SIX MSU ANTHROPOLOGY STUDENTS RECEIVE FULBRIGHT AWARDS

Department of Anthropology students received six of the eight Fulbrights awarded to Michigan State University students in 2003-04.

Kari Bergstrom, Jennifer Brewer, Natalie Bourdon, Holly Dygert and Jessica Vernieri, all graduate students, and Erick Houle, an undergraduate student in the Anthropology Department, received prestigious Fulbright IIE or Fulbright Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowships for 2003-04.

All five of the graduate students were supported during their graduate studies at MSU by U.S. Department of Education, Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships from the Women and International Development Program & The Center for Advanced Studies of International Development, the African Studies Center, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Several of these students used their FLAS fellowships to study less commonly taught languages that they will use in their Ph.D. research.

Erick Houle received a Fulbright to travel to South Korea and teach English. Aside from his teaching duties, he plans to use the opportunity to hone his Korean language skills and learn more about Korean history and culture. While overseas, he will identify a research topic to pursue in graduate school next year within an East Asian Studies program.

Jennifer Brewer studied Akan, which she will use in her Ph.D. research, supported by a Fulbright IIE award. Her study, entitled “Gender and STI Prevention Programs for Youth in Ghana,” focuses on how girls in Accra, Ghana, negotiate gender relations and access to healthcare within the context of an increase in STI prevention programs for young people. Rates of STIs, including HIV, have been rising among youth in Sub-Saharan Africa. A global trend to expand STI prevention services for youth has created new public spaces for African girls to address existing gender and healthcare inequalities.

Kari Bergstrom received a Fulbright Hays award. She studied Hausa to facilitate her Ph.D. research project, “Foreign Aid and Gender in Niger: A Study of Local Interactions with Gender Policies in Transnational Aid Institutions.” Her research explores how theories about gender from the 1970’s to the present have become important components of CARE International and UNICEF’s policies and programs, and how these theories have been appropriated, rejected, and reformulated on the local level in Niger by the people with whom these organizations work.

Natalie Bourdon, also a Fulbright Hays recipient, mastered KiSwahili to carry out Ph.D. research on feminist development NGOs advocating for women’s land rights in Tanzania. Her dissertation research, entitled “Tanzania Law and Land Rights: Local-Global Developments and Law,” focuses on how NGOs in Dar es Salaam have struggled to integrate international human rights laws into Tanzanian land reform efforts. Her research will explore the ways urban women use these NGOs to secure their access and rights to land.

Holly Dygert, a Fulbright IIE recipient, was supported to study Mixtec and Spanish in Mexico for her Ph.D. dissertation, entitled “Culture and Family Planning in Mexico.” The research project compares two development models in southern Mexico - one implemented by a state agency that works with economically marginalized rural communities, and another that is emerging as indigenous Mixtec activists work to revitalize and revalorize their culture. Holly plans to examine how development practitioners and activists perceive the linkages between Mixtec culture and family within each of these models.

Jessica Vernieri received a Fulbright Hays award to undertake Ph.D. research entitled “The Poorest, the Purists, and the Tourists: A Political Ecology of Reef Conservation in Akumal, Mexico.” This project focuses on the meanings assigned to ecological systems in Akumal, Mexico by different actors. She will study the different perspectives on conservation held by advocates of sustainable development, conservation, and ecotourism development.

Three of these students—Keri Bergstrom, Jennifer Brewer and Natalie Bourdon—were supported by an NSF Ethnographic Training Grant awarded to the Department of Anthropology. This 4-6 week grant permitted them to spend a summer abroad sharpening their ethnographic research skills and identifying a research site.

The Graduate School congratulates these students!
BIOCOMPLEXITY AT MSU

**Connections.** The National Science Foundation Biocomplexity grants that have been or are currently funded at Michigan State University represent a variety of connections between faculty members in a number of departments across multiple colleges, as well as connections from MSU across the world. Graduate students have opportunities to participate in these programs, experience the value of interdisciplinary research, connect to colleagues in many countries, and therefore come to a better understanding of complex natural systems. We salute the faculty, graduate students, undergraduate students, and staff who are involved in these projects!

** Geography**

An international team led by David Campbell, Associate Dean in the College of Social Science and Professor of Geography, recently received a five-year, $1.75 million grant from NSF’s (National Science Foundation) Biocomplexity Program, one of the agency’s priority areas, for “An Integrated Analysis of Regional Land-Climate Interactions.” Other MSU faculty on the project include Jeffrey Andresen (Associate Professor), Jennifer Olson (Visiting Assistant Professor), Jiaguo Qi (Associate Professor), and David Lusch (Research Specialist), all in the Department of Geography, plus Marianne Huebner (Associate Professor of Statistics and Probability). Other collaborators include researchers from the United States, England, Scotland, Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. The team will explore the nature and the magnitude of interactions of climate and land-use/land-cover change across East Africa.

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**Fisheries and Wildlife**

A second NSF-funded biocomplexity grant (begun in 2002) is led by Jiaguo “Jack” Liu, professor at the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. This program focus is “Complex Interactions among Policies, People, and Panda Habitat in the Wolong Nature Reserve Landscape (China).” MSU collaborators for this project include Sandra Batie (Smith Chair and Professor, Agricultural Economics), Richard Groop (Chair and Professor, Geography), Angela Mertig (Assistant Professor, Sociology), Jiaguo Qi (Associate Professor, Geography), and several Ph.D. students and postdoctoral associates. In addition, there are a number of collaborators from other institutions in the U.S. and China. The linkage of ecological and social sciences is the key to success in biocomplexity research, as humankind and nature are interdependent. Liu will present some of the project results in a symposium at next year’s annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) on February 14, 2004. The symposium is organized by Liu and Tom Baerwald (Coordinator of the Biocomplexity Program at NSF). It is entitled “Frontiers in Biocomplexity Science: Reciprocal Interrelationships between Human and Natural Systems.”

**Crop and Soil Science and Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics**

The first NSF biocomplexity project at MSU is headed by Richard Lenski, Hannah Distinguished Professor in the Department of Crop and Soil Science and Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. This projects uses evolution experiments with bacteria and with self-replicating computer programs — digital organisms — to identify principles that underlie the evolutionary origins of biological complexity at the genetic, organismal, and ecological levels. Collaborators on this grant include Charles Ofria, on the faculty in Computer Science here at MSU; Chris Adami, a theoretical physicist at Caltech; and Peg Riley, a molecular evolutionist at Yale. One recent highlight is a paper in Nature (2003, vol. 423, pp. 139-144) on the origin of complex functions in digital organisms, which shows the step-by-step evolution by random mutation and natural selection of new computational abilities that require coordination among many interacting genetic instructions. Another recent highlight has been the application of genomics-based gene-expression arrays to find key mutations in a global regulatory gene that contributed to adaptation by the bacterium *E. coli* to an experimental environment (2003, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, vol. 100, pp. 1072-1077).

(Contributed by Dr. Lenski.)

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**The Graduate School, Fall 2003-Spring 2004**
Graduate School Development Activities

BARBARA BALL-McCLURE
Director of Development
The Graduate School

The beginning of the school year and the celebration of one year of the Campaign for MSU have made for a very active fall! On October 31st, Provost Simon met with about 80 of our retired faculty who live in the Lansing area to discuss graduate fellowships and how we can increase funding for this essential support in the future. With the competition for the best graduate students increasing and the state portion of the general fund budget decreasing, we must find ways to fund more of our fellowships with private gifts. If you are one of those who received fellowship support for travel, research enhancement, or dissertation completion, or a teaching or research assistantship, now is the time to consider giving back!

One very good way you can do this is by sending a contribution to the Edward J. Petry Endowment in Support of Graduate Fellowships. Edward J. Petry was the first person to receive a Ph.D. from Michigan State University in Botany, 1925. These funds will be used to directly support graduate students for travel to disciplinary conferences, research enhancement, and other areas of professional development.

And, I am very proud to say that Dean Klomparens made a personal contribution to get this fund started!

Karen continues to make a point of meeting with alums whenever she travels on University business or even for pleasure. Recently, while attending the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges meeting in New Orleans, Karen and I visited with MSU alumni in the Baton Rouge and New Orleans areas.

If you are interested in finding out more about contributing to The Graduate School or the Petry Endowment, have ideas of who to contact to raise fellowship support money, or would like information about making a planned gift, please contact me at ballmccl@msu.edu; call 1.800.232.4MSU ext. 220; or write me at:

The Graduate School Development Office
110 Linton Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1044

Faculty-in-Residence in the Graduate School

The Graduate School is pleased to announce our second Faculty-in-Residence, Rique Campa, of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. Rique and his department chair, Bill Taylor, presented a compelling case for Rique to join the Graduate School staff on a temporary basis for one year. Rique has interests in the area of professional development and leadership training for graduate students on preparing for a variety of career paths. Rique will provide leadership and energy on this topic for calendar year 2004.

Specifically, Rique’s interest in working with the Graduate School are to enhance current programs related to professional development and develop new opportunities to help graduate students meet career objectives. Activities currently being planned include a professional development workshop series including such topics as, What You Should Know About Career Opportunities in Academia, Industry, and State and Federal Agencies; Interview Preparation—Do you know what to expect?; Building and Maintaining Mentoring Relationships; “Insider Knowledge”: What is it and how to get it for your discipline?; and Developing, Practicing, and Documenting Your Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Related to the workshop series, Rique hopes to create professional development workshop templates on the topics mentioned above that can be adapted and used within departments.

1 The first Faculty-in-Residence was Jim Miller, Professor of Entomology in 1995-96. Jim established the annual workshop on Thesis/Dissertation Writing, by Dorothy Duff Brown of Oakland CA, and published a booklet on that same topic. The booklet is available on the web at http://grad.msu.edu/all/gpsurvive.pdf.

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MISSION OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
To serve as an advocate for graduate education to the University and beyond and to enhance the quality of graduate education at MSU in all its diverse dimensions

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