

WU Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Fall 2023 Newsletter

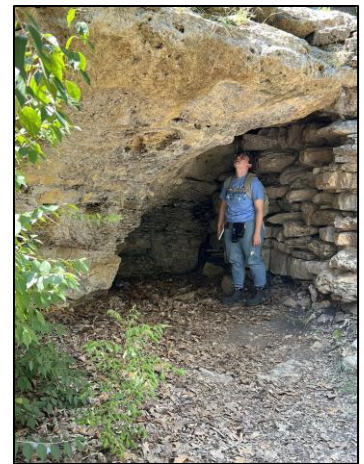
Dear Students, Alumni, and Friends,

As we approach the end of 2023, the Department of Sociology and Anthropology has a lot to share! Our students and faculty have been busy over the summer and fall with research, teaching, and service to the community.

SOCIAL SCIENTISTS AT THE FOREFRONT

In fall 2023, students in Dr. Laura Murphy's AN300/KS399/GG304 "Geography of Kansas" weekend workshop course travelled to important historic sites across Kansas.

On the first weekend field trip, students went to Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie (*photo below left*), Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve (*photo below center*), Hays House 1857 Restaurant, Kaw Mission and Last Chance Store Museums, and Hermit's Cave (*photo below left*).



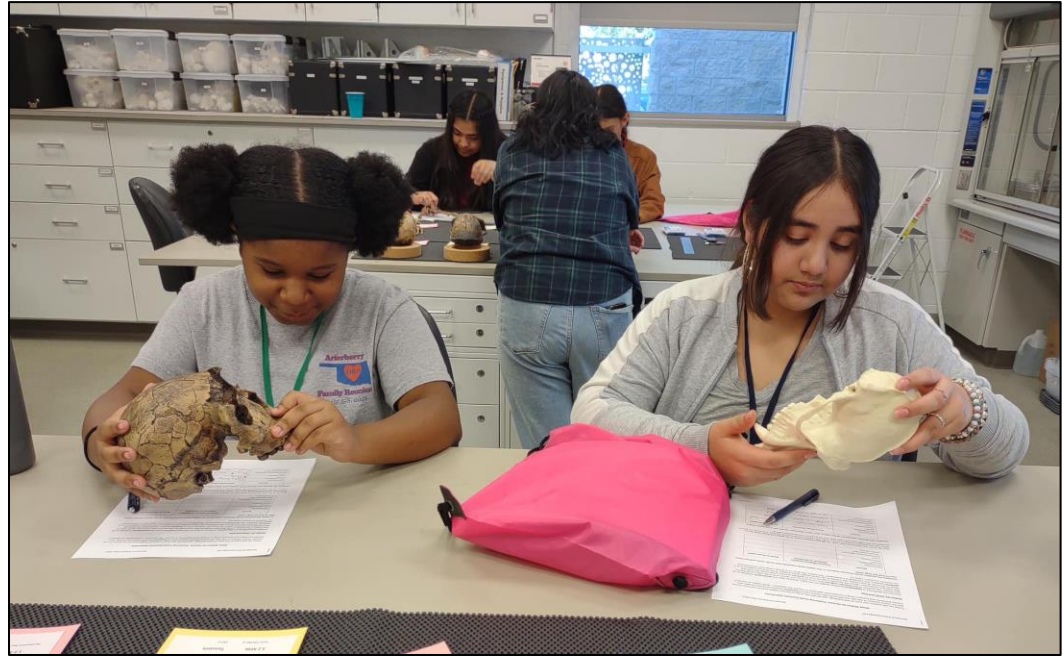
On the second weekend field trip, students visited Nicodemus National Historic Site in Graham County (*photo below left*) and Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park in Logan County (*photos below center and right*).



Anthropology minors Olivia Gochoel and Hector Lopez reflected on their experiences in the course. Olivia said, "It was cool getting to see more of Kansas and learn its history, as my mom and grandparents are from Kansas, and it was fun and adventurous." Hector poetically reflected, "when one is busy it is easy to forget the nature that is in Kansas and its beautiful and tragic history."

SOAN Students and Faculty in the Spotlight

Bods in the Community: 15th Annual Women in Science Day



Anthropology was well represented at the 15th Annual Women in Science Day. Seventh and eighth grader students came to Washburn’s campus to learn more about the practical applications of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) in everyday life. Dr. Laura Murphy held a lab session called “Garbology: Are We What We Throw Away?” while Dr. Mary Sundal, assisted by AN116 volunteers, ran a lab session called “What Makes Us Human?” (*photos above*).

Bods in the Community: Internships

Jennifer Jackson (B.S. Anthropology, FC) interned at the Shawnee County Coroner’s Office in summer 2023 and said, “these experiences provided quality, hands-on opportunities to learn about death scene investigation and forensic cases.”

Emily Myers (B.S. Anthropology, FC) (*photo right*), interned at the Jackson County Medical Examiner's Office Summer 2023 and said, “I really enjoyed the hands-on experience. I learned a ton about the autopsy process and the importance of forensic technicians.”

Alison Adams (B.A. Sociology and BCI Forensic Investigations) completed a summer 2023 internship with the KBI. She said her degree helped put things into perspective during her internship: “I want to be a crime scene investigator, so knowing human behavior and criminal tendencies, for example, would help me to find evidence in places that the average person may not look.”



* FC = Forensic Concentration

SOAN Students and Faculty in the Spotlight

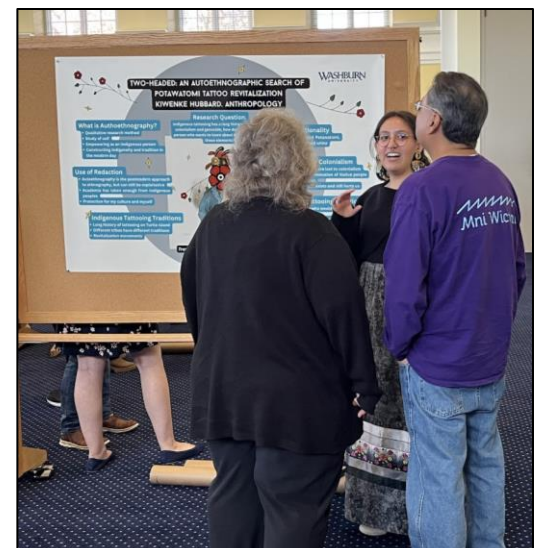
Bods in the Community: CTE Day of Transformation



Anthropology students Nicole Stueve (*photos above*) and Kiwenke Hubbard (*photos below*) presented at the Washburn Transformational Experience (WTE) Day of Transformation.

Nicole (B.S. Anthropology, FC) presented "Living and Dying on the Edge of Europe – ArchaeoTek Archaeology – Summer 2023," which explored her study abroad field school to Transylvania, Romania. Nicole said, "this experience allowed me to apply what I learned about excavations in the classroom to real burials from the 17th century. It helped me to solidify my love of forensic anthropology and provided me with memories and friends I will never forget."

Kiwenke (B.A. Anthropology) presented "Two-Headed: An Autoethnographic Search of Potawatomi Tattoo Revitalization," which explored their research on the impact of colonialism and genocide on the history of indigenous tattooing. They used autoethnography as an empowering tool to protect Indigenous culture.



SOAN Students and Faculty in the Spotlight

Bods in the Classroom: Sociological Adventures



Students in our Sociology and Anthropology classes this semester had numerous hands-on educational opportunities!

Dr. Lindsey Ibañez's Honors SO100 Introduction to Sociology welcomed Japanese students from Chiba University for conversation practice (*photos above*). The students learned about one another's cultures, traditions, holidays, and favorite foods.

Dr. Ibañez also took her Honors SO100 class to the Rita Blitt Gallery for the exhibition "There is a Woman in Every Color" (*photos below*). Sarah Stepp guided them through the works, and the students analyzed and discussed them using a sociological lens.



SOAN Students and Faculty in the Spotlight

Bods in the Classroom: Anthropological Adventures



The WU Anthropology replica cast teaching collection is truly impressive and now even bigger thanks to the generous support of the Washburn Women's Venture Partners (WWVP) and the C-TEL Curriculum grant. The department purchased over 30 casts of hominin ancestors and their tools! Dr. Sundal's AN116 Biological Anthropology students (*photos left*) used the new hominin fossil casts to learn how to identify robust and gracile australopithecines! Thanks again WWVP and C-TEL for such an impactful gift!!

Senior anthropology majors in Dr. Jason Miller's AN490 Applied Anthropology capstone course (*photo right*) applied what they learned about multi-sensory ethnography through the smell of mushrooms from their reading of Anna Tsing's (2015) "Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins," by sniffing, touching, and eating popular mushrooms in Japanese cuisine brought by Dr. Miller.



Students in Dr. Murphy's AN318 North American Archaeology class completed experimental archaeology projects to replicate stone, wood, or animal bone tools. Before each student revealed what they made in a formal presentation, the class had to interpret what each student tried to create based only on the waste materials left behind. For example, students examined deer bone waste materials produced while creating a bone fishhook (*photo left*).

SOAN Club Spotlight

The SOAN club had a very active, crafty, and engaging fall semester! They started by recruiting more club members at WUFest (*photo below left, club president Danae Camacho and Treasurer Storm Henry*).



Club members worked together to create a top hat on the homecoming theme “Boots, Bling, and Bods” for a display at the union (*photos above center and right*). They also celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month and volunteered at the Majors/Minors fair at the department table.



The club also hosted a ghost myths and stress-relieving crafts event for a spooky cultural night! They made ghosts and ghouls out of clay (*photo right*) and learned myths from around the world (*photo above*). The club ended the semester with a “SOAN Spa” day where students made sugar scrubs and crafts.



Students can join the club [here](#) and everyone can stay up-to-date with club activities on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Fall 2023 Graduates

Fall 2023 Commencement for Washburn University will be Friday, December 15, 2023 5:30 pm. For more information, click [here](#).

B.A. Anthropology

- ❖ Esther Carlton
- ❖ Kiwenke Hubbard (Department Honors)

B.S. Anthropology

- ❖ Emily Myers (Department Honors)

B.A. Sociology

- ❖ Paige Sims (Department Honors)



SOAN Students and Alumni in the Spotlight

Washburn Alumni: Taton Smith B.S. Anthropology, FC '22

Since graduating Washburn with my B.S. in Anthropology with a concentration in Forensic Anthropology in the Spring of 2022, I have gone on to work towards a M.S. in Biomedical Anthropology with a certificate in Forensic Health at Binghamton University in New York State. Thanks to my experiences volunteering with the Washburn University Forensic Anthropology Recovery Unit, assisting in the repatriation process of Native American remains in the spring of 2022, and leading various roles through the Washburn University Leadership Institute, I can proudly say that I was well prepared both academically and professionally for my graduate studies. Moving forward, I will be graduating from Binghamton University in May 2024 and beginning my career in public health, focusing on clinical research. I am grateful for the numerous opportunities Washburn has provided me and look forward to using those skills gained towards in the future.



The following students and alumni participated in active forensic casework in Kansas and Missouri as student volunteers of the Washburn University Forensic Anthropology Recovery Unit (WU- FARU):

Emma Morrissey (Criminal Justice, Anthropology minor '22), Emily Myers (B.S. Anthropology, FC), Jennifer Jackson (B.S. Anthropology, FC), Angel Hayes (B.S. Anthropology, FC), Jessica Stewart (B.S. Anthropology, FC), Kristin Radell (B.S. Anthropology, FC '23) and Nicole Stueve (B.S. Anthropology, FC).



SOAN Faculty in the Spotlight

- ❖ **Drs. Alexandra Klaes and Ashley Maxwell** were awarded a U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice grant for a two-year grant project “Empirical Analysis of Saw Mark Characteristics in Human Bone: Meeting Forensic Standards in Dismemberment Cases.”
- ❖ Congratulations to **Drs. Lindsey Ibañez, Ashley Maxwell, Jason Miller, and Mary Sundal**, who earned recognition for five years of dedication to teaching excellence.

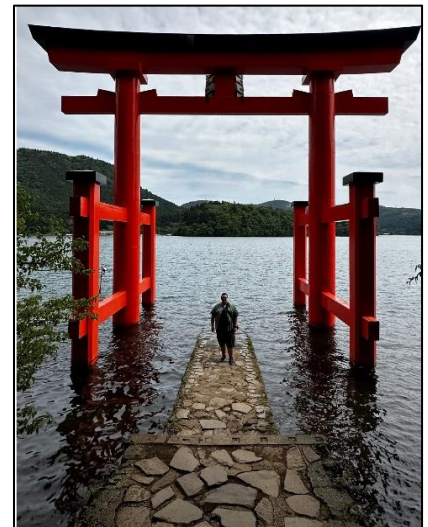


- ❖ **Dr. Lindsey Ibañez** published a paper in the journal *Social Problems* titled “Marketing the Self vs. Preserving the Self: Resisting Downward Mobility in the New Economy.” She also provided tips in the *Washburn Review*, titled “Feel Good chemicals from social media creates addiction.”

- ❖ **Dr. Alexandra Klaes** was on sabbatical this fall completing work from her awarded National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Justice three-year grant project “Sex Estimation in Forensic Anthropology: Taking a Legally-Informed Approach to Method Development.” She has been traveling to various modern skeletal collections across the U.S.

- ❖ **Dr. Ashley Maxwell** supervised two internships and one study abroad field school over the summer. She also taught AN316 Forensic Anthropology for the first time this fall and got married!

- ❖ **Dr. Jason Miller** had a busy summer on his sweet sabbatical to Japan! He spent time in Tokyo, Yokohama, Kyoto, Nara, Uji, Kanazawa, Nagano, Hakone, Niigata, Otaru, Sapporo, Shiraoi, and Hakodate, where he studied how different Japanese museums tell the story of settler colonialism in relation to the Ainu, the Indigenous people. He also presented on two panels at the AAA meetings, “Going Hungry on Campus: A Roundtable on Anthropological Engagement with Basic Needs Security in Higher Education,” and, “Back to Normal? Ethnographic Fieldwork & Pedagogical Practice in the 2020’s.” He also co-hosted a Consortium of Practicing and Applied Anthropologists (COPPA) and the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology (NAPA) mixer at the AAA.



SOAN Faculty in the Spotlight

- ❖ **Dr. Laura Murphy** spent the summer abroad on a Washburn Mary B. Sweet Sabbatical exploring archaeological sites and many museums such as the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin, the Louvre in Paris, and the British Museum in London. She presented her experiences at the International Brown Bag Lecture series on campus on November 29, titled “Who Owns the Past? The Status of Decolonization in European Museums.” While abroad, she also presented two papers at the International Quaternary Association (INQUA) meeting, held in Rome, Italy, titled: “Broadening Brown v. Board of Education’s Impact: Toward Inclusive Pedagogies in Archaeological Research” and “Landscape Evolution and Geoarchaeological Modeling: Case Studies from Texas and California, USA.” In September, Dr. Murphy was appointed by Governor Laura Kelly to serve a 3-year term on the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review and published a paper with a team of co-authors titled “Refuting the sensational claim of a Hopewell-ending cosmic airburst” in *Nature Scientific Reports*.

- ❖ **Dr. Sangyoub Park** visited Korea and Japan during summer break. His research focused on changing demographic trends in Japan and Korea, especially a growing number of migrant workers in both countries. The trip was also a great opportunity to finalize the 2024 Study Abroad Program (SO/AN300 Explore Korea: Past, Present and Future) in spring 2024 (travelling portion will be during summer break in 2024). Best of all, Dr. Park had a chance to reunite with Japanese students who graduated Washburn over the years. Once Ichabods, Always Ichabods!



- ❖ **Dr. Mary Sundal** participated in C-TEL’s First Generation Course Redesign program as part of the summer 2023 cohort. Dr. Sundal implemented her teaching revisions this semester in her two sections of AN116 Biological Anthropology.



A great turnout for our department meet and greet at the beginning of the fall semester!

WUmester Spring 2024: Community Belonging



WUmester 2024 will examine community and belonging from the perspectives of academic disciplines across campus and through a variety of co-curricular programming. By dismantling the legal basis for segregation, *Brown v. Board* aimed to create a more inclusive society where all individuals could access the same opportunities and experiences. But while *Brown v. Board* was a critical step toward ending legal segregation, achieving equality, community, and belonging is an ongoing and unfinished process. Where are we today in this unfinished process? Join the conversation across campus during the Spring 2024 semester.

Department Scholarship Funds

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology provides three distinct majors—B.A. in Anthropology, B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration), and B.A. in Sociology—along with two minor programs. Our programs focus on the connection between scholarship and the community and provides students with academic excellence and practical skills to prepare them for post-graduation success. Your support can go directly to aspiring sociologists and anthropologists!



To donate go to <https://wualumni.org/givenow> and select “other” in the designation and type “**Sociology and Anthropology Scholarship fund**” or the newly established “**Forensic Anthropology Recovery Unit (WU-FARU) Scholarship fund.**” Donations are accepted year-round.

To stay up-to-date on current program activities, check out our [Department Facebook Page](#) and the [WU-FARU Facebook Page](#).