

WU Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Spring 2021 Newsletter

Dear Students, Alumni, and Friends,

COVID 19 has not stopped our incredible Sociology and Anthropology (SOAN) students, faculty, and staff from making a difference in our community!

SOCIAL SCIENTISTS AT THE FOREFRONT: A Day of Giving



The Washburn University Day of Giving happens every year in February to celebrate the University's birthday. This year, our department goal was to raise funds for student scholarships! We were blown away by the support, including a very generous match gift challenge, in which alumni Tim (bba'75, jd'79) and Margaret Carkhuff (ba'72) matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$1000 for gifts to the Sociology and Anthropology Scholarship fund. We raised \$2,420 this year and hope to continue receiving donations to fund our students. If you would like to donate, you can do so at the following link: <https://wualumni.org/>.

The AY2021-22 SOAN Scholarship recipients are: Taylor Nickel (B.S. Anthropology, FC*), Samantha Reed (B.A. Anthropology and B.A. Sociology), and D'Mya Valdivia (B.A. Sociology).

*FC= Forensic Concentration

ADJUNCT FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Marisa Gonzalez



Since the Fall of 2016, I have taught five different classes for WU, including two new classes this semester: AD200 Introduction to Critical Race and Ethnic Studies and SO101 Social Problems to learners at the Topeka Correctional Facility (TCF). In 2019, Dr. Cheryl Childers and I co-presented our research on gender inequality in the coverage of soccer players in *Sports Illustrated* at the Midwest Sociological Society annual meeting. Over the years I have entered in the SOAN Valentine's Day Brownie Competition (my black bean brownies did not win, but I felt good knowing that I offered a paleo, protein filled treat!), assisted with planning department Sip-n-Chats, participated as a panel member on discussions related to immigration and Latinx representation in the media, and served as a judge for History Days. Some of my best experiences have included taking students in SO309 Sociology of Deviance on a field trip/Ghost tour of downtown Topeka (left) and teaching AD200. The latter has really allowed for conversations and the exploration of race and power dynamics that I feel students are eager to have, as demonstrated by their enthusiasm for class discussion. I also really enjoy SO101 at TCF. This class has really challenged me to rethink how I teach in order to provide the best possible learning experience. It has been a unique and rewarding opportunity.



SOAN STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Presentations

- ❖ **Sabrina Cathcart (B.S. Anthropology, FC)** collaborated on a presentation (with Drs. Klaes and Maxwell) *WU-FARU's Positively Identified Forensic Anthropology Cases: Examining our Methods* at the SouthEast Biological Anthropology Interest Group conference March 27, 2021.
- ❖ **Alicia Hay (B.A. Sociology)** and **Emilee Tobin (minor Sociology)** competed in the Opening Round Championship Series for Mock Trial, which is part of the American Mock Trial Association's annual national tournament.
- ❖ **Brailey Moeder (B.S. Anthropology, FC)** presented a poster (with Drs. Klaes and Maxwell) *Variation in Bone Shrinkage Due to Thermal Exposure: A Patellar Case Study* at the Mid-Atlantic Bioanthropology Interest Group conference, October 10, 2020 and at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences February 17, 2021 (pictured below).
- ❖ **Taylor Nickel (B.S. Anthropology, FC)** presented *Recentering Forensic Anthropology in Anthropological Theory* at Washburn's Aperion April 16, 2021.
- ❖ **Taylor Recuero (B.S. Anthropology, FC)** presented a poster *A Paleopathological Analysis of Dental Health in Early Medieval Italy* at the Mid-Atlantic Bioanthropology Interest Group conference, October 10, 2020.
- ❖ **Dy-Esha Risby (B.A. Sociology)** co-presented *Systems Literacy and Sustainability* at Washburn's Aperion April 16, 2021.



Bods' Post-Grad Plans

- ❖ **Maegan Leavendusky (B.A. Anthropology)** was accepted to the Miami University "Project Dragonfly" Global Field Graduate Program. Maegan is also the Director of OASIS (Orangutan Advocates for Safety in Sumatra).
- ❖ **Franki Ostrom (B.A. Anthropology'20)** was accepted to the master's program in Library and Information Sciences at Emporia State University. Franky hopes to work in museum archives when she completes her degree.
- ❖ **Jewel Pezzino (B.S. Anthropology, FC)** was recently hired as a death investigator at the Shawnee County Coroner's Office through Forensic Medical of Kansas in Topeka.

SOAN STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT CONT.

SOAN Graduates: This has been an unprecedented year, and we would like to acknowledge our students who graduated in the time of COVID 19.

Fall 2020

- ❖ **B.A. Anthropology**
 - ❖ Franki Ostrom
 - ❖ Chase Penka

- ❖ **B.S. Anthropology (FC)**
 - ❖ Heather Greathouse



Spring and Summer 2021

- ❖ **B.A. Anthropology**
 - ❖ Maegan Leavendusky (Department Honors)
 - ❖ Patrick Peek

- ❖ **B.S. Anthropology (FC)**
 - ❖ Cindy Lazo (Department Honors)
 - ❖ Taylor Recuero (Department Honors)
 - ❖ Jewel Pezzino

- ❖ **B.A. Sociology**
 - ❖ Betsy Lopez

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Lori Holstrom, B.A. Anthropology'18



I started my journey at Washburn University in a different area of study, when I quickly decided that it was not for me and that I needed to go back to my roots. I was a non-traditional student, and concluded I wanted to go back to studying anthropology, which I had gained an interest in as child. While in the department, Dr. Laura Murphy was hired to teach the archaeology classes, of which I had a great interest in. It was through her teaching and advocacy I was able to do things I never thought to do and even a few that were outside my comfort zone; such as participating in a field school to speaking at an archaeology conference or writing an article for a newsletter of the American Rock Art Research Association. Even after graduation, Dr. Murphy continued to assist me by sending me job notices she thought may be of relevance to me. Through Washburn I was also able to obtain a work study position working at the Mulvane Art Museum as a collections assistant, where I discovered that working in a museum with a collection was what I wanted to the rest of my life. Between the experiences I gained working for the museum and the tutelage and support I garnered from Dr. Murphy I was able to attain a great position as a Museum Registrar at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas. Where I am now able to help take care of and exhibit objects in the museum's collection of 3 million+ artifacts. I loved my time at Washburn, I met great people there who I still talk to and through the support of the SOAN department and Mulvane Art Museum, was able to achieve a wonderful position in a museum that I love.

Bods' Adventures in the Classroom



Bring your own water bottles (water provided), gloves, boots, old clothes, etc.

**DR. LINDSEY IBANEZ'S
ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY**

APRIL 22, 2021 @ 4-7PM



**FELKER
PARK**
2540 SW GAGE BLVD,
TOPEKA, KS 66614

Want to join our crew? Email
henry.zeiders@washburn.edu

- ❖ **Dr. Lindsey Ibañez's SO300 Environmental Sociology** class is a WUmester themed course, and her students worked in groups to tackle food waste and river litter at the local level, to increase awareness about recycling, and to promote a systems perspective of sustainability. The students made a flyer to promote their projects (left).
- ❖ **Dr. Alexandra Klaes' AN374 Field Methods in Forensic Anthropology** course braved the elements for their weekend workshop to learn the skills necessary to complete a forensic archaeology recovery of human remains at outdoor crime scenes (bottom left: Brady Ogle, Taton Smith, and Sidney Cavner; bottom right: Kristen Vanderbeck, Taylor Nickel, and Taton Smith).



SOAN STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT CONT.

Bods' Adventures in the Classroom

- ❖ **Dr. Murphy's AN397 Environmental Archaeology** class visited nearby prehistoric archaeological sites west of Topeka, where they recorded new artifacts on the surface of a stratified Late Paleoindian-Ceramic-aged site along Mill Creek (bottom left: William Evans and Patrick Raines). The students also visited Mount Mitchell, near Wamego, Kansas, and observed the Konza Prairie near Manhattan, Kansas (middle: Amanda Alejos, Ariel Sherer, William Evans, Patrick Peek, and Patrick Raines). The students observed and documented the archaeology and paleoecology of the Flint Hills with a trip to the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve on April 17 – (bottom right: Amanda Alejos, Patrick Pee, Patrick Paines).



- ❖ **Dr. Sangyoub Park's SO319 Food and Culture** class students studied Korean budae-jjigae by reading Military Base Stew by Professor Cho, and made their own rendition. Dr. Park provided a "how to" guide: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/5qDIYmeHdxFly/>. Sociology minor Katrina Escobar also designed a Sociology-Inspiring [Pie Making Tutorial](#). Dr. Park also launched the 2021 SO310 (Social Class in the U.S.) Diaper Drive. They received \$850 in donations and about \$1,000 worth of diapers to give to Community Action.



SOAN FACULTY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

❖ **Dr. Lindsey Ibañez** recently published a paper "Job Referrals in the Global South" in *Contexts* <https://journals.sagepub.com/.../10.1177/1536504221997867>. She also presented at the International Sociological Association (ISA) as part of a panel called "Varieties of Care Work Under Persistent Gender Inequalities: Exploring National Differences."

❖ **Dr. Alexandra Klaes** has been busy publishing during the pandemic, including *Examining the Reliability of Morphological Traits for Sex Estimation: Implications for the Walker (2008)* and *Klaes et al. (2012) Methods* in the journal *Forensic Anthropology* with alum Mackenzie Walls (B.S. Anthropology, FC,'19); *Current State of Sex Estimation in Forensic Anthropology* in the journal *Forensic Anthropology*; *Standardizing Ordinal Subadult Age Indicators: Testing for Observer Agreement and Consistency Across Modalities* in the journal *Forensic Science International*; and, *Application of the Optimized Summed Scored Attributes Method for Sex Estimation in Forensic Anthropology* in the journal *Forensic Anthropology* with alum Holly Long (B.S. Anthropology, FC,19). The WU-FARU has completed 26 cases thus far this year and is working with the Kansas Historical Society on NAGPRA repatriation efforts of skeletal material.



❖ **Dr. Ashley Maxwell** assisted the WU-FARU on 15 cases since the fall semester. She presented a poster at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting in February and coauthored four other presentations. She is also working on an original research project with Dr. Klaes and scientists from Des Moines University and the Erie County Medical Examiner's office to create a database of saw cut characteristics for analyzing forensic cases. She also participated in the Spring Faculty Colloquium on Sustainability.

❖ **Dr. Jason Miller** has been busy teaching two new courses in Spring 2021: AN113 Linguistic Anthropology and AN300 Culture, Gender, and Sexuality. This spring, Dr. Miller published a paper titled: "Undergraduate Student Led Research: An Applied Anthropology Course as a Community-Based Research Firm" in *Teaching Anthropology: A Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*. In addition, he co-led the *Inclusive Pedagogy Research Group* with Dr. Erin Grant (Criminal Justice and Legal Studies) to support WU faculty interested in the intersection of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and diversity and inclusion in the classroom.

❖ **Dr. Laura Murphy** recently co-authored a paper published in the Geological Society, London, Special Publications, 507, 18 September 2020, titled: *Multiproxy strategy for determining palaeoclimate parameters in the Ruby Ranch Member of the Cedar Mountain Formation*. She also received a Carlos C. Campbell and James T. Tanner Memorial Fellowship in the amount of \$9,913 for a co-authored research proposal titled: *Origins and Persistence of Grassy Balds in Great Smoky Mountains National Park*, with field research to begin this summer. She also facilitated the 2021 Faculty Colloquium, where faculty from across Washburn's disciplines have been examining the concept of sustainability from multiple perspectives and scales.

SOAN FACULTY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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- ❖ **Alex Myers** has enjoyed his first year teaching full time at Washburn. He has put together four new courses and been impressed by the engagement and interest shown by the students in his classes despite the difficulties of the Covid pandemic. He is preparing to defend his dissertation in sociology at the University of Kansas in Fall 2021.
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- ❖ **Dr. Sangyoub Park** modified his SO319 Food and Culture class and said “in the pre-pandemic, I do cooking culture in the classroom but due to the pandemic I wasn't able to do cooking culture last year. However, this semester I was able to deliver a comparable student experience of in-class cooking culture in the remote learning environment.”
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- ❖ **Dr. Mary Sundal** participated in several programs focused on anti-racist teaching practices, racial equity, and social justice: the Washburn CAS faculty success group BLM Movement; the Greater Topeka Partnership series *A Seat at the Table*; and the Washburn CTCL series *Free Your Mind: Departmental Anti-Racist Teaching Program*.
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Center for Teaching Excellence and Learning Certificates

Washburn’s Center for Teaching Excellence and Learning (CTEL) awards professional development certificates to faculty who earn badges for completing various sponsored events that focus on teaching excellence. This includes a Certificate of Teaching and Learning and new Certificate of Inclusive Teaching and Learning. Below are the faculty who completed these certificates for the AY2020-21:

Certificate of Teaching and Learning:

- ❖ Dr. Lindsey Ibañez
- ❖ Dr. Alexandra Klales
- ❖ Dr. Ashley Maxwell
- ❖ Dr. Jason Miller
- ❖ Dr. Laura Murphy
- ❖ Dr. Mary Sundal

Certificate of Inclusive Teaching and Learning:

- ❖ Dr. Alexandra Klales
- ❖ Dr. Ashley Maxwell
- ❖ Dr. Jason Miller
- ❖ Dr. Laura Murphy
- ❖ Dr. Mary Sundal