

Fall 2024 Newsletter

Dear Students, Alumni, and Friends,

It's been a busy summer and fall around Washburn's Department of Sociology and Anthropology. As we approach the end of 2024, the SOAN Department 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. We've also begun packing up our offices and lab spaces as we prepare to temporarily move out of Henderson while it is remodeled beginning in 2025. Join us as we celebrate our accomplishments.

SOCIAL SCIENTISTS AT THE FOREFRONT



Dr. Park participated in a variety of cultural events this fall at the Memorial Union, including the Mid-Autumn festival in September, and the Celebration of Culture and at a "Squid Games" themed event in November. Moreover, students in his Research Methods course learned to make infographics - visual displays that communicate insightful information about social trends; students displayed their infographics in the Memorial Union.

Dr. Murphy organized a screening of *Fancy Dance* during Native American Heritage Month, co-sponsored by WU's Center for Kansas Studies, SOAN Club, Native American Law Student Association, and Art Department. A panel featuring Ande Davis (Law), and NALSA officers, provided an opportunity to discuss jurisdiction, recent legislation, and other issues pertaining to Tribes.



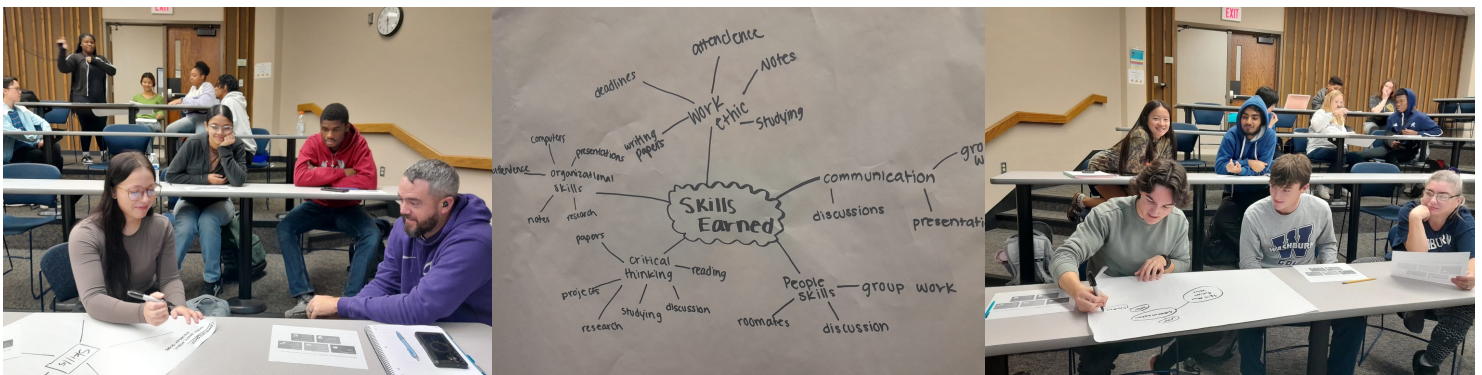
Bods In (and Out of) the Classroom

Happy Birthday, Topeka! Students in Dr. Miller's Fall 2024 Community Studies course celebrated Topeka's 170th Birthday in December with cake and presentations about their community-engaged learning with five of Topeka's Neighborhood Improvement Associations. In addition, Dr. Murphy (SOAN) and Dr. McHenry (English) gave welcoming remarks before everyone enjoyed birthday cake.



Sociology major Andrew Orr was named **Hy-Vee Student-Athlete of the Week** in November! "He scored a total of 40 points as No. 10 Washburn men's basketball opened the season with a pair of double-digit wins. Orr scored 21 points on 9-11 shooting in the Ichabods' 89-71 season-opening win over the University of Sioux Falls on Nov. 8. He also scored 19 points and grabbed eight rebounds as the Ichabods played Minnesota State, the Division II national champions." Way to go Andrew!

Students in Dr. Ibañez's Introduction to Sociology class learned about how their Gen Ed courses, including SO100 and AN112, help prepare them for careers by imparting **skills valued by employers**.



Drs. Miller and Ibañez accompanied a group of students from the Honors Program to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art to see the Hokusai exhibit. Hokusai, a Japanese artist from the 1800s, is celebrated for his woodblock prints, especially his Mt. Fuji series and Great Wave.



Bods Abroad

Dr. Park (accompanied by Dr. Ibañez) took 12 students to South Korea as part of his *Explore Korea, Past, Present, and Future* study abroad course in the Spring of 2024. Students had an adventure-packed two week visit to the country where they visited a wide variety of cultural sites including museums, religious sites, markets, a tote-bag-making workshop, a baseball game, and even the beach! Visit our SOAN Facebook page to find links to the student's final video projects!



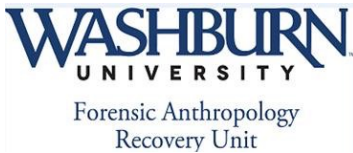
Korea Study Abroad Student Liljestrom Wins First Place in Photo Essay

Lois Liljestrom (Psychology) traveled to South Korea with Dr. Park's *Explore Korea, Past, Present, & Future* course in the summer of 2024. Liljestrom entered WU's Study Abroad Photo Essay Contest and won first place! From her essay: "While in South Korea, we were able to see and experience many wonderful things. Over the two weeks we were there, we all fell in love with many aspects of Korea. This country has a long history, and they keep amazing records of it. Palaces are preserved and, in some cases, rebuilt following the original blueprints. The pictures I took only capture a small portion of the beauty encapsulated in this country."



Bods Building Skills through Conferences and Internships

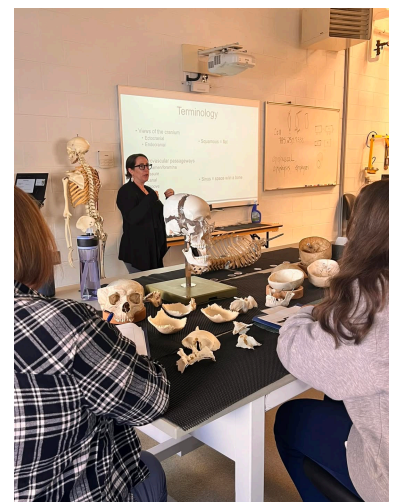
Dr. Miller, BA anthropology student Danae Camacho, and community partner ShaMecha Simms recently presented at the Tilford Conference on Diversity and Multiculturalism held in Wichita, Kansas. They discussed outcomes of their Community Studies course, which teams WU students with local Neighborhood Improvement Associations (NIAs). Camacho is also completing a Scholarly and Creative WTE and her senior capstone internship project with Simms, learning about Topeka neighborhoods and the power of local community leaders.



BS Anthropology student Angel Hayes participated in active forensic casework in Kansas and Missouri as a student volunteer of the Washburn University Forensic Anthropology Recovery Unit (WU- FARU):

Forensic Anthropology Short Courses Bring Students from Around the World

Over 30 participants, from 16 states and 4 countries, including Mexico, Canada, and Romania, attended the three forensic anthropology continuing education courses hosted by WU-FARU this summer: Identifying Human vs. Non-Human Bone, Human Osteology, and Human Skeletal Biology: Estimating the Biological Profile. Special guest lectures and labs for our Human Osteology Course were provided by Dr. Kate Lesciotto, D-ABFA of the University of North Texas Health Science Center.



Bods in the Community: 16th Annual Women in Science Day

Dr. Murphy and BA Anthropology student Beetle Hatch led an Archaeology lab as part of the annual "Women In Science Day" held on Washburn's campus on October 15, 2024. Seventh grade girls examined objects from the past, then practiced their interpretation skills by examining modern artifacts - or the "Garbology" of items left behind by folks in our Washburn community!



Guest Speakers on Campus

Students in Dr. Murphy's AN371 Archaeology Field & Laboratory Methods class had the opportunity to hear from two guest speakers. Dr. Nikki Klarmann, State Archeologist, presented "Moving Toward Compliance: New NAGPRA Regulations and What They Mean for the Kansas Historical Society," and Lisa LaRue Baker, Cherokee Nation and former Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, presented "Meaningful Consultation with Tribes." Both talks offered great insight into the future of the practice of archaeology; students applied what they learned to help guide their research and work at the Curtis Family Cemetery this semester.

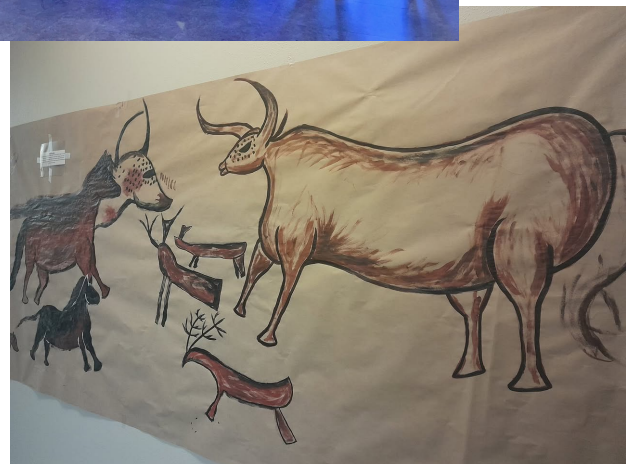


Sociology and Anthropology students in Dr. Park's Research Methods course learned about ethnographic methods from guest speaker Dr. Akiko Takeyama, professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies at the University of Kansas. She shared her experiences through her research on Japanese host clubs.



Sociology and Anthropology Club Spotlight

The **Washburn Sociology and Anthropology Club** had a busy fall hosting events and celebrating the social sciences. They welcomed students back at WUfest in August and decorated a top hat as well as the SOAN office for spirit week during Homecoming transforming the suite into the famous *Lascaux* caves of France, complete with cave paintings. Finally, on November 9, the Club teamed up with Dr. Murphy's Archaeological Myths, Frauds, and Controversies class for a field trip to the "Disney 100 Exhibition" at Union Station in Kansas City. Dr. Myers and Dr. Krueger (Mass Media) also attended. Each professor brought a unique perspective for the students - discussing the cultural and archaeological mythologies sprung from films like *Pocahontas*, *Star Wars*, and *Black Panther*, the social and economic impacts of the Disney brand, and the history and technological advancements of animation! Students can join the club [here](#) and everyone can stay up-to-date with club activities on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

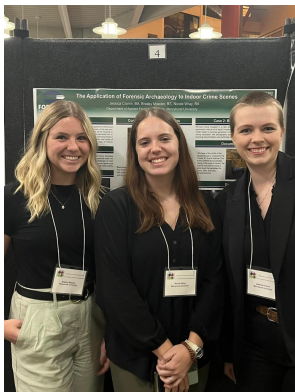


SOAN Alumni Updates



Dr. Klaes represented the BS Anthropology (Forensics Concentration) program along with the other Forensic Programs at KBI's National Forensic Sciences Week Career Fair event hosted on September 9th. Former WU Anthropology minor **Fletcher Turner** (Criminal Justice '22) currently works at the Shawnee County Coroner's Office and was there representing his office.

After **Storm Henry** (BA Anthropology '24) returned from the South Korea study abroad trip this past summer, they accepted a year-long position as an Archaeological Technician with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, where they are working in both the lab and field on various archaeological projects. Here, Storm is pictured putting their shovel-test and soil-screening skills to use from their well-rounded training in our department!



Brailey Moeder (BS Anthropology '22) won 1st place for the Dr. Jerry Cover Graduate Student Poster Presentation Award at the 20th Annual Research Symposium held at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center with her co-authored research on Applying Forensic Archaeology to Indoor Crime Scenes. Moeder's currently in her second year as a MS student in the Applied Forensic Sciences Department at Mercyhurst University.

- **Anna Anderson** (BA Anthropology '24) has a summer position with FEMA corps.
- **Maegan Leavendusky** (BA Anthropology '21) received a master's degree in biology from Miami University in May 2024. Currently, she is the Outreach Education Coordinator and Project Coordinator for the Great Ape Conservation Film Project (GACFP) at GLOBIO, a media conservation organization. Leavendusky co-authored an article about the GACFP in the most recent issue of the African Primates journal.
- **Holly Long** (BS Anthropology '19) spent the summer as the bioarcheology instructor at the El Campanario archaeological project in Peru. She's also collecting data at the site for her PhD dissertation research at the University of Michigan.
- **Nicole Stueve** (BS Anthropology '24) will begin work as a forensic technician at the Jackson County Medical Examiners' office where she interned during the spring 2024 semester.

SOAN Faculty in the Spotlight

Dr. Lindsey Ibanez

Dr. Ibañez was awarded a Small Research Grant for her research project titled: Homophily, Client Expectations and The Client-Therapist Relationship. Her research utilizes original survey and interview data she hopes to analyze during an upcoming sabbatical. In addition, Dr. Ibañez recently joined the board of Valeo Foundation which supports the activities of Valeo Behavioral Health Care in Topeka to address, mental illness, addiction, and homelessness.

Dr. Alexandra Klaes

Dr. Klaes and colleagues/co-PIs from Michigan State University, the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Texas State University, and the University of New Mexico, were awarded a \$2+ million U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Grant for their research project MOSAIC: Unifying Methods of Sex, Stature, Affinity, & Age for Identification through Computational Standardization. In addition, Dr. Klaes published an article titled Sex estimation using metrics of the innominate: A test of the DSP2 method published in the Journal of Forensic Sciences. Finally, Dr. Klaes was awarded a CAS professional development grant for summer 2025.

Dr. Ashley Maxwell

Dr. Maxwell and Co-PI Dr. Klaes completed data collection for their NIJ grant “Empirical Analysis of Saw Mark Characteristics in Human Bone: Meeting Forensic Standards in Dismemberment Cases.” In addition, Dr. Maxwell was awarded a professional development grant for summer 2025.

Dr. Jason Miller

Dr. Miller gave a paper titled: Fostering University / Community Partnerships One Neighborhood at a Time at the 2024 Tilford Conference on Multiculturalism. In addition, Miller spoke at the American Anthropological Association on a roundtable titled: Ethics and Risk in Anthropological Praxis: Navigating Socio-Political Landscapes and offers many workshops on campus related to Community-engaged learning. Finally, Dr. Miller was awarded a professional development grant for summer 2025.

Dr. Laura Murphy

Dr. Murphy attended the Geological Society of America Conference held in Anaheim, California, Sept. 22-24. She co-led a field trip to the Los Angeles La Brea Tar Pits and Museum titled “Exploration of North American Quaternary Geology at the La Brea Tar Pits” that had 27 participants. At the conference, she also presented a coauthored paper titled: “Refuting the sensational claim of a Hopewell ending cosmic airburst: Implications for pedagogy and public outreach.” In addition, Dr. Murphy attended a workshop at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Lawrence to gain hands-on lessons in preserving historic cemeteries. Dr. Murphy shared what she learned with her AN 371 Field and Lab Methods In Archaeology course this fall where are students conducted research and preservation at the Curtis Family Cemetery in North Topeka.

SOAN Faculty in the Spotlight

Dr. Sangyoub Park

Dr. Park held multiple cultural events this semester: Fall Harvest Holidays in China, Japan & Korea, Learning about Korea/Korean through Netflix's Squid Games show, and he represented Korea at the Celebration of Cultures. Dr. Park also displayed SOAN362 students' infographics at the Memorial Union.

Dr. Mary Sundal

Dr. Mary Sundal spent her fall academic sabbatical researching and writing for her forthcoming book, *Exploring Medical Anthropology, 5th Edition* co-authored with Donald Joralemon (Routledge Press). Dr. Sundal also received the C-TEL Curriculum Development grant and the CAS Professional Development fellowship for travel (London and Washington, D.C. respectively) in 2025 to explore museum exhibitions on human evolution and African art and cultural collections.

Fall 2024 Graduates

Help us celebrate our Fall 2024 graduate!

B.A. Sociology

❖ Alison Adams, departmental honors and *summa cum laude*



SOAN 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 provide 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 “**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](#).