



Anthropology

FALL 2022 DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER





Anthropology

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Dear UK Anthropology alumni and friends,

Greetings! With this newsletter, I am delighted to share some of the wonderful things that have been happening with students, alumni, and faculty in our department. Beyond the articles in these pages, there are many exciting developments to report:

- In the 2021-2022 school year, we proudly awarded eight students with Ph.D. degrees, four students with master's degrees, and 26 students with bachelor's degrees.
- After a three-year hiatus, the Archaeology Field School started up again last summer. Taught by Assistant Professor Elena Sesma with the help of teaching assistant (TA) James Keppeler, eight students spent six weeks investigating the history of the Bingham Davis House on Maxwell Street.
- Springtime saw Dr. Takami Delisle (Ph.D. Anthropology '21) lead an energetic faculty workshop on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- On October 29th, we welcomed the first Bluegrass Annual Discussions on Anthropology and the Social Sciences Conference. Led by graduate students Ana Temkina and Marcus Rodriguez, this student-run conference received guidance from our new adjunct faculty members Geoffrey McCafferty and Sharisse McCafferty, who contributed to the thriving Chacmool Archaeology Conference that ran for 50 years at the University of Calgary.
- Fall 2022 will feature a series of anthropology talks on most Friday afternoons at 12:00. Some of these talks are part of the department's Anthropology Colloquium, others are part of the new, informal Anthropology Brown Bag series. All of these events are free and open to the public.
- We welcomed two new post-docs to the department this fall: Evan Taylor, a recent Ph.D. graduate from University of Massachusetts-Amherst will teach classes and assist with Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) compliance; and Amber Plemons, a recent Ph.D. graduate from Michigan State University will collaborate on research with Assistant Professor of Anthropology Hugo Reyes-Centeno and Dr. James K. Hartfield of the College of Dentistry.

Thanks for tuning in, and please stop by to say hello (I am in Room 204A of Lafferty Hall) if you find yourself on the UK campus.

Sincerely,

Scott Hutson

Professor of Anthropology and Chair

Megan Maurer Examines Greenspace Access on Emotional Well-Being



Dr. Megan Maurer (Ph.D. Anthropology '17) has completed research on the effect of access to greenspaces on the psychological well-being of citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic. After earning her Ph.D., she completed a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Earth Institute at Columbia University. The Institute blends research in the physical and social sciences, education, and practical solutions to help guide the world onto a path toward sustainability.

Maurer's first research project at the Institute explored the connections among green space, perception of risk, and well-being in times of a public health emergency that require people to stay indoors and isolate. Collaborators from New York, Minnesota, Florida, and Georgia examined the engineering and social side of urban green infrastructure. As the pandemic emerged, the group realized that they were in the perfect position to gather research on how the emotional well-being of university students in the United States was affected by greenspace access. Although university students came from many different backgrounds, they were all experiencing similar challenges. The pandemic allowed for research of a population with a shared stressor, but a wide array of responses. "We had people who were going to their parents' vacation home out on Long Island where they were riding horses in the sunset," Maurer

explained. "And then we had people stuck in their apartment with their parents and their grandparents in a three-room apartment in Manhattan—that's tiny, with nowhere to go. We were able to see an extreme variation in a huge population that was experiencing similar duress."

Through snowball sampling, a method of creating a sample population through researchers' networks, 1,200 students from 46 states were surveyed and interviewed during the spring of 2020. "We're showing that access to greenspace and being able to go outside and be around nature does significantly improve your well-being," Maurer said. "We know from other research that not everybody has the ability to go outside even when there's not a pandemic. Due to the intersectionality of environmental access issues, communities are affected differently," Maurer explained. Whiter, middle-class neighborhoods have greater access to greenspace than neighborhoods with a larger population of people of color and those living below the poverty line. This knowledge, combined with her research on the positive effect greenspace has on mental well-being, shows the need for critical thinking on how to integrate greenspaces at the beginning of urban projects. It is easier to add these spaces from the start of a project as compared to retroactively.

Maurer's main focus in her postdoctoral endeavors was interdisciplinary research, and Columbia University provided that opportunity. "I found it to be a super rewarding environment to work in," Maurer expressed. "So, as I was applying and interviewing for jobs to follow the post-doc, I knew I wanted to be in a place where I could continue to do interdisciplinary collaborations."

Now an assistant professorship of landscape architecture and planning in the Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management at the University of Copenhagen, Maurer is able to pursue interdisciplinary research and teach.

In an attempt to combat climate change, she is part of a collaborative research project to find ways to incorporate children's and youths' participation in the urban planning process. In the early stages of this project, they determined that young people's opinions were not being heard and they want to change that. The project aims to create seats at the table and pass on the decision-making power to the up-and-coming generation. "We are adopting a framework of intergenerational justice," Maurer explained. "We are seeing this as a justice and equity issue. These are the people who will be inheriting the landscape that we are designing and planning. These will be the people who have to deal with the consequences of climate change."



Central Park, New York City

Southeastern Archaeological Conference Honors Edward Henry

Colorado State University (CSU) Assistant Professor of Archaeology Edward Henry (B.A. Education '04) received the C.B. Moore Award from the Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) at the professional organization's annual meeting in October 2021. The C.B. Moore Award—recently renamed the SEAC Rising Scholar Award—annually recognizes a preeminent younger scholar in the field of Southeastern United States archaeology or associated studies. At CSU, Henry founded and directs the Center for Research in Archaeo-geophysics and Geoarchaeology where he involves students in archaeological fieldwork, combining his two passions—research and teaching.

A committee of previous award winners determines the SEAC Rising Scholar Award recipient each year. Henry is grateful and humbled to be recognized by his peers. “It is that much more emotionally and symbolically meaningful because it is this community of your generational scholars who you are coming through the field with,” he expressed. “To be somebody picked out by that peer group leaves you speechless.”

After completing his bachelor's in secondary education at UK in 2004, Henry earned a master's in anthropology from the University of Mississippi (2009) and a Ph.D. in anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis (2018). His dissertation focused on geometric earthen enclosures in the Bluegrass Region of Central Kentucky in the Middle Ohio Valley, dating from 1000 BCE to 500 CE. By looking at construction, use, and abandonment, he explored how and why people congregated at these places and transformed the physical and social landscape. Through geophysical techniques and mentoring from UK archaeologists, including Associate Professor and William S. Webb Museum of Anthropology Director George Crothers, he was able to explore buried layers of soil and sediment without disturbing these earthworks.

A native Kentuckian, Henry has since expanded his research to encompass Tennessee, Mississippi, and other areas. By examining more of the Southeast, he can “zoom in” and “zoom out” to get a greater sense of the societal processes that took place across the region. Still, Henry has a strong personal connection to his Central Kentucky research, which he attributes to growing up in the area and collaborating with accomplished academics who research the area. “One reason I continue to come back is because there was always this tight-knit community of researchers working on Central Kentucky and around UK,” he explained.

Henry believes the SEAC Rising Scholar Award recognizes the entirety of his research, not just one branch of it and shares “it wasn't one particular kind of project, but the culmination of all the things I had been doing.” He is honored and humbled to receive the award and credits his professional accomplishments to the outstanding foundational education he received at the University of Kentucky.



CSU Professor Ed Henry (right), with Tristram R. Kidder, chair and professor of anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis and Henry's doctoral advisor, after receiving the 2021 C.B. Moore Award

Daniel Joseph Accepts Leadership Position at Eastern Kentucky University

This fall, Dr. Daniel Joseph (M.A. Anthropology '16, Ph.D. Anthropology '19) became the director of the Center for Africana Engagement and an assistant professor in the Department of African and African American Studies at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU). After leaving the Bluegrass state three years ago, he is delighted to return and assume this leadership role. "I really wanted to combine my anthropology expertise with Black Studies, and I think that ECU offers me this opportunity," Joseph explained.

A native of Haiti, Daniel became interested in UK's doctoral program in anthropology after spending a year as an exchange fellow teaching French at the University of Iowa. He also holds a master's degree in Societies and Cultures: Europe and Americas from the University of Poitiers (UP), and a bachelor's degree in languages from the State University of Haiti (UEH) and the University of the French Antilles (UAG).

For his dissertation, Joseph conducted research fieldwork with displaced persons in Anse-à-Pitres, a small town located on the Haitian-Dominican border. He investigated the Dominicans of Haitian descent who were forced to re-settle in Haiti after the Dominican constitutional court rendered them stateless in 2015. Joseph examined how the members of this population created survival strategies and built alternative forms of citizenship. In 2018, he published his research in the peer-reviewed book *Global Mountain Regions: Conversations Toward the Future* (Indiana University Press). While preparing his dissertation for final submission, Joseph secured a teaching position in anthropology at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana.

Joseph shared that his main passion is teaching. "When I was 15 years old, I was an instructor at a local church. I always thought that experience was really fundamental to my career as a professor. I started really early, and I've always wanted to teach. I think that ECU will constitute a better ground for me to advocate and acquire leadership skills."



Anse-à-Pitres, Haiti

Anthropology Legacy Fund Supports Student Research



UK Anthropology alumni are directly funding student research within the department through their donations to the Anthropology Legacy Fund. Bill Schweri (B.A. Anthropology '69, M.A. Anthropology '78) created the Legacy Fund in 2015 to help students develop professional networks through research and other professional opportunities.

The Anthropology Legacy Fund's flexibility enables students at different levels of anthropology research the chance to receive support. The Legacy Fund has supported student travel to the Society for American Archaeology meetings and most recently funded partial scholarships for the Archaeology Field School in the summer of 2022. The fund also allows graduate students to fast-track their dissertation fieldwork. Cultural Anthropologist Dr. M. Ruth Dike (M.A. Anthropology '18, Ph.D. Anthropology '01) credits the Legacy Fund with helping her complete her research in a timely manner.

Dike's dissertation research examined how urban Moroccan family life is changing with regard to the gendered negotiations of reproductive and paid labor and the cultural meaning and lived experience of contemporary middle-class identities. After she completed her qualifying exams in March 2018, thanks to a research fellowship funded by the Legacy Fund, Dike was able to start her dissertation fieldwork in Rabat, Morocco in April 2018. "While in Morocco, I was able to present my research plans and findings at the Fulbright Symposium in 2018 and

2019," Dike expressed. "This funding also enabled me to stay in the field for 17 months in order to have plenty of data for my dissertation."

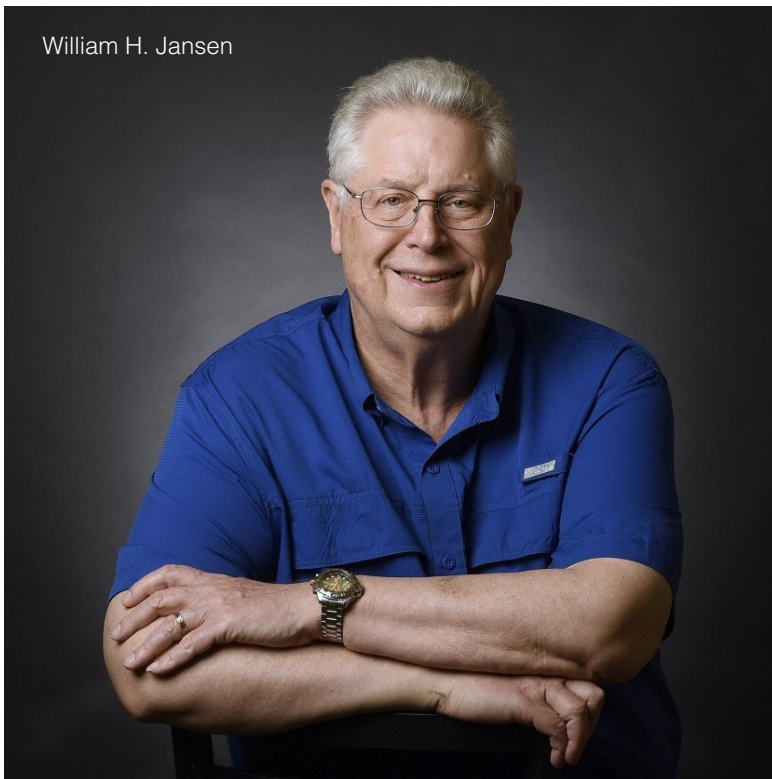
Rather than relying on grants from larger, external sources, Dike was able to start her research almost immediately. "Waiting for months or years on end for funding before beginning dissertation fieldwork is extremely detrimental," she explained. "The Anthropology Legacy Fund certainly benefitted my future immensely, and I believe the fund is doing the same for other Anthropology graduate students." Since graduating in August 2021, Dike has become a term assistant professor at the University of Louisville.

Schweri hopes to continue the Anthropology Legacy Fund for as long as possible. He is proud to support anthropology students and thinks their academic pursuits are worthwhile and inspiring. He encourages anthropology alumni to consider a gift to the Anthropology Legacy Fund to support the next generation of scholars and make the fund even more impactful. "I think the main thing is I would really hope as many alumni as possible would donate to the department in some small way," Schweri emphasized. "Make the Anthropology Legacy Fund a much more significant source of student support within the department."

Go to anthropology.uky.edu/legacy-fund to make an online gift or contact Philanthropy Officer Debra Gold at debra.gold@uky.edu or 859-257-8124 for more information.

William Jansen Receives UK 2022 Alumni Global Impact Award

William H. Jansen



In September 2022, William H. Jansen II (B.A. Anthropology '71) received the Alumni Global Impact Award in recognition of his outstanding career and achievements. The International Center at UK bestows the Global Impact Award on faculty, staff, alumni, and community members who have significantly contributed to the University's global engagement through education, research, and service, as well as those who have fostered a culturally diverse, welcoming environment. Jansen earned his B.A. in anthropology from the department in 1971 and went on to earn his M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His long and distinguished career has taken him around the world and bears testament to the truly global impact of UK alumni excellence. His work with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) led to extended stays in the Canadian Arctic, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Jordan, Morocco, and Zimbabwe, as well as shorter tenures in Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Paraguay, Rwanda, Senegal,

Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, and Uganda. His work around the world addressed such critical issues as the protection of indigenous ancestral lands, improving maternal and child health, controlling malaria and tuberculosis, and mitigating the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa. Most recently, Jansen has worked to strengthen capacities to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in Senegal and Ukraine. In all these varied projects, he sought to bring a better understanding of the local social or cultural context to improve the program's chances of success.

In recommending Jansen for the 2022 Alumni Global Impact Award, George Smith, retired associate director of the Southeast Archaeological Center pointed out the "long-lasting contributions of his international research, public service, teaching, advising of graduate students, publications, and sustainable development projects have impacted the understanding and addressing of global issues and concerns." Smith describes Jansen as "one of the most dedicated, motivated, and solid professionals I have had the pleasure of working with at both national and international levels..." William Jansen represents the highest ideals of the University of Kentucky as well as the profession of anthropology."

Leah Blair Receives 2021 Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship

UK's Office of Undergraduate Research awarded senior undergraduate biology and anthropology double major Leah Blair (class of 2022) the 2021 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship to aid her research on comparative evolution.

With this award, Blair was able to explore if there was a correlation between the stages of human development and the dimensions of the bony labyrinth, a small cavity in the inner ear. Previous research has shown the bony labyrinth can be used to determine primate species. Blair wanted to see if this physical characteristic was telling of developmental differences in the human species. Through work with casting, segmentation, and micro-CT scans, Blair performed studies on a population of modern human remains from an archeological site. She was able to segment and cast specific canals within the bony labyrinth to study its shape.

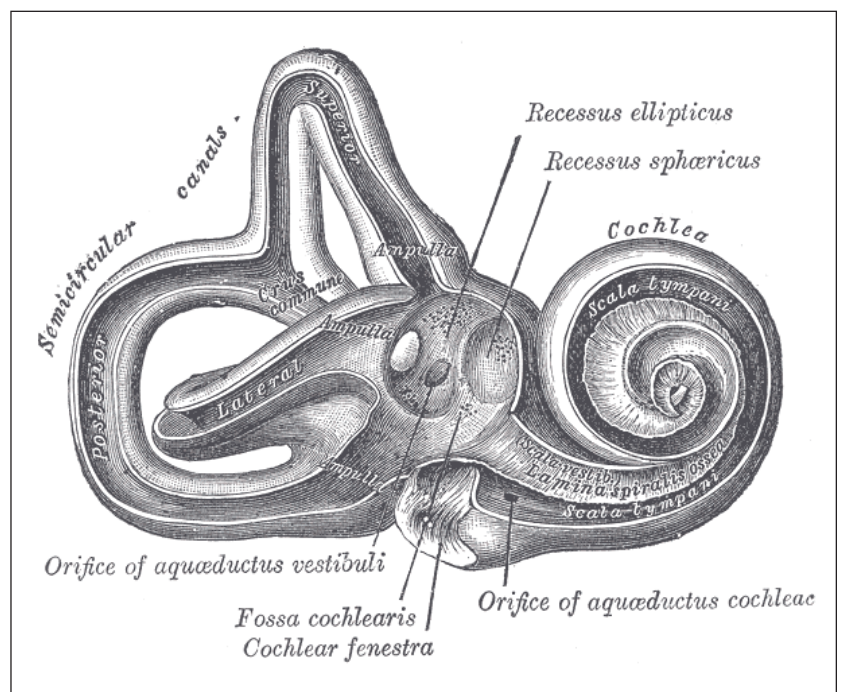
At the beginning of her university career, Blair believed medicine was the best way to learn about the human body. After taking a biological anthropology class, instructed by Assistant Professor Heather Worne, Blair decided to change paths. "I was always interested in the mechanics of the human body, and so I thought medicine was the best way to study that," she said. "But I think the anthropological perspective is a more well-rounded way to study the human body and how it evolved."

While the ultimate result of her initial research did not confirm the hypothesis of the bony labyrinth changing significantly with age, Blair feels as though she gained a lot from this opportunity. Between researching, writing, and presenting, Blair was able to add new skills to her arsenal. She attributes much of her new knowledge to her mentor, Assistant Professor of Anthropology Hugo Reyes-Centeno. "This is something I never would have been able to do if he wasn't there to show me how," Blair explained. "I would also say it definitely guided me into my future in graduate school."

The summer research fellowship also allowed Blair to attend different research presentation events throughout the year and required her to author a report on her research, but the main benefit was being able to solely focus on research. "I was able to treat my research as a full-time job," she said. "I was able to work on it during the day instead of working and trying to focus on my research."

Following the summer of their research, summer research fellows attend a symposium in the fall semester. Blair attended the fall 2021 symposium and appreciated the opportunity to practice giving professional presentations. "The informal symposium allowed us to talk about our research in a more casual setting. It was interesting to see the variety of research going on," she said. The students also presented their research at UK's undergraduate research fair in spring 2022.

Thanks to her summer undergraduate fellowship, Blair feels her career has gained a lot of momentum. She plans to continue her research and aspires to make these research opportunities available to others.



Interior view of the right osseous labrynth

Monica Udvardy Nominates Local Couple for Sullivan Award

In April 2019, Ashraf Fahmy and Nadia Benali, a married Lexingtonian couple who practice the Islamic faith, received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Medallion for Humanitarian Service from the University of Kentucky. Associate Professor of Anthropology Monica Udvardy nominated the couple in recognition of their service to her introductory anthropology classes, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology and Honors Introduction to Anthropology.

Established by the New York Southern Society in 1925 and named for its first president, Algernon Sydney Sullivan, the award recognizes those “who exhibit Sullivan’s ideals of heart, mind, and conduct as evince a spirit of love for and helpfulness to other men and women.” The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation has continued this worthy tradition and more institutions throughout the South submit nominations. The University of Kentucky has proudly recognized Sullivan Award winners since 1927. Each year, UK awards two graduating seniors and a citizen, who has a connection to UK, in recognition of their community service activities.

Fahmy and Benali have hosted Udvardy’s students at the Islamic Center of Lexington for the last 11 years. During these informative field trips, Fahmy provides a comprehensive introduction to Islam through discussion, PowerPoint presentation, and film clips. Benali fields questions concerning gender roles in Islam and shows female students the many ways to wear a headscarf. Udvardy estimates the couple has hosted more than 600 of her students, as well as presented to students from other classes, colleges, and the general public.

In her nomination letter, Udvardy wrote: “I cannot stress enough what an enormous impact this field trip makes every time on every one of these primarily first-year students. No amount of classroom teaching can equal the effect of entering this mosque interacting with two Muslims face-to-face, or even being lucky enough to observe one of the five daily prayer sessions when they coincide with the class times.” Over the years, students have remarked that being able to ask Mr. Fahmy any question at all about Islam, whether it simple or silly, and being present in this holy space, has demystified their views of this religion.”

The Sullivan Award recognizes those who have selflessly given to others or served others in a significant way. Fahmy and Benali are clearly deserving of this award and the department is grateful for their generous partnership.

Reception with Ashley Judd and Susan Abbott-Jamieson

The College of Arts & Sciences was delighted to host a private reception with actor and activist Ashley Judd (B.A. French '07) and Anthropology Professor Emerita Susan Abbott-Jamieson in October 2021. Judd attended the University from 1986 to 1990, and she studied cultural anthropology and French. Judd's return to campus last year coincided with her induction into the University of Kentucky Hall of Distinguished Alumni, the highest award the University bestows on its alumni. During the department's reception, Judd and Abbott-Jamieson were introduced to the grateful graduate students who received the Susan Abbott-Jamieson Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship. Judd established the endowed fund in 2001 to provide research grants to doctoral students and to honor Abbott-Jamieson, who taught her in cultural anthropology courses and inspired her lifelong love of learning. Judd credits her UK professors for inspiring her film career and humanitarian work.

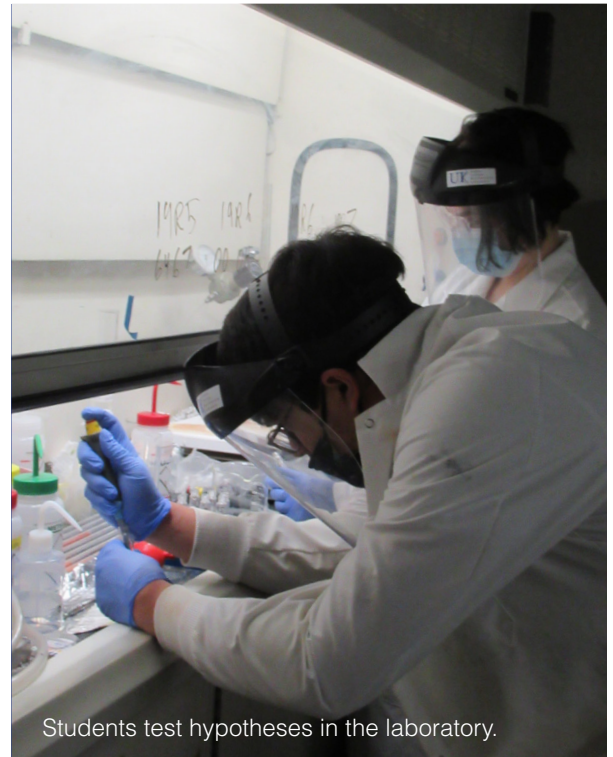


Anthropology students meet their generous supporters. From left to right: Alisha Mays, Pasama Cole-Kweli, Ashley Judd, Susan Abbott-Jamieson, Sia Beasley, and Alyssa Farmer.]

Food Connection Grants Transform Student Research Experiences

The Food Connection @ UK is an applied food systems center that serves farmers, food producers, students, and community members. As part of the University's agreement with Aramark to operate UK Dining, the Food Connection Endowment was established to enhance student opportunities to study food and food systems, which contributes to the Food Connection's overall mission to promote a vibrant and sustainable agro-food system on campus and the greater community. In collaboration with others, Senior Lecturer Renée Bonzani has received four Food Connection student opportunity grants since 2015.

Bonzani's first Food Connection grant helped develop a special topics course with a laboratory practicum for undergraduate and potential master's degree students to learn techniques and methods which allow for tracing the food pathways of plants and animals from prehistoric to modern times. She partnered with the project director of UK's Program for Archeological Research, Bruce Manzano, to co-teach the course and design the framework for the research component. The course enables students to hone their skills in identifying plant and animal remains. Subsequent grants have allowed her to expand student learning beyond the classroom.



Students test hypotheses in the laboratory.

In fall 2021, independent-study students became involved in hands-on research. In the Kentucky Stable Isotope Geochemical Laboratory within the UK Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences, students researched long-term deer territorial movements and their effect on human consumption. "The research is to try to establish whether deer ate maize prior to when humans started eating it as a diet staple in the Midwestern United States about AD 900," Bonzani said. "The other goal is to try to develop baseline information on how deer move around landscapes." Research on deer migratory patterns has multiple applications such as aiding hunters and providing information for those looking to start deer farming.

Anthropology major Jack White was one of the first students to participate. While Bonzani and the lab assistants supervise, White and the other students conduct the research components. "It's always helpful to have extra manpower, especially in a lab with long days where one little mistake can ruin something," White said. The student-led research helps fulfill the project's other goal to professionalize students. Placing graduate and undergraduate students in a workplace environment helps them develop their teamwork and laboratory skills. "When the students work in groups, they learn to collaborate with someone else. Someone else says, 'Okay, I can do that,' and you need to trust another person will do their share of the work."

Bonzani is an avid supporter of student involvement in research. Transitioning students from classroom learning to lab research has taught her a lot about her role as a supervisor. "Have very clear directions," she explained. "Break up tasks into small sections, so students know exactly what they have to do week by week... Initially I said, 'give me a paper at the end of the semester,' and by that time a student was lost, and I mean really far behind." To keep students on track, she schedules at least one in-person meeting with her student researchers each week. These meetings help establish personal connections and create a sense of community within the research project.

Outside these meetings, Bonzani is readily accessible by email, evident by the constant ding of email notifications on her computer. The stacks of papers and shelves of binders in her office show her commitment to anthropology and experiential learning. Thanks to the series of Food Connection grants, undergraduate anthropology students are learned outside the classroom and making a lasting impact through their research.

Heather Worne Creates Virtual Anthropology Lab Exercises During Global Pandemic

Spring 2020 was a challenge for all educators with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Learning from home became the norm for students of all ages.

Assistant Professor of Anthropology Heather Worne taught a biological anthropology class during this time. To meet the University's natural science core requirements, this class needed to include a lab component. Worne had to adapt a number of hands-on labs to be accessible for students online.

Worne's in-person labs often examined craniums and cranium casts so students could learn to identify signs of evolution in skull structures. The craniums of a quadruped, a beginning biped, and a definite biped were used to illustrate these differences. Providing students with the materials they needed to conduct these labs proved to be a challenge in the early stages of the pandemic. "When everything went online, I didn't have a plan, and I suddenly had to make my labs available online," Worne explained.

After consulting other stumped professors virtually, Worne was able to find a way to provide excellent instruction without being in the classroom. The solution was the Internet. Worne and other university professors found online 3D models of craniums that allowed students to rotate and look at all parts of the structure. Although mostly made for 3D printing, these models proved to be an effective way to educate students remotely.

After the first semester of the pandemic, life had not returned to normal as many assumed it would. Next, Worne had to find a way to teach forensic anthropology. Forensic anthropology requires students to observe small obscure sections of human skeletons; it was difficult to represent these small sections accurately online. "I found 3D casts of the pelvis and the cranium so students could use the methods that I was teaching but use 3D images instead of actually holding the bone in front of them," she said. "This isn't the ideal way to have these labs, but they were really successful."

Worne noted that even though she is able to hold classes in person in fall 2021, she understands that students are still having a rough time due to the pandemic. To aid in the transition from online to in-classroom learning, Worne has continued offering virtual labs as an alternative for students who are unable to attend class due to illness. She does not want students to feel pressure to come to class if they are unwell. "As things were expected to be more normal, it was clear that a lot of students were still struggling, and we were trying to pretend that everything's normal," Worne said. "It's been a struggle to make sure that we weren't leaving people behind as we started going fully in-person."



Skull Craniums



3d Model of Skull

Meet our Post-Docs

Dr. Phyllis Johnson



Dr. Phyllis Johnson received her Ph.D. in anthropology from Vanderbilt University in 2021. Johnson's research involves developing and applying computational methods to address difficult archaeological questions surrounding ancient economies, site formation processes and social structured. She has over 15 years of archaeological experience in the Eastern United States and Mesoamerica, and her current research combines experimental archaeology with novel machine and deep learning techniques to examine stone tool production to illuminate ancient actors, such as commoners and women, who are often rendered invisible in the archaeological record. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, watching movies and spending time with her children.

Dr. Amber Plemons



Dr. Amber Plemons is a university research postdoctoral fellow funded by the Office of Vice-President of Research and mentored by Drs. Hugo Reyes-Centeno (Anthropology) and James Hartsfield (Dentistry). She received her master's from Mississippi State University with Dr. Nicholas Herrmann after completing her thesis on differential health and mortality within the historic Mississippi State Asylum skeletal assemblage. She became interested in the wealth of information gained from estimating population affinity of unidentified individuals from archaeological and forensic contexts. She received her doctorate in anthropology from Michigan State University with Dr. Joseph Hefner where she examined evolutionary forces of human variation, particularly for population affinity methods from patterns of cranial variation. Amber is continuing this work with the help of her mentors and the department.

Dr. Evan Taylor



Dr. Evan Taylor received his Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. His dissertation, titled Making the Old City: Life Projects and State Heritage in Rhodes and Acre, examined how local communities and state actors in Palestine/Israel and Greece construct, contest, and engage with concepts of heritage and preservation. His research approaches heritage from archaeological and ethnographic perspectives—as a historical and contemporary site formation process, and as a practice of making and maintaining relations with specific things, beings, places, and pasts. This academic year he is teaching classes in the department, including ANT 101 (What Makes Us Human?), ANT 220 (Introduction to Cultural Anthropology), and ANT 240 (Introduction to Archaeology). He is also assisting with ongoing NAGPRA repatriation efforts.

Undergraduate and Graduate Awards

The following 2022 departmental undergraduate and graduate awards were made possible through the generosity of our donors.

Undergraduate Awards

Distinguished Undergraduate Anthropology Award for Research:

- Leah B. Blair
- Dalton Maxwell Gauri
- Chris Gray
- Brianna Grimsley
- Jack White

Distinguished Undergraduate Anthropology Award for Scholarly Activity:

- Chris Gray
- Zoe Hert
- Mack Thompson
- Jack White

Distinguished Undergraduate Anthropology Award for Service:

- Audrey Keith
- Dorian Record

Anthropology Legacy Fund:

- James Johnson
- Taylor Snow
- Sophia Price

College of Arts and Sciences Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) :

- Dorian Record

Graduate Awards

William Y. Adams Fellowship Fund:

- Erfan Saidi Moqadam
- Megan Parker
- Rhiannon Simon

Margaret L. Lantis Anthropology Memorial Fund:

- Annie Koempel

Susan Abbott-Jamieson Dissertation Research Fund:

- James Keppeler
- Ghazal Khaksari
- Michelle Roberts
- Rhiannon Simon

Adelski Endowed Fellowship in Anthropology:

- Aklilu Habtu Reda
- Elizabeth Straub

Donald P. Cliggett Ph.D. International Travel Research Fellowship:

- Rhiannon Simon

Robert M. Odear, '28, '30 Faculty Research Fund in Latin America:

- Daniel Benitez
- Ashley Whitten

Graduate Student Service Award:

- Adrian Godboldt
- Rhiannon Simon

College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Teaching Assistantship Award:

- Sia Beasley
- Daniel Vallejo-Caliz

Anthropology Legacy Fund:

- Marcus Rodriguez
- Tera Stocking

UK Center for Equality and Social Justice (CESJ) Summer Fellowship:

- Ghazal Khaksari
- Alisha Mays

Congratulations to our 2021-2022 Graduates!

2021-2022 Doctorate Degrees Awarded

Dr. Athanasia Beasley
Dr. Anna-Marie Casserly
Dr. Ana Eugenia Hasemann Lara
Dr. Ann Marie Koempel
Dr. Céline Lamb
Dr. Erfan Saidi Moqadam
Dr. Kyle Mullen
Dr. Kaitlin Zapel

2021-2022 Master's Degrees Awarded

Gary Chandler
Adrian Godboldt
Cassandra Richards
William Riekert

2021-2022 Bachelor's Degrees Awarded

Samuel George Belza
Leah B. Blair
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Upcoming Events

Anthropology Graduate Student Association Distinguished Lecture

Dr. Jonathan Bethard, Associate Professor of Anthropology
University of South Florida
Thursday, February 23, 2023, from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Location: TBD