

WU Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Fall 2020 Newsletter

Dear Students, Alumni, and Friends,

The Washburn University Department of Sociology and Anthropology (SOAN) would like to share with our community what we and our students have been up to the past year. With new faculty hires, major community engagement projects, and research and publications, we have been busy!

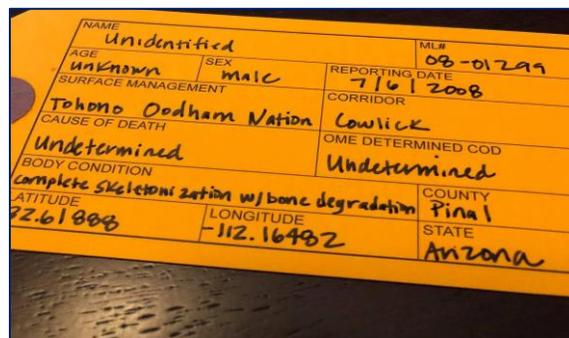
SOCIAL SCIENTISTS AT THE FOREFRONT

SOAN's very own Applied Cultural Anthropologist, Dr. Jason Miller, brought *Hostile Terrain 94* (HT94), an international participatory art project, to Washburn University where it is now on display at the Mulvane Art Museum until December 2020. Over 100 institutions globally will host HT94 and Washburn is the only host location in Kansas. The Undocumented Migration Project (UMP), a non-profit directed by anthropologist Jason De León, named the participatory art project HT94 after the 1994 U.S. border policy that relied on "hostile terrain" of the Sonoran Desert to deter undocumented migrant crossings. The installation features almost 4,000 locally handwritten toe tags (pictured to the right) each representing a migrant who died trying to cross the southern U.S. border between 1994 and 2019. According to Dr. Miller, "The goal of the project is to raise awareness about the realities of U.S./Mexico border policies and start conversations about how those policies lead to unnecessary deaths."

An interdisciplinary team of over 40 Washburn faculty, staff, students, and local community members worked for almost a year to create the exhibit and related program events. But plans were interrupted by COVID-19 just after the blank exhibit arrived in Topeka. Volunteers picked up bags of toe tags from Dr. Miller's porch to fill out and brought them back in July. Volunteers who assembled the exhibit in the Mulvane also had to follow strict social distancing guidelines, wear masks, and use ample hand sanitizer.

Hostile Terrain 94 at Washburn University is made possible through generous contributions by the Washburn University Academic Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Center for Kansas Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, Diversity and Inclusion, Washburn University Forensic Anthropology Recovery Unit (WU-FARU), Mulvane Art Museum, the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, the Vice President of Academic Affairs Major Research Grant, Humanities Kansas, and the Tonantzin Society.

Upcoming Events can be found at [Hostile Terrain 94 at Washburn](#)



NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Welcome Alex Myers to the SOAN Department!



Alex Myers is SOAN's new Lecturer of Sociology! Alex is a Ph.D. candidate studying Sociology at the University of Kansas. His areas of expertise are in Economic and Historical Sociology, Deviance and Social Control, and Social Theory. He has been teaching Introduction to Sociology and Criminology at Washburn since 2017. Alex grew up in North Carolina, and while he loves Kansas, he is an avid hiker and misses the mountains! Alex currently lives in Lawrence with his three cats.

SOAN STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Publications

Holly Long (B.S. Anthropology, FC*, '19) published a technical note "Application of the Optimized Summed Scored Attributes Method to Sex Estimation" in *Forensic Anthropology*.

Madysen Mooradian (B.A. Anthropology) published "Personality and Prejudice: Defining the MBTI types in Jane Austen's novels" in *The Angle: A Journal of Student Writing*.

Taylor Nickel (B.S. Anthropology, FC) published a book review of *Plundered Skulls and Broken Spirits: Inside the Fight to Reclaim Native America's Future* by Dr. Chip Colwell in *The Kansas Anthropologist* and published "'Washburn—Thy Strength Revealed': Washburn University and the 1966 Tornado" in *The Angle: A Journal of Student Writing*.

Holly Long and Cassidy Willsey (both B.S. Anthropology, FC, '19) published the book chapter "A History of Sex Estimation of Human Skeletal Remains" in *Sex Estimation of the Human Skeleton: History, Methods, & Emerging Techniques* edited by Dr. Alexandra Klales.

Mackenzie Walls (B.S. Anthropology, FC, '19) published a research article "Examining the Reliability and Validity of Popular Morphological Sex Estimation Methods" in *Forensic Anthropology*.

Presentations

Maegan Leavendusky (B.A. Anthropology) created a public presentation "You, me, and an orangutan!" for the Topeka Discovery Center (postponed due to COVID-19).

Sophia Rizzo (B.A. Anthropology '19) presented paper (with Dr. Murphy) *Initial analysis of ceramic sherds from the Saxman site (14RC301): A Great Bend aspect site in Rice County, Kansas* at the annual Flint Hills Archaeological Conference, Topeka, Kansas, March 14, 2020.

Volunteers

❖ Student volunteers that assist with WU-FARU casework:

- ❖ Jose Cruz (B.A. Anthropology)
- ❖ Heather Greathouse (B.S. Anthropology, FC)
- ❖ Tierney Kester (B.A. Anthropology)
- ❖ Holly Long (B.S. Anthropology, FC, '19)
- ❖ Taylor Nickel (B.S. Anthropology, FC)
- ❖ Jewel Pezzino (B.S. Anthropology, FC)
- ❖ Mackenzie Walls (B.S. Anthropology, FC, '19)
- ❖ Cassidy Willsey (B.S. Anthropology FC, '19)
- ❖ The entire Fall 2019 AN316 Forensic Anthropology class
- ❖ Non-department students (Anna Fiegenbaum, Criminal Justice; Ashley Haslett, Criminal Justice; Charity Wright, Criminal Justice).

- ❖ **Tara Collins and Courtney Cox (both B.A. Anthropology)** volunteered at the Kansas State Historical Society for Kansas Day. They aided KSHS staff member Tim Weston and worked with local kids, teaching them how to make prehistoric pottery (right photos)



SOAN STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT CONT.

Internships and Field Schools

- ❖ **Shelby Beltz (B.A. Anthropology '18)** conducted archaeological fieldwork with Dr. Murphy at the Tobias Site in summer 2019.
- ❖ **Keely Jermark (B.A. Anthropology and B.A. in Sociology '20)** interned at the Kansas State Historical Society during the fall 2019 semester.
- ❖ **Laura Kennard (B.A. Anthropology '19)** participated in the Greenland Arctic Vikings Field School-IFR in summer 2019.
- ❖ **Holly Long (B.S. Anthropology, FC '19)**, participated in the Aditu Akeologia in Navarre, Spain in summer 2019.
- ❖ **Taylor Recuero (B.S. Anthropology, FC)** interned at the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site and Museum Society in summer 2019.
- ❖ **Megan Storm (B.A. Anthropology '19)** interned at the Kansas State Historical Society during the fall 2019 semester.



Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site



Kansas State Historical Society



Tobias Site



Aditu Akeologia in Navarre, Spain



Greenland Arctic Vikings Field School

Leadership

- ❖ **Brookelyn Brummer (B.A. Sociology '20)** Honor Board member for Delta Gamma.
- ❖ **Maegan Levendusky (B.A. Anthropology)** OASIS (Orangutan Advocates for Safety in Sumatra) Board Member.
- ❖ **Elizabeth Moore (B.A. Sociology '20)** finalist for the Spring 2020 Sibberson Award.
- ❖ **Taylor Recuero (B.S. Anthropology, FC)** is a Student Member, College of Arts and Sciences Student Advisory Board-Sociology and Anthropology Department Representative.
- ❖ **Christine Smith (B.A. Sociology)** Leadership Council member for Omni Circle Group, a local non-profit organization.

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. While we could not celebrate in person, SOAN is so proud of you!

Fall 2019

- ❖ **B.A. Anthropology**
 - ❖ Laura Kennard
 - ❖ Madysen Mooradian
 - ❖ Sophia Rizzo
 - ❖ Megan Storm
- ❖ **B.A. Sociology**
 - ❖ Carey Woods
- ❖ **B.S. Anthropology (FC)**
 - ❖ Holly Long
 - ❖ Mackenzie Walls
 - ❖ Cassidy Willsey

Spring and Summer 2020

- ❖ **B.A. Anthropology**
 - ❖ Jesus Barron-Garcia
 - ❖ Keely Jermark (Department Honors)
 - ❖ Jessica Whitfill
- ❖ **B.A. Sociology**
 - ❖ Monica Beltran
 - ❖ Brookelyn Brummer
 - ❖ Alyssa Cabello
 - ❖ Justicia Castaneda
 - ❖ Jessica De La Rosa
 - ❖ Keely Jermark (Department Honors)
 - ❖ Nicole McKnight
 - ❖ Elizabeth Moore (Summa Cum Laude, Department Honors)
 - ❖ Ngina Nzwilli

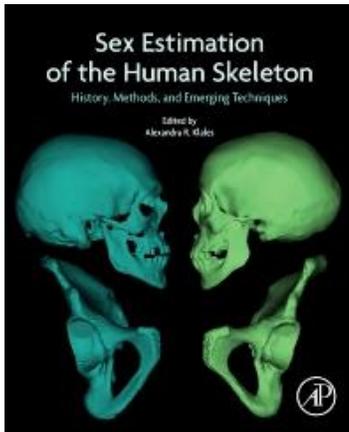
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Holly Long Discusses Her Experience as a B.S. Anthropology Major (Forensic Concentration)



While attending Washburn, Holly completed forensic casework under the tutelage of Dr. Klales where she learned to process outdoor crime scenes and perform laboratory analyses on human remains. She completed an original research project and presented it at Apeiron and the American Academy of Forensic Sciences conference, and, she submitted a technical note for publication in the Forensic Anthropology journal. Holly had this to say regarding her experience in the SOAN department, “I greatly enjoyed all of the opportunities I had to participate on forensic cases and in research. I learned a lot about the application of forensic anthropology but also had fun during my studies because of the students and professors who helped me along the way.” Because of her education and experiences at Washburn, she is now attending Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA for her Master degree in Forensic Anthropology. Her future goal is to complete her Ph.D., and become board certified in forensic anthropology to help identify victims of human rights violations.

SOAN FACULTY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Lindsey Ibañez recently published a paper "Relational Work in Nicaragua's Low Wage Labor Market" in *Socio-Economic Review* and had a feature article accepted for the *Contexts* special issue on the Ethnography of the Global South coming out this winter. Dr. Ibañez also received a WU Small Research Grant.



Dr. Alexandra Klales published an edited book *Sex Estimation of the Human Skeleton: History, Methods, and Emerging Techniques* (Elsevier). Dr. Klales is also the director of WU-FARU which completed 40 forensic cases from August 2019-May 2020 with student assistance. WU-FARU hosted two forensic anthropology continuing education summer short courses, *Identifying Human vs. Non-Human Bone* and *Human Skeletal Biology: Estimating the Biological Profile*, which drew participants from 6 U.S. states, Canada, England, and South Africa.

Dr. Jason Miller spoke at the joint meeting of the American Anthropological Association and the Canadian Anthropology Society in November 2019 about his work in multimodal anthropology and digital storytelling. He also received a \$7,000 WU Major Research Grant and a \$2,000 grant from the Center for Kansas Studies for a new digital storytelling project with im/migrants in Kansas.



Differentiating Handsaw Tooth Shape Based on the Analysis of the Kerf Floor Contour

Alexandra R. Klales
Ashley B. Maxwell
Erin N. Chapman



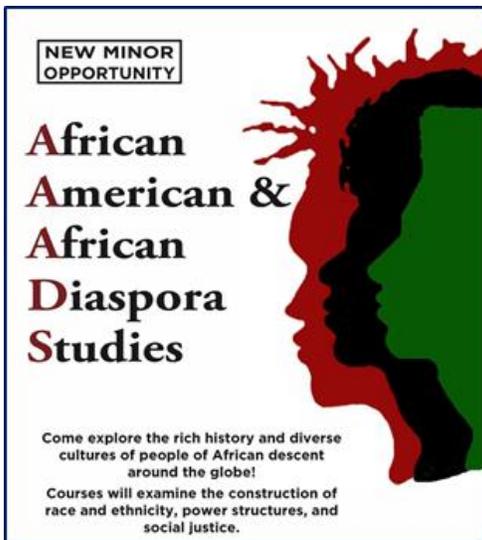
Dr. Ashley Maxwell was nominated by a student for the Washburn Athletics Faculty program as a "faculty member that they felt makes a difference in their life." She also co-authored, with Dr. Alexandra Klales, a paper "Differentiating Handsaw Tooth Shape Based on the Analysis of the Kerf Floor Contour" accepted for publication in *Forensic Anthropology* and presented at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences annual conference. Dr. Maxwell also assisted WU-FARU with forensic casework.

On March 5, 2020, **Dr. Laura Murphy's** Anthropology History & Theory (AN324) class traveled to Kansas City to visit the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art's temporary "Queen Nefertari: Eternal Egypt" exhibit. They also attended the sold-out evening lecture event with Dr. Kara Cooney, UCLA Egyptologist, who presented: "When Women Ruled the World: What the Ancient World Can Teach Us About Why We Fear Women in Power." Students evaluated exhibit displays, analyzed artifacts, and reviewed Dr. Cooney's lecture within the lens of gender and feminist anthropology frameworks.



SOAN FACULTY IN THE SPOTLIGHT CONT.

Dr. Sangyoub Park led a community-wide 1,000 Origami Cranes Project for the pediatric unit at Stormont Vail Health. In East Asia, 1,000 traditional paper cranes represent hope. Dr. Park's Social Class in the U.S. (SO310) and The Family (SO304) courses had community engagement projects, including a Diaper Drive, which donated diapers, wipes, and diaper cream to those in need. Even in the time of COVID, Dr. Park and his class donated \$1260 to Community Action!



Dr. Mary Sundal presented *Kampala Street Roundup and Resettlement Abuses* at the WU Gender Brown Bag series and was appointed Director of the new minor in African American and African Studies Diaspora (AAADS). She also received a WU Small Research Grant to work on a monograph on Karimojong indigenous medicine.

In Memorandum of Dr. Cheryl Childers Who Passed March 2020



Dr. Childers joined Washburn University in 1996 as an Assistant Professor after completing her Ph.D. in Sociology at Texas Women's University. Over the past two-and-a half decades, Dr. Childers has made a tremendous impact on the Washburn community through innumerable service commitments, her Sociological scholarship, and her unwavering devotion to our students. Under her leadership as our Department chair from 2010-2017, Dr. Childers worked collaboratively across disciplines to develop and implement the Forensic Anthropology program. In recent years, Dr. Childers' advocacy for social justice impacted numerous Washburn faculty and students.

Coming in Spring 2021



SUSTAINABILITY

WUmester began in Spring 2019 as a way to for the WU community to examine a broad theme and foster a university-wide conversation and cross-disciplinary learning experience on a timely diversity-related topic. The Spring 2021 WUmester theme is “Sustainability.” As part of WUmester, Dr. Laura Murphy will be teaching Environmental Archaeology (AN397), and Dr. Lindsey Ibanez will be teaching Environmental Sociology (SO300-ST). Moreover, Dr. Murphy has been selected to facilitate the Spring Faculty Colloquium, where faculty from across Washburn’s disciplines will examine the concept of sustainability from multiple perspectives and scales. Faculty will participate in common readings and discussions, and consider sustainable and unsustainable lifeways across cultures and throughout history. Faculty will work on research or creative projects and present their results in a public format open to the entire Washburn community as part of WUmester 2021.

You can learn more about WUmester and find updates for event programming by visiting:

<https://washburn.edu/academics/WUmester/index.html>.