

Paul L. Jamison

Paul Jamison's life journey to this point has had a proximate southerly bearing. He was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; he completed his advanced degrees at the University of Wisconsin–Madison; from there he migrated to the most southern of the Big Ten universities, where he has been a member of the IU Department of Anthropology since 1971.

Paul filled a keenly perceived void in the anthropology subfield of bioanthropology. The program lacked someone to cover childhood growth, biometric and population variation in living adult groups, and statistical applications and data analyses pertaining to anthropometry, that is, body measurements such as height and weight. These were large, important areas to fill, and in one word, Paul did so admirably.

However far South he had settled, he was not immune to a distant call of the North. He initiated several research projects among Native communities widely spaced along the Arctic coastline of Alaska. Much of this research was done under the auspices of the International Biological Program (IBP). This multidisciplinary National Science Foundation–funded program in one of its aspects dealt with human adaptability to environmental stressors such as high altitude and cold temperatures.

His modus operandi was to take anthropometric measurements of the children and adults living in small, relatively isolated Inupiaq Eskimo villages. These data were analyzed to ascertain growth patterns among the children and biometric variation among the adults. He compared Alaskan groups to children and adults in other northern communities as well as other parts of the world. His many years of fieldwork yielded significant findings that were published in numerous articles and books, most notably summarized and integrated with additional relevant research studies in his edited volume, *Eskimos of Northwestern Alaska: A Biological Perspective*.

Probably because of his strong research performance, Paul was selected to be the Scientific Coordinator, Human Adaptability Office, U.S./International Biological Program (IBP). He spent 1973–1974 at Pennsylvania State University engaged in these duties. Following his solid success in that office, in 1974–1975 he became a consultant to the IBP. In the very next year he was named a consultant to UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Project (MAB). Sometime later, in 1989, he was appointed for a two-year term to the High Latitude Directorate of the MAB Project, which was charged with evaluation and sponsorship of Arctic research involving interactions between humans and their environments. Certainly this is a front-burner issue at the moment. Paul was given a challenging series of administrative assignments, and in handling these so effectively, he clearly demonstrated his leadership and organizational skills.

Beyond his sustained Alaskan research interests, Paul has utilized anthropometry to study the remarkable similarities between pairs of adult identical twins, and he is currently analyzing craniofacial measurements of children who have congenital syndromes. By now you probably realize that a mainstay of Paul's research has been data collection and statistical analysis. This is territory that demands technical accuracy and numerical precision, and in this regard Paul has gained a considerable reputation for his published studies of measurement error and how do deal with it.

Research is not the only beneficiary of Paul's mastery of anthropometry. There are of course the many students who have trained with him during their doctoral programs. Officially, Paul chaired the committees of 10 completed Ph.D.'s, and he is directing three thesis committees in progress. However, it is more appropriate to say that just about anyone in the department needing guidance using statistical applications or computer-based analysis has sought out and received Paul's knowledgeable assistance and advice.

More formally, Paul offered courses in anthropometry and data analysis, both of which were essential to establishing a solid training program in bioanthropology. His classroom approach was very much hands-on, in these and in his other courses. His encouragement of students' participation and involvement in their education are hallmarks of Paul's teaching presence. Not surprisingly, he has been honored with teaching awards, and in 1994 he was elected to the Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching.

Lest it be thought that Paul's teaching was narrowly defined, in fact he offered courses over a diverse range. One in particular that became a recent favorite was Darwinian Medicine. Then there was a series of topical seminars, and again one that drew special interest was Bigfoot, Yeti, and Sasquatch: An Anthropological Perspective.

The smooth functioning of a department depends in large part on the willingness of its faculty to take on a myriad of committee and administrative tasks as assigned by the chair. Paul's service record stands out in a particular assignment. He has been director of graduate studies for more than a dozen years. In brief, this has meant that a tremendous investment of his time and talent has been devoted to orienting entering students and thereafter being on call to resolve any difficulties that might arise throughout the duration of their graduate programs. Such a commitment to student well-being should not go unrecognized, and indeed, Paul was duly honored by receiving the university-wide Wilbur Hites Mentoring Award in 2004. It should be added here that a number of his former students, most of whom now hold faculty positions, continue to seek out his guidance as they advance in their academic careers.

It is anticipated that Paul will also continue to regularly interact with his colleagues after his retirement. After all, there are ongoing research projects and dissertation committees to attend to. He will have more open time to visit his children and grandchildren. There seems to be a travel plan forming that involves Paul and his wife, Cher, (who also happens to be his research collaborator) rambling throughout North America in an RV. They will be accompanied by the friendliest of canine companions, namely two Labrador retrievers.

We wish happy travels to Paul and Cher, and we extend our heartiest thanks to Paul for his many years of dedicated and distinguished service, and most of all for his cherished friendship.

Robert J. Meier and Kevin D. Hunt