Greetings from the Anthropology Department. This past summer, I took over as chair following Paul Mullins’ 9-year tenure in that role, and he has been a hard act to follow. We remain grateful to him for his outstanding service. In addition to the transition in the chair’s office, the department has experienced some other recent changes. This past spring, long-time department member Rick Ward retired, after some 32 years of outstanding service to the department, to the School of Liberal Arts, and to the campus. In this newsletter, we feature several tributes acknowledging Dr. Ward’s many contributions and the legacy he leaves behind. At the same time, we were delighted to welcome our new lecturer in Cultural Anthropology, Dr. Audrey Ricke. Dr. Ricke jumped into her work here with great energy and enthusiasm. You can read more about her teaching and research in two other articles in this newsletter.
We have also continued to be one of the most grant-getting departments in the School of Liberal Arts. Paul Mullins was awarded a RISE course development grant to design a new course on the history of the African-American suburb in Indianapolis; you can read more about that project below. Jeanette Dickerson-Putman, a former chair of the department and now the most senior member of our current faculty (only in terms of her longevity in the department!), received a School of Liberal Arts Summer Research Grant to support her on-going research on ethnic conflict in Kenya, and on local efforts aimed at rebuilding intergenerational networks to revive traditional methods of conflict resolution. Jeremy Wilson is wrapping up a three-year Research Experience for Undergraduates project funded by the National Science Foundation. You can also read more about that work below. Elizabeth Kryder-Reid has received numerous grants to support a variety of projects, including an Indiana Humanities Grant in aid of our participation in a nationwide project, the Humanities Action Lab Global Dialogues on Incarceration, which is based at New School University in New York City and includes 20 universities and organizations across the country in addition to IUPUI, who are working on creating public dialogues and installations on the past, present and future of mass incarceration. She has also been working on funding to develop and expand our newest venture, the Cultural Heritage Research Center. More on those endeavors below. And, in partnership with the Mapleton-Fall Creek Development Corporation, I received a grant from the Community Health Engagement Project to support research carried out by students enrolled in the ethnographic methods course this spring, aimed at helping neighborhood residents improve their health outcomes. You can also read more details on that project below.
Another of our newer hires, Wendy Vogt, is working on the very critical current issue of migration to the United States. She is completing a book manuscript on the hazards faced by Central American migrants as they cross Mexico seeking entry to the United States. In November 2014, Dr. Vogt returned to Mexico, the site of her doctoral fieldwork, to meet with collaborators in a new bi-national non-profit organization, Centro de Acompañamiento de Migrantes (CAMINOS). She is a founding member of CAMINOS, which works to address a myriad of migration-related issues in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico through research, policy and direct service. We were very proud when Dr. Vogt’s work and her collaboration with a forensic anthropologist at the University of Indianapolis were featured in a cover story in the local publication, *Nuvo*.

As you can see, it has been an exciting and productive year in the Anthropology Department, and I anticipate more of the same for the foreseeable future. Anthropology Alumni, please do keep in touch with us! Be sure that the IUPUI alumni office has your current contact information, and do stop by and see us and meet our current students and faculty when you are in the neighborhood.

With best wishes,

Susan B. Hyatt
Chair

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It was fifteen years ago this January when I walked into my first anthropology course, A103 Human Origins and Prehistory. I honestly did not know what the class would entail despite the name of the course. Furthermore, I signed up for an anthropology course because a friend of mine had described it “like sociology and I might like it”. This was the first day I met Dr. Rick Ward.

Dr. Ward taught his first course in anthropology at IUPUI in 1983. After completing his PhD in Anthropology at the University of Colorado-Boulder in 1980, Dr. Ward undertook a post-doctorate training position in Medical Genetics at the Indiana University School of Medicine. After a couple of years,
however, Dr. Ward began to miss teaching and approached Dr. Ken Barger, then the chair of the anthropology department, about the opportunity to teach a class or two. At the time, the department was still in its infancy with just three faculty members -- Barbara Jackson, Susan Sutton, and Ken Barger – having established the anthropology major at IUPUI in 1980. The department had one archaeologist at the time, Dr. Neal Trubowitz, and Dr. Ward would help supplement the departmental offerings by teaching some entry level biological/physical anthropology courses. In what Dr. Ward describes as a stroke of “luck,” he would eventually obtain a joint appointment with the Indiana University Dental School and the Department of Anthropology in 1984. In 1986, his position in the Anthropology Department would become a tenure track line.

Sometimes I think about how lucky I am that he was my first professor in anthropology. Like many of us, it took me awhile to discover anthropology. I started out in telecommunications, then changed my major to psychology. And wouldn’t you know it? I ended up changing my major one last time. I have spoken to quite a few of the students whom Dr. Ward has influenced and it is amazing how similar our stories are. Yet, as some of them know, and as I know, our stories are not so different from Dr. Ward’s.

Dr. Ward grew up in a working class family that moved a lot between the eastern plains of Colorado and the western prairies of Nebraska. He was the first person in his family to go to college. He entered the University of North Colorado, where he was majoring in English literature. The young Rick Ward found that he was not satisfied with his career trajectory toward becoming a writer. One day, while visiting with a friend (and this friend would later become his wife), his friend’s roommate suggested that Rick consider taking an anthropology course. And so, Rick and his roommate signed up with a course with Dr. Nellie Denning. Admittedly, Rick had no idea what
anthropology was at the time. I recently spoke with Dr. Ward about this first experience with anthropology and he stated, “Everything in which I had ever been interested in my life, pretty much, was encompassed in that one course. I was just amazed that one discipline could cover so many things... from Aztecs in archaeology to evolution to modern day cultures. And I think we all have had that experience at some point, to just discover this enormously large tent, and like most anthropology majors, I was broadly interested in all this stuff and not terribly focused. It allowed me to jump around until I found what I really wanted to do. Like many of us, I was always blessed with really great teachers in anthropology. I never had a single anthropology class, undergraduate or graduate, that I was just not absolutely interesting.”

Unfortunately, Dr. Ward’s undergraduate mentor, Dr. Nellie Denning, just passed away this past fall. I do not need to wonder about the effect this may have on him, because Dr. Ward is my Dr. Nellie Denning. He introduced this fascinating field of humanistic science to me. His course challenged me both academically and personally. Whether it was understanding evolution or other social issues, I found that learning the material set me on a path to understanding the value of being human. Once I finished his course, I hungered for more challenges and so signed up for more courses within the IUPUI anthropology department. And just as Dr. Ward had experienced, I continued to be blessed with these amazing teachers in anthropology who cared about me as a student and who were so passionate about the material they taught.

After graduating with my bachelor’s degree in anthropology from IUPUI, I continued the journey through graduate school, applied my anthropological training in the workforce, and have recently returned to the place where my academic journey began. I got this beautiful opportunity to teach anthropology to students at IUPUI. It is my turn to hopefully be someone’s Dr.
Nellie Denning. In our most recent conversation, I told Dr. Ward the fear I had stepping into this role because he would always be the role model against whom I measured myself. See, Dr. Ward never looked frustrated about any of us asking one more question. He always gave us time even when he probably could not afford it. He was eager to take the trust that we, as students, instill into every one of our professors on that first day of class. Dr. Ward took that trust and translated it into learning and knowledge. He was excited to pass on knowledge and show others how to do something. If I could become half the teacher that Dr. Ward is, I might be able to pass this knowledge of anthropology onto the next group of students. Who knows? Maybe I can get a few of my current students to change majors—to anthropology, of course!

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Recognizing a department forefather

By Chris Glidden, Lecturer, Department of Anthropology

When I was an undergraduate here at IUPUI, my first contact with the Anthropology Department was with Rick Ward, then, the Chair of the department. I had no anthropology classes on my transcript, I only had a dream. Dr. Ward encouraged me, supported my endeavors, and helped to make my “dream” a reality.

I am not the only one he influenced. Current anthropology majors may not be as familiar with Rick’s work since he left the department to serve as Dean more than a decade ago and has since retired and moved back home to New Mexico. However, the legacy Rick left is visible in the vibrant physical lab we now have and in the hundreds of students who matriculated through his classes in the 1980’s and 90’s. Rick was the department’s first physical anthropologist and was responsible for
developing and directing the physical anthropology courses. He is the one who obtained Cavanaugh Hall Room 409 for use as an Osteology lab and who instituted the fossil cast collection, the skeletal assemblages, the osteometric calipers and boards. His mentoring affected budding archaeologists and anthropologists, many of whom are now conducting relevant research with their advanced degrees.

When Dr. Ward left IUPUI, some of his research funds were redirected to the Anthropology Department from unused monies in Rick’s accounts. I would like to direct a portion of the legacy funds to purchase additional teaching collections for the physical lab and a name plate to be placed on the door of either the storage cabinets or the lab commemorating Rick Ward’s contributions to the department.

The Anthropology Department has over 100 majors now and a graduate program. We are a well-respected member of not only our School of Liberal Arts and the University, but also of the greater global anthropological community. We are all of these things in part because of the efforts of our early departmental founders, foremost among them, Rick Ward. As we continue to train our students to make relevant contributions in the future, it is only proper that we acknowledge and honor those who helped to establish our department and to develop the Physical Anthropology program as one of its integral components. We hope to use some of Rick’s funds to make this plan a reality, and welcome others who have similar recollections of Rick’s influence to join us in contributing to this endeavor.

Photo: Rick Ward addressing his many fans at his going-away party in University Tower last June.
A Tribute to Rick Ward from a colleague

By Dr. Paul Jamison, Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology, IU Bloomington

I have known Richard (Rick) Ward for most of the time he’s been at IUPUI and it seems to me that his intelligence, his dedication to research and teaching, and his willingness to collaborate with colleagues, are only exceeded by his qualities as a most pleasant, extremely even-tempered, and eminently likeable human being. My initial contacts with Rick in the late 1980’s grew out of the fact that we shared an interest in anthropometry, a research methodology involving measurement of the human body. My interests included growth and development of children and Rick’s the understanding of genetic diseases and how they are manifest in the craniofacial complex. From initial discussions of anthropometry, our contacts increased steadily to where we taught in each other's classes, guest lectured at our respective...
institutions, and began a research collaboration focused on the use of anthropometry in identifying and assessing the severity of dysmorphology in the craniofacial complex in very young children. This collaboration resulted in our co-authorship of eight peer-reviewed papers in medical genetic, bioanthropological, pediatric, and orthodontic journals. A major part of the success of our research collaboration was due to the fact that we truly enjoyed our interactions and wide-ranging discussions but even more so, it was also a reflection of the meshing of our individual strengths. Rick collected the data and was the major contributor of the hypotheses that we tested based upon his intimate knowledge of the craniofacial complex in terms of embryology and growth. My strengths were in methodological aspects of data analysis, graphical presentation, and interpretation. This resulted many, many times in my assertion that the characteristic features of a particular anomaly compared to normal controls were x, y, and z, and Rick immediately responding, “well that makes sense because …..” and then launching into a very cogent explanation.

Rick’s research career is most noteworthy for primary contributions to: (1) demonstrating to the medical community the utility of anthropometry in the diagnosis of genetic disease, (2) acting as a spokesman for including anthropologists on medical teams involved with the treatment of genetic anomalies, (3) refining "pattern-profile analysis" as a technique utilizing anthropometric reference standards, and (4) investigating the precision and reliability of craniofacial anthropometry. I sorely miss the sheer fun that Rick and I had in our joint research endeavors, discussions, and occasionally hoisting a brew or two and I know he is similarly missed by his department at IUPUI and by the many generations of students whom he influenced.
Anthropology welcomes Dr. Audrey Ricke

By John Flood and Ciarra Rinehart, Senior Anthropology Majors

Dr. Audrey Ricke has joined the department as our Lecturer in Cultural Anthropology, replacing Peg Williams who retired from the department in 2014 after many years of service. As Dr. Ricke acclimates to her new home, she plans to eventually become more involved in supporting the undergraduate Anthropology Club as well as participating in the department’s graduate program.

Dr. Audrey Ricke received her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Anthropology from Wichita State University. She earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology at Indiana University, Bloomington, and since 2011, she has taught anthropology courses at such institutions as IU South Bend, Purdue and DePauw. Dr. Ricke was very interested in history in high school, and started at Wichita State University with the intent of studying archaeology; she even participated in a field school. An introductory course to cultural anthropology started Dr. Ricke down a new path, and after several more
cultural anthropology courses, she gradually shifted her focus. Dr. Ricke has conducted fieldwork in southern Brazil, where she has worked with German families who had moved to Brazil in the late-1800s and early-1900s due to political turmoil in Germany. Her research focuses on how individuals in this community negotiate their ethnic and national identities. During her past three research trips to Brazil, Dr. Ricke focused on the following cultural practices as they relate to local tourism: gardens as an individual expression of identity; folk dances performed for both locals and tourists; and German festivals geared toward both the local and national community.

This spring, in addition to her sections of Anthro 104, Dr. Ricke is also teaching our upper-level course on Ethnic Identity where she is piloting a new partnership with our EAP (English for Academic Purposes) program. (See related article in this newsletter). In addition to her teaching, Dr. Ricke continues to attend instructional and cohort-building meetings for new faculty members, and she hopes to expand her research to include German immigrant populations in Indianapolis, possibly in partnership with IUPUI’s Max Kade German-American Research and Resource Center. We have been delighted have her join our department, and wish her many years of success at IUPUI.
RISE to the Challenge: “Heritage and African-American Suburbia”

By Dr. Susan B. Hyatt, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Department Chair

This spring 2016, our faculty member Paul Mullins is offering a new course that examines the historical legacy of African American suburbanization and the contemporary meanings of that history. Students in the course are partnering with suburbanites in Indianapolis to conduct oral histories and carry out primary historical research on Indianapolis’ earliest predominately and exclusively African-American suburbs. “Heritage and African-American Suburbia” focuses on the heritage of a series of predominately or exclusively African-American communities, including Flanner House Homes, Augusta Way, and Douglas Park Homes.
Students in the class are producing histories of several Indianapolis neighborhoods based on their ethnographic interviews with suburban residents and on historical research. That research includes a flickr page collecting images of Indianapolis’ African-American suburbs as well as a Google map of those neighborhoods.

This course received funding from the RISE initiative for new course development at IUPUI. As the RISE website states: “The RISE to the IUPUI Challenge initiative engages students more deeply in their learning and contributes to their intellectual and professional development in unique ways. Each undergraduate student is challenged to include at least two of the four RISE experiences—research, international, service learning, and experiential learning—into their degree programs.” Several of the courses offered in the Anthropology Department carry with them the RISE designation. Dr. Mullins was also the keynote speaker at this year’s first annual RISE Day on November 6.

Photo: A typical advertisement from the Indianapolis Recorder, advertising homes on one of the earliest African-American suburban developments.
Research and teaching award brings national attention

By Dr. Jeremy Wilson, Department of Anthropology

In this newsletter, we are featuring several tributes to the recently retired Rick Ward. We are fortunate, however, to have his legacy of teaching, mentoring and research in bioarchaeology carried on through the work of faculty member, Jeremy Wilson. This spring, we were proud to learn that Dr. Wilson was awarded the Kathryn J. Wilson Award for Outstanding Leadership in Mentoring Undergraduates, a reflection of the time he spends, training our students in biological anthropology and archaeological research. During Dr. Wilson’s first 5 ½ years at IUPUI, he has mentored an astonishing 63 undergraduate students, who have worked on independent research endeavors. Of these students, 41 have presented at professional meetings.
In the spring of 2013, I was awarded a three-year $267,204 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) through their program Research Experience for Undergraduates Program (REU), undertaken in collaboration with G. William Monaghan from the Indiana Geological Survey at Indiana University-Bloomington. The REU grant represents the first NSF funding in the IU School of Liberal Arts since 2004 and the first of two REU sites ever to be awarded to IUPUI. According to the NSF, the REU Sites program was established “to expand undergraduate student participation in research ... Sites are strongly encouraged to involve students in research who might not otherwise have the opportunity ...”

The research and educational programming associated with this grant embraces my philosophy on how archaeological investigations, interdisciplinary research, and undergraduate training and education should occur in the 21st century. This includes the active recruitment of Native Americans and other undergraduates traditionally underrepresented in the social and behavior Sciences and STEM disciplines. Including the 2015 program for a total of 30 REU fellows, 17% of our participants identify as Native American, 10% as African-American, and 57% hail from institutions that do not offer significant research opportunities at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The research project has brought together a team of anthropologists, geographers, geologists and earth scientists to tackle the questions of anthropogenic transformation, climate change, and regional abandonment in the centuries leading up to contact with Europeans. Through this funding, our research at Angel Mounds and Lawrenz Gun Club has been complemented by the first paleo-climatological (i.e., isotopic and geomorphic) record of the Medieval Climatic Anomaly and Little Ice Age in the lower Midwest. This research indicates that the onset of the Little Ace Age occurred approximately 100-150 years earlier than previously believed and is
correlated with the development of fortified villages across the region by A.D. 1200-1250. Tangible benefits outside of the research and scholarship include former REU participants’ acceptance to many of the nation’s most prestigious programs in Anthropology and related disciplines (e.g., Washington University-St. Louis, University of Arizona, University of Michigan). The NSF REU program has greatly enhanced the visibility of our program and campus in the anthropological and archaeological communities. Meanwhile, the grant budget and reinvestment of indirect funds have enabled me to further my research agenda, fund graduate students, and build our program’s capabilities to do research in both the field and laboratory.

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Anthropology
Spring 2016 Newsletter

Ethnography, Activism and the Quest for Poverty Reduction

By Karim, MA in Applied Anthropology, 2015 Winner, Distinguished MA Thesis Award

We were extremely proud to learn a few weeks ago that our MA graduate, Karim, was one of two recipients of the 2015 Distinguished MA Thesis Award, an IU system-wide competition. Karim came to us from the Republic of Indonesia and spent two years in our department, 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, taking courses, carrying out fieldwork in Indianapolis and writing his award-winning MA thesis on how members of the homeless community in Indianapolis utilized space in public libraries for political organizing and mobilization. Karim was guided in this work by faculty members Susan Hyatt, Jeanette Dickerson-Putman and Larry Zimmerman. Karim returned to Indonesia in summer 2014, where he resumed his responsibilities working in the Directorate of Poverty Reduction in Jakarta. We hope to be welcoming him back to Indianapolis in April where he will accept his award at a ceremony in
Bloomington on April 11 and will present a public seminar at the Campus Center on April 13. Below, we asked Karim to reflect on his time in Indianapolis and on how he has used his training at IUPUI since returning to his job in Indonesia.

Photo: Karim is shown here standing on the right; he is pictured with Mohammed Yunus, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for pioneering the use of micro-credit as a strategy for poverty alleviation.

Writing ethnography is like chewing a candy. An ordinary candy offers a wide range of tastes, feelings, and different experiences. Many people do not care that there is a nutritious candy or candy-like multivitamin that gives us not only a similar experience but that also serves the additional value of creating a healthier body. Ethnography enables us to dig a deeper to find an understanding of how to make a healthier society, to sound a louder voice in the interest of social justice, and to better inform social policy, particularly toward the poor.

As I, myself, was born poor, in a remote rural area in Central Java, Indonesia, the child of an illiterate mother and a poor farm worker, my “wait a minute ethnography,” as I have called it, of homeless activism in the City of Indianapolis is not only a narrative of a group of people seeking justice, but also a reflection of my own personal journey in fighting poverty. A commitment to fighting poverty has been a part of my life since my sophomore year in an undergraduate program in the Department of Anthropology in Gadhah Mada University in Indonesia. I then went on to additional training in ethnographic methods at the Department of Ethnology, at Albert Ludwig Universitat in Freiburg, Germany. And, lastly, a commitment
to alleviating poverty is intrinsic to my professional career as an associate planner in the Directorate of Poverty Reduction, the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas) back home in the Republic of Indonesia.

The graduate program in Applied Anthropology at IUPUI equipped me with valuable experience doing ethnographic research about homeless activism in the City of Indianapolis; this experience has given me a new perspective on poverty and inequality in a more global context. I realized how the strategies aimed at poverty reductions that have been implemented in Indonesia since the beginning of the 1990s cannot be separated from the larger global context. From community-driven development to social protection, from community development to community organizing, and from cash-for-work projects to an approach that emphasizes the development of a sustainable livelihood, all are funded by multi-national donors and philanthropists in the interests of furthering a campaign known as “making poverty history.”

As a co-coordinator for the implementation of a new community-driven development pilot program for poverty reduction using the sustainable livelihood approach (SLA), which was started in 2014, I began utilizing several ethnographic methods toward the goals of monitoring and evaluating this project. As the national coordinator of Pro-Poor Planning, Budgeting, and Monitoring, I am also in charge of this capacity-building program, which is intended to assist local government officers in improving the quality of planning and budgeting process aimed at reducing the poverty rate all around the Indonesian archipelago. This position has enabled me to participate in several different international poverty conferences, most recently in Turkey, in the United Kingdom, and in Japan.
Wherever I go, I carry with me the memory of the homeless activists I met in Indianapolis; they taught me that even the most marginalized people have agency and are able to act politically to further their own interests, and supporting their work is also an integral part of poverty reduction.
Ethnographic methods course awarded Community Health Engagement Grant

By Dr. Susan B. Hyatt, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Department Chair

Every spring, you can find IUPUI students who are enrolled in our Ethnographic Methods class, out walking the streets of one or another of our city’s neighborhoods, where they involve themselves in community life. The activities they engage in include carrying out mapping projects, attending community meetings, conducting archival research and interviewing local residents. This work is always undertaken in partnership with a local community-based organization or agency.

This Spring, as was true in 2015, the class is working in collaboration with the Mapleton Fall Creek Development Corporation (MFCDC), an organization located in Indianapolis’ mid-north neighborhood. The mission of the MFCDC
is to involve local residents in endeavors aimed at improving the quality of life for residents and businesses located in the area bounded on the east and south by Fall Creek, on the west by Meridian, and to the north by 38th Street.

In Spring 2015, the students carried out a range of projects in the community, including looking at the history of and possible re-use for a vacant building that was initially built as a synagogue in the 1950s (and that was designed by the firm of Vonnegut and Boehm) to studying efforts aimed at local food production at Fall Creek Gardens, to walking the many new biking and walking trails being developed to enhance residents’ access to Fall Creek as a recreational space and destination for other city residents. You can read about that work here.

One of the issues that students learned about in their interviews was the fact that residents of the Mapleton-Fall Creek neighborhood struggled to obtain affordable and conveniently located fresh produce and other healthy foods. This difficulty was exacerbated during the summer, when a locally-owned chain of small convenience stores, the only groceries within walking distance in the neighborhood, precipitously closed its doors. Adding to concerns about the consequences of Mapleton-Fall Creek becoming a so-called “food desert” was a report released by the Polis Center’s SAVI project, which found that within the Indianapolis metropolitan area, there was a startling gap in average life expectancy of 14 years. Whereas residents of the northeastern suburb of Carmel had a life expectancy of almost 84 years, that number dropped to 69.4 years just south of downtown. Located in the 46205 zip code, the Mapleton-Fall Creek neighborhood had the next-to-lowest life-expectancy in Marion County: 74.5-76.8.
Many of the chronic health problems that compromise people’s health and well-being can be attributed to such conditions as Type 2 diabetes, hypertension and heart disease, all of which are linked to diet and to the lack of opportunities for physical activity. With this in mind, the Executive Director of the MFCDC, Leigh Riley Evans, and I teamed up to write and submit a proposal to Community Health Engagement Program (CHEP), for a grant that would allow students in the Spring 2016 class to use ethnographic methods in order to work with the community toward the goal of finding ways to address this ongoing health crisis. (CHEP is supported by the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, a project of the National Institutes for Health). We were thrilled to learn in September that our proposal had been favorably reviewed and that we were to be awarded a grant of almost $25,000 to support costs associated with the students’ research.

We began the class in January and students are now deeply immersed in working with the community. They are creating a series of digital maps for the community to use in tracking the challenges involved with accessing fresh health food and other staples. We are visiting community meetings, speaking with local residents, and working alongside the CDC to enhance their knowledge of and access to what director Leigh Evans calls the “green necklace” of pocket parks and trails that grace this community.

While the course will conclude at the end of April, the grant continues through the summer and into the fall so we will be hiring student assistants to work on assembling the class research and disseminating it to the neighborhood. We hope to find creative ways to make our research accessible to community residents, including creating a calendar for 2017 that will feature photographs of the neighborhood and information about resources to improve health outcomes.
Photo: Students enrolled in the 2015 Ethnographic Methods course on a walking tour of the neighborhood led by Britannie Redd (far left), community builder with the Mapleton-Fall Creek Development Corporation.
Introducing the Cultural Heritage Research Center

By Dr. Elizabeth Kryder-Reid, Professor of Anthropology and Museum Studies and Director, Cultural Heritage Research Center

During Academic Year 2012-2013, Anthropology Department member Dr. Elizabeth Kryder-Reid stepped down as Director of our Museum Studies Program and initiated a new endeavor, the Cultural Heritage Research Center. Below, Dr. Kryder-Reid describes some of the projects being undertaken under this new multi-disciplinary umbrella. We recently learned that Dr. Kryder-Reid was successful in being awarded a Learning Environment Grant for the renovation of Cavanaugh Hall Room 431. The grant will allow us to upgrade the space with improved technology, object storage, and furniture better suited to object-based teaching and research. Below, Dr. Kryder-Reid describes one of the current projects, which is being undertaken with support from the New
Over the last several years Mounds State Park and Strawtown Koteewi Park have become the focus of debates that reveal a variety of perspectives on the value of heritage sites among different groups of community stakeholders. To explore how different groups perceive the physical remains of the past, IUPUI faculty from the anthropology, education, and tourism departments are investigating what we are calling the "stakeholder-defined values" of these heritage sites.

Our goal is to understand the complexity and range of meanings of the sites for different people, including educators, volunteers, archaeologists, people who sit on boards or work at the sites, and Native people. We are using a methodology based on one that was developed in New Zealand by the Te Papa Museum to assess the significance of their collections to the Maori. The methodology invites people to articulate why the sites are meaningful based on their own ideas, beliefs, experiences, and interests to produce "meaning maps".

While we are making some assumptions about the shared affinities within these groups, we also recognize the internal diversity present in all of these constituencies. Our methodology therefore uses a two-phase approach to try to figure out the extent to which views are shared or divergent. In the first phase, we propose to conduct focus groups and interviews with representatives of various stakeholders from each constituency. We will then develop a survey based on the meaning maps that the focus groups come up
with. The survey will be sent to larger groups of people, and we will see if there is a correlation of the values identified by the different stakeholder groups.

If you have any questions, would like to participate in the study, or are interested in learning more about the project, please contact Elizabeth Kryder-Reid by email (heritage@iupui.edu) or phone (317-274-1406).

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New partnerships, new opportunities: student engagement in ANTH 457/A560

By Dr. Audrey Ricke, Lecturer in Cultural Anthropology

This spring marks the beginning of a new collaboration among students enrolled in ANTH E457/A560 Ethnic Identity, international students at IUPUI enrolled in the course English for Academic Purposes II, and a local community-based agency, Catholic Charities.

Throughout the semester, students from both courses are meeting jointly to discuss topics such as ethnic and national stereotypes and the experiences of being immigrants and refugees in the United States. In addition, they will volunteer at Catholic Charities Indianapolis, in the department of: Refugee and Immigrant Services, assisting in citizenship and English-language classes, tutoring children in after-school programs, and supporting new refugees in Indianapolis through the mentorship program. Students will also conduct interviews in Indianapolis about residents’ perceptions of immigrants and refugees. The goal of this
new partnership is to help students better understand how individuals negotiate their ethnic identity in a new national context, and the challenges they face.

This new collaboration is providing an important experiential component to the course, which introduces both undergraduate and graduate majors to anthropological approaches to the study of ethnicity and nationalism. Students will compare their own experiences working with the refugee community in Indianapolis with readings about immigrant and indigenous populations in Latin America and Southeast Asia in order to analyze the commonalities and differences in how refugees, immigrants, and indigenous populations negotiate their positions within larger nations. Given current debates in the United States about immigration policy, this new collaboration will provide students with the opportunity to see firsthand some of the challenges these populations face, and will support students in their development as engaged scholars and citizens.

Photo: Our newest faculty member, lecturer Dr. Audrey Ricke, joined the department in Fall 2015.
New Kerr Scholarship promotes critical thinking and social justice
By Liz Goodfellow, Major Gifts Officer, Liberal Arts Office of Development

Filmmaker and writer Kelly Kerr Cook (BA 1998), a graduate of the departments of anthropology and English, recently created a scholarship fund for undergraduates majoring in anthropology. “In this world, we need anthropology more than ever,” Kerr states. “We need critical thinking and social justice if we are going to make it much farther into the future.” The Kerr Scholarship will be used to assist an anthropology major who is a sophomore or junior at the time of application, thereby providing essential assistance to a student with demonstrated financial need.

Kerr also started this scholarship as a way to honor her own professors and celebrate anthropology in Indiana. The scholarship reaffirms the importance of the contributions Anthropology can make in understanding and helping to find solutions for the dilemmas faced by people all over the world.

Kerr believes her background in the liberal arts has informed her work in education, community service, writing, and film making. When she is not working on set, she enjoys yoga, her family, and three dogs.

Kerr is another great example of #LiberalArtsWorks. You, too, can contribute to a scholarship of your choosing or create one like this young alumna. If you would like to know more, please contact the Office of Development and External Affairs: Liz Goodfellow at (317) 274-1496 or lgoodfel@gmail.com or Gen Shaker at (317) 278-1058 or gshaker@iupui.edu.