

This Month

October 2008

Johnson County Community College



**Students
Dig It**



Field School Unearths the Past, Builds the Future

Elizabeth Varughese, Sara Ramirez, Dr. Miranda Stockett, Dr. William McFarlane, Samantha Phillips, Michelle Phillips and Nick Erickson made up the first JCCC field school to western Honduras.

Field School

Cover: Elizabeth Varughese and Samantha Phillips screen recently excavated soil at Sinsimbla.

Dr. William McFarlane, associate professor, anthropology, and Dr. Miranda Stockett, adjunct professor, anthropology, led

the first-ever archaeological field school from JCCC as part of a community-based research project in Jesús de Otero Valley in western Honduras.

Five JCCC students signed on to the July 4-27 field school – an opportunity for hands-on excavation of pre-Columbian artifacts while earning credits for two JCCC classes, *People and Cultures of Mesoamerica* and *Archeological Field Methods*.

“In terms of archeology, the Jesús de Otero Valley is a rich research area,” McFarlane said. “It is on the frontier between the Maya and Lenca, so any archaeology done in this area is going to address issues of cultural identity. For example what does it mean to be Lenca and how is that similar or different than being Maya?”

Working with the Honduran Institute of Anthropology and History and community leaders, McFarlane and Stockett, experts in Honduran archaeology, have identified the research potential of 14 pre-Columbian sites in the valley. Information gleaned from each site will be a piece of a bigger puzzle.

“Our question as anthropologists is: Why are there so many sites in this valley? Are there

social or political reasons or a chronological reason?,” McFarlane said.

Before the puzzle is solved comes the arduous work of excavating one site at a time. JCCC students began the first excavation in the city of Sinsimbla, centrally located in the middle of the valley, surrounded by agricultural fields. They were digging in the fields from 7:30 a.m.-noon five days a week in the heat and humidity of the Honduran rainy season. After a lunch break, lab work began – washing and documenting artifacts. No lost ark, crystal skull or temple of doom were unearthed, but parts of pots and household tools were prized as windows to the past.

“People say that one man’s trash is another man’s treasure,” McFarlane said. “Just about everything archaeologists look at is trash – things thrown out by people from the past. By looking at this trash, we can infer the range of daily activities conducted at a certain place.”

Students spent weeknights discussing readings for their *People and Cultures of Mesoamerica* class, and weekends provided opportunities for international education and cultural experiences with visits to prehistoric Mayan cities,

modern Lenca communities, colonial centers and ecological preserves.

Students maintained extensive field notes documenting everything that came out of the ground. All artifacts excavated by the JCCC field school have been warehoused in Jesús de Otero. Stockett and McFarlane, as project directors, filed a formal report with the Honduran Institute of Anthropology and History and local government officials.

But more than a look at the past, JCCC students and the two JCCC anthropologists are making a contribution to sustainable economic development in the Jesús de Otero Valley. Artifacts unearthed this summer, along with others, will contribute toward a Casa de Cultura in the valley, sought after by locals as a civic center/tourist attraction that preserves archeology, anthropology, theater, music and dance. With encouragement from McFarlane and Stockett, the Honduran Minister of Culture agreed to its funding, and plans call for its completion this fall.

“The responsibility of community-based archaeology is to share what we find out and listen to what community members want from us,” McFarlane said. “The groundwork for a long-term cooperative effort between JCCC, the Jesús de Otero Valley Community and Honduran government has been laid. Each year we can delve further into the prehistory of the valley.” 🌱



Dr. Miranda Stockett, Michelle Phillips, Sara Ramirez and Nick Erickson excavate a residential structure.



Elizabeth Varughese is photographed here in one of the excavation units.



Dr. William McFarlane conducts class in Honduras.

Mulcahy Addresses Needs of Refugees

Dr. Ellyn Mulcahy, assistant professor, science, will give two presentations in October as the first of four 2008-2009

JCCC College Scholars, a new program designed to showcase faculty research. All JCCC College Scholar presentations are free and open to the public. Mulcahy's presentations are:

She also cites the need to be sensitive when addressing subjects like prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, birth control and pregnancy, subjects taboo for unmarried Somali Bantu women.

Both presentations are targeted generally to the community, faculty, staff and students who are interested in other cultures and specifically to health care professionals and students who plan to work in community health centers, hospitals or social service agencies. While Mulcahy's area of study is Somali Bantu refugees, she says skills to work with one group can be applied to others.

"You can apply the same level of concern and respect for differences in culture with other refugee groups," Mulcahy said.

Mulcahy, a native of Ireland, received her bachelor of science degree in microbiology with honors from the University College Cork, Ireland, and her doctorate in microbiology from Creighton University, Omaha.

She has lived in Kansas City for five years, during which time she completed postdoctoral research at the University of Kansas Medical Center on prion diseases and HIV neuroinvasion and a master's of public health degree with honors writing her thesis on the *Development and Evaluation of a Health Educational Intervention for Somali Bantu Women Refugees*. When choosing her MPH topic, Mulcahy was interested in women facing health care disparities. She connected with Jewish Vocational Services, Kansas City, Mo., which initiated Practical Orientation for Women Refugees to serve Somali Bantus relocated by the United Nations to Kansas City from refugee camps in Kenya, and served as its health educator from 2005-2007.

She has continued her studies on ways to educate non-literate female Somali refugees about maternal health and relevant chronic diseases. She has published numerous publications on prion proteins and HIV and has articles in review on health education for Somali Bantu women refugees.

For more information, about the JCCC College Scholars program, call 913-469-8500, ext. 2512.



Dr. Ellyn Mulcahy has been at JCCC since 2005, where she teaches microbiology, cell and molecular biology and is helping to implement several grants in bioscience.

■ *Refugees in Kansas; Who Are They? Why Are They Here? What Help Do They Need?* at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, in the M.R. and Evelyn Hudson Auditorium, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art

■ *Health Education for Somali Bantu Women Refugees in Kansas City* from 11 a.m.-noon Thursday, Oct. 9, in the Craig Community Auditorium, General Education Building

During the evening presentation, Mulcahy will discuss Kansas City's hidden population – major and minor refugee groups –

and principles for cultural awareness, sensitivity and appropriateness when addressing refugees' unique needs, especially health needs. The audience will be asked to reflect on their own cultural heritage and how this may influence interaction with people of other cultural groups.

The daytime presentation will look at culturally competent health training for Somali Bantu women refugees living in Kansas City to improve health awareness and outcomes for refugee mothers and their families.

"Somali Bantu refugee women have experienced many difficulties common to other refugee women including low literacy, trauma, decreased physical activity and dietary changes," Mulcahy said.



Fifteen Take Oath of Office

A bagpiper led the procession. Color guards followed, and then came the officers in their navy-blue uniforms, ushering in a new era of public safety at the college.

On Aug. 22, 15 officers took an oath of office at a swearing-in ceremony in the Capitol Federal Conference Room, Regnier Center, making them the first state-certified officers of the newly formed JCCC Police Department.

Shirley Brown-VanArsdale, chair, board of trustees, conducted the formal swearing in of the oath of office.

The board approved the establishment of a campus police department in April. Formerly Public Safety, the department became JCCC Police Department on Sept. 1, operating as a fully-functioning police department. Ranks include sergeant, deputy chief and police chief. Certified officers carry firearms, police batons and OC pepper spray.

“It’s been a very long haul,” said Gus Ramirez, police chief. “The trustees were extremely supportive.”

With 677 years of combined police experience in the JCCC Police Department, the newly sworn in officers will handle the responsibility in a professional manner, Ramirez said.

“From this day forward we’re not going to hire anyone unless they are state-certified police officers,” Ramirez said.

Ramirez chose a formal swearing-in ceremony for its historical implication and to let the college know what the JCCC Police Department represents.

“This is a really big move,” Ramirez said.

Dr. Terry A. Calaway, JCCC president, thanked the officers for their efforts.

“We know the bravery and courage you provide, helping us plan for the worst, hoping for the best,” Calaway said.

John Armilio, an officer with JCCC since September of 2007, said being sworn in was not much of a transition for him. His 30 years of police work with the Kansas City Police Department make him a seasoned officer.

“It offers a peace of mind for students,” Armilio said. “We will have the ability and authority to react to immediate problems.”

Larry Dixon, deputy chief, was also sworn in.

“It’s going to be a good change,” Dixon said. “Most of us were former police officers.”

Dixon said as a police department officers can act as technical responders in emergencies.

“We’ll be there first,” he said. 🌿

Story by Linda Friedel

Police Department

Fifteen officers took the oath of office to support the U.S. Constitution; the constitution and laws of the state of Kansas; the rules, regulations and policies of JCCC; county resolutions; and ordinances of the city of Overland Park, and to faithfully discharge the duties of police officer.



Cultures Meet in Morocco

Faculty

(left to right)
JCCC faculty Bob Perry, Samira Hussein, Stephanie Sabato and Karen Schory are seen here with Dr. Ahmed Zekri (second from right), one of two Moroccan coordinators for this Fulbright Group Project Abroad.

Sociology professor Bob Perry led a group of 13 faculty from area high schools, universities and colleges, including three from

JCCC, on a five-week trip to Morocco this summer as part of the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program. Perry's project, *Unity and Diversity in an Islamic Society: The Example of Morocco*, is the first JCCC Group Projects Abroad proposal to be funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

Other JCCC participants were Samira Hussein, associate professor, business administration; Stephanie Sabato, professor, graphic design; and Karen Schory, professor, interactive media.

The goal of the 35-day field study with its series of lectures, workshops and guided tours was to expose faculty to the present-day complexities of this African nation.

"Morocco stands at the crossroads of civilizations," Perry said. "While it is primarily Islamic, culture, religion, politics, art and linguistics are influenced by early 'Berber' and Roman civilizations, European colonization and proximity to the Middle East. The country is one of contrasts – modern and traditional; trade routes and separation; Islamic, Jewish, Catholic religions; and Arabic, French, English and ancient Tamazight languages."

Site visits, which exemplified Morocco's diversity, included The Royal Library in Rabat and Karaiune Library in Fes with their ancient texts, Roman ruins at Volubilis, walled cities with open markets, a modern farm near Agadir, and the Atlas Corporation Film Studios in Ouarzazate, where films like *Babel*, *Charlie*

Wilson's War and *Gladiator* were filmed in part.

On their return, participants are required to do a project relating to the field study. Sabato has completed a photographic visual survey of various sites published at a Web blog, *Morocco al Noor*. Hussein will incorporate modules in *International Business* and *Human Resource Management* classes providing insights into Moroccan culture, language and business models. In *Interactive Communication Form*, Schory plans to expand topics on globalization and the impact of the Internet as a communication form to include more specific comparisons and contrasts between Western society and other world cultures.

Perry, a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya for two-and-a-half years, sees the project as a way for JCCC to further its international studies and relationships, especially in the marginalized area of Africa.

While in Morocco, the JCCC contingency carried a Memorandum of Agreement signed by JCCC and the Ecole Supérieure de Direction et De Gestion, Rabat, to partner faculty and students at both institutions – a result of JCCC's Title VI Grant infusing Islamic studies into JCCC curriculum.

Perry, who also taught English in China for one year and has traveled worldwide, says projects such as the Fulbright-Hays one to Morocco, humanize learning and promote critical respect and understanding between cultures. 🌿



Grant Gives Breath of Life

JCCC is one of four institutions, along with the American Indian Council of Kansas City, Heart of America Indian Center and the

University of Kansas Medical Center, to receive a \$2.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to implement a smoking cessation program with American Indians in Greater Kansas City. The five-year grant is the largest amount awarded by the NIH, and JCCC is one of the first community colleges to receive a grant for this purpose.

Dr. Sean M. Daley, assistant professor, anthropology, and associate director, American Indian Health Research and Education Alliance, is JCCC's grant investigator, and Dr. Christine Daley, assistant professor, Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, KUMC, and director, Program in American Indian Community Health, is the grant's principal investigator.

The smoking cessation program, All Nations Breath of Life, is tailored specifically to American Indians, respecting tobacco's use for spiritual and ceremonial practices while addressing the health risks of its recreational use.

American Indians and Alaska Natives have the highest smoking rates of all major U.S. ethnic groups, approaching 40 percent to 50 percent.

"Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death in American Indians," said Stacy Braiuca, research associate, PAICH and member of the Citizen Band Potawatomi Nation.

The plan is to form groups of eight to 10 participants with an American Indian facilitator meeting in eight weekly sessions with follow-up

phone calls at four and 12 weeks and subsequent group sessions at six, 12 and 24 months. The grant will pay for appropriate pharmacological aids like nicotine patches, lozenges and gum and the prescription drugs Varenicline or Bupropion. Groups will meet at JCCC, the American Indian Council and American Indian Center locations.

All Nations Breath of Life will recruit participants from community groups with help from member organizations of the American Indian Health Research and Education Alliance.

"Historically, the government has forced programs on us. Community-based participation gives us ownership of the program," said Katherine Redbird, project manager, All Nations Breath of Life, and a White Mountain Apache.

JCCC will hire a 20-hour-a-week student research assistant as part of the grant and Sean Daley will oversee the publication of a book and video on Indian tobacco use, using JCCC student researchers.

Data from a pilot smoking-cessation program puts the smoking quit-rate at 25 percent, compared to 5 percent to 8 percent for those who try to quit smoking on their own. The All Nations Breath of Life program is targeting the 25 percent quit-rate.

To sign up for All Nations Breath of Life, contact Daley at 913-469-8500, ext. 4823, or KUMC at 913-588-0866. 🌿

Faculty

(left to right)
Dr. Won Choi, Katherine Redbird, Dr. Christine Daley, Dr. Sean M. Daley and Stacy Braiuca are partners on the All Nations Breath of Life smoking cessation grant.



Start then Finish



Ben Craig, a race sponsor, sounded the horn at the beginning of the first Start2Finish 5-K Run-Walk.

A foggy July morning provided a respite from summer temperatures and optimal conditions for 191 people and two dogs to complete a 5-K course while raising \$13,785 for scholarships during the first Start2Finish 5-K Run-Walk.

Sponsored by University of Kansas Edwards Campus and JCCC, the run-walk was initiated to fund scholarships for JCCC students who continue their education at KU Edwards Campus through Start2Finish, an educational partnership between the two institutions.

Activities also included a children's run, food, obstacle course, moonwalk, DJ, music and visits from Big Jay and Baby Jay.

Details for the July 2009 event will be posted at iStart2Finish.org when information becomes available.

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When planning your estate, remember Johnson County Community College. For more information, call Emily Fowler, JCCC Foundation, 913-469-3835.