical.

**Dr. Paul Shapiro, Assistant Professor of Sociology**, attended the *“Meet in the Middle,”* a prestigious **Joint US-UK Medical Sociology Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland**. Additionally, Paul spent time traveling in Denmark and Sweden.



Spring Picnic, 2015

Some Graduating Seniors pictured— Front row, left to right: Samantha Moeller, Rebecca Lenger, Mariah Vande Lune, Natalia Albanese, Haley Delgado. Second row, left to right: Karlea Harbaugh, Melissa Kern, Indran Fernando, Kathleen Shields, Connor Maguire.

# Alumni Spotlight



High level meeting at Alibaba

**Gary Clubb** ('05) is fluent in Mandarin and Japanese and has master's degrees in international relations (University of California—San Diego) and international business (Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China). Gary works for the Alibaba Group, a family of highly successful Internet-based businesses in China. He is the senior business development manager for their **Tmall.com Division**, a website and platform for local Chinese and international businesses to sell brand name goods to consumers in mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.

While being immersed in an East-Asian culture Gary shares his experience and story with us.

"When I bought my one-way ticket to China for the first time my destination was Xi'an in central Shaanxi province (known for the Terracotta Warriors and start of



Gary Clubb

the Silk Road). I was in very deep as there were still few foreigners there at the time and Westernization was only in the beginning stages. I saw it as an adventure and oppor-

tunity to experience something akin to the foreign culture fieldwork we read about in SOAN courses. It was scary at times, especially having only a very basic Chinese ability in the beginning, but I kept myself open to the experience and instead of being paralyzed by culture shock I instead felt motivated to survive and thrive.

After Xi'an I moved to Beijing for the better Chinese language schools to be found there -- even then I avoided the standard university

programs that are full of Westerners and the temptation to fall into an easy expat life. Instead I sought out a private language school in the "Korea Town" neighborhood where I lived -- class sizes were smaller and all my classmates were Koreans that spoke little to no English, so courses were all taught in Chinese, forcing me to quickly pick up the language. I had been teaching private English courses on the side to fund my language learning goals.

*"It was scary at times, but I kept myself open to the experience and instead of being paralyzed by culture shock I instead felt motivated"*

*continued on page 12*

# Alumni Notes

**Dorothy (Jones) Barton '80**, *sociology*, completed her MSW from San Jose State University in 1989 and is currently an ICWA/Social Service Coordinator at Big Sandy Rancheria—Band of the Western Mono Indians in Auberry, Ca.

**Judy Hamm '82** retired in July 2014 and has since published a children's book titled ***IT IS TRUE!!*** available for purchase online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

**Shannon Twenter '98**, *sociology/anthropology*, completed an MAE and has since focused her work in urban education, non-profit work, teaching, and project/program development.

**Candice Luebbering '04**, *sociology*, earned a PhD in Geospatial & Environmental Analysis from Virginia Tech in 2011 and is currently working at her "dream job" as a Senior Research Geographer at the Association of American Geographers. She leads a project aimed at the development of a nationwide network of GIS professionals serving as mentors to K-12 schools implementing the use of ArcGIS Online in classrooms.

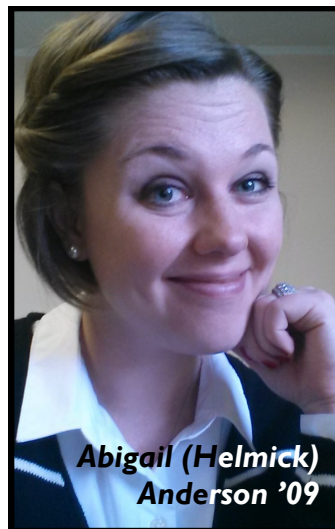
**Donivan Foster '05**, *sociology*, received a M.Ed. In Higher Education Policy from UMSL in 2009 and has recently become the Director of Campus



**Dorothy (Jones) Barton '80**

Life at STLCC. He began his dissertation earlier this year with UMSL.

**John Clary '06** completed his Master of Arts in Geography at the University of Texas at Austin in 2014 with a thesis focusing on how Mexican immigrants living in Austin use communication technologies to stay in touch with loved ones in Mexico. He is now employed by the City of Aus-



**Abigail (Helmick) Anderson '09**

tin's Code Department as a Senior Research Analyst and recently launched a geography-themed blog, [www.spatialaustin.com](http://www.spatialaustin.com)

**Laura Halfmann '08** is currently a social worker at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri where she assists survivors of domestic violence and navigates law systems to obtain orders of protection, divorces, and custody.

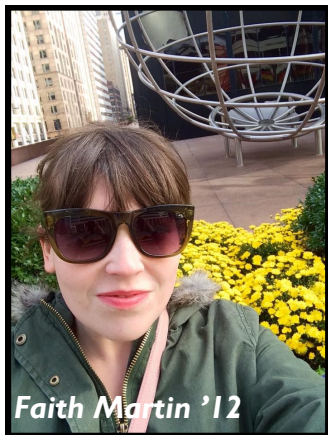
**Abigail (Helmick) Anderson '09**, *anthropology*, completed a Master's in Public Affairs from University of Missouri, Truman School of Public Affairs in 2014 and is currently employed by William Woods University as a Loyalty Fund Coordinator.

*"As a small rural farm girl, the South Africa Study Abroad trip was mentally transformative and probably one of the best decisions I had ever made. It allowed me to view the world in a new light. I will always carry those experiences with me." - Abigail (Helmick) Anderson '09*

**Hannah Hemmelgarn '09** is a Naturalist Educator at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Columbia, Mo.

**Michelle Noriega '11**, anthropology, is employed by Premier Rehabilitation & Skilled Nursing in Beloit, Wi.

**Faith Martin '12**, anthropology, is a Traffic Coordinator at Bott Radio Network and an



Faith Martin '12

A/V Specialist at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Faith spent her first summer post-undergrad in Beijing, China. She worked on a film, **Rich Hill**, about MO reproductive rights for women (Director—Tracy Droz Tragos).

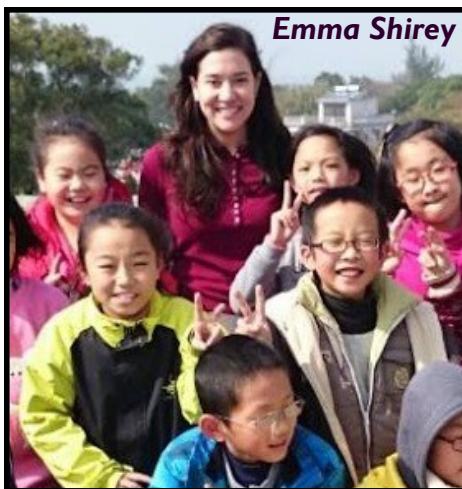
**Miriam (Mahder) Bohnert '13**, sociology, is pursuing her MSW at the University of Alaska Anchorage and will graduate in 2016.

*“..the SOAN research project really did change how I thought about my career path and as I look for other open doors in research.”*  
- Emma Shirey '14

**Elizabeth Salley '14**, is beginning a MBA program at Drury University this fall while volunteering her time as the Development Officer for For Burkina Faso, a humanitarian architecture project. Elizabeth is planning on a career in social entrepreneurship.

*“One of the best parts of being in the SOAN Department is the very small, close-knit community of students and teachers that facilitated learning and interpersonal skills.”*

**Emma Shirey '14**, sociology, has been teaching English on a Fulbright Fellowship in Taiwan this past year. When she gets back to the states, she hopes to be involved in doing research in Chicago. Emma is pictured with her third and fourth grade class.



Emma Shirey

## Alumni Spotlight

*continued from page 10*

Once I felt that I was well on the way to achieving my original goal of fluency in speaking/reading/writing Mandarin I applied for grad schools back in the US that focused on business and economics in the School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS) in San Diego for their strong program and generous scholarship. It had the right regional focus for me and great balance of foreign language requirements, political analysis and hard business skills.

I think the ability to immerse myself in a foreign culture is still relevant to my current position here at Alibaba -- as the first Westerner in Tmall and one of very few throughout the group, I have to use Mandarin for nearly all internal communications. On top of that the very different work culture ensures that I'm once again challenged on a daily basis to survive and thrive here. ”

Senior seminar students 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. Amber Johnson**.

## HOW TO CONTACT US:

Society & Environment  
Barnett Hall, Rm 2000  
Truman State University  
100 East Normal  
Kirksville, Mo 63501  
660-785-4667

[societyandenvironment@truman.edu](mailto:societyandenvironment@truman.edu)  
<http://www.societyandenvironment.truman.edu/>

Thanks to everyone – faculty, staff, students, and alumni – who have contributed to our successes in the last year. It is always great to hear what you are doing!

— Sincerely,

**Dr. Amber Johnson,**  
Professor of Anthropology and  
Chair

---

*continued from page 1*

***Imitations: The Social Organization of Authenticity***" in manuscript form for publication as a book.

Stephen earned his **Ph.D. in 2015 from the University of Missouri-Columbia**. He teaches Sociological Inquiry, Social Problems, Social Organizations, and a variety of topics courses such as Race & Ethnicity, Migration & Immigration, and Sport in American Society.

**Dr. Victoria Mayer** completed her doctorate in **Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison** after dancing professionally in New York for several years and teaching at the American Museum of Natural History. She coauthored the book



**Dr. Stephen Christ**

**Both Hands Tied: the Race to the Bottom in the Low Wage Labor Market (University of Chicago Press, 2010)**. Her research looks at how the rules and performance standards used to govern joint public-private ventures in social and health services

shape the relationships between service providers and local community members.

She teaches Sociological Inquiry, Social Stratification, Intro to Women's and Gender Studies, Sociological Theory, and Social Psychology.



**Dr. Victoria Mayer**