



## Physical Anthropology Section – 2007

### H56 Richard Jantz: A Man of Impressive Numbers

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After attending this presentation, attendees will learn about the impact Richard Jantz has had on the field of Forensic Anthropology.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating the professional contributions Richard Jantz has made in the field of forensic anthropology.

Richard L. Jantz was born in a rural Kansas farming community a while ago. He was raised in Halstead, KS, where his parents still reside. He attended University of Kansas for his undergraduate and graduate degrees, studying under the greats such as Bass, Kerley, and McKern, studying along side other notables such as George Gill, Doug Ubelaker, and Ted Rathbun. His early research in human variation yielded his MA thesis, *Some Aspects of Laterality in University of Kansas Male Students*. His doctoral research focused on skeletal research, specifically cranial variation in Arikara. It was during this period of his career that he began to appreciate the contributions of WW Howells. These themes have carried through his very productive career.

Richard's first academic position was held at the University of Missouri, where he worked for a year as an instructor prior to finishing his degrees. He followed this with a short two-year stint at the University of Nebraska. He was an instructor, then after receiving his PhD, became an assistant professor. While he was a Plains man, he realized that it was really too cold in the winter. When Bill Bass called him from the warmer climes of East Tennessee to offer him a position, he was more than willing to make that move. Thus began his 36-year (and continuing!) career at the University of Tennessee.

Numbers are this man's game. Working with students and colleagues, Richard has developed several different databases including one for dermatoglyphics (with the late H. Brehme), Plains skeletal metrics (with D. Owsley, P. Key, and T. Zobeck), the Boas anthropometric data (with D. Hunt), and probably the most familiar to this audience, the Forensic Data Bank (with many of you). Following in the footsteps of Howells, Richard's practice of sharing the wealth of data has allowed many researchers to contribute to the field of study.

Continuing in this vein, data requires statistical manipulation. Although not a computer geek, Richard is a number cruncher. He has provided statistical advice and analysis to innumerable students and practitioners in the field. A major contribution to the area of forensics is FORDISC (now available in its third version), the custom discriminant function software developed by Richard and his student/colleague, S. Ousley. FORDISC has changed the way most forensic anthropologists approach the analysis of unidentified skeletal remains today.

Richard has been relatively lucky in his career as a professor. He has many wonderful students as illustrated by this session. After a student graduates, he considers him or her a colleague as evidenced in his many collaborations. While this session is in honor of his career, let it be known...his career is not over. He is looking forward to many more interesting projects as well as hopefully finishing many of the ones in which is currently involved.

**Jantz, Forensic Anthropology, Databases**