

# WU Department of Sociology and Anthropology

## Spring 2024 Newsletter

**Dear Students, Alumni, and Friends,**

We are very excited to share lots of great news with you this semester. Students and faculty had a busy spring presenting research, participating in internships, and engaging in fun and creative classroom activities. We also had a large number of students graduating this semester!

## SOAN Student Presentations

**Dr. Jason Miller** took a group of B.A. in Anthropology majors to the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) conference where they each presented research in the *Emerging Cool Anthropologists: Undergraduate Applied Students Share the Cool Anthropology Projects* session. The session emerged from research projects the students undertook while completing their B.A. in Anthropology degrees here at Washburn. We thank both the WTE Scholarly and Creative Program and WSGA for funding students' travel to the conference.



*Photo left to right: Dr. Jason Miller, Anna Anderson, Storm Henry, Eduardo Herrera, Kiwenke Hubbard (ba '23), and Cori Singleton.*

**Anna Anderson** (B.A. Anthropology and History) presented at the 2024 Kansas Undergraduate Research Day the Capitol, Anna shares her findings from *Social, Educational, and Labor Impacts of the 1951 Flood on Mexican American Children in Kansas City's Armourdale Neighborhood* with President Mazachek (*photo right*)



# SOAN Students and Faculty in the Spotlight

## Bods in (and out of) the Classroom

SOAN faculty are innovative and passionate about their teaching, providing Washburn students with amazing experiences in and out of the classroom.



**Dr. Mary Sundal's** AN313 Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft class was full of small group activities and unique learning opportunities. Early in the semester students used the pile sorting method to create and group a broad set of terms linked to the word "religion" (*photo top left*). Students also learned about diverse cultural explanations and practices associated with eclipses over time. The class then went outside to watch the 2024 Solar Eclipse! (*photo top right*)



**Dr. Jason Miller's** AN113 Linguistic Anthropology class had firsthand experience at testing the Sapir-Whorf Hypotheses by taking a version of Berlin and Kay's 1969 Color Test (*photo above left*).

**Dr. Sangyoub Park's** *Explore Korea* Study Abroad Program class is ready to travel to South Korea this summer. Dr. Sangyoub Park led study abroad participants in a walk across campus—a great bonding experience and practice for the miles they'll walk together in Seoul (*photo above right*). We can't wait to see their amazing adventures as students learn about Korea's past, present, and future while traveling in May!

# SOAN Student Internships

SOAN students often participate in experiential learning and this semester was no exception. We thank our community partners and faculty for mentoring students in these awesome hands-on (and community-engaged) learning opportunities.



**Konner Verbeck** (B.A. Anthropology) interned at the Kansas Historical Society (KHS). Chris Garst, KHS lab director, and **Dr. Laura Murphy** mentored the archaeological internship in which he researched glass bottle artifacts from Fort Hays, KS. Konner also participated in the Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA) Certification Seminar on "Cultural Reconstruction." (*photo left: Konner with KAA members Chris Hoard and Melonie Sullivan*).

**Anna Anderson**, (B.A. Anthropology) also interned at the Kansas Historical Society and presented her WTE project (mentored by **Dr. Jason Miller**), *Local History and Its Importance: A Reflection of My Time at the Kansas State Historical Society*, at Apeiron (*photo right*).



**Dr. Ashley Maxwell** supervised two forensic anthropology student internships this semester. **Abby Strecker** interned at the Shawnee County Coroner's Office where she learned the processes and procedures involved in death investigations.



**Nicole Stueve** (*photo left*) served as a Forensic Technician Intern at the Jackson County Medical Examiner's Office. Nicole explains, "My internship has allowed me to explore a totally new side of death investigation that I would not have the opportunity to be a part of through my studies alone. I have been able to foster new personal and professional connections in my field of choice while gaining hands-on experience at an accredited medical examiner's office. I now have a better understanding of the role of a forensic technician in the autopsy process and can confidently say that because of my internship, I would like to pursue it as a future career path."

Nicole was also recognized this semester at the WU's Who of Washburn event as well.

# SOAN Club Spotlight



The SOAN Club had a great semester with multiple on-campus and off-campus activities. Among them, the SOAN Club hosted events of learning about Korea's Lunar New Year Celebration (*photo above left*), Mexican Culture through Dance (*photo above right*), and Yerba Mate (*photo below left*). The SOAN club partook in the Curtis Family Cemetery Clean-up event by filling 67 bags of leaves, weeds, and invasive honeysuckle (*photo below right*). Thank you to KSNT 27 News for covering this community event!



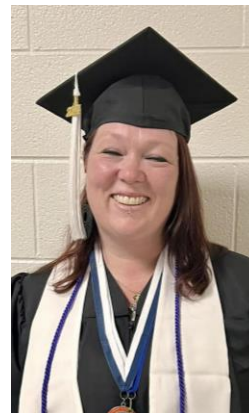
Students can join the club [here](#) and everyone can stay up-to-date with club activities on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

# Spring/Summer 2024 Graduates

The SOAN department congratulates and honors our spring 2024 and summer 2024 graduates!!

## B.A. in Anthropology

Anna Anderson  
Storm Henry  
Eduardo Herrera  
Victoria Shaw  
Cori Singleton  
Kristen Vanderbeck



*Anthropology students left to right: Anna, Kiwenke (ba'23), Storm, Cori, and Kristen*

## B.S. in Anthropology (Forensic Concentration)

Jennifer Jackson  
Jessica Stewart  
Abigail Strecker  
Nicole Stueve



*Forensic anthropology students left to right: Nicole, Abigail, and Jessica*

## B.A. in Sociology

Hailey Abshier  
Amanda Cane  
Savannah Casteel  
Dylan Gropsitch  
Beth Hager  
Miriam Lysaught  
Jackson Woods



*Sociology students left to right: Jackson, Dylan, Amanda, Savannah, Beth, and Hailey*

# SOAN Faculty in the Spotlight



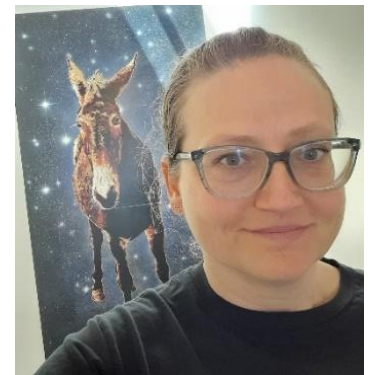
- ❖ A big shout-out to Drs. Lindsey Ibañez and Alexandra Klales! Dr. Lindsey Ibañez was tenured and promoted to associate professor, whereas Dr. Klales was promoted to full professor!
- ❖ Congratulations to Dr. Mary Sundal for 15 years of Faculty Service and Melissa Lewis for 15 years of Staff Service.

❖ Dr. Alexandra Klales presented *Reading Your Skeleton: Forensic Anthropology and Death Investigation* at Emporia State University's Forensic Science Seminar Series. She also gave two podium presentations—*Sex Estimation Methods in Forensic Anthropology: Current Practice and Trends* and *Combining Metric and Morphological Traits for Sex Estimation: A Pilot Study Using the Innominate*—from her co-funded National Science Foundation/National Institute of Justice grant research at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) conference. Dr. Klales and Dr. Maxwell began working on their National Institute of Justice grant *Empirical Analysis of Saw Mark Characteristics in Human Bone: Meeting Forensic Standards in Dismemberment Cases* this semester as well.



Drs. Klales and Maxwell at the AAFS

❖ Dr. Lindsey Ibañez led the panel, *Beyond 'Great Man' Sociology: Innovative approaches to teaching Theory*, at the Southern Sociological Society (SSS) conference. While at the conference, she visited the Ogden Museum of Southern Art (*photo right*). She also presented research on the role of therapists in contemporary US society at the faculty colloquium on Community & Belonging, which was this year's WUmester theme. Dr. Ibañez is also now a member of Phi Beta Delta (PBD), an honor society for international scholars. She will co-lead the Korea Study Abroad Program with Dr. Park in May.



"Universal Mule" by Jack Niven

❖ Dr. Ashley Maxwell attended the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) conference in Denver, Colorado February 19-24th. She supervised two internships (featured on page 3) and continued as a faculty consultant with the Washburn University Forensic Recovery Unit (WU-FARU).

# SOAN Faculty in the Spotlight

- ❖ **Dr. Jason Miller** and five anthropology students (featured on page 1) attended the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) conference. He also presented a lecture *Telling Whose Story: Settler Colonialism, the Ainu, and Museums in Japan* at Washburn's International House (*photo right*).



- ❖ **Dr. Laura Murphy** facilitated the C-TEL workshop *From Syllabus to Sidewalk: Making Field Trips Work for Any Subject*, served as a Kansas District 3 History Day judge, attended the Flint Hills Archaeological Conference, and organized the SOAN Club's Earth Day Clean-up event at the Curtis Family Cemetery in North Topeka. She earned an "Honorable Mention" at C-TEL's celebration of teaching in the pillar of "Diversity."

- ❖ **Dr. Alexander Myers** led the National Day of Action for Higher Education for the Public Good this semester. The event provided students, staff and other faculty members with a platform to dialogue the role of higher education to better prepare students to fulfill their civic responsibilities.

- ❖ **Dr. Sangyoub Park** was awarded the C-TEL Innovation Teaching in Diversity and was nominated for both the Herrick Faculty Award for Outstanding Service and the Muriel D. Clarke Award at the 2024 Employee Recognition Ceremony. He organized the Lunar New Year Celebration at the Memorial Union (*photo right*) and presented Korea's traditional New Year Holiday at the SOAN Club. Although he did not offer SO310 Social Class in the U.S., he held the SO310 Annual Diaper Drive to assist the Community Action.



Photo by Khoa Huynh, Washburn Review

- ❖ **Dr. Mary Sundal** served as a member of the organizing committee for the 2024 Academy of African Business and Development (AABD) conference, held at Washburn University in May 2024. Along with interim Dean Kelly Erby, Dr. Sundal was the co-chair for the African Studies, Diversity Equity & Inclusion, and Indigenous Communities track for the AABD Conference. She also revamped her courses this semester with the integration of Open Educational Resources (OER) textbooks in AN112 Cultural Anthropology and AN313 Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft.

# Center for Teaching Excellence and Learning Certificates

## Certificate of Teaching and Learning:

Dr. Lindsey Ibañez  
Dr. Ashley Maxwell  
Dr. Jason Miller  
Dr. Laura Murphy  
Dr. Mary Sundal

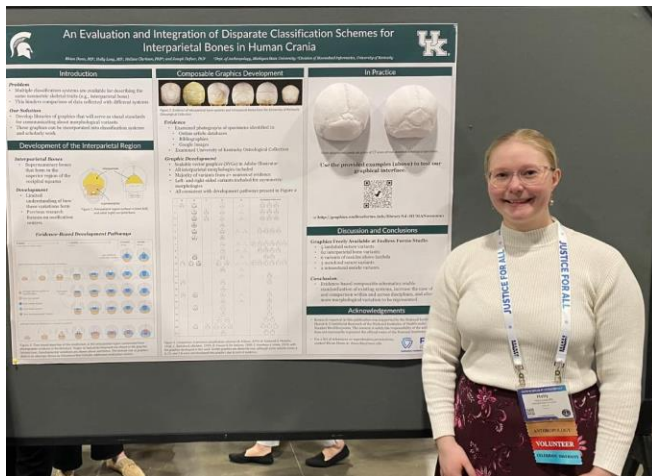
## Certificate of Inclusive Teaching and Learning:

Dr. Jason Miller  
Dr. Laura Murphy  
Dr. Mary Sundal



We also earned the inaugural **Department Certificate of Teaching and Learning!**

## Alumni Updates



Academic conferences are a great way for our alumni to reunite with faculty and friends. This semester **Holly Long** (bs'19) (*photo left*) and **Brailey Moeder** (bs '22) (*photo bottom left*) attended the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, while Holly also attended the Society of American Archaeology where she caught up with **Taylor Recuero** (bs'21) (*photo bottom right*). All three of these wonderful forensic anthropology alumni are now in anthropology graduate programs!





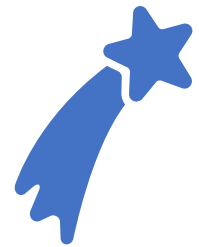
# SOAN Scholarships

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.

In addition to the scholarship funds we raise during the annual WU Day of Giving campaign, the department has received generous support with two named scholarships: the **Ben and Judy Coates' Sociology Scholarship** and the **Cheryln D. Seckinger Sociology & Anthropology Scholarship**. We are grateful to our donors and are happy to award the first student scholarships for next academic year from both these new funds!

## SOAN Department Scholarship Awards (AY2024-25)

Jeweli Blaine, Forensic Anthropology  
Bettle Hatch, Anthropology  
Angel Hayes, Forensic Anthropology  
Joi Hayes, Sociology  
Teagan Harris, Sociology (Cheryln D. Seckinger scholarship)  
Cassie Lane, Anthropology (Cheryln D. Seckinger scholarship)  
Bryana McDaniel, Sociology (Ben and Judy Coates' Sociology scholarship)



## CAS Dean's Scholarship Award (AY2024-25)

El Keller, Anthropology  
Angels Hayes, Forensic Anthropology  
Maria Villegas, Sociology

**Congratulations!**

To donate go to <https://wualumni.org/givenow> and select "other" in the designation and type "**Sociology and Anthropology Scholarship fund**" or the "**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](#).



Sociology and Anthropology