

WU Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Fall 2021 Newsletter

Dear Students, Alumni, and Friends,

Our Sociology and Anthropology (SOAN) students, faculty, and staff were happy to be back on campus!

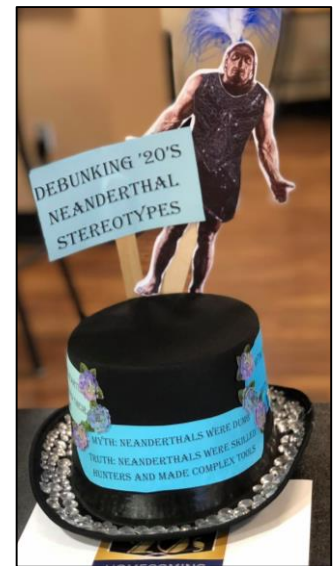
SOCIAL SCIENTISTS AT THE FOREFRONT: SOAN Club

Thanks to the determination of our wonderful majors, the SOAN club has made a comeback this fall with exciting new activities. The club President, Emily Myers (B.S. Anthropology, FC), and Vice President, Tori Shaw (B.A. Anthropology), led the charge under Dr. Laura Murphy to provide a space where students with mutual interests in cultures and society could get together. Some of the fun activities this semester were a field trip to the Topeka Zoo (with special access to the Orangutan program) and Top Hat decorating for the homecoming competition. Upcoming events include movies and museum trips. Follow the SOAN club on [Facebook](#) to keep up to date on our exciting adventures, and [register to join](#) if you would like to explore everything from world cultures to local communities!



Back (L-R): Dr. Laura Murphy, Jackson Woods, John Fowler, Anna Anderson, Loren Kuck, Hayden Hotckiss

Front (L-R): Emily Myers and Tori Shaw



ADJUNCT FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Dr. Elizabeth Yeager Reece



Over the past decade Dr. Yeager has worked as both an Adjunct and a Lecturer for the Sociology and Anthropology Department. During this time she has taught introductory and upper-level courses: AN 112, SO 101, AN/SO 302, and AN 321. She is a trained ethnographer and interdisciplinary scholar. Her research interests include American identity, popular culture and music studies, ethnography, theories of space and place, and cultural memory. Her current project explores the politics of belonging, identity and community formation, manifestations of cultural and institutional privilege, and the affective power of music. Dr. Yeager received a PhD in American Studies from the University of Kansas, a MA in American Studies from the University of Alabama, and a BA in History and Philosophy from Gettysburg College.

*FC= Forensic Concentration

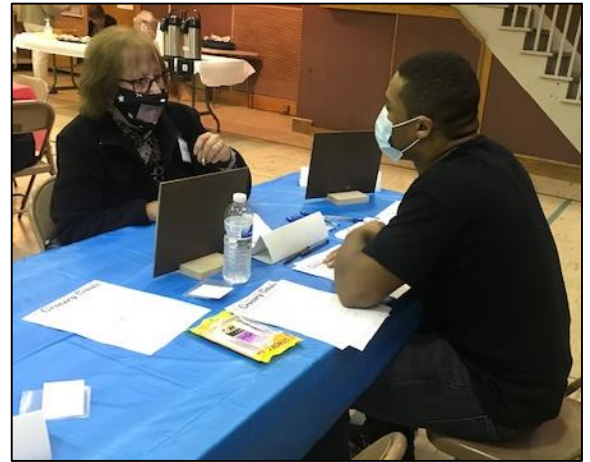
SOAN STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Bods in the Community

- ❖ **Sabrina Cathcart (B.S. Anthropology, FC)** taught as a lab assistant at the 2021 WU-FARU Forensic Anthropology summer continuing education short course in Human Osteology.



- ❖ **William Evans (B.A. Anthropology and B.A. Sociology)** had an internship with the nonprofit Grocery Oasis, working to get a grocery store in Central Topeka. Will collected and analyzed survey and focus group data.



- ❖ **Christine Smith (B.A. Sociology)** organized an open forum for mayoral candidates in Topeka, KS for the August 2021 primary. She is president of the African American Women Voters Alliance.



- ❖ **Taton Smith (B.S. Anthropology, FC)** volunteered to work on the Kansas Historical Society (KSHS) bioarchaeology collection under the supervision of Dr. Ashley Maxwell. The KSHS collection was loaned to WU to aid in repatriation efforts.



Presentations and Publications

- ❖ **Heather Greathouse (B.S. Anthropology, FC,'20)** published *Identifying Handsaw Tooth Shape Based on the Micro- and Macroscopic Analysis of the Kerf Floor Contour* in the journal *Forensic Anthropology* with Drs. Klaes and Maxwell. She completed this research under Dr. Klaes' supervision as a directed research course and Washburn University Transformational Experience (WTE) Scholarly & Creative project!

SOAN STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT CONT.

Fall 2021 Commencement for Washburn University will be December 17, 2021 5:00 pm. For more information, click [here](#).



Fall 2021



- ❖ **B.A. Anthropology**
 - ❖ William Evans
 - ❖ W. Brandon Gaines
 - ❖ A.J. Vanatta
- ❖ **B.S. Anthropology (FC)**
 - ❖ Taylor Nickel (Department Honors)
 - ❖ Brady Ogle
- ❖ **B.A. Sociology**
 - ❖ William Evans
 - ❖ Ayawna Singleton
 - ❖ Christine Smith
 - ❖ D'Mya Valdivia (Department Honors)

Bods' Post-Grad Plans

- ❖ **Taylor Nickel (B.S. Anthropology, FC)** is applying for a Ph.D. program in evolutionary anthropology. She is interested in behavioral evolution, and would like to be an anthropology professor.
- ❖ **D'Mya Valdivia (B.A. Sociology)** plans on getting her Real Estate's license upon graduation and recently applied for a staff position here at Washburn

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Charla Jefferson, B.A. Sociology, '17

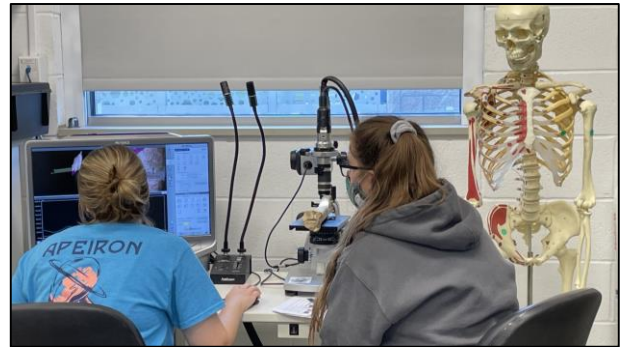


The number one question I had when I graduated three years ago was, "What are you going to do with your degree?" After studying abroad in Korea through Washburn's International Program, navigating through the pandemic and its many societal impacts, and continuing to challenge myself through higher education, I can confidently say: "**Anything.**" Washburn was a springboard to changing my perspective and how I navigate the world - in my personal and professional lives. After graduation, I spent three years working with retiring Kansans from all over the state. My understanding of how society functions helped me tremendously and continues to help me throughout my career. In August, I started a new job as a data analyst for the State of Kansas *and* my Masters in Social Work at KU in the same week. My goal is to work with the BIPOC LGBTQIA+ communities as a licensed clinical therapist to create and foster safe spaces for them to heal, express themselves, and to teach them how to positively navigate life.

Bods' Adventures in the Classroom

❖ **Dr. Lindsey Ibañez** had guest speakers from the Topeka Police Department, Sgt. Joshua Klamm, Officer James Spiker, and Turner Smith, LMSW, join her SO308 Sociology of Mental Health class to talk about the department's Crisis Intervention Team, which pairs social workers with uniformed officers to respond to calls from or about individuals experiencing mental health crises. They explained their training to respond to such calls and how they work with other organizations, like Valeo Behavioral Health and the district attorney's office, to help individuals in crisis while following the law.

❖ Over summer 2021, **Dr. Alexandra Klaes** taught the AN375 Forensic Anthropology Field School, which contained a week-long hands-on training in forensic archaeological recoveries. Students put the skills they learned in AN374 Field Methods in Forensic Anthropology to use during the recovery of a simulated surface scatter and burial. In the photo top right, students are learning how to set up a grid for mapping and excavation. Students then created a digital map and written forensic archaeological report. She is currently teaching AN428 Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology where students are working on active casework. In the photo to the right, B.S. Anthropology, FC, students Taylor Nickel and Sidney Cavner are learning how to use the 3D microscope on a cow bone.



❖ In summer 2021, **Dr. Laura Murphy** spent several days at the Lindenmeier site with Dr. Jason LaBelle (Principal Investigator) and his Colorado State University (CSU) archaeology field school students. The Lindenmeier site, located on the Soapstone Prairie Natural Area in northern Larimer County, Colorado, is known for the significant number of Paleoindian Folsom spear points (over 500), hundreds of chipped stone tools, ochre and shell jewelry, potential gaming pieces, and discarded faunal remains. She sampled soil profile walls for paleoenvironmental analyses, and she will be analyzing these samples with Washburn students as part of an on-going effort to re-investigate the site and test hypotheses about the paleoenvironment at the time of Folsom activities 13,000-11,900 calendar years ago on the High Plains.



SOAN FACULTY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

❖ **Dr. Lindsey Ibañez** gave a presentation at a virtual conference for the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics' Ibero-Latin America regional meeting titled "Job Referral Networks and the Low Road to Informal and Precarious Work in Nicaragua." She also became the Assistant Director of the [University Honors Program](#) and [Center for Undergraduate Scholarly and Creative Support](#).

❖ **Dr. Alexandra Klaes** was recently awarded the CTEL Assessment Grant for the B.S. Anthropology Forensic Concentration revisions, and a research grant assisting Sam Houston State University's Dr. Kate Lesciotto on her newly funded research grant designed to expand Dr. Klaes' MorphoPASSE Program. She also hosted the 2021 [WU-FARU Forensic Anthropology summer continuing education short courses](#) (Human Osteology and Identifying Human vs. Non-human Bone) which had a total of 23 participants from eight U.S. states, two Canadian provinces, and Mexico. Dr. Klaes and colleagues from Western Carolina University and the University of Nevada, Reno, had their research *The Value of Forensic Anthropology in Undergraduate Anthropology Programs* published in *American Anthropologist*. WU-FARU completed 21 cases this summer, and 13 so far this fall.



❖ **Dr. Ashley Maxwell** co-taught the WU-FARU Human Osteology continuing education short course with Dr. Alexandra Klaes (left photo). She also received a CTEL Curriculum Development Grant for her new course AN300 Bioarchaeology of Death and Burial. Dr. Maxwell was also recognized as an Open Educational Resource (OER) Trailblazer for incorporating the use of an OER textbook in her Cultural Anthropology courses. Students do not have to purchase a textbook for the course, and have first-day access to course materials.

❖ **Dr. Jason Miller** presented his work from Washburn's Spring 2021 co-led *Inclusive Pedagogies Research Group* for faculty at the Tilford Conference hosted by the KU Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging. He also participated in a roundtable discussion at the American Anthropological Association meeting in Baltimore, MD on digital teaching during Covid-19. He is currently mentoring William Evans (B.A. Anthropology and B.A. Sociology) with his internship at Grocery Oasis.

❖ **Dr. Laura Murphy** moderated a session for the Kansas Book Festival at Mabee Library titled, *Native American History Restored*. The session discussed two recent publications: the 2020 book *Northern Cheyenne Ledger Art* by Port Robinson *Breakout Survivors* by Denise Low and Ramon Powers, and the 2019 book *Petroglyphs of the Kansas Smoky Hills* by Rex Buchanan, Burke Griggs, and Joshua Svaty. She was recently elected as a co-director for the [Center for Kansas Studies](#) (CKS).



SOAN FACULTY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

- ❖ **Alex Myers** is completing his dissertation and has found ways to apply his research in the classroom. He designed a new course, SO306 Law & Society, for the fall 2021 semester. He has been engaged with the SOAN club and helping students prepare their graduate school applications.
- ❖ **Dr. Sangyoub Park** was awarded a Washburn Center for Teaching and Learning Innovation Award in Technology for utilizing a new technological tool to better transfer his students' learning experiences from a face to face to a remote setting. He taught a new class over summer 2021, SO300 K-Pop & Beyond, and took a sabbatical fall 2021 to research K-Pop culture.
- ❖ **Dr. Mary Sundal** taught AN321 Anthropology of Women for the first time in fall 2021 and revamped the course to focus on BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and feminist work. In her AN312 Medical Anthropology class, students incorporated and researched at least one nonconventional health product as part of CAM (Complementary and Alternative Medicine) for their semester projects. In both courses students had the option to present their semester-research findings in an “unessay” project.

A New Look for our B.A. and B.S. (FC) Anthropology Majors

Over the past two years, Anthropology faculty have revised our programs to better serve our majors and minors. We asked ourselves, how can we make Anthropology more relevant and useful for our students? Below are the changes we made for the B.A. in Anthropology and the B.S. in Anthropology, Forensic Concentration programs:



- ❖ To see the updated sample 4-year plan, advising worksheet, and major map for the B.A. in Anthropology, [click here](#).
- ❖ To see the updated sample 4-year plan, advising worksheet, and major map for the B.S. in Anthropology, Forensic Concentration, [click here](#).
- ❖ To see the updated student learning outcomes and revised course descriptions and titles, [click here](#).

WUmester Spring 2022: "Truth"

The Spring 2022 WUmester topic is "Truth," which has a variety of meanings and applications. The most common definitions refer to the property of being in accord with fact or reality. Defining truth is complicated, especially in a world that is both naturally and culturally constructed. Two of our Spring 2022 Anthropology courses shown below are directly tied to this WUmester theme.

Bioarchaeology of Death and Burial

AN300 Spring 2022 W 4:00-6:45PM CRN: 12522

- ❖ Do you want to explore how past populations lived and buried their dead?
- ❖ What about gain hands-on laboratory experience working with human remains from archaeological contexts?

In this special topics course, you will learn about:

- ❖ The proper handling, curation, and data collection of human remains.
- ❖ How skeletal remains encode valuable information on the demography, social identities, and health of past populations.

*This course is tied to the WUmester theme of "Truth," and we will discuss how reconciliation, scientific racism, and power have affected the handling of BIPOC remains.



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Questions: E-mail Dr. Ashley Maxwell Ashley.Maxwell@Washburn.edu
Prerequisite: AN 114 or AN 116 and Junior Status

VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY

AN322A | SPRING 2022 | T/R 11:00-12:15 PM | CRN: 13236

Interested in how to collect, analyze, and display visual culture? This methods course is for you!

We will learn: Skills to collect and analyze visual data you encounter in your own life; How to address ethical and practical challenges in working with visual culture; and Ways to portray culture in print, online, in films, and in museums.

This course will focus on the 2022 WUmester topic, "Truth"

We'll explore how social scientists grapple with truthfully portraying cultures to broad audiences and how media can be used to both inform and misinform audiences

Honors section also available (CRN: 12114)

Prerequisite: AN 112 or Instructor permission

Questions? Contact jason.miller2@washburn.edu

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SOAN Scholarship Fund: Interested in Donating?

Washburn sociology and anthropology programs are focused on making the connection between scholarship and the community. Our programs provide students both 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](#).

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