Welcome to the 2015 newsletter! We have had an eventful year and are in the midst of a busy fall semester. It has been an exciting few months with lots of comings and goings.

We are very pleased to have welcomed Dr. Katie Smith to our department this fall. Katie is a biological anthropologist who studies health and well-being, with a particular focus on nutrition and stress among both human and nonhuman primates. You can read more about her research later in this newsletter. Here at Southern Miss, she has jumped right in and has been exceptionally busy. Over the summer, the untimely passing of Dr. Watson in the Department of Psychology left a colony of bushbabies orphaned. Katie adopted them, and we all became bushbaby aunts and uncles. Katie and her crew of students have been offering them new toys and other treats, so we hope they are happy. A new building is being planned for them at the University’s Lake Thoreau Environmental Center.

The department also welcomed a new sociologist; of course, she, too, is named Katie. Dr. Katie James studies gender, justice and unpaid labor. She has also been a wonderful addition to the department as a whole. Amy Miller became associate provost for academic excellence, and Julie Reid (sociology) moved to the Dean’s Office as associate dean for undergraduate affairs.

The week of September 28, we celebrated Maya Week, organized by Amanda Harvey (MA ‘11). We enjoyed an entire week of very interesting presentations of recent research on the ancient Maya. Several scholars took advantage of the occasion to do research on the Tipu collection curated by Dr. Danforth for the past year. We hope that they will return to present their findings in future years and look forward to hosting other scholars to work with the collection.

On October 29, we were thrilled to welcome another speaker to our campus. Hannah Morris, one of the scholars who excavated the Homo naledi fossils, spoke at USM. Her presentation was well-attended and extremely interesting. She spoke of her involvement in the excavation, what it was like to work in the Dinaledi Chamber, and what this extraordinary find tells us of hominin evolution. We are grateful to her for visiting and to our colleague Dr. James for arranging her friend and former roommate’s trip.

We are continuing the curriculum review we began last year and will be increasing how much methods training students receive as part of our larger effort to strengthen students’ practical experiences. Several students completed the new internship option last year, and we look forward to strengthening career preparedness among our students through this and other efforts. Parallel to this, we are engaged in strategic planning, evaluating our progress since the last strategic plan, and updating our objectives for another three-year cycle.

And, in closing, we always enjoy hearing from our alumni! Please keep in touch.
Did you know that you can directly support our anthropology and sociology students with your donation? Donations provide support for

- conference costs for students presenting their research at academic conferences;
- field trips and other activities that enable students to expand on classroom content; and
- visiting speakers – researchers and practitioners – on anthropological/sociological topics.

Visit the following link for more information:
www.usm.edu/anthropology-sociology/support-department- anthropology-and-sociology

**ALUMNI NEWS**

**Tyler Cargill** (BA ’12) and **Marie Danforth** have signed an advance contract on an edited volume on the bioarchaeology of the French colonial era in the New World with Texas A&M Press.

**Danielle Cook** (MA ’11) is a lecturer in anthropology and archaeology in the Department of Earth and Space Sciences, Columbus State University, Georgia.

**Amanda Harvey** (MA ’11) has co-edited a volume on heterarchy in the bioarchaeological record with Haagen Klaus and Mark Cohen (University Press of Florida) that will appear next year.

**Jaimie Ide** (MA ’09) is working at the University of Alabama in the repatriation analysis of the Tennessee River Valley collections.

**Jessica Kowalski** (’15), now a Ph.D candidate at the University of Alabama, will be conducting excavations at the Arcola site in the Delta from October through December. Arcola is a late prehistoric Mississippian mound center that originally included six mounds. She is building on USM’s previous work at Arcola as part of the Mississippi Mounds Trail project by examining community layout. She is happy to have volunteers come assist her on the project and can provide accommodations. Her email is jakowals@gmail.com.

**David C. Martin** (MA ’08) successfully defended his dissertation (with distinction!), “Behavioral Reconstruction of the Kerma Era Nubians” at Southern Illinois University.

**Barbara McClendon** (BA ’12) completed an MA in anthropology with a museum studies certificate at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. She has accepted a curator position at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

**Laura Yurka** (MA ’14) is working with the Mississippi Department of Public Safety as a forensic biologist – trainee. She will be working in the CODIS lab, analyzing and uploading DNA profiles into the CODIS database.
**STUDENT NEWS**

Undergraduate Rebecca Aucoin is an Eagle Scholar this fall for her project “Access to Market and Its Relation to Ceramic Diversity at Slave House Sites on Plantations.”

Brady Davis successfully defended his MA thesis, “Paleopathology at the Shady Grove Site (22QU525): A Study of Health in the Upper Yazoo Basin During the Middle Mississippian Period.”

Emmalea Gomberg won the USM MA Award for the social sciences division in the three-minute thesis competition.

Graduate student Heather Guzik is lab manager of the Gross Anatomy Lab at William Carey University.

Graduate student Rylie Halfhill presented on forensic anthropology in FSC #140 - Introduction to Forensic Sciences.

Nicole Musselwhite, currently a second-year medical student at William Carey University, successfully defended her MA thesis, “Burial Chronological Sequencing of the Colonial Maya Cemetery at Tipu, Belize, Using Fouride Ion Analysis.”

Graduate student Ronnie Wise demonstrated flintknapping at a recent ANT #331 - Survey of Archaeological Methods class.

**SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE**

The following people presented papers at SEAC November in Nashville:

Marie Danforth (session discussant) - Middle Tennessee Valley Excavations Revisited: Bioarchaeological Research on Personal and Communal Identities (organized by Brandon Thompson)

Katy D. Grant - Bioarchaeological Analysis of Oak View Landing (40DR1): An Archaic Population

Rylie Halfhill and Heather Guzik - The Shady Grove Ossuary Site (22QU525): Estimating the Number of Individuals Present

H. Edwin Jackson - A Reconsideration of Coles Creek Chronology in the Lower Yazoo Basin: New Data from the Aden Site (22IS509)
NEW ALUMNI

We are happy to welcome the following people into the ranks of Southern Miss alumni and congratulate each of them anew. The title of each student’s BA capstone research paper or MA thesis/project is included as an indication of the breadth of their interests and accomplishments. We are proud of each and every one of them.

Davit Abbott – MA, Spring 2015 - Thesis Title: Unsortable Wares: A Petrographic Analysis of Addis Temper from the Fatherland Site (22AD501), Adams County, Mississippi

Amy Ball – BA, Summer 2015 - Capstone Title: Walk This Way: The Perception and Navigation of the Walkable Environment Around USM

Joshua Caves – BA, Spring 2015 - Capstone Title: Cultural Law vs. State Law: When is Homicide Acceptable? (Joshua won first place in the ethics category at the USM Undergraduate Research Symposium in April.)

Kristi Fleetwood – BA, Spring 2015 - Capstone Title: Killing Classes: Frankenstein and Dracula as Marxist Critiques of Victorian Social Classes

Matthew Greer – MA, Fall 2014 - Thesis Title: Did Money Matter? Interpreting the Effect of Displayed Wealth on Social Relations Within an Enslaved Community

Yingkun Hou – MA, Summer 2015 - Thesis Title: An Ethnography of Taste: Craft Beer Culture in Hattiesburg

Jaimie Ide – MA, Fall 2014 - Thesis Title: One Big Puzzle, Two Thousand Tiny Pieces: An Analysis of the Juvenile Remains from the Shady Grove Ossuary

Jennifer Prescott – BA, Spring 2015 - Capstone Title: Holy Holy Holy: Becoming Agnostic in the Bible Belt

Ronald Aaron Shook – BA, Fall 2014 - Capstone Title: Anguilla: A Glance at 22SH510 (Anguilla)

Angela Smith – MA, Fall 2014 - Project Title: Social Value, Cultural Context and Human-Centered Decision-Making: An Anthropological Approach to Strategic Planning in a Community-Based Nonprofit

Laura Yurka – MA, Fall 2014 - Thesis Title: An Evaluation of Metric Methods of Race Differentiation in the Human Pelvic Girdle for the Application of Expert Witness Testimony

BUSHBABIES! by Dr. B. Katherine Smith

I am excited to introduce everyone to the 15 newest members of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology! We have recently inherited a colony of Garnett’s Bushbaby (Otolemur garnetti), a small nocturnal strepsirrhine primate found in southeastern Africa. Our colony ranges in age from 1-21, with multiple males and females. We are currently beginning a variety of types of behavioral and biological analyses, which includes working with undergraduate and graduate students from the Departments of Anthropology and Sociology, Psychology, Biological Sciences and many more! There are 24 undergraduate and graduate students volunteering and conducting research in the fall 2015 semester alone! This laboratory will provide opportunities for innovative research, examining new and effective methods of captive management, and creating a unique opportunity for students to learn an entirely new skill set.
On Wednesday, October 28, graduate students Rylie Halfhill, Nic Glass and Sydnie Bianchi, alumna Susan Oubre, and faculty member Marie Danforth trekked out to Red Hill Cemetery in southern Perry County. There they participated in a “Passports in Time” project directed by DeSoto National Forest archaeologist Robert Reams. The purpose of the project was to explore some depressions located off to the side of the main part of the cemetery, which dates to the 1800s and includes a couple hundred graves. The USM crew helped with excavation of several units placed over the depressions, but unfortunately could not stay long enough to see whether evidence of any coffins was found. Nevertheless, it was a very enjoyable experience for the USM crew to be out in the field working with over 15 other archaeological volunteers from across the country, some driving in from as far away as Montana.

This past spring, several graduate students and faculty twice traveled to Washington Parish, Louisiana, to help in the search for any evidence concerning a man who disappeared on New Year’s Day 2008. The group’s efforts conducted a surface survey of a wooded area and searched a creek, which included deconstructing a small beaver dam, but their efforts were not able to find any remains.

In October, we once again welcomed current students, alumni and friends back to visit with us for Homecoming. We had an amazing buffet of food to liven up the conversation and games. We were thrilled to see many of you there. Next year we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the department and hope to see even more!

Kicking off the event on Tuesday, September 29, USM alumna and current PhD student at the University of Nevada, Reno, Amanda Harvey, presented “Three Decades of Research at Tipu, Belize (1538-1613).” She highlighted archaeological and osteological research conducted on skeletal remains housed here at USM and their associated material culture.
Wednesday, two graduate students from Tulane University, Maxime Lamoureux St-Hilaire and Mary Kate Kelly, presented “Glyphs at Court: New Epigraphic Discoveries at the Site of Corona, Guatemala.” They spoke about 2014 hieroglyphic discoveries linking the smaller city of La Corona to the Maya Kaan Kingdom seated at the large city-state of Calakmul.

With a pizza lunch on Thursday, Carolyn Freiwald, assistant professor at the University of Mississippi, presented “Migration, Culture Change, and the Arrival of the Spanish in the Last Independent Maya Kingdom.” Dr. Freiwald’s research is focused on migration and diet in the Guatemalan Petén. Her investigations of a skeletal collection from a colonial cemetery near Lake Petén Itzá drew easy comparisons with the site of Tipu.

To round out Maya Week, Dr. Julie Hoggarth of Baylor University presented “Climate, Chronology and Cultural Change in the Maya Lowlands.” Dr. Hoggarth has been conducting research in the Belize River Valley for over 10 years and is the assistant director of the Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance Project. Her talk used years of archaeological data alongside ethnohistoric, isotopic, Carbon 14 dating, and demographic data to pinpoint dramatic and devastating droughts in the Maya Lowlands during the Postclassic and Colonial periods.

In addition to the presentations, researchers used the opportunity to conduct new research on the Tipu collection housed at USM. We hope that Maya Week can become a regular occurrence at The University of Southern Mississippi with the research conducted during the 2015 Maya Week to highlight future events.

In August 2015, the USM Gulf Coast Research Laboratory broke ground for a new Marine Education Center, replacing the one in Gulfport lost to Hurricane Katrina. The new MEC will be located on Cedar Point on the east side of Ocean Springs. Cedar Point is an untouched parcel of coastal woodlands surrounded by marsh. Cedar Point had been surveyed by FEMA archaeologists in 2014 as part of their post-Katrina mitigation plan, identifying several prehistoric sites. When the plans for the new MEC’s location were finalized, it became clear that it would disturb 22JA836, which had been considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Since funding for the new MEC came from FEMA, the impact of construction had to be mitigated, and a plan to conduct data recovery excavations was developed and implemented by the ANTSOC archaeological program. Excavations were conducted over winter break and in May. Ed Jackson served as principal investigator, and former graduate student Jessica Kowalski (now ABD at the University of Alabama) supervised day-to-day operations. Students and former students comprised the field crew, including Ronnie Wise, Mitchell Furr, Elizabeth Hunt, Samuel Butz, Nicholas Glass, Zachary Myers, David Jackson and Lynn Funkhouser. Lindsey Mitchell volunteered for two days. Shalonda Collins, Taylor Brower, Nic Glass, Zach Myers and Jessica Kowalski performed the laboratory work.
Excavation focused on the portion of the site that will be impacted by construction. An area totaling 105 m² was excavated, producing a modest artifact assemblage and a single shell-filled pit feature. The site is interpreted as a temporary camp most likely used by the same Native Americans responsible for several shell middens on the marsh edge a short distance away. Several time periods are represented in the pottery assemblage, including late Gulf Formational (800-100 BC), late Middle Woodland (AD 250-550), early Late Woodland (AD 550-800) and Mississippian (AD 1200-1500). Other than pottery, artifacts were sparse, lending support to the temporary and short-term nature of site use.

I became interested in anthropology as a profession during my undergraduate studies at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). I quickly became captivated by archaeology and bioarchaeology. The idea of learning about past cultures by studying the material they left behind, including themselves, seemed exotic, even though I was interested mostly in what was in my own back yard, southeastern Native Americans. Also, I thought the idea of playing in the dirt and getting paid to do it was unbelievable. However, when I dreamed about what I would do with my degree, I never envisioned working for a Native American tribe. Upon graduating from MTSU, I entered the graduate program at The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) studying archaeology and bioarchaeology under Dr. Marie Danforth and Dr. Ed Jackson. There I continued my education and received exceptional mentorship. I participated in a multitude of projects gaining experience in both...
the laboratory and the field. While continuing my education and gaining experience was important and still is, I learned networking and volunteering was imperative to getting a job once I graduated, and it remains an important part of working and building relationships.

Like I said before, when I thought about what I would do with my degree, I never considered working for a Native American tribe as an option. While I was attending USM, I had volunteered and eventually worked on a few CRM (Cultural Resource Management) projects for Mike Fedoroff, also a graduate of USM, while he was living in Jackson, Miss. Mike was friends with the Chickasaw Nation’s archaeologist, Dr. Brad Lieb, who in 2012, as I was finishing my teaching assistantship and starting to work on excavating part of the French Cemetery at the Moran site in Biloxi, was looking for an archaeologist to manage a historic Chickasaw village site in Tupelo, Miss. Mike had supplied my name to Brad, who informed me that it would be a good idea if I applied for the position. I applied, and the rest is history. This is a good example of how volunteering and networking is advantageous in the small world of archaeology.

I traveled to Chickasaw Nation located in south central Oklahoma for training, then moved to Tupelo on my 27th birthday and started at Chisha’ Tall’a’ a’, the Chickasaw Preserve, the following Monday as the historic site manager for the Chickasaw Nation Department of Culture and Humanities, Division of Historic Preservation, in the Homeland Affairs Department. My primary responsibilities were to oversee the daily operations of the preserve, cultural and natural resources, and assist in developing the site, as well as programming for Chickasaw citizens and the general public. As one of three permeant employees in the traditional homelands, my role quickly expanded as I began providing presentations for local historical societies and school groups, assisting with consultations, visiting archaeological sites, assisting with surveys, and even attending special events as a representative for the tribe. It was interesting to juggle managing a budget, doing archaeology, developing programs, and assisting with many other kinds of projects, but having an anthropological education beyond archaeology helped me to better understand working with and for a Native American tribe.

The Chickasaw Preserve is a 17th-18th century village site that had been protected by landowners and was eventually purchased by the Archaeological Conservancy, a nonprofit organization who preserves endangered archaeological sites across the nation for permanent preservation. The Chickasaw Nation was interested in reconnecting to the homelands and provided the grant to the Conservancy, who then leased the land to the Nation. Today the preserve serves as an educational, spiritual and emotional retreat for Chickasaw citizens to experience when they come to reconnect to their ancestors and pre-removal homelands. It is one of the most important stops on the Chickasaw Homelands Tour, which tribal employees and eventually all citizens have an opportunity to take. The Homelands Tour is a pilgrimage to the land of their ancestors—a time when Chickasaws can reflect on their history, culture, and help them affirm their identity as Chickasaw citizens.

I worked as the historic site manager until early 2015. Our department’s responsibilities continued to grow, and we needed additional staff to handle the workload. I was promoted to
homeland affairs manager and began to oversee the majority of projects the tribe handled in Mississippi. As a department, we continued to develop the Chickasaw Preserve, building new trails; tackling erosion control and other land management issues; installing permanent outdoor interpretative exhibits; and growing corn, beans and squash, while also constantly monitoring cultural and natural resources.

I moved to a new office in downtown Tupelo with new staff hired to assist with educational program development, event planning, and providing the Chickasaw Homeland tours. I maintained my original responsibilities, but with the added assistance, I began to assist the leadership in Oklahoma with developing cultural resource policy, consultation and other special projects. This has also allowed me to spend more time doing archaeology. Tupelo is the epicenter of the traditional homeland, and you can’t go many places without finding evidence of the early historic Chickasaw occupation. Our team works with the city performing small phase I surveys on land people wish to develop; we work with local collectors to document and preserve Chickasaw sites and cultural material, and currently we work with universities interested in Chickasaw archaeology developing multiple long-term archaeological projects. The tribe has been planning on constructing a cultural center in Tupelo for quite some time, and it will soon become a reality. The planning for this center has been an important facet of our partnership with city, state and federal organizations.

Once I developed a passion for anthropology, specifically archaeology, I never would have believed that working for a Native American tribe could be so rewarding. Learning Chickasaw culture, history, attempting the language, and doing Chickasaw archaeology, then being able to share that with native citizens is quite special. Helping Chickasaws connect to their ancestors and visit the homelands is rewarding in itself, but it’s being able to proudly represent the Chickasaw Nation in all endeavors in the homelands that truly makes me feel I am a part of something much larger than myself. It’s a people’s heritage, their history, their identity we continue to build upon. Providing this knowledge increases the overall quality of life for the Chickasaw people, which is the tribe’s mission statement, and I’m proud to do it. I’m not the kind of person that can sit still or stay in an office doing the same thing every day; this is one reason I chose to do archaeology. I enjoy being an archaeologist, but working for the tribe I have developed into something so much more. My profession puts me in all kinds of unique situations, requiring me to utilize all areas of my anthropological education. For that I am thankful. ■
Examining Diet and Health Among Human and Nonhuman Primates

Katie Smith grew up in Texas and received her PhD from Purdue University in 2012. Prior to joining USM in 2015, she was a post-doc in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Houston by Dr. B. Katherine Smith

My research program examines the complex relationships between health, behavior and nutrition among captive housed primates and modern human populations. I examine topics, including food choice, stress and chronic diseases among human and nonhuman primate nutrition, health and well-being using an interdisciplinary approach. I examine these broad topics with a two-pronged approach by conducting behavioral, biological, ethnographic and nutritional research among humans in varying cultural and socioeconomic settings, and captive and wild nonhuman primates within an evolutionary framework.

I am building both hormonal and nutritional laboratories and have currently begun working with Garnett’s Bushbaby (*Otolemur garnetti*), a small strepsirrhine primate located in southeastern Africa. As a little-known primate species, a multitude of exploratory projects will be conducted alongside studies that will examine more complex behavioral and evolutionary questions. Additionally, I am collaborating with colleagues at Purdue University and The University of North Carolina-Wilmington, where we are examining the effects of nutritional transitions on health parameters in indigenous foragers in transition in both Cameroon and the Central African Republic. I am also currently conducting a survey examining the nutrition and well-being of captive housed chimpanzees in North America, in conjunction with Purdue University, the Chimpanzee Species Survival Plan (SSP) and Lincoln Park Zoo. Moreover, I am currently developing a project that would be ideal for the anthropology and public health students at USM, in which we will examine the effects of food deserts and health disparities on behavioral and biological health among local populations.

My previous research has focused on improving the captive management of and using captive-housed gorillas as a model species to examine the relationships between behavioral and physiological dietary adaptations, a primate predisposition to obesity and diet-related chronic diseases relevant to modern-day humans. Both captive gorillas and contemporary western humans have relatively low activity levels coupled with calorie-dense, low-fiber, low-tannin foods that are readily available and abundant and likely differ from those consumed over the course of evolution. Moreover, both captive gorillas and contemporary western humans have tendencies toward elevated serum cholesterol levels and obesity. I found that captive gorillas, like humans, benefit behaviorally and physiologically from ingesting a diet more similar to one presumably eaten over the course of evolution. However, both preferentially choose foods that are more energy-dense, even when sacrificing vital nutrients. These findings lend insights into the evolutionary history of human adaptation to diet, particularly with food choice.

(continued on next page)
I am interested in examining health, health disparities and human ecology with a specific focus on diet, stress and chronic diseases among underrepresented populations, both in the United States and globally. Moreover, I hope to further my research on behavioral and morphological adaptations, including flexibility and responses to diet among humans and apes. This research approach can provide insights into understanding behavioral and physiological adaptations characteristic of hominids and those that may have accompanied dietary shifts in hominins during their later evolutionary history. My integrated behavioral and laboratory research is timely; it examines issues with both evolutionary and applied relevance. Moreover, I have extensive experience conducting research in both zoo and laboratory settings, including behavioral research on great apes and old world monkeys and computer analyses of behavior and animal diet. I have conducted laboratory analysis of nutritional composition of diets, digestibility of fiber, and multiple health biomarkers, including cortisol, DHEA, testosterone, α-amylase, C-reactive protein, IL-6 and bile acids. I have also recently completed a survey of the diets of North American zoo-housed gorillas in conjunction with the Association of Zoo and Aquariums Gorilla Species Survival Plan® (SSP). My research is both collaborative and interdisciplinary, and I am excited to be a part of the USM family and work with the amazing faculty and students here!

Nadine Armstrong is a graduate student working on her MA in anthropology at USM. She is also working on certificates in both nonprofit studies and business foundations.

I am finishing my thesis, “Being with Bees: An Anthropological Study of Human-Animal Relations in Southern Beekeeping,” about relationships between honeybees and beekeepers in the South. To document these relationships, I emphasize scent/pheromones, sound, touch and possibly sight as aspects of communication. These senses are as fundamental to my research as they are to the relationship between honeybees and beekeepers.

Colony Collapse Disorder has resulted in a detrimental decrease in the American honeybee population over the past decade, which has also contributed to the study of the relationship humans have with these insects. Through the lens of multispecies ethnography, which challenges human exceptionalism while emphasizing animals and their shared landscapes with humans, my fieldwork contributes to a growing body of knowledge on the link between human and animal social worlds. After
all, bees are a vital part of human lives, pollinating at least one-third of the food we eat. Over the past few months, I have been interviewing and following beekeepers to learn about the various ways humans and honeybees communicate in the bee yard. I even obtained a hive of my own.

Did you know that if you smell the pungent odor of ripe bananas that, as one of my informants put it, “You should probably get the hell out of Dodge”? When harmed or threatened, bees release an alarm pheromone, notifying the rest of the hive that there is a predator nearby. So if a beekeeper harms or kills one honeybee by mistake, more honeybees will follow and protect their hive by stinging the potential threat. Beekeepers pick up on these signals in their line of work. Given warning, beekeepers can back away from their hives and give their bees space while also not getting stung.

Also, did you know that you can learn a lot about what is going on in a beehive by just listening to them? Beekeepers can hear and interpret the “mood” of their bees for conditions such as when there are two queens in the hive. If that’s the case, one will need to be removed. This is just one of many modes of communication I gathered from beekeepers during my fieldwork.

In the field I gathered insight to how the average human can read bees and how beekeepers form relationships in the bee yard. Attire, movement and methods of beekeeping can affect the relationship beekeepers have with their bees. Some are viewed as inhibitors or restrictors in communication. I note the temporal nature of these features as beekeepers become more experienced, something I experienced firsthand after only a few weeks of having my own hive.

I wish to learn what methods and perceptions say about the beekeepers themselves and their relationship not only with honeybees, but with the environment and other organisms humans share the Earth with. Who beekeepers learned from, whether it be a book, the Internet or another beekeeper, affects their perception not only of the honeybee, but the environment we share. Beekeepers see the world differently in a way that shapes their day-to-day interactions after having a closer connection with social insects.

Through my research, I have had the privilege of meeting some amazing people. I have sat down and interviewed Richard Adee, the owner of the world’s largest apiary operation of 80,000 hives. He keeps bees in Woodville, Mississippi, during the cold winter months. I have met beekeepers inside the city limits of New Orleans and Nashville, to the swamps of Louisiana, to the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. I even met with actor and Mississippi beekeeper Morgan Freeman over dinner. From this interview, I learned about his relationship and methods while beekeeping.

While my work with rural beekeepers in the Southeastern United States fills in a sparse segment of literature on beekeeping, I also have a great time meeting with beekeepers. I hope readers enjoy hearing about what I’ve gathered from learning their methods and perceptions as well.
ANTHROPOLOGY FALL 2015 NEWSLETTER

Homecoming Sign

Jim and Rita at Homecoming

Sydie Bianchi and Susan Oubre Screen at Red Hill Cemetery

Chris’ First Yogurt

Drs. Katie Smith and Katie James

Houdini in a Tire