

ANTHROPOLOGY:

*The Science
of Human Beings*

Turn on a television or pick up a newspaper on any given day and you are sure to find someone somewhere talking about it: globalization. While it is not a new concept—it is an extended process that has occurred many times throughout history—technological advances have accelerated global connectedness during the last few decades at a rate previously unknown.

Arguments for or against the movement toward integrated economic, cultural, and political experiences are seemingly irrelevant. A part of the daily fabric of 21st-century life, globalization has prompted the need for better understanding not simply of economics and governments but, on a more basic level, of the human condition in cultures around the world.

As a broad discipline that studies humans and their ancestors, anthropology is a field of study perhaps more relevant than ever. “A degree in anthropology is one of the best degrees you can get within the context of the liberal arts,” says Joseph S. Alter, professor and chair of the Department of Anthropology. “Anthropology provides a comparative perspective on human diversity. Our particular curriculum prepares students for the challenges and opportunities of globalization.”

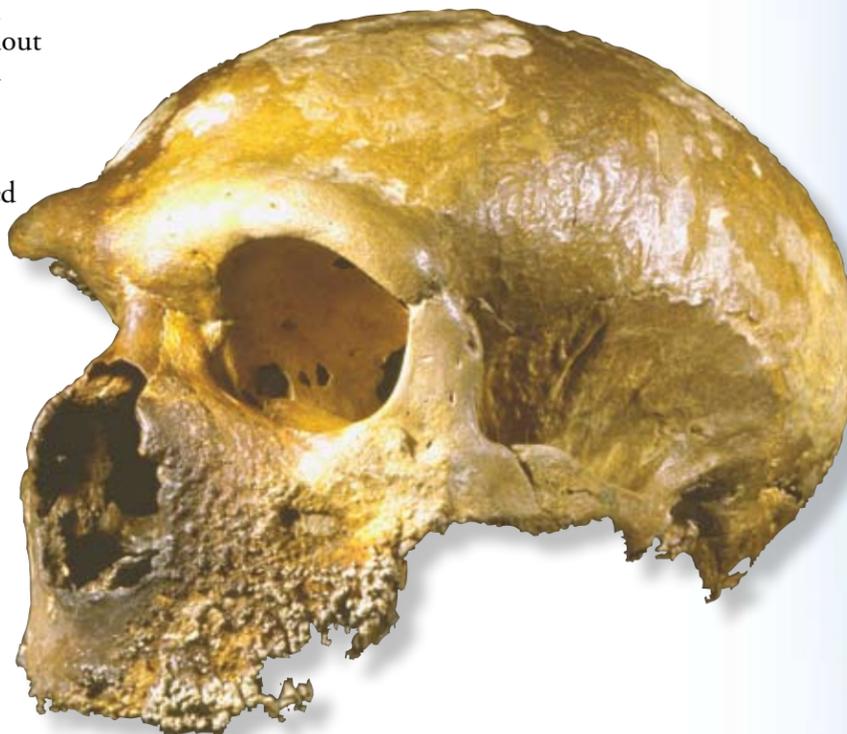
The University of Pittsburgh Department of Anthropology has grown significantly during the last decade. With nearly 350 students who are declared anthropology majors, the department integrates a wide range of perspectives on human behavior, culture, and society through the four subfields of anthropology: archaeology, social and cultural anthropology, anthropological linguistics, and physical anthropology (anatomy, biology, and evolution). Many students become interested in anthropology as a major after taking one of the introductory lectures. “Our faculty have breathed new life into the introductory gateway courses, and we have seen a considerable growth in popularity as a result,” says Alter. “And, of course, the prominence of forensics in the media has been a factor as well.”

While Pitt’s anthropology program offers courses in all four subfields, the curriculum allows students to concentrate in archaeology, sociocultural anthropology, or physical anthropology. In fact, the department has established itself as a leading center for the study of Latin American archaeology. “A number of our undergraduate and graduate courses focus on that particular part of the world,” says Alter. “And our affiliation with the University’s Center for Latin American Studies provides students with additional opportunities to explore research options.”

Anthropology is the foundation for a number of professional pursuits, including medicine, law, and public health. Many undergraduates who major in anthropology ultimately choose to pursue graduate study in the field. According to Alter, “undergraduates frequently marry anthropology with certificate programs in international studies or language studies other than English. This affords them the opportunity to pursue careers overseas.” Pitt’s distinguished area studies centers—the Asian Studies Center, Center for Latin American Studies, Center for Russian & East European Studies, and European Union Center of Excellence and European Studies Center—are excellent resources for out-of-classroom educational experiences.

As the department continues to evolve to meet the growing needs of more interested students, it will look to enhance its research laboratories and to develop opportunities for even more experience in international studies. “These global connections will prepare our students to meet the challenges of the future,” Alter says.

Interested in learning more about the Department of Anthropology? Go to www.pitt.edu/~pittanth.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Pitt’s Department of Anthropology participates in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit’s Gifted and Talented Education Apprenticeship Program. Students from Allegheny County high schools meet and work with Pitt faculty members in small group sessions on cultural and physical anthropology and archaeology. They come to campus throughout the academic year for hands-on experiences that give them a taste of the world of an anthropologist.
- The Department of Anthropology has many faculty members who work closely with the world-class Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, two of which are located in Oakland. Pitt students can use their ID cards to obtain free admission to all four Carnegie Museums—offering a great way to explore their interests outside the classroom. For more information on free and discounted admissions to Pittsburgh-area cultural venues, go to www.pittarts.org.
- Some recent anthropology faculty accomplishments:
 - ▶ Robert Drennan, Distinguished Professor, received the 2007 Provost’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring.
 - ▶ Bryan Hanks, assistant professor, received the 2007 Tina and David Bellet Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Award.
 - ▶ Jeffrey Schwartz, professor, was elected president of the World Academy of Art and Science as well as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

A Worldwide Perspective

As the fall term ends, many of us will return to family and friends to enjoy our cultural traditions. While seasonal celebrations may differ in meaning, in many ways they are the same. Centered around stories of human experience, the rituals commemorate events and beliefs through food, music, art, and literature—in essence, that which makes us human.

In the midst of the “information revolution,” our world, with its many cultures, has grown much smaller. For instance, technology has changed the way we extend seasonal greetings, capture celebratory memories, and document our history for future generations. We have gone from expensive international telephone communications to mostly free e-mail and VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol). What just 20 years ago seemed far away and unknown in one corner of the world now comes into homes in another corner through real-time video. This global connectivity has made it more important than ever to expand our knowledge of other peoples and their ways of life.

Our undergraduate programs in the School of Arts and Sciences reflect a worldwide perspective. As seen in the cover article, Pitt’s Department of Anthropology offers students a wide range of specialties in the traditional subfields of the discipline. Working with our renowned faculty members, students enjoy a variety of experiential possibilities both inside and outside the classroom. Through research projects, study abroad, and field school opportunities, our students put concepts into practice in communities around the globe.

The commitment to international involvement extends to our faculty as well. Many of our faculty members are engaged in global research efforts and initiatives. I am happy that I can contribute to the scientific community of my native Madrid, Spain, by serving as chair of the Board of Trustees of IMDEA Mathematics, a new research institute in the mathematical sciences. I am proud to represent Pitt and Pittsburgh, my adopted hometown, in Madrid, my hometown by birth.

I extend my best wishes for an exciting spring term and a happy new year—¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

Sincerely,

Juan J. Manfredi

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies



FACULTY PROFILE

From Conflict to Kurgans, Students Dig Professor’s



BRYAN HANKS

For Bryan Hanks, it is easy to get excited about archaeology and to share that enthusiasm with his students. An assistant professor in the School of Arts and Sciences Department of Anthropology, Hanks has earned a well-deserved reputation among undergraduates for bringing a discipline centered on that which is dead to life. From Introduction to Archaeology to The Archaeologist Looks at Death, many of his courses fill up within a

day of opening. “I love what I do and enjoy sharing my field experiences—both good and bad—in the classroom,” says Hanks. “I keep my approach to teaching fresh, based on student feedback, and I like to create courses that provide new themes.”

Hanks, who earned his doctorate from the University of Cambridge, specializes in the examination of complex old-world societies, with emphasis on the Eurasian Steppe region. His international collaborative field research has taken him from the southern Ural Mountains in Russia, where he focused on middle-Bronze Age metallurgy, to central Mongolia, where he conducted a horse DNA sampling project. In the summer of 2005, Hanks took three Pitt undergraduates to Russia as part of the University Center for International Studies’ Research Abroad Program. “We spent six weeks excavating a Bronze Age settlement that dates to 1800 BC,” says Hanks. “Our students participated in a field school that was tailored specifically to them, with the added bonus of the cultural experience of working closely with Russian students. The exchange between the students was amazing.”

FUTURE LEADERS

Learn Today



PROFESSOR JEFFREY H. SCHWARTZ AND KENDRA LUEK

AN ODYSSEY OF DISCOVERY

Senior Kendra Luek certainly has made the most of her time at Pitt. The Harmony, Pa., native will graduate a semester early in December, but she has managed to combine full course loads with a research project, trips abroad, and campus activities. “I encourage students to get involved and take advantage of every opportunity they can,” said Luek. “I have enjoyed every minute of my college experience and am so pleased to have had such a variety of educational options.”

Luek came to Pitt thinking she might want to pursue a teaching career. But through her exposure to introductory level anthropology classes and discussions with faculty, she decided to pursue a double major in anthropology and history. “My two majors really complement each other,” said Luek. “I find my history courses help to give my anthropology courses context and vice versa. In fact, my senior history seminar project is deeply rooted in the cultural framework of Britain and India.”

As part of her undergraduate course work, Luek enjoyed a skeletal analysis course in which she assembled two skeletons bone by bone. “I would highly recommend the classes that allow for hands-on work, especially the

human anatomy class,” said Luek. “Dissecting the human cadaver was an amazing experience; I was overwhelmed at how incredible the human body is.” Luek also worked on an independent research project with Jeffrey H. Schwartz, professor of anthropology and history and philosophy of science. She examined skeletal remains of Monongahela Indians looking for evidence of a common arthritic condition across the population.

Luek’s diverse interests have prompted her to explore additional out-of-classroom experiences. She traveled to Turkey with the Pittsburgh Dialogue Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting intercultural and interfaith discussion. And she became the vice president of the Pitt Undergraduate Anthropology Club, working with other students to reactivate the group and reinvigorate student participation.

After her December graduation, Luek plans to travel to Egypt with her aunt. “Seeing the pyramids is an anthropology major’s dream,” she said. “And when I return, I plan to look at graduate school opportunities. I am excited to continue to broaden the educational foundation I received here at Pitt.”

Novel Approach

A winner of the Tina and David Bellet Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Award this year, Hanks teaches an introductory course that provides students with a multidisciplinary approach to archaeology and incorporates an important practical exercise: Students write grant proposals for a project of their choice. "I want them to understand that archaeology is not just about digging but rather about a comprehensive approach to formulating a research plan and developing funding sources as well," says Hanks. "For many of them, it is the first time they have ever had to create a budget and think about costs. It is hard work, but at the end of the term they are glad they did it."

Hanks' other popular upper-level classes reflect his professional interests in kurgans (burial mounds heaped over burial chambers) and cultural rituals associated with death, as well as the physical remnants of warfare and violence. "By looking at how humans have dealt with death and conflict in the past, we can develop a better understanding of how we approach these issues today," says Hanks.

For more information about Bryan Hanks and his research interests, go to www.pitt.edu/~pittanth/faculty/hanks.html.

KATE ARTHUR SURVEYS A BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT IN THE SOUTHERN URAL MOUNTAINS IN RUSSIA.

Getting the Dirt on Native Cultures

Every other summer, Kathleen Allen, lecturer in the Department of Anthropology, selects a dozen or so undergraduate students to join her for the department's six-week archaeological field school in New York's Finger Lakes region. With a moving truck packed with equipment and supplies and the common goal of exploring Cayuga Iroquoian villages, Allen leads the team of novice archaeologists to two excavation sites outside Ithaca, N.Y. "The field school is a hands-on opportunity for the students to experience a real-world research site," says Allen. "We immerse them in the field, teach them painstaking methods of excavation, and get them excited about discovering Native American culture."

Allen's team works most of the day at the Carman and Parker Farm sites, carefully examining and digging in selected locations. Students are trained in basic field excavation methods, including surface collection, test unit excavation, and surveying. A stickler for precise technique, Allen insists that students learn how to take down units of soil at 10 cm levels, with vertical walls and square corners required. They complete forms and maintain field notebooks. And they learn to sift the soil and identify even the smallest fragments of pottery, bone, and stone flakes. "With a little help and some experience under their belts, they become quite good at the process," says Allen.

More than simply a research experience, the field school is a practical experience as well. Students take field trips to local museums and enjoy guest lectures by Native Americans and professors from other universities. They leave the site with skills they can apply to jobs in cultural resource management and other fieldwork projects. And they learn the importance of teamwork and shared responsibility. "Students have to share chores around the house, shop for groceries, plan menus, prepare meals, and even clean," says Allen. "The cooperative nature of the experience tends to lead to lifelong friendships. I'm still friends with people from my own field school. In fact, this summer, students from the 2002 field school are planning a reunion to join us."

Applications for the six-credit six-week summer 2008 field school will be accepted beginning in January. For more information and application details, go to www.pitt.edu/~pittanth/undergrad/fldscho.html.



FIELD SCHOOL STUDENTS AT THE PARKER FARM SITE IN MECKLENBURG, N.Y.

DATING VIOLENCE

By Mary Beth Koch Ruiz, University Counseling Center

Intimate partner violence—or dating violence, as it is commonly called—is becoming more prevalent among young people. A study by the Dating Violence Resource Center recently estimated that 32 percent of college students report dating violence by a previous partner and 21 percent report it by a current partner.

Dating violence refers to any behavior that hurts someone physically, emotionally, or sexually. Most victims of dating violence are women, but men also can be abused. The three forms of dating violence are:

- emotional abuse (intimidation, extreme jealousy, put-downs and insults, mind games, threats, controlling behavior),
- physical abuse (punching, kicking, slapping, hair pulling, grabbing, restraining, attacking with a weapon), and
- sexual abuse (any unwanted sexual contact).

Below are some of the warning signs of an abusive relationship:

- Unexplained bruises, marks, or broken bones
- Change in clothing style and/or makeup
- Difficulty making decisions
- Feeling guilty and/or shameful for no apparent reason
- Withdrawal from family and friends; secretive behavior
- Starts using alcohol and/or drugs
- Stops participating in school activities and avoids social events
- Begins to fail classes

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD

Educate yourself about abusive relationships.

Understanding dating violence will help you to recognize warning signs and the cycle of abuse.

Listen without pointing a finger. If your child confides in you, do not blame her or him for the abuse. Most victims believe that the abuse is because they have done something to deserve it. Emphasize that the abuse is the fault of the abuser.

Talk directly. Express your concerns without judging. This lets the victim know you care and are worried. Be aware that the abuse may be denied. Be supportive and understanding. Remember that it takes time for a person to admit to being abused. Explain that denial only allows the abuse to continue and even escalate.

Ask how you can help. Be prepared to discuss available support if necessary. Familiarize yourself with police, judicial, and counseling resources.

Do not confront the abuser. A confrontation could put your child and possibly you in danger.

RESOURCES

University Counseling Center
334 William Pitt Union
412-648-7930
www.counseling.pitt.edu

Dating Violence Resource Center, see
www.ncvc.org

Intimate Partner Violence
U.S. Department of Justice
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/ipv.htm



University of Pittsburgh

School of Arts and Sciences
Undergraduate Studies
140 Thackeray Hall
139 University Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

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IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

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- Academic Resource Center412-648-7920
- Office of the Associate Dean
for Undergraduate Studies.....412-624-6480
- Office of Freshman Programs412-624-6828
- Office of Experiential Learning.....412-624-6828
- Office of Student Records412-624-6776

www.as.pitt.edu/undergraduate

Questions or concerns? E-mail us at pittpride@as.pitt.edu.

News & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dean's Stars

Students who completed the fall term with a minimum of 12 credits and a term grade point average of 4.0 will receive a \$50 University of Pittsburgh Book Center gift certificate in the mail in January. If your student qualifies for a gift certificate but does not receive one, contact us at pittpride@as.pitt.edu.

April Graduation

Academic departments often host special receptions to recognize graduating seniors. If you have a senior graduating this spring, please contact your student's academic department for more information about planned festivities. You can find a complete list of academic departments at www.pitt.edu/academics.html.

Undergraduate Summer Research Program

Is your student interested in hands-on research experience without the pressure of other course work? If so, he or she should apply for the 2008 Undergraduate Summer Research Program. Undergraduates from the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences can apply for this 10-week program that enables them to work directly with faculty members on a variety of research projects. The program provides a \$3,000 grant for School of Arts and Sciences undergraduates. The application deadline is Tuesday, February 26, 2008. For more information, go to www.as.pitt.edu/oel.

Summer Sessions

The School of Arts and Sciences once again will offer summer session classes. Students can choose from hundreds of four-, six-, or 12-week courses to meet their academic needs in most disciplines. Students can complete general education requirements and ensure that they are on track to graduate in four years. Registration for summer sessions begins in February. For details, go to www.summer.pitt.edu.

Pitt Repertory Theatre Spring Productions

Pitt Rep will present Arthur Miller's *The American Clock* from February 20 to March 2, 2008, as part of the Department of Theatre Arts' 25th anniversary celebration. Pitt Rep's 2007-08 season ends with Charles Mee's *Big Love*, April 2-13, 2008.

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The University of Pittsburgh, as an educational institution and as an employer, values equality of opportunity, human dignity, and racial/ethnic and cultural diversity. Accordingly, the University prohibits and will not engage in discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era. Further, the University will continue to take affirmative steps to support and advance these values consistent with the University's mission. This policy applies to admissions, employment, and access to and treatment in University programs and activities. This is a commitment made by the University and is in accordance with federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations.

For information on University equal opportunity and affirmative action programs and complaint/grievance procedures, please contact the University of Pittsburgh: Office of Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Inclusion; 412 Bellefield Hall; 315 South Bellefield Avenue; Pittsburgh, PA 15260; 412-648-7860.

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Publisher
Juan Mantredi
Contributing Writers
Sue Crain
Laura Dice
Margaret Heely
Carol Lynch
Barbara Mellix
Carol Mullen
Mary Ellen Solomon
Z Taylor
CIDDE
Photography

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Month	Date	Event
January	4	Residence halls open
	7	Spring term registration period ends for all students;
February	18	Summer term registration and add/drop begins
	29	Honors Convocation
March	7	Spring term deadline for students to submit Monitored Withdrawal forms to the dean's office
	9-16	Spring recess for students (no classes); University offices and buildings remain open and staffed during spring recess except on Friday, March 14, Spring Holiday
April	14	University's observance of Spring Holiday (University closed)
	20	Fall term registration and add/drop begin; first two days reserved for seniors
Spring Term	18	Spring term last day for undergraduate day classes
	19	Reading day
	21-26	Final examination period for all undergraduate day classes
	26	Spring term ends; official date for degrees awarded in spring term
	27	Residence halls close (except for graduating seniors) Annual Commencement Convocation

