FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

DR. BROOKE CROWLEY

Dr. Crowley pearheaded a special issue on advances in primate stable isotope ecology for the American Journal of Primatology that was published last fall. This experience allowed her to connect with other researchers and gave her a deeper appreciation for the editorial process. She is very excited to see how this rapidly developing subfield of Anthropology grows over the next few years. Crowley presented at the joint International Primatological Congress/American Society for Primatology Conference in August, and was an invited participant at the Duke Lemur Center’s 50th anniversary celebration in September, and the 40th anniversary symposium for Duke’s Division of Fossil Primates at the American Association of Physical Anthropologists in April. These events allowed her to showcase some of her current research and provided excellent networking opportunities. Closer to home, Crowley worked with recent undergraduate Megan Hanna to organize and curate the osteology lab. She taught an introductory Anthropocene course this fall.

DR. JEREMY KOSTER

Dr. Koster addresses questions about the factors that promote cooperation and altruism in human societies and the evolution of delayed reproduction, rapid inter-birth intervals, and extended post-reproductive lifespans, which distinguish humans from closely related primates. He initiated several research projects this year. Along with a team of collaborators, he secured funding from the National Science Foundation to collect data on social support networks and emerging wealth inequality in 26 small-scale societies around the world. They are testing the hypothesis that households who are advantageously positioned in their social networks leverage this

DR. SARAH JACKSON

Dr. Jackson continues her research on Classic Maya understandings of the material world, and ways of integrating these perspectives into archaeological practice. She is currently working on a book on these topics with her collaborator, Dr. Linda Brown (George Washington University), tentatively titled “Sitting Together with Things: Human-Object Relationships among the Maya.” She is also finishing articles related to Classic Maya ideas about personhood and agency (as related to objects, and writing). Her most recent article, “Envisioning Artifacts: a Classic Maya View of the Archaeological Record,” appeared in April 2017 in the Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory. Dr. Jackson continues archaeological work at the site of Say Kah, Belize, where she co-directs a project with Brown. Together with Brown and Dr. Brett Houk, she presented on recent innovations in digital recording that she and her team have implemented at Say Kah at the Society for American Archaeology annual meeting in Vancouver (April 2017). She has received funding to support her 2017 field season in Belize from the National Geographic Society (CRE Grant) and the American Philosophical Society (Franklin Research Grant), as well as the Taft Center at UC. She also received an A&S Rising Star Faculty Award this year.

DR. JEFF JACOBSON

Dr. Jacobson is involved with ongoing collaborative projects with colleagues at NIOSH (as consultant), CHMC (as mentor and consultant), and in the Department of Family and Community Medicine (DFCM, with Interact for Health, as a Co-PI). Interviews with regional small construction business owners are being analyzed with an eye to discerning the ways that safety-talk and safety-discourses can be seen to represent instrumental-versus value-rationalities and how these can be used to improve safety training and practices. With colleagues in DFCM, Dr. Jacobson was a co-author on an article examining congruence between patient and physician ratings of health and lifestyle conditions associated with “health optimists” and “pessimists.” Finally, based on earlier work with colleagues at CHMC aimed at developing robust patient-reported outcome measures (PROMIS) for children with chronic health conditions, he has been assisting with several grant submissions as a qualitative methodologist. These projects aim to improve assessment and care of childhood asthma, musculoskeletal pain, and juvenile idiopathic arthritis.

DR. JEFF JACOBSON

This longer-term goal is to return to Central America and continue community mental health research cut short by rising violence in the region.

DR. SUSAN ALLEN

Dr. Allen continues her research on agriculture and state formation in the Aegean and agricultural landscapes in the Balkans. She and her collaborator, Dr. Ilir Gipli (Institute of Archaeology, Tirana), are currently working on a book on the transition to farming in Europe, based on survey and excavation fieldwork they co-directed in Southern Albania (Southern Albania Neolithic Archaeological Project). She is also completing articles on archaeobotanical research on taphonomy, crop stable isotopes, and land use. Her most recent article, “Cultivating Identities: Landscape Production among Early Farmers in the Balkans,” appeared in the volume Balkan Dialogues (Routledge). She presented research at the Society for American Archaeology meeting in Chania, Crete (July 2017). Dr. Allen continues archaeological work in collaboration with the Ikhaina Archaeological Project in southern Greece and the Projekti Arkeologjikë i Shkodrës (PASH) in northern Albania. With collaborator Dr. China Shelton (ACOR), she has organized a colloquium on “Prehistoric Agriculture in the Aegean” for the 2018 AIA meeting in Boston.
position to buffer subsistence risks and form coalitions that advance their material well-being. In another project, Dr. Koster is partnering with collaborators from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology to collect data on subsistence labor and food sharing at his field site in Nicaragua. Meanwhile, Dr. Koster is nearing completion on two other projects, one examining foraging proficiency across the lifespan in a cross-cultural sample of 39 societies and a fieldwork project with veterinarians who are examining predictors of mortality among domestic dogs in Nicaragua. In another collaboration, he is co-editing a book called “Human Behavioral Ecology,” which will be published by Cambridge University and intended for use as a textbook in university courses that consider economic and evolutionary perspectives on human behavior.

**DR. JEFF MILLAR**

Dr. Millar has extended his role as an Educator faculty teaching courses in linguistic anthropology, language and globalization, the anthropology of food, and global problems into a number of burgeoning research interests. His paper on the “Semiotics of Gentrification,” exploring the role of ideologies of German language and heritage for the making of place in Over-the-Rhine and the broader semiotic dimension of processes of urban revitalization, was accepted for presentation at the 2017 annual meeting of the American Association for Applied Linguistics in Portland, OR. Dr. Millar is also a member of the Gender Equity Research Team, recently formed under the auspices of The Cincinnati Project of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Taft Research Center Human Rights and Global Research Groups to conduct a gender analysis of the municipal government of the city of Cincinnati in support of the work of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). He also co-authored with colleagues from the department an opinion piece published in the Cincinnati Enquirer on the occasion of World Anthropology Day setting out the contribution Anthropology can make to solving the pressing issues faced by local and global communities today.

**DR. HEATHER NORTON**

Dr. Norton continued her work exploring phenotypic variation in human skin, hair, and iris pigmentation and associated genetic mutations. She presented preliminary results of this research, funded by a grant from the Department of Justice, at a meeting of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences in Dubrovnik, Croatia. She also continued working with colleagues in India to better characterize pigmentation and associated candidate gene variation across populations from South Asia (published in the American Journal of Human Biology). She was an organizer of an international workshop (funded by the Society of Molecular Evolution and Biology and the American Association of Anthropological Genetics) focused on the genetics of admixed populations, held in San Antonio, Texas. Finally, her lab began data collection for a project that explores variation in a number of traits associated with facial features. This research, which is being conducted with funding from Procter and Gamble, seeks to document variation in these features and to better understand the genetic, environmental, and behavioral factors that contribute to that variation.

**DR. DAN MURPHY**

Dr. Murphy continues to collaborate with the Rocky Mountain Research Station of the US Forest Service on the social and cultural dynamics of climate change adaptation planning. He has been conducting qualitative research with planners, administrators, and project staff in public land management agencies across the US in conjunction with collaborators at the University of Montana and Colorado State University. Additionally, he has recently begun a collaborative project on the language of ‘futuring’ with Dr. Millar. He has also started a collaboration with Dr. Koster and a number of other colleagues exploring the role of social networks on inequality. For that project,

Dr. Murphy will be returning to Mongolia in 2018 and again in 2021. He plans to couple the social network methodology pioneered by the research team to also explore the intergenerational dynamics between fathers and sons and how more diverse economic and educational opportunities for women have upended the livelihood trajectories of herding households. Finally, Dr. Murphy continues to work on his ethnographic monograph on disaster and social change in rural Mongolia.

**DR. LEILA RODRIGUEZ**

Dr. Rodriguez began a new research project that examines the integration of unaccompanied child migrants to the Cincinnati area. This work forms part of her broader agenda of researching the social management of diversity. Funded by the UC LEAF program, a Scholar Award from The Cincinnati Project, and the Taft Research Center, and in partnership with the Su Casa Hispanic Center, the project will draw attention to the ways in which different stakeholders, including caretakers, the minors, and the community, shape the integration of these children and their possibilities for the future. She shared the early findings from her work at various national and international conferences. Most notably, she was one of ten selected participants, out of 150 applicants, to present at the 2016 UN Women’s Conference in New York City. Her paper is entitled “Gender, Family Dynamics and Violence at the Onset, Transit and Incorporation of Underage, Unaccompanied, Migrants from Central America to the United States. Rodriguez was just elected to the new Members Programmatic Advisory and Advocacy Committee’s World Anthropology Seat of the American Anthropological Association, the flagship organization in our discipline. In this position, her role is to develop clear objectives for drawing US and international anthropologists together; promote awareness of different anthropological practices and traditions; and foster cooperation between anthropologists.
Dr. Vernon Scarborough

Dr. Scarborough loves landscapes, both past and present, and he works to reconstruct their past appearances to better assess how both our physical and social environments interact. Recently, he has shifted his research focus to the arid US Southwest from years of fieldwork and scholarly activity in the Maya Lowlands of the Yucatan Peninsula. Together with an interdisciplinary team from UC, including the Departments of Geography, Geology and Biology, he is now examining the water and landscape management at the World Heritage site area of Chaco Canyon. There as elsewhere, he is interested in ancient water and land management practices and in the context of how past societies were able to sustain themselves for generations under frequently inclement conditions. Are there lessons embedded in both the archaeological and historical record that can assist our own futures? Scarborough was invited to speak as the Gordon R. Willey Lecture of 2016-17 at Harvard University, a similar invitation to Washington DC, and two others in New York City (Hoboken) and UNAM in Mexico City. He was able to co-publish or have accepted eight articles or book chapters with several colleagues during the course of this last year.

Dr. Stephanie Sadre-Orafi

Dr. Sadre-Orafi spent her post-tenure sabbatical researching a new project that connects the fashion and font industries in New York City to better understand how “types”—both typefaces and fashion models—are commercially produced and marketed for national and global audiences. This took her across the country from the Letterform Archive in San Francisco to modeling agencies and type foundries in downtown Manhattan. She presented her early findings at the Bard Graduate Center, where she was a Visiting Fellow April–June 2017. While on leave, Dr. Sadre-Orafi remained deeply involved in the Critical Visions program, raising its profile among anthropologists at the national level. She and fellow co-director Jordan Tate were invited provocateurs for the Ethnographic Terminalia workshop “The Photo-Essay is Dead! Long live the Photo-Essay!” at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Under her leadership, three students from the program—Irfan Ibrahim, Sso-Rha Kang, and Andrew McGrath—were commissioned to design a logo for the Society for Cultural Anthropology. She also co-authored an essay about the program with Tate, Kang, and McGrath for the new Multimodal Anthropologies section of American Anthropologist, due out this fall.

Dr. Alissa Strauss

Dr. Strauss received a Master of Design degree in May 2016, for her work in applying anthropological methods to solving design problems. In particular, she focused on improving the design of icons or pictograms, pictures used around the world to communicate information efficiently. Using techniques usually used for social network analysis, she developed a way to design icons that are more likely to be understood by their target audience than those created using traditional design practices. Strauss’ presentation of her research won First Place in the 2016 University of Cincinnati Graduate School Expo & Poster Forum in Arts & Humanities. Her methods will be highlighted in “Design By Consensus: A New Method for Designing Effective Icons,” an article she wrote with Mike Zender, a Professor in DAAP, that will be published in the journal Visible Language later this year. Dr. Strauss’ research will continue work to apply the valuable techniques of Anthropology to the field of design, providing designers with a better toolkit with which they can create more effective designs.

Dr. Michael Simonton

Dr. Simonton prepared and published the digital third edition of his introductory textbook, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology and the accompanying book of readings, Readings in Cultural Anthropology. Simonton taught a study abroad course on Ancient and Celtic Britain and Ireland to students over two weeks during Winter break. The first week they...
stayed in London and went to the British Museum, Stonehenge, Woodhenge, Durrington Walls, Avebury, and the town of Salisbury. The second week they stayed in Dublin and went to the National Museum of Ireland – Archeology to see bog bodies and Bronze Age gold, Newgrange (and were admitted into the corbeled vault in the mound), Glendalough early Medieval ruins, as well as other sites. In the spring semester, Dr. Simonton presented two papers at meetings of the American Conference on Irish Studies in Lexington and Anthropologists and Sociologists of Kentucky at Bowling Green. He chaired sessions at both meetings.

**Dr. Ken Tankersley**

Dr. Tankersley continued his field and laboratory research on how humans adapt to periods of catastrophic, climatic, and environmental change. Working as a member of an international interdisciplinary team, his excavations in Sheridan Cave, Ohio, exposed a layer with a high concentration of platinum at the end of the last Ice Age. This research resulted in a co-authored publication in the prestigious journal *Nature: Scientific Reports*. Tankersley returned to Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, to investigate geochemical fingerprints of Ancestral Puebloan anthropogenic sediments and a previously undocumented catastrophic volcanic event. This investigation included Vernon Scarborough (PI) and an interdepartmental team of UC faculty and graduate students as well as archaeologists from the American Museum of Natural History, Penn State University, University of Arizona, University of California, Berkeley, and University of Virginia. This research resulted in three articles in the *Journal of Archaeological Research Reports*. He also continued his examination of catastrophic volcanism and its implication for agriculture in the Maya Lowlands. This research was also published in the *Journal of Archaeological Research Reports*, an article co-authored with Vernon Scarborough, Warren Huff (Geology), Nicholas Dunning and Christopher Carr (Department of Geography), and David Lentz (Department of Biology).

**Faculty Accolades**

*George Barbour Award for Good Faculty-Student Relations*

**Stephanie Sadre-Orafai**

Associate Professor, Anthropology
College of Arts & Sciences

The George Barbour Award is given annually to a faculty member who demonstrates an involvement with students in and out of class, a genuine concern about students’ current and long-range development, and a sensitivity to individual differences and multicultural needs of students. This year, Dr. Stephanie Sadre-Orafai received this prestigious, all-university award.

**Barbour Award**

**A&S Rising Star**

Dr. Sarah Jackson received the A&S Rising Star Award in recognition of her research.

**Department Events**

**World Anthropology Day**

The Department hosted a series of board games and anthropology activities in the Student Atrium for World Anthropology Day.

**Department Colloquium**

This year’s colloquium theme was the Environment. We hosted Doug Kennett, Chelsea Juarez, George Crothers, Kevin Hunt, and Nick Kawa.
Meredith Coats | MA ’10
Meredith applies the research and analysis methods she learned studying Maya archaeology and historical preservation to her current position as a Senior Project Developer for the Nielsen company. She writes, “We use analytics to better understand why they buy and what may impact their purchasing habits in the future. Responsibilities in my role include research design and implementation for large consumer packaged goods companies, resulting in predictive analytics. Our research goes beyond just asking what people buy. This includes writing questionnaires, identifying and setting up field methodologies, and supervising the data collection phase for multiple projects at a given time. The qualitative and quantitative research skills I acquired in the Anthropology Department afforded me an unexpected and successful transition into the world of market research.”

Rosie Carpenter | BA ’16
Rosie took every advantage she could from the Department of Anthropology. She double majored in Anthropology and Landscape Archaeology, and earned certificates in both Historic Preservation and Heritage Studies. After graduating, she moved to Columbus to pursue a job at the State Historic Preservation Office where she assisted in the reviews of Historic Tax Credit Applications for the rehabilitation of historic buildings. She writes, “After working at SHPO, I pursued my current job as a Historic Preservation Consultant at City Studios Architecture in Over the Rhine. As a consultant, I now write Historic Tax Credit Applications for developers who are interested in rehabbing historic buildings, often for the purpose of low income housing in the Cincinnati area. Besides working as a consultant, I also work as a Public History Associate for Boone County Public Library’s Local History Department.” This fall, Carpenter will be continuing her education at Kent State University’s Master of Library Science Program in Archives and Special Collections. She hopes in this next step of her academic career to apply the theories she learned as an Anthropology major to the preservation of Special Collections.

Nick Hawes | MA ’11
Nick applied the skills and research methods he learned from anthropology to his current job as a User Experience Designer/Consultant at Ingage Partners. Hawes writes, “As a User Experience Design Consultant, I leverage my skills, experience and knowledge as both an anthropologist and an artist to explore the intersection of technology, the person and culture to help organizations see and understand, from a holistic view, the impact their products or services have on communities, employees, consumers, the environment, and even public policy. I use ethnographic methods to learn about the situation, how [a client’s] employees work, and who their customers and communities are, and how their organization works. This is where Anthropology comes in. The goal really is to find ways in which technology can improve the lives of people and User Experience Design puts ethnographic and other social science research methods at the center of that effort.” Hawes is currently part of the Mid-West UX Conference Committee that is planning the 2017 meeting here in Cincinnati.

Mary Walsh | BA ’16
Mary has been busy since graduation, including helping excavate a medieval hospital in England at a site called Thornton Abbey. Since returning to the United States, Walsh moved to Columbus and started working at Ohio State University’s Wexner Medical Center as a Nutrition Aid. She is now preparing for the GRE. Walsh says, “My time at Cincinnati helped me narrow down my interests in the field of Anthropology instead of pursuing my original plan of being a chemist. I learned that I want to focus on human remains and human osteology because I love the idea of being able to speak for those who can no longer speak for themselves. I hope to continue to pursue my interests throughout the coming years as I prepare to take the next steps in my anthropological career.”

Bri Ziganti | BA ’13
Bri has always had a passion for writing, which led to her interest in advertising and design. Shortly before completing a dual degree in Biological Anthropology and Rhetoric & Professional Writing, Ziganti was hired by Paragon Data Systems, where she is now the Director of Marketing and Design. She writes, “We design and integrate custom software systems that use a barcode to collect data or manage the lifecycle of a product. Our most important system is our breastmilk tracking and validation software used in many of the country’s top NICUs. These preemies are underdeveloped, which means they have stomachs the size of thimbles and have difficulty generating enough energy to eat. Every drop of milk they can ingest is important, so they depend on a system like ours to make sure their milk isn’t incorrectly fortified, expired, or belongs to a different baby. I love using my research background in human evolution to help me craft materials that bridge the gap between the clinical importance of what we do, and the emotional, human component, so that both medical and parental audiences can find meaning in our work. These past experiences are invaluable when determining how our system interface should be designed or how an ad should look to achieve maximum user impact.”

Sally Heuker | BA ’15
Sally is now a second-year law student at the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. She studied law abroad during summer semester last year at the University of Oxford. She writes, “Throughout law school, I have explored legal career options in both the private and public sector. I haven’t decided exactly how I will practice law once I graduate, but I know that having an anthropology degree has and will continue to help me in my future studies and career. For example, the critical thinking skills I developed as an undergraduate anthropology student have been instrumental to my law school and work experience.”
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

@BearcatAnthro  @DeptAnthroUC