

# WU Department of Sociology and Anthropology

## Spring 2023 Newsletter

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

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology underwent a ten-year program review this past academic year. The program review was a chance for the department to showcase our accomplishments over the past decade—we have a lot to celebrate!

Dr. Mary Sundal lead the department's program review efforts and delivered an excellent presentation for the review committee. Drs. Laura Murphy and Sangyoub Park assisted with writing the report and presentation and attended, along with Drs. Lindsey Ibañez and Alex Myers, the presentation. The department also received the C-TEL Assessment Achiever Award this year!

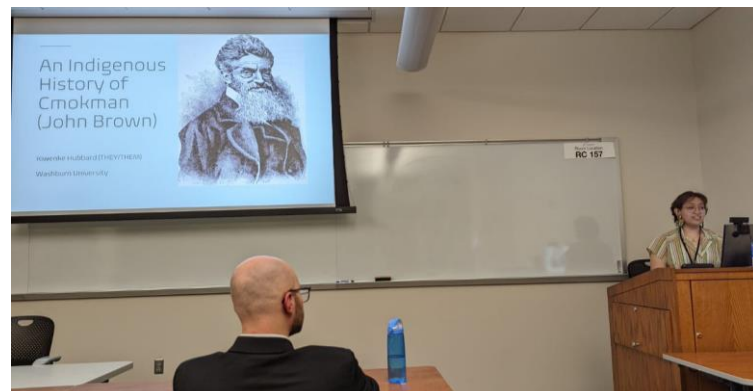
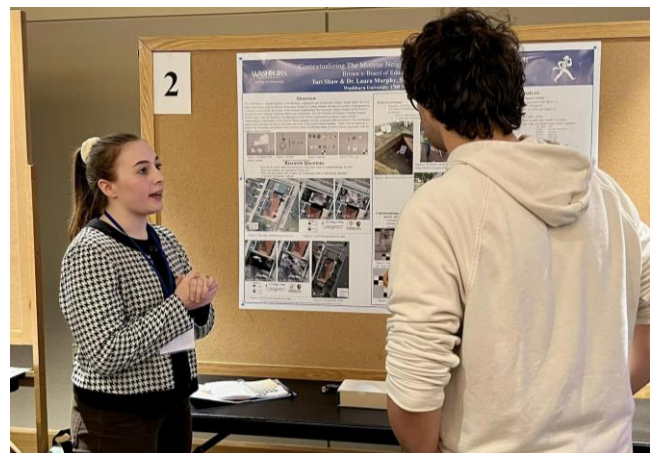
### SOAN Student Presentations

SOAN was well represented at Washburn's Apeiron student conference with four B.A. in Anthropology majors delivering presentations. Tori Shaw created a poster presentation, *Contextualizing the Monroe Neighborhood Using Archaeological Methods*, based on her research with Dr. Laura Murphy (*photo top right*).

Kiwenke Hubbard presented their WTE independent research with Dr. Mary Sundal, *Speaking for Ourselves: A Native Student's Journey with the Citational Politics of Native Scholars in Medical Anthropology*.

Both Anna Anderson and Eduardo Herrera participated in the Colombia Study Abroad course (led by Drs. Kim Morse, History, and Tonya Ricklefs, Social Work) this semester and delivered oral presentations: *Colombia, A Social Work & History Reflection* (A. Anderson) and *Healing in Colombia* (E. Herrera) (*photos middle right*).

Anna Anderson and Kiwenke Hubbard (*photo below right*) also presented different research projects at the Kansas Association of Historians (KAH) conference this semester.



# SOAN Students and Faculty in the Spotlight

## Bods in the Classroom: Sociological Adventures



Sociology faculty were at it again this semester providing Washburn students with amazing learning opportunities! As part of the Wumester theme on Health and Healing, Dr. Lindsey Ibañez hosted guest speakers in the SO308 Sociology of Mental Health class so that students could learn about mental health resources in the Topeka community. Speakers included Chris Keenan from the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI); Sgt. Mathew Rose, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)/Behavioral Health Unit, Rachel Wolfe, LMSW, Crisis and Intake Coordinator, Valeo Behavioral Health Care, and Ashley Bryan, WU social work graduate student and co-responder for CIT (*photo above left*); and Washburn alum Gordon Smith who spoke about addiction and recovery. Dr. Ibañez also led students in mind-map creation exercises in the same class (*photo top right*).

After the success of Dr. Ibañez' Kansas Cookbook lesson last semester, Dr. Sangyoub Park expanded the lesson plan for the SO319 Food & Culture course using cookbooks archived at the Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection at Mabee Library. Professor Emeritus Tom Averill and Martha Imparato, University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, assisted students with their research (*photo below left*). During finals week students presented their research and dishes for the class and guests to enjoy (*photo below right*).



# SOAN Students and Faculty in the Spotlight

## Bods in the Classroom: Anthropological Adventures



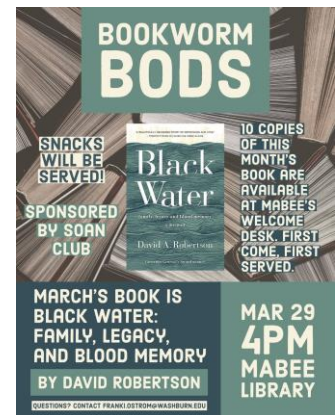
Anthropology faculty provide excellent learning experiences for students in our classes at all stages of their educational careers. In Dr. Mary Sundal's AN116 Biological Anthropology class (*photo top left*), she used replica skeletal casts to introduce students to forensic anthropology and bioarchaeology. In Dr. Ashley Maxwell's AN374 Forensic Archaeology class (*photos middle left*), upper-division students learned the technical skills in the recovery of surface scatters and burials in a forensic context.



Not only do our students have access to a tremendous cast collection and outdoor dig site at the Forensic Science Center here on campus, but students get to explore Kansas and Missouri! Dr. Laura Murphy's AN370 Historical Archaeology class visited and toured several sites including Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie, the Kaw Mission and Last Chance Store on the Santa Fe Trail (*photo bottom left*), Fort Osage National Historic Landmark, and the Quindaro townsite (*photo bottom right*). At Quindaro, students were accompanied by Johnson County Community College's archaeologist Dr. Adam Benfer who is georeferencing maps of the townsite and, like Dr. Murphy, is having students analyze artifacts and site records from previous excavations. We look forward to continued collaborations to help tell the story of this important part of Kansas history!



# SOAN Club Spotlight



The SOAN Club had another active semester. Club officers participated in the Majors/Minors fair and hosted the annual “World Anthropology Day” celebration on February 16<sup>th</sup> with a rousing game of Anthropology Jeopardy! The SOAN Club co-sponsored a Mabee Library “Bookworm Bods” event facilitated by Franki Ostrom, Instructional Librarian and WU Anthropology alum (“ba 20), and Dr. Laura Murphy. The book club read David A. Robertson’s memoir *Black Water: Family, Legacy and Blood Memory*” as part of WUmester’s theme of “Health and Healing (photo above).

The SOAN Club teamed up with the Biology Club for an Earth Day volunteer event to assist Shawnee County Parks and Recreation with cleaning up Shunga Park, hauling in bags of trash and recyclables (photo below left).

The Club ended the semester with a “SOAN Spa” day where students made sugar scrubs with calming essential oils and worked on some crafts (photo below right).



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

# Spring 2023 Graduates

CONGRATULATIONS

BA Anthropology

Jose Cruz  
Jak Kendall  
Loren Kuck

CONGRATULATIONS

BS Anthropology

Kristen Radell

CONGRATULATIONS

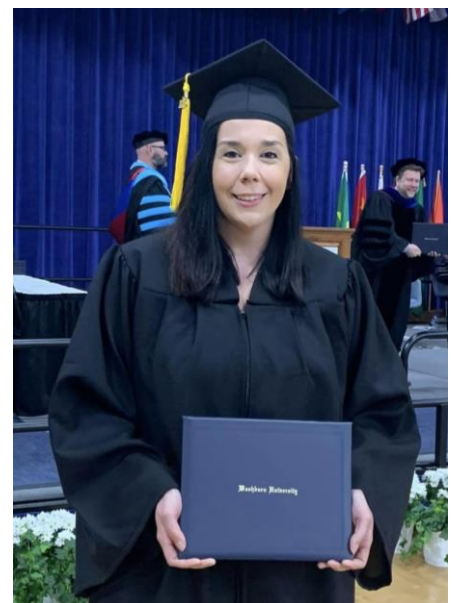
BA Sociology

Kelly Andrews  
Katherine Cook  
Jason Guerra



Pictured (from top left):

Jose Cruz  
Katherine Cook  
Jason Guerra  
Kristen Radell



# SOAN Scholarships



## SOAN Department Scholarship Awards (AY2023-24)

Anna Anderson, Anthropology

Hailey Abshier, Sociology

Kiwenke Hubbard, Anthropology

Jennifer Jackson, Forensic Anthropology

Miriam Lysaught, Sociology

Nicole Stueve, Forensic Anthropology



## CAS Dean's Scholarship Awards (AY2023-24)

Hailey Abshier  
Sociology

Alison Adams  
Sociology

Angel Hayes  
Forensic  
Anthropology

Eduardo Herrera  
Anthropology

Emily Myers  
Forensic  
Anthropology

Cori Singleton  
Anthropology

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Brand Peterson, B.A. Sociology '22

Since graduating this past fall with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, Brand Peterson has been an active Washburn alum and now Washburn employee! In March, Brand joined the Bods Feeding Bods food and community pantry as the AmeriCorps Vista Organizer. They also presented research from their studies at Washburn in two conferences. Brand presented co-authored work (with Dr. Lindsey Ibañez) at the Midwest Sociological Society on preliminary data analysis on patients' experiences and expectations when going through mental health therapy (*photo right*). At the Kansas Association of Historians (KAH) conference, they presented research on the desegregation lawsuit of Gage pool which Brand completed for the WU Diversity & Inclusion history research project.



Learn more about how you can access or donate to Bods Feeding Bods [here](#).

# SOAN Faculty in the Spotlight

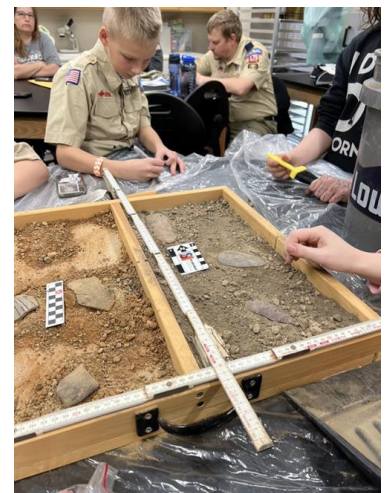
- ❖ **Drs. Jason Miller, Ashley Maxwell, and Alexandra Klaes** published “Supporting Diverse First-Generation Introductory Anthropology Students: Lessons from a Regional Midwestern University” in the *Teaching and Learning Anthropology Journal*.
- ❖ Congratulations to **Drs. Lindsey Ibañez, Ashley Maxwell, and Jason Miller** for 5 years of Faculty Service!!

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- ❖ **Dr. Lindsey Ibañez** received a C-TEL Small Grant to attend sessions focused on pedagogical practices at the the Southern Sociological Society’s Annual Meeting. Dr. Ibañez also presented *Teaching Sociological Imagination with Local Archival Materials* based on her original lesson plans for the honors section of SO100 Introduction to Sociology in which students applied their learning to the Kansas Cookbook collection at Mabee Library at the Midwest Sociological Society’s annual meeting. At the same conference, she also co-presented with Brand Peterson (‘ba 22, Sociology) *Homophily, Client Expectations, and Role Creation in the Client-Therapist Relationship*.

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- ❖ **Dr. Ashley Maxwell** was nominated for the Ned Fleming Excellence in Teaching Award this semester. She also supervised three WU-FARU student volunteers on active casework and taught AN374 Forensic Archaeology for the first time.

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- ❖ **Dr. Jason Miller** received tenure and promotion, joined the C-TEL advisory board, brought anti-hunger activist Tajahnae Stocker to campus to speak at the end of January, formed a Basic Needs Coalition on campus to bring together campus stakeholders to help students meet their basic needs, continued to be the faculty advisor for Bods Feeding Bods, represented WU as part of the Shawnee County Farm and Food Advisory Council and Heartland Healthy Neighborhoods, chaired the Society for Visual Anthropology Lemelson Foundation Fellowship committee, and became treasurer of the Consortium of Practicing and Applied Anthropologists (CoPAA).

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- ❖ **Dr. Laura Murphy** participated in several archaeology outreach events this semester. First, she served as archaeology merit badge counselor for the Scouts BSA Merit Badge Day held at Washburn University (*photo right*). Second, in coordination with staff from the Kansas State Historical Society, Dr. Murphy organized a college archaeological training day, which included students from Washburn, Kansas State, and KU who learned techniques in archaeology survey and testing at a potential historic site near Emporia, Kansas. Dr. Murphy also attended the 44<sup>th</sup> annual Flint Hills Conference held at Fort Osage National Historic Landmark, Sibley, Missouri.



# SOAN Faculty in the Spotlight

❖ **Dr. Alex Myers** has been working with a YouTuber as a research assistant to create a video on the growing threat of global right-wing extremism. Dr. Myers has spent this semester successfully mentoring students through the graduate school application process and working on article manuscripts from his recent Sociology dissertation—stay tuned for future publications!

❖ **Dr. Sangyoub Park** published a book review of *Negotiating Opportunities: How the Middle Class Secures Advantages in School* by Jessica Calarco in *Teaching Sociology*. He won a C-TEL Innovation Award in Teaching, Community-Engaged Learning. He also won the faculty development grant to present his research on Japan, Language & Culture at a regional conference. Dr. Park organized the International Center of Topeka's annual cultural event, Topeka Haru Matsuri (Spring Festival) and once again led a successful annual diaper drive with his SO310 Social Class in the U.S. students (*photo right*).



*\$1200 (including \$600 worth of diapers) donated to Community Action.*

❖ **Dr. Mary Sundal** spent the bulk of the spring semester preparing the SOAN program review report and presentation. She also serves as the interim director for the African American and African Diaspora Studies (AAADS) minor program and successfully raised funds to award the first AAADS minor scholarships for the next academic year!

## 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. Lindsey Ibañez  
Dr. Jason Miller  
Dr. Laura Murphy  
Dr. Mary Sundal





## Our SOAN family grows....



Congratulations to **Dr. Alexandra Klaes** and Jose Rocha with the birth of their twins Mia (left) and Niko (right). We are happy to see that the twins already love Forensic 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 “**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](#).

**WASHBURN**  
UNIVERSITY

Sociology and Anthropology