

Fifth Annual University of Notre Dame
Department of Anthropology

Undergraduate Research Exposition
April 3, 2008

As a department our commitment to collaborative learning and “hands-on” engagement results in the annual production of innovative research projects by students in the classroom, the laboratory, and the field. This poster presentation and multi-media reception will highlight the original research work of our undergraduate students and emphasize the diverse and rich academic environment at the University of Notre Dame.

We are pleased that you have joined us to recognize and celebrate our students’ achievements in creating and disseminating knowledge. Thank you for attending this event.

The following **Seniors** will orally present their thesis research in 625 Flanner Hall

4:00-4:15pm: Andrea Rivas

Autism Treatment in Peru: The Role Played by Family and Social Networks

A successful autism treatment program in Peru at Lima's Centro Ann Sullivan del Peru was examined in order to reveal the role that society has in the healing process. The importance of family support in the integration process is scrutinized. Peruvian cultural tendencies upon first blush seem at odds with the methods of treatment. In particular, Peruvian families can sometimes be very protective of their members. In addition, stigma about mental disorders has been shown to be more present in Peru than in developed countries. This research helps elucidate how certain cultural obstacles can be overcome to achieve positive ends in treatment.

Name of Faculty Mentor: Daniel Lende

Funding entity for the project: UROP

Dianna Zosche, Erin Greenberg, Susan Seago, Michelle Zaldana,

The Evolutionary History of Type 1 Diabetes

The pathogenesis of Type 1 diabetes, a widespread chronic disorder, is largely unknown. The disease occurs when the immune system destroys cells that produce insulin, a hormone that helps deliver glucose throughout the body; without insulin, patients suffer from high blood glucose levels, eventually leading to complications like heart disease, stroke, and kidney failure. It is possible to use an evolutionary perspective to understand why the body is not better prepared for chronic diseases – even analyzing ancient environments in which humans evolved can provide insight into why diseases evolved with them. Throughout human history, disorders have evolved to help protect against other pathogens, as a sophisticated means for survival. This project will explore the evolution of chronic disease, with focus on Type 1 diabetes, its symptoms, and epidemiology. Additionally, the evolution of illnesses that offer protective advantages will be discussed. Finally, the project will examine a new evolutionary theory that suggests that Type 1 diabetes evolved amongst Northern Europeans during the Ice Age as a defensive mechanism against the extreme cold. The disease's genetic pattern and history will be analyzed, including the presence of Type 1 diabetes in certain populations. The project will conclude with a study of physiological advantages of high blood glucose in an era of life-threatening temperatures. This analysis will synthesize the recent research of various biochemists, medical professionals, and evolutionary theorists on this emerging pathological hypothesis.

Faculty Mentor: Professor James McKenna

**Katie Zedler, Bianca Garcia, Florencia Segura,
Jenny Shin**

*The effect of Westernization on Reproductive
Function and Ovarian Health*

As societies westernize and become more sedentary, typical diets begin to include greater amounts of carbohydrates and foods with high glycemic levels. One effect of this transition is increased pressure on the female reproductive system. This change in diet can cause obesity and chronic hyperinsulinemia, insulin resistance, high free androgen levels, and greater risk for diseases including reduced fertility, oligomenorrhea, and Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS). This cycle is evidenced not only in case studies, but also by the experience of OB/GYNs in South Bend, IN. Further, the current medical treatment for many of these conditions include agents to lower insulin and androgen levels and suggestions of increased physical activity and a modified diet.

Faculty Mentor: Professor James McKenna

4:15-4:30pm: Bonnie Fullard

*Why drugs and people expire apart in Kenya:
Using local perspectives to inform national
approaches*

In 2006, anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs became free in Kenya to those who require them, yet they expire on hospital shelves while people across the country continue to die of AIDS. I explore the reasons behind this phenomenon, evaluating issues of agency as well as institutional hindrances to greater uptake of HIV/AIDS medication. Through interviews with healthcare providers, I explored challenges and solutions offered, both in current programs and recommendations. By examining rates of agreement among responses, I sought to understand how needs are perceived and to what extent policies are meeting them. It is apparent that providing ARVs is not sufficient; national policies must reflect a balanced awareness of factors affecting uptake. Only then can this trend be reversed and more people can be provided with the medicine—and the hope—to live with HIV.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Agustin Fuentes

4:30-4:45pm: Marti Mirandola Mullen

More than a Language: The Linguistic and Cultural Situation in Südtirol

My research focuses the area of Südtirol (South Tyrol), which is politically the Italian province of Bolzano. This province was part of the Austrian Empire until it was given to Italy by the Treaty of St. Germain in post-WWI negotiations. Südtirol has fought for and obtained its autonomy over the last century, and is inhabited by two very distinct ethnic groups. 70% of the population remains German-speaking today, coexisting with the Italians who moved to the area after the annexation. These two groups are vastly dissimilar and maintain a distinct difference from one another, which is reinforced by laws. The differences between the groups are rooted in the linguistic disparities, which only begin at the grammar level. As the idea of linguistic relativity states, worldview is heavily influenced by language, and these two groups have not only different languages, but different cultures. The disparity in occupations, cuisine, ethnic characteristics, and values underlie the linguistic challenges. My thesis is a case study of this region, focusing specifically on the strong identity of each group and the frontal role of influence that language plays.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Susan Blum

Amy Vereecke

AIDS, Inequality & Lesotho

This research establishes and examines the different inequalities faced by the Basotho and the challenges each of these inequalities causes for organizations, such as Touching Tiny Lives, which seek to combat pediatric HIV/AIDS. This article argues that gender inequality and socioeconomic inequality are the two greatest inequities faced by the Basotho leading to increased HIV/AIDS prevalence. Gender inequality often leads women into situations in which they contract HIV; prevents women from being able to demand condom use from sexual partners; increases women's hesitation to get tested for HIV; increases fear of revealing their status; and prevents many women from taking the necessary steps to prevent vertical transmission. Socioeconomic inequality prevents many people from having access to education; limits a person's knowledge regarding HIV transmission; decreases quality of nutrition; makes access to adequate healthcare difficult; increases infant mortality rate; and decreases life expectancy. This article asserts that further quantitative and qualitative research must be done to provide concrete evidence of these inequalities, and that these inequalities must be addressed and combated through the national and local governments as well as through grassroots programs, such as TTL, in order for HIV/AIDS prevention programs to be truly effective and sustainable.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Daniel Lende

Funding: UROP and the Anthropology Department

Crystal Truong, Sarah Walorski, Deepa Balaraman, Brandon Carroll

Evolutionary Control of HIV and Other Sexually Transmitted Viruses

We are looking at HIV and how to approach treatment of various strains of HIV from an evolutionary medical perspective. Using Paul W. Ewald's article on the evolutionary control of sexually transmitted viruses, we are evaluating the different characteristics of HIV, the consequences of different medical treatments on the HIV virus, and how this can influence our perspectives on controlling other sexually transmitted diseases. He suggests a three-step program for treating HIV that takes this all into account, and we will be assessing how successful this approach could be.

Faculty Advisor: Professor James McKenna

4:45-5:00pm: Michael McKenna

Evaluating Refugee Assistance Programs In Ecuador: Power Relations, Humanitarian Agendas, and Colombian Displacement

Ethnographic research in the subfield of refugee studies has often focused on the condition of refugeeness. In my field work in urban Ecuador, I focused not on the Colombian refugees themselves, but rather on the humanitarian assistance providers and agencies supporting local integration projects. The principal research question is to evaluate how well certain groups (large international NGO, small international NGO, church-based social service agency, International religiously-affiliated NGO, state agency) help refugee men, women, and children adjust to life in Ecuador. Drawing from a series of case studies, I conclude that locally-rooted agencies who pursue a mission of accompaniment are more effective at serving the displaced population. The research explores the latent power dynamics present in the international humanitarian community that universalize refugees and thereby deny them the principle of voice that I argue is itself a form of structural violence that needs to be re-evaluated in order to get back to the principles outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Maurizio Albahari

Funding Entity for the Project: Kellogg Grant/
UROP McGrath Fellowship

5:00-5:15pm: Kaitlin Ramsey

*The Beginnings of Bilingualism: The Who, Why,
and How of Adults Learning English*

Migration to the United States has long been acknowledged as a painful process both because migrants must leave their countries of origin and because they face prejudice and discrimination upon arriving. Included in these hardships for migrants from Spanish-speaking Latin America are various pressures to learn English, with the attendant implications that Spanish is in some way inferior. Yet I found, as have other researchers into adult bilingualism, that the men and women I worked with had strong internal drives to learn English, most often in order to help their families. Some conceived this help in terms of work at higher pay to improve their living standards. Others spoke of English as a gateway to connect to and help their children. A great majority linked learning English explicitly to their motivations for migrating, describing it as the next step in that ongoing process. Yet this is not to say that the students I taught had exclusively positive opinions of the United States and English, nor exclusively negative ones of their country of origin and Spanish; many, even those who had no desire to return to their countries of origin, expressed preference for their previous lives. Everyone I spoke with knew what he or she hoped to gain from the United States and the English classes. Even those who had been in the United States for nearly two decades and took their first English class this fall or spring expressed strong convictions about why it was necessary or important to them, and how they wished to learn.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Susan Blum

Funding entity for the project: Marranca Grant from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.

Kyle Strickland

*Unique by Their Very Nature: Wilson
Tawaquaptewa's Hopi Kachina Dolls at the Snite
Museum*

Produced to educate youth, specifically girls, on their spirituality and cosmology the recreation of kachina dancers of the seasonal dances and ceremonies as kachina dolls is an extremely important part of Hopi culture. In the early 20th century the creation of these dolls was drastically changed with the appearance of Euro-Americans in the Southwest and their subsequent acquisition of Native artifacts as curios and trade items. Quickly, it became obvious that the kachina doll was a favorite among some traders and Hopi people, specifically males, began to produce dolls as a means to gain trade goods or money. During this tumultuous time of acculturation and struggle with the Euro-Americans, the Hopi people found themselves divided into two separate political groups the Hostiles and the Friendlies based on their policies towards interaction with Euro-Americans and specifically the US government. Wilson Tawaquaptewa, a chief of Oraibi village and leader of the Friendlies, found himself in a conflict which saw the Hostile faction exiled to nearby Hotevilla and himself sent to California to learn English and other US customs with other members of his family and village. Tawaquaptewa was significantly affected by his tumultuous reign as chief of the Oraibi and his life experiences are clearly exhibited in his kachina artwork. Through the examples of two Tawaquaptewa dolls at the Snite Museum of Art and other Tawaquaptewa artworks it clear that the style and motifs of Tawaquaptewa were revolutionary during the time of their production. Embodying his personal beliefs on the preservation and sacredness of Hopi art and thought, Tawaquaptewa is unique as a kachina artist through his lack of accurate representation of actual/known kachina actors. This spirit of dynamic interpretation of what Hopi kachina dolls represent and stand for is today a major driving force in the Hopi art world and in Hopi self-awareness.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Joanne Mack

Brandon Sparks

Household Structure and Dynamics in Rural Lesotho

A fundamental entity in most cultures around the world is the household. Serving as the one of the basic economic agents, understanding the structure and dynamics of a culture's households will provide insight into higher functions of society. The physical nature of a building will guide its function, while the structure of a family will guide its actions. Discovering the dynamics of a household will open up important pathways in comprehending day to day life. The research about households, conducted in rural Lesotho with the help of Touching Tiny Lives, provides a picture of the inner workings of Lesotho families: how decisions are made, who controls assets, who raises children, who has what responsibilities, and who cares for whom in times of illness. The knowledge gained about household economics serves as pilot research for the larger question (to be answered investigated the summer of 2008) of understanding the traditionally expensive funerals in a region where individual households are under intense burdens due to HIV/AIDS. The research was conducted using a translator, as Sesotho is the dominant language in rural villages, while accompanying senior Amy Vereecke and Touching Tiny Lives staff on outreach trips helping children affected by HIV/AIDS.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Daniel Lende

Funding for the Project: Notre Dame Anthropology Dept

5:15-5:30pm: Leona Chang, Emily Donelan, Reece Doughty, Jennifer Leong, William Kearney

Development and Implications of Allergies in Modern Society

This presentation examines the various hypotheses concerning the development of allergies since the second epidemiological transition. As societies have moved from the hunter-gatherer lifestyle to the modern lifestyle, the prevalence of allergies has greatly increased. Our study examines the epidemiological profile of modern respiratory allergies and their importance in battling parasites. We additionally focus on the aspects of modern Western society which have altered the way in which this response mechanism functions. Finally we discuss the implications for treatment of respiratory allergies from an evolutionary perspective.

Faculty Mentor: Professor James McKenna

5:30-5:45pm: Nathan Serazin

*Building a Biocultural Understanding of
Traditional Medical Practices in Rural Ecuador*

Pedro Vicente Maldonado is a rural Ecuadorian city that is home to a successful, self-sustaining Western hospital. Within this community, however, there is also a strong preference for traditional methods of treating disease. Unfortunately, personnel at the hospital often perceive these treatments as inferior to biomedicine due a lack of understanding. To address this problem, interviews were conducted with traditional healers, doctors, and citizens of the town to learn about local plants that are commonly used for medicinal purposes. Previous ethnobotanical and biomedical studies were then consulted and compared to the information that was gathered. The results were compiled into a handbook on traditional medicine that was given to the community as a means to help improve the available health care by improving biomedicine's understanding of traditional medicine.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Vania Smith-Oka

Funding entity for the project: Kellogg Institute for International Studies

Katie Smith

*The Intersection of Space and Status in the
Panama Canal Zone*

The construction of the Panama Canal in the early 1900s would forever alter the landscape of Panama City. Thousands of Americans accompanied by their families came to Panama City to build the canal. American military officers guarded the canal until Panama regained control in 2000. During the time of U.S. occupation, racism and resentment echoed the boundary lines of American and Panamanian neighborhoods. Americans have abandoned the military communities since 2000, and now the buildings are being re-purposed to serve a diverse array of needs from low- income housing to upscale condos.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Rotman

Funding entity for the project: UROP grant (through ISLA)

Nathan Serazin

Building a Biocultural Understanding of Traditional Medical Practices in Rural Ecuador

Pedro Vicente Maldonado is a rural Ecuadorian city that is home to a successful, self-sustaining Western hospital. Within this community, however, there is also a strong preference for traditional methods of treating disease. Unfortunately, personnel at the hospital often perceive these treatments as inferior to biomedicine due a lack of understanding. To address this problem, interviews were conducted with traditional healers, doctors, and citizens of the town to learn about local plants that are commonly used for medicinal purposes. Previous ethnobotanical and biomedical studies were then consulted and compared to the information that was gathered. The results were compiled into a handbook on traditional medicine that was given to the community as a means to help improve the available health care by improving biomedicine's understanding of traditional medicine.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Vania Smith-Oka

Funding entity for the project: Kellogg Institute for International Studies

5:45-6:00pm: Paul Spadafora

Ranging and Foraging Behaviors of a Barbary Macaque group After a Cessation of Food Provisioning in Gibraltar

This study examined the ranging and foraging behaviors of group of Barbary Macaques (*Macaca sylvanus*) in the Upper Rock Nature Reserve, Gibraltar. Six months prior to the beginning of the study, the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society suspended food provisioning for this group. Approximately 60 observation hours of data that focused on the food consumption, ranging behavior and interaction behaviors of the macaques were collected, using both individual macaque observations and larger group range census surveys. Analysis of these observations indicates that the macaques have responded to the lack of provisioned food by consuming more natural foods sourced from the Nature Reserve. In addition, the macaque group under study reduced its regular range by approximately 1.5 hectares since the last range assessment in 2005. The interaction behaviors of the macaque group do not appear to have been altered by the change in diet and range; specifically, interactions with humans at a tourist site within the group's home range remain consistent with previous studies of human/macaque interaction in Gibraltar. Water access appears to be the only dimension of the macaque's daily activities that may have been affected without official provisioning, with only 7% of total consumption observations being of water. These results offer important conservation and management strategies for the larger Upper Rock Nature Reserve. The macaque group studied in this research has responded well to the cessation of official provisioning, and did not appear to be under any particular environmental stress. Social group structure was also not affected, as indicated by the rates of human/macaque and macaque/macaque interaction. This suggests that the effective conservation and management of the Barbary Macaques of Gibraltar could be accomplished with less of the direct human intervention and provisioning that is currently taking place.

Faculty mentor: Dr. Agustin Fuentes

Funding provided by the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts (UROP Grant).

6:00-6:15pm: Amy Vereecke

AIDS, Inequality & Lesotho

This research establishes and examines the different inequalities faced by the Basotho and the challenges each of these inequalities causes for organizations, such as Touching Tiny Lives, which seek to combat pediatric HIV/AIDS. This article argues that gender inequality and socioeconomic inequality are the two greatest inequities faced by the Basotho leading to increased HIV/AIDS prevalence. Gender inequality often leads women into situations in which they contract HIV; prevents women from being able to demand condom use from sexual partners; increases women's hesitation to get tested for HIV; increases fear of revealing their status; and prevents many women from taking the necessary steps to prevent vertical transmission. Socioeconomic inequality prevents many people from having access to education; limits a person's knowledge regarding HIV transmission; decreases quality of nutrition; makes access to adequate healthcare difficult; increases infant mortality rate; and decreases life expectancy. This article asserts that further quantitative and qualitative research must be done to provide concrete evidence of these inequalities, and that these inequalities must be addressed and combated through the national and local governments as well as through grassroots programs, such as TTL, in order for HIV/AIDS prevention programs to be truly effective and sustainable.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Daniel Lende

Funding: UROP and the Anthropology Department

Florencia Segura

Perspectives of Pregnant Latin American Women on Birth and Medical Care in the United States

Evaluating the quality of prenatal care received by Hispanic women is critical since Hispanic women are one of the fastest growing and most diverse groups in the United States, representing many countries of origin and cultural practices. The purpose of this study was twofold: to determine the challenges that Latina women face in the midst of health disparities, language barriers, cultural differences, and the increasingly medicalization of birth in the United States and to assess the prevalence of Hispanic mothers who perceived their prenatal care to be patient-centered and culturally and linguistically competent. Method: Semi structured interviews were conducted with a random sample of Latina women initiating prenatal care at South Bend, Indiana in March 2008. This study will hopefully provide health care professionals a deeper understanding of the needs of Hispanic women who are already enrolled in a prenatal care program.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Vania Smith-Oka

Jill Schroeder

Breastfeeding Trends Across Two Generations of Notre Dame Mothers

Breastfeeding versus bottle-feeding has been and still remains a popular debate. Many individuals state that the social climate at the time of their pregnancy and early motherhood plays a substantial role in guiding them toward either breastfeeding or bottle-feeding. At the same time, others insist that their decisions were not heavily influenced by the world around them. Looking at Notre Dame faculty members, I have explored what factors lead mothers to decide to breastfeed or bottle-feed. I have interviewed two groups of mothers, those who have had children in the past ten years and those who had their children more than ten years ago, to determine the factors that helped them to decide on the proper form of nourishment for their infants. The interviews also discussed the difficulties of balancing breastfeeding and careers, and how each mother handled this obstacle. The mothers across the two generations cited very similar reasons for deciding to breastfeed, although the social climates at the times of their pregnancies differed somewhat. Although the level of social acceptance of breastfeeding fluctuated in everyday society and the workplace, the mothers from both groups frequently attributed the decision to breastfeed their infants to the convenience, health benefits, and mother-infant bond that occur when breastfeeding. While the mothers provided similar reasons for deciding to breastfeed, they described varying experiences when attempting to balance breastfeeding and careers. Overall, the differing social climates did not lead to much variation in the reasons for breastfeeding, but attributed to differing experiences when combining breastfeeding and employment.

Faculty mentor: Professor Vania Smith-Oka

6:15-6:30pm: Kathryn Bouskill

Barren Beliefs: The Sterilization Campaign and Contraceptive Use in Rural Peru

This project examined the cultural ramifications of a massive sterilization campaign centered in the Sierra region of Peru. Research focused on the availability of contraceptive options and how decisions were reached on family planning. Although the government-mandated sterilization campaign has been criticized for its methods of persuasion and bribery on indigenous women and men in Peru, its practice persists today. Research locations included the city of Cusco and the surrounding towns and villages in the Department of Cusco. Interviews were conducted with both women and men from different backgrounds to reveal how gender roles, culture, economics, heritage, religion, and the government affect these decisions. This research will provide insight into the multi-faceted influences on indigenous family planning options, greater social changes caused by elements of western medicine in indigenous regions, and how to aid the population in planning decisions. Additionally, it engages in a discussion of health, human rights, and the role of the ‘outsider’ anthropologist.

Faculty Mentors: Prof. Smith-Oka and Prof. Lende

The following students will present their independent research via posters:

Sydney Boyd & Jim McCarthy

The Effects of a Catholic University on Career and Family Planning

Students at the University of Notre Dame find themselves in a unique environment. On one hand, Notre Dame is a top tier university where students prepare to be successful professionals in whatever career they choose. On the other, this is a Catholic institution and, as a result, Catholic teachings about the importance of family are ever present even if they are not overtly taught. With this in mind we have chosen to focus our research on the effect these two often opposing forces have on the professional and family plans of female students at Notre Dame. Through questionnaires and interviews, we found that all of the participants in our study intended to start have children by the age of 30 and continue until 35. The majority of participants also reported that they had deliberately chosen careers that would allow them time to be with their children, with some expressing a desire to become stay at home mothers after spending a short time in the workforce.

Faculty Mentor: Prof. Vania Smith-Oka

Andrea Dreyfuss Rivas

Autism Treatment in Peru: The Role Played by Family and Social Networks

A successful autism treatment program in Peru at Lima's Centro Ann Sullivan del Peru was examined in order to reveal the role that society has in the healing process. The importance of family support in the integration process is scrutinized. Peruvian cultural tendencies upon first blush seem at odds with the methods of treatment. In particular, Peruvian families can sometimes be very protective of their members. In addition, stigma about mental disorders has been shown to be more present in Peru than in developed countries. This research helps elucidate how certain cultural obstacles can be overcome to achieve positive ends in treatment.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Daniel Lende

Funding entity for the project: UROP

Kaitlin Ramsey

The Beginnings of Bilingualism: The Who, Why, and How of Adults Learning English

Migration to the United States has long been acknowledged as a painful process both because migrants must leave their countries of origin and because they face prejudice and discrimination upon arriving. Included in these hardships for migrants from Spanish-speaking Latin America are various pressures to learn English, with the attendant implications that Spanish is in some way inferior. Yet I found, as have other researchers into adult bilingualism, that the men and women I worked with had strong internal drives to learn English, most often in order to help their families. Some conceived this help in terms of work at higher pay to improve their living standards. Others spoke of English as a gateway to connect to and help their children. A great majority linked learning English explicitly to their motivations for migrating, describing it as the next step in that ongoing process. Yet this is not to say that the students I taught had exclusively positive opinions of the United States and English, nor exclusively negative ones of their country of origin and Spanish; many, even those who had no desire to return to their countries of origin, expressed preference for their previous lives. Everyone I spoke with knew what he or she hoped to gain from the United States and the English classes. Even those who had been in the United States for nearly two decades and took their first English class this fall or spring expressed strong convictions about why it was necessary or important to them, and how they wished to learn.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Susan Blum

Funding: Poster creation and presentation at the AAA meetings last November funded through a Marranca Grant from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts

Kacie Clapp

Authoritative Knowledge and Informed Consent: Why women who have had hospital births pursue midwives for later pregnancies.

Pregnancy and birth in the United States is typically in a hospital or clinical setting, with the doctor calling the shots and the women following orders. So why are more and more educated women choosing to have midwives monitor their pregnancies and assist with their births? The answer may link to an idea popularized by Brigitte Jordan, “authoritative knowledge”. In the traditional, biomedical model of birth and pregnancy, the doctors are the ones with this “authoritative knowledge”, their knowledge is the kind that counts, the mother is not considered an appropriate authority in these matters. Midwives, on the other hand, tend to treat both pregnancy and birth as natural experiences that women are designed to have. My research looks into why women who have had births in hospitals pursue midwife-assisted pregnancies in later births. I found that women who pursue that path are often looking to be more involved in their future pregnancies. They did not necessarily have bad experiences in the hospitals, but they feel that they were somewhat removed from what happened so that they want to be more involved in their next ones. Women are realizing that with a midwife, they actually can be more informed about their pregnancies, their prenatal care, and their birth experiences. In these settings, the “authoritative knowledge” almost ceases to exist. Midwives may have more experience but the woman is able to contribute to the decisions made about her pregnancy and birth so that knowledge is actually shared between midwife and woman.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Vania Smith-Oka

Cristina M. Crespo

Birthing, Gender Equality and Cosmic Interdependence in Spiti

Anthropological studies suggest a correlation between a woman's social autonomy and control over the birthing process. Being a universal event, researching variations in its biosocial organization presents a better understanding of human social variability. Research shows how the people of Spiti, Himachal Pradesh, India stand out as an egalitarian society promoting gender equality. This research explores how Tibetan Buddhist and cultural beliefs about life and cosmic forces figure in the creation and continuity of all human life. These notions shape the understanding of how a baby comes into the world, as well as the set of appropriate practices surrounding preconception to birth. These beliefs also influence gender and determine male and female roles in the process of perpetuating human life. The data was collected in Himachal Pradesh, India and consists of interviews on women and doctors. An egalitarian relationship between the mother and the father is an important product of this system of complementarity and interdependence.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Karen Richman

Funding entity for the project: ISLA and Office of International Studies

Mary Patton

Coffee Shop Ethnography: Transactions and Use of Space in Coffee Shops

Using anthropological process, I propose to study patterns in two distinct coffee environments: the massive retail business atmosphere of Starbucks versus a local individualistic coffee shop. By conducting my studies directly with the consumers themselves, I hope to gain insight into what motivates their choices when it comes to coffee consumption. The underlying question involves establishing whether or not there could be a coffee shop that would adequately meet all its customers' needs, rather than separate coffee shops filling different niches. The consumers help drive the coffee industry, but what exactly are the motivations that drive the consumer? There are four primary categories that framing the study: consumption patterns of the coffee itself, the transaction aspect (including both economic and social interaction,) the atmosphere, and customer use of the space. This project will examine not only the basic purpose that coffee shops serve, but also the attributes that lead some coffee shops to succeed where others have failed. Participant observation and the real-life application of anthropology help place the focus directly on the consumers themselves, and the ways they use coffee shops—ultimately leading to a functional and constructive report on coffee consumerism. The project involves a mixture of analyzing coffee shops already in existence and creating a theoretical formula for any coffee shop hoping to successfully connect with its clientele.

Faculty Advisor: Professor Rahul Oka

Casey McNeill

The Manual Labor Training School at the University of Notre Dame

Drawing upon archival research of personal accounts, historical records, and land documents, this study of the University of Notre Dame explores founder Father Edward Sorin's intricate relationship with the Irish immigrants living in South Bend, IN. It suggests that his attraction to the community resulted more from their devout Catholic faith than their ethnic heritage in its entirety. This particular facet of the research investigates the university's Manual Labor Training School. Chartered in 1844 and running until 1914, the school gave local orphans an opportunity to apprentice for one of the many trades specialized on campus. Examples of such trades include tailoring, carpentering, blacksmithing, brick-making, and farming/gardening. Despite their key contributions to encouraging prosperity at the university, however, the administration held little esteem for apprentices. The treatment of the Manual Labor Training School exemplifies the class system rooted in ethno-religious discrimination practiced at the University of Notre Dame in its early years.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Deb Rotman

John Dailey

Midwifery and Homebirth - Why Not?

The goal of my research is to ascertain why, despite studies showing the safety of homebirth, many mothers do not even consider it to be an option. Research methods used will be interviewing mothers on their opinions regarding homebirth and also consulting midwives regarding the reasons women might consult with them but ultimately choose a hospital birth.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Vania Smith-Oka

Vanessa Diaz and Nicole Yamaguchi

Birth Control Uses at the University of Notre Dame

Our project is examining the use of birth control by female undergraduate students at the University of Notre Dame. We are researching what kinds of birth control are being used and the reasoning behind their use. We would like to see if there is a discrepancy between ideal versus real behaviors regarding birth control at Notre Dame. Many students identify with the Catholic faith but also use birth control. This study investigates whether one's degree of self-identified religiosity affects birth control use. We are currently distributing surveys that are 13 questions long and have a space at the end for a netID if the recipient is willing to be interviewed. All of the recipients of the survey were given an explanation of the research project and were never asked for their name or the place where they buy their birth control due to the rules regarding sexual activity and birth control use at Notre Dame. The women whom the survey was distributed to began with friends and spread to other women living in the dorms or friends of initial recipients. Once the surveys were returned small open-ended group discussions will be held among willing participants to obtain more in-depth answers.

Faculty Advisor: Professor Vania Smith-Oka

Mary Kate McNamara, Ashley Modak

The Effects of Catholic Identity on Reproductive Decisions

In our research, we would like to determine whether Catholic identity affects “reproductive decisions” among college women. For the purposes of this study, we are defining “reproductive decisions” as the decision to be sexually active and the decision to use birth control. While these are not the only reproductive decisions that a woman makes in her lifetime, we decided that, in an attempt to limit the scope of our project and make it more manageable, we will just focus on these two decisions, both of which are incredibly relevant to college-aged women. Additionally, for this study we purposely decided not to define what “sexual activity” specifically entails. We determined that each individual has their own interpretation of what is “sexual activity,” in accordance with their own experiences. We hope to allow our respondents to define sexual activity, and let them to use whatever definition they are comfortable with throughout the questionnaire. Thus, a more in-depth restatement of our research question would be: we hope to determine how being a practicing Catholic affects female students at the University of Notre Dame and how it impacts their decisions to use birth control or to engage in pre-marital sexual relations. In particular, we want to explore what “Catholic Guilt” is, in the context of reproductive decisions, and how these decisions are influenced by it.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Vania Smith-Oka

Kathleen Martinez, Timothy Rohman, Matthew Templemire

Diabetes, Social Phenomenon

Type 2 diabetes has become an epidemic in the United States as the physical and psychological affects of the disease are disabling. Type 2 diabetes is typically thought of as a socially constructed disease. It can be linked to patients who have similar living behaviors. The disease is associated with lack of exercise and poor eating behavior. However, changes in the social structure of society are responsible for these physical changes that cause type 2 diabetes. Additionally, diabetes has developed into a stigmatizing disease in which patients feel trapped by a society's influence.

Faculty Mentor: Professor James McKenna

Elizabeth Elliott and Laura Plis

The Landscape of Abandonment: Archaeological and Historical perspectives on 18th and 19th century Western Connemara

The profound changes of the 18th and 19th century have marked the coastal landscape of western Ireland with the traces of famine, emigration, and changing concepts of land use. Abandoned houses, overlapping layers of agricultural systems, and famine grave sites are physical testaments to the remnants of past life-ways. Through understanding the material transformation of the landscape, we can better understand the impact of these changes on the people who were left behind. By synthesizing archaeological remains, historical records, and oral accounts, we intend to create a multi-faceted understanding of rural life in 18th century western Connemara.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Ian Kuijt

Funding entity for the project: Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program

Cormac Harkins

Identity Formation and International Adoption

The realities of intercountry adoption (ICA) in present US society create a complex situation surrounding the ethnic and racial identity of adoptees. As a result of this situation, parents are forced to decide how they want to address their children's relationship with their birth country's culture. I want to understand how parents make these decisions and how the adoptees feel about their birth country's culture in relation to their own personal identity.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Vania Smith-Oka

Andrea Martin

Defining Ecotourism: Academic and Local Business Perspectives in Atitlán, Guatemala

Ecotourism is a widely discussed concept in the search for environmentally and socially responsible tourism practices, yet the defining principles of ecotourism are not agreed upon by either scholars or practitioners of ecotourism. In this poster I compare the principles of ecotourism that are presented by academics with those highlighted by ecotourism practitioners around Lake Atitlán, Guatemala. I first identify six key principles that receive the most attention in the academic literature on ecotourism within the fields of anthropology and geography. I then analyze the central tenets of ecotourism according to its practitioners, using the promotional websites of ecotourism companies based in Atitlán as my primary data. I ask whether the authors of these websites are attuned to the same issues as the academics, and look for trends in the issues mentioned on the websites with special attention to principles that did not appear in my review of the academic literature. My findings highlight the points of disjuncture between the academics and practitioners as differences that must be reconciled in order to reunite the efforts of these two groups that share a common goal.

Faculty Mentor: Prof. Vania Smith-Oka

Lourdes Long

The Irish Immigrant Experience in San Francisco

Given the economic and societal realities in Ireland during and after the Famine, reasons for 19th Century Irish immigration to the United States are relatively clear. However, though once a country of poverty and net emigration, Ireland now prides itself in the strength of its economy, dubbed the *Celtic Tiger*, and its ability to attract migrants, including American entrepreneurs and Eastern European laborers. It is therefore more difficult to account for current Irish immigration to the United States. This multi-disciplinary and comparative study combines historical research of the well-documented Irish Experience in San Francisco with ethnographic work with current Irish immigrants living in this city. This project witnesses the experience of modern Irish immigrants in San Francisco, comparing these realities to the historical, post-Famine, experiences.

Faculty Mentor – Prof. Deb Rotman

Lauren Holcomb

Alienation and Health Care: Experiences of an Irish-American Family in South Bend, Indiana.

The 2007 Field School at the University of Notre Dame investigated the homelot of Irish immigrants, Edward and Rose Fogarty, who immigrated to South Bend in 1865. This poster summarizes the analyses of patent and proprietary medicine bottles recovered during the excavation. Issues of health and well-being, treatment of illnesses, and access to medical care illuminated other aspects of life in the city during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Previous archaeological studies of Irish immigrants on the East coast in the late 19th and early 20th century have shown that the Irish were typically alienated from mainstream American culture, including health care. The purpose of this study was to determine if the situation was similar for Irish immigrants in South Bend.

Faculty Mentor: Professor Deb Rotman

Funding for the project: UROP from ISLA, Arts and Letters Dean's Office

**William Kearney, Leona Chang, Emily Donelan,
Reece Doughty, Jennifer Leong**

*Development and Implications of Allergies in
Modern Society*

This presentation examines the various hypotheses concerning the development of allergies since the second epidemiological transition. As societies have moved from the hunter-gatherer lifestyle to the modern lifestyle, the prevalence of allergies has greatly increased. Our study examines the epidemiological profile of modern respiratory allergies and their importance in battling parasites. We additionally focus on the aspects of modern Western society which have altered the way in which this response mechanism functions. Finally we discuss the implications for treatment of respiratory allergies from an evolutionary perspective.

Faculty Mentor: Professor James McKenna

Michael Kozak

*Reproduction Among HIV/AIDS-Infected
Populations*

Medical anthropology provides an insightful perspective through which we may view the intersection of two vulnerable populations – pregnant women and individuals infected with HIV/AIDS. While birthing has remained highly culturally constructed, treatment of individuals infected with HIV/AIDS has complicated matters with novel and ever-changing variables. Only a couple decades ago, there was a great deal of mystery and fear associated with pregnancy and HIV/AIDS, but the passing years have changed how such events are treated. There have been great strides in the field of Western medicine that have almost entirely eliminated mother-to-child transmission with proper pre-natal care. Moreover, transmission between HIV/AIDS discordant couples has decreased tremendously with assisted reproduction. Nevertheless, the virtual elimination of such risks in the West is a new phenomenon and its implications have not fully been realized. Individuals still feel hopelessly caught in social stigma regarding their infection and potential fetal risk. Moreover, medical concerns may continue to arise questioning the effect of anti-retroviral drugs in fetal, infant, or maternal health. AIDS caseworkers, doctors, and others involved help to manage the complex logistical, ethical, and social issues that arise. This project examines the mechanisms and paths that are available for those infected with HIV/AIDS in the South Bend community who are interested in conceiving a child, but it also looks to the medical and social areas in which South Bend services are lacking. Additionally, this project will analyze praxis in South Bend through individual case studies of those who have experienced pregnancy while infected.

Faculty Mentor(s): Prof. Vania Smith-Oka