

WU Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Fall 2022 Newsletter

Dear Students, Alumni, and Friends,

As we approach the end of 2022, the Department of Sociology and Anthropology has a lot to celebrate. We are especially thankful for a return to in-person department events where students, faculty, and staff come together and build community. We hosted both a welcome back event and an end-of-the semester celebration to honor our fall 2022 graduates and look forward to more of the same next semester!

SOCIAL SCIENTISTS AT THE FOREFRONT



In summer 2022, Dr. Laura Murphy's students in AN372/KS399 Archaeological Field School teamed up with the Kansas State Historical Society and the Kansas Anthropological Association for excavations at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park site. Washburn students spent two weeks putting their archaeological skills to work as they were able to dig, trowel, measure, map, photograph, and collect artifacts for lab analysis as part of their class. At the end of the field school, students presented a summary of their work at the department's Archaeological Field School Open House.



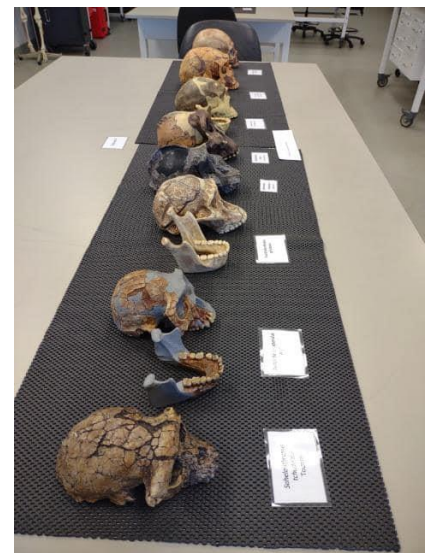
Collaboration from the field site continued into the fall semester with a roundtable discussion, "Broadening Brown's Impact: Toward Inclusive Pedagogies in Archaeological Research" at the Michael Tilford Conference on Diversity and Multiculturalism. The roundtable focused on inclusive pedagogies and strategies for continued community engagement and the importance of Black voices in archaeological interpretation. Presenters included Dr. Laura Murphy, Nikki Klarmann, Interim State Archeologist at the Kansas State Historical Society, and B.A. in Anthropology students Kiwenke Hubbard, Lisa Larson, and Tori Shaw (*featured in the above photos from left to right respectively; top photo features Dr. Laura Murphy with Ray Cwach and El Miller, both B.A. in Anthropology majors*).

SOAN Students and Faculty in the Spotlight

Bods in the Community: Women in Science Day

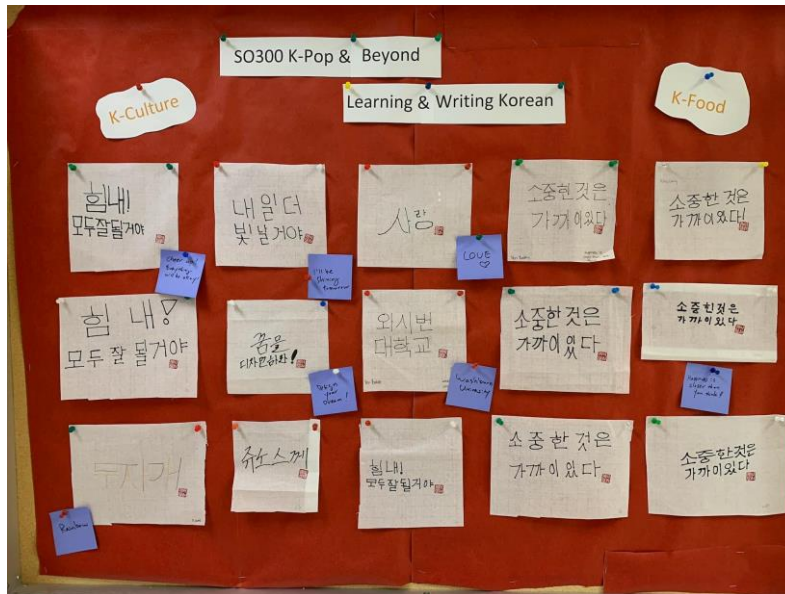


Anthropology was well represented at the 14th Annual Women in Science Day. Seventh graders came to Washburn's campus to learn more about the practical applications in everyday life of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Dr. Laura Murphy, assisted by El Miller (B.A. Anthropology) held two lab sessions of "Garbology: Are We What We Throw Away" (*photos above*) while Dr. Mary Sundal, assisted by Cori Singleton (B.A. Anthropology), ran two lab sessions of "What Makes Us Human: Exploring Fossil Hominin Specimens" (*photos below*). A special shout-out to Drs. Sangyoub Park and Mary Sundal for donating their garbage for students to analyze!



SOAN Students and Faculty in the Spotlight

Bods' Adventures in and out of the Classroom



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

Photos above: Students in Dr. Sangyoub Park's SO300 K-Pop & learned how to write the Korean language, *Hangul*. Junnosuke Saito (Communications) and Sammie Starkey (Psychology, Sociology minor) show off their hard work.

Photos below: Dr. Lindsey Ibañez's SO100 Introduction to Sociology (Honors class), shared their research and delicious food, which faculty and staff enjoyed, for their semester-long Kansas Cookbook Project.



SOAN Club Spotlight

The Sociology and Anthropology Club kicked off the academic year with a table at WUFest, where students could learn more about the club and how to throw spears with an atlatl. Mr. Ichabod even came to visit the SOAN Club table and chatted with Emily Myers (B.S. Anthropology, FC*) and Tori Shaw (B.A. Anthropology) (*photo top left*). During the semester, the club hosted two events that recognized and celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Month; both events had traditional drinks and foods for students to sample (*photo center*).



Club members worked together to create a top hat on the homecoming theme “Out of this World” for a display at the union (*photo below left*). President Emily Myers organized a fundraiser at Fuzzy's Taco Shop to support future club events. Officers Tori Shaw and Sam Meyer (Criminal Justice) visited McClure Elementary School to volunteer at the “Penguin Patch,” a holiday shop where the students can buy presents for their families. They helped the children with the decision-making process and adding up prices while staying within their budget. The club wrapped up the semester with a group trip to Kansas City Union Station for the Maya Exhibition that included 300 artifacts on-loan from Guatemala (*photo below right*).



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

* FC = Forensic Concentration

Fall 2022 Graduates

Fall 2022 Commencement for Washburn University will be December 16, 2022 5:00 pm. For more information, click [here](#).

B.A. Anthropology

- ❖ Mara Coufal (Department Honors)
- ❖ Ray Cwach
- ❖ Unique Grady

B.S. Anthropology

- ❖ Sidney Cavner

B.A. Sociology

- ❖ Amanda Dugan
- ❖ Shota Nagino
- ❖ Brand Peterson



Graduates Mara (right) and Shota (left) at our end-of-the-semester celebration.

SOAN Students and Alumni in the Spotlight



Congratulations to Dylan Grospitch (B.A. Sociology) on winning Homecoming Top Bods! (*photo left*)

Congratulations to alum Holly Long (B.S. Anthropology FC) who began her Ph.D program in Anthropology at Michigan State University this fall. (*photo right*)



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):

Sidney Cavner (B.S. Anthropology, FC), Grace Dobson (Criminal Justice, Anthropology minor '22), Brailey Moeder (B.S. Anthropology, FC), Emma Morrissey (Criminal Justice, Anthropology minor '22), Emily Myers (B.S. Anthropology, FC), Kristen Radell (B.S. Anthropology, FC), and Nicole Stueve (B.S. Anthropology, FC).



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Maegan Leavendusky, B.A .Anthropology '21

After graduating with my B.A. in Anthropology in May of 2021, I immediately began graduate school at Miami University. I am pursuing a Master's in Biology with a focus on primate education and conservation. I traveled to Belize and studied black howler monkeys and spider monkeys while I also learned about tapirs, manatees, and community-based conservation. This last summer, I had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity where I traveled to Borneo. There I studied orangutans, proboscis monkeys, macaques, and silver-leaf monkeys. Additionally, I saw Bornean pygmy elephants, hornbills, crocodiles, monitor lizards, and the extremely rare pangolin. I witnessed and experienced community-based conservation by planting trees, making fish traps, and working with the local schools. I realized the extreme importance of working with local communities for conservation efforts. My passion is primate education, and my vision is creating primate education that will have a global reach and impact primate populations ensuring their protection, conservation, and survival. I currently work as a researcher with GLOBIO, an environmental organization committing to raising awareness for primate species.



A very big THANK YOU to Maegan for coming to Dr. Sundal's AN116 Biological Anthropology class during their section on contemporary non-human primates. Maegan shared photos, videos, and a wealth of facts from her graduate field research in Belize and Borneo. What an amazing opportunity for our current students to learn about the far-reaching impacts of an anthropology degree!

SOAN Faculty in the Spotlight

- ❖ **Dr. Lindsey Ibañez** had a book review published in *Social Forces* (*Living on the Edge: When Hard Times Become a Way of Life* by Celine-Marie Pascale). She won a CTEL curriculum development grant to create a lesson plan using archival materials from the Kansas Studies collection at Mabee Library, and also won a CTEL small grant for professional development to attend teaching sessions at a regional sociology conference.



- ❖ **Dr. Alexandra Klaes** was awarded federal funding from the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Justice as co-PI on a three-year grant project "Sex Estimation in Forensic Anthropology: Taking a Legally-Informed Approach to Method Development." She also received funding through the Forensic Science Foundation's Douglas M. Lucas Grant for a smaller research project, "Statistical Evaluation of Kerf Shape and Size Variation with Implications for Saw Mark Analysis," with colleagues. She gave an invited webinar on Sex Estimation and her MorphoPASSE Program to over 150 participants from over 9 countries for the National Institute of Justice's Forensic Technology Center of Excellence program hosted by the Society of Forensic Anthropologists.

- ❖ **Dr. Ashley Maxwell** took a road trip through New Mexico Summer 22, completing an item on her bucket list: Chaco Culture National Historical Park. She also presented a poster, "First-Generation Course Redesign for Cultural Anthropology" at the Michael Tilford Conference on Diversity and Multiculturalism.



- ❖ **Dr. Jason Miller** presented research about making his introductory anthropology classes more inclusive and accessible to diverse learners in a double panel (that he chaired) at the American Anthropological Association's (AAA) annual meeting. He also led the Society for Visual Anthropology Robert Lemelson Foundation Fellowship program for pre-candidacy doctoral students in visual and multimodal anthropology. At the same AAA conference, Dr. Miller chaired a special session for six 2022 Fellows to present their work.

- ❖ **Dr. Laura Murphy** attended the American Society for Ethnohistory conference where she participated in the Kansas Association for Native American Educators workshop. At the Geological Society of America's annual meeting, she convened a poster session "Recent Advances in Geoarchaeology." She also co-facilitated a CTEL "WUmester 2023 Planning Workshop" with Dr. Louise Krug (English). The workshop allowed time for faculty to brainstorm how they will incorporate the Spring 2023 theme of "Health and Healing" into their courses.

SOAN Faculty in the Spotlight

- ❖ In addition to teaching a full course load and serving on committees, Alex Myers successfully completed his Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Kansas. He passed the defense of his dissertation, “Laboratories of Bureaucracy: The Development of Labor Market Institutions in Wisconsin, 1900-1940” during finals week! Congratulations **Dr. Alex Myers!!**

- ❖ **Dr. Sangyoub Park** completed research on the changing demographic landscape of Korea and Japan and Korean culture over the summer through the Mary B. Sweet Sabbatical. He presented preliminary findings on Korean multicultural towns at the Brown Bag International Lecture Series. He was actively involved in the International Programs by creating a Sharing Culture learning activity with students in his upper-division sociology class. He also represented Korea at the Celebration of Cultures and organized the first K-Pop event, The BTS Night: *Yet to Come in Busan 2022*.



- ❖ **Dr. Mary Sundal** was awarded the CAS Professional Development Fellowship in summer 2022 for manuscript preparation related to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. She presented at the Michael Tilford Conference on Diversity and Multiculturalism on “Challenging the Canon: BIPOC Scholarship at the Syllabi Core.” She also presented “Decolonizing Anthropology: Teaching Cultural Diversity through African Literature and Music” at the African Studies Association’s annual meeting as part of three panels dedicated to teaching about Africa and the undergraduate and high school levels.



Photo left: Delicious snacks at the department’s Welcome Back event at the start of the semester.

Photo center: Dr. Alexandra Klaes, Dr. Lindsey Ibanez, and Melissa Lewis got into the Halloween spirit this year!

Photo right: Stop by the Memorial Union, second floor, to visit Dr. Sangyoub Park’s *Let’s Fold the Pandemic* display.

WUmester Spring 2023: Health & Healing



The Spring 2023 WUmester topic is “Health & Healing,” a topic that overlaps with many aspects of Sociology and Anthropology. In fact, our department is offering three Wumester courses: Sociology of Mental Health; Food and Culture; and Medical Anthropology.

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](#).