

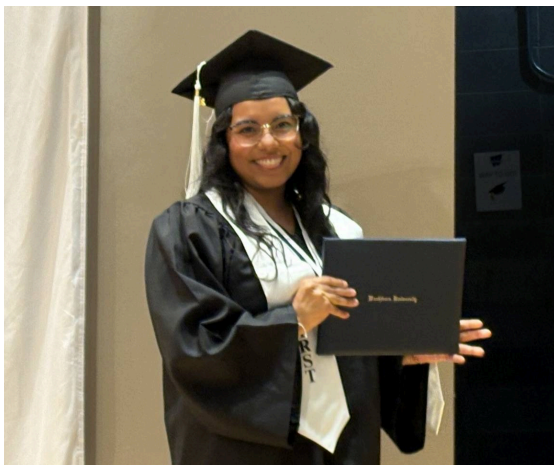
### Spring 2025 Newsletter

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

Spring 2025 has been a season of celebration for Washburn's Department of Sociology and Anthropology! As we cheer on our graduating students and their incredible accomplishments, we are also marking a major milestone for our department. After months of preparation, we have officially packed up our offices and labs in Henderson Hall and are settling into our new temporary home in West Hall while Henderson undergoes an exciting remodel. Our students and faculty have been hard at work this spring with research, teaching, and service to the community—and now we look forward to all the new opportunities ahead!

### Celebrating our Spring and Summer 2025 Graduates!

B.A. in Anthropology	B.S. in Anthropology	B.A. in Sociology
Adriana Danae Camacho Chevannier Cassie Lane	Angel Hayes	Andrew Orr





## Bods In (and Out of) the Classroom



👤 Students in Dr. Park's SO319 Food & Culture class learned about obento and onigiri, then had the chance to make their own onigiri! Obento, or bento, is a Japanese boxed lunch, while onigiri is a ball of white rice wrapped in nori (seaweed paper).



👤 Students in Dr. Ibañez's SO308 Sociology of Mental Health class visited the Mulvane Art Museum, where they examined artworks in terms of the emotions they evoke and considered the cathartic possibilities of art. This activity allowed students to approach the courses' subject matter from a humanistic angle instead of a purely scientific one, while engaging in this year's WUmester theme: Being Human.



👤 Dr. Maxwell's AN300 Bioarchaeology: Death and Burials class took a trip to the Topeka Historic Cemetery to learn about burial types, iconography and symbology of headstones, and Topeka History. Students learned about fraternal orders such as the Kansas Freemasons, the diseases and epidemics that impacted Topekans, and the newest burial practice at the cemetery -- green burials. The field trip gave students the chance to see how death and burial have changed over time.



👤 Students in Dr. Klaes' AN316 Forensic Anthropology & Laboratory course toured the Shawnee County Coroner's Office (SCCO) to learn first-hand about medicolegal death investigations. WU alum and Anthro minor Fletcher Turner (bcj 2022), Lead Medicolegal Death Investigator at SCCO gave the tour! Turner also recently became a board-certified fellow of the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigators (#4354).



👤 Students in Dr. Sundal's History and Theory of Anthropology class played several games this semester: Catan, Dawn of Humanity, Paleo, Genotype, Dialect, and Cards Against Digital Anthropology. Students analyzed how material objects and game performance enculturate players while exploring this influence of anthropological theories are coded into game design and rhetoric as well. Students also had the chance to create their own games!



## SOAN Bods Abroad



👤 As part of a C-TEL Curriculum Development Grant, Dr. Sundal travelled to London over spring break to explore anthropological sites and museum collections.

At the Natural History Museum in South Kensington, Dr. Sundal spent time in the Human Evolution exhibit to develop curriculum for our AN116 Biological Anthropology and AN303 Human Origins and Evolution classes. Washburn SOAN students are fortunate to learn from the same replica hominin casts as seen in the evolutionary timeline photo!

Dr. Sundal traveled to the Stonehenge and Avery World Heritage Site, where she was awed by the Stone Circle, a recent topic of discussion in her AN324 History and Theory of Anthropology class. Finally, Dr. Sundal made multiple trips to the British Museum and even ran into Dr. Murphy there!



## SOAN Bods Recognized



◀ Congratulations to Forensic Anthropology major Angel Hayes on winning the 2025 Washburn Student Employee of the Year - Critical Thinking! Angel is currently the Forensic Anthropology Laboratory Assistant and has been instrumental in all the WU Forensic Anthropology laboratory courses and WU-FARU forensic casework!

▶ Congrats to Dr. Park for being awarded MVP (Most Valuable Professor) from students on both the Women's and Men's Basketball teams!



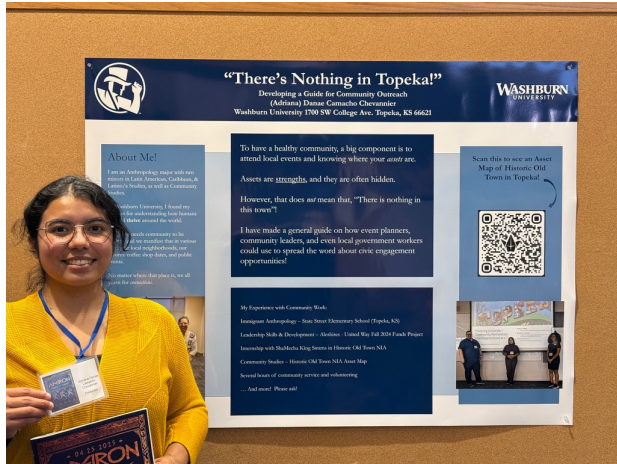
## Stay Connected with SOAN!



Want to stay up-to-date on our current program activities? Then visit and 'like' our SOAN Department Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WashburnSOAN> and the WU-FARU Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WUForensicAnthropology>. These pages feature student highlights, event announcements, faculty and alum updates, and photos from the field and classroom.



## SOAN Bods Presenting their Research



◀ Anthropology major Adriana Danae Camacho Chevannier presented at Apeiron, Washburn's annual event showcasing student scholarship and creativity. Danae developed a community guide for local leaders that highlights opportunities for civic engagement around the city. Mentor: Dr. Miller

▼ Bachelor of Science Forensic Anthropology major Angel Hayes was one of only three Washburn students selected to present their research at the 2025 Undergraduate Research Day at the Kansas capital. Angel researched skeletal trauma produced by saws on bones to better understand reliability of scoring these saw features. Mentors: Drs. Klares and Maxwell



## SOAN Bods in the Community



◀ To kick off Mental Health Awareness Month, Dr. Ibañez gave opening remarks at Valeo's 3rd annual Breakfast for Hope. Dr. Ibañez, who serves on the Board of the Valeo Foundation, teaches SO308 Sociology of Mental Health and researches the relationship between therapists and clients.

► Dr. Laura Murphy and the Center for Kansas Studies celebrated Kansas Day with "Prairie Palettes," an exhibition of local artists, at the International House. In addition to planning the event, Murphy also worked with local artists to curate the exhibition.



◀ Forensic Anthropology major Angel Hayes is interning as a medicolegal death investigator at the Shawnee County Coroner's Office this spring semester.

◀ Dr. Miller represents WU on several community-based boards and initiatives including the Healthy Food Access workgroup of LiveWell Shawnee County.





## Guest Speakers on Campus

👤 Dr. Ashley Maxwell's AN300 Bioarchaeology: Death & Burials course welcomed Dr. Nikki Klarmann, Kansas State Archeologist, who presented a talk titled: "How Laws Can Promote the Respectful Treatment of Human Remains." According to the Kansas State Historical Society, "Dr. Klarmann joined KHS as an outreach archeologist in 2018, then in December 2022 she became the state's first female State Archeologist... She is also the agency's representative for the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), overseeing compliance efforts," among other responsibilities. Klarmann also coordinates the Kansas Archeology Training Program.



👤 Dr. Park's SO319 Food and Culture course welcomed several guest speakers this semester including CAS advisor Jeanette Nobo who shared a classic dish from Puerto Rico: picadillo with red beans and rice.



👤 Later in the semester, the class welcomed guest speaker Nick Xidis, the owner of Hazel Hill Chocolate. Xidis shared how he produces chocolate (from bean to bar) and discussed his family's Greek traditions. In addition, students had the opportunity to taste cacao from different regions and enjoy various flavors of chocolate.





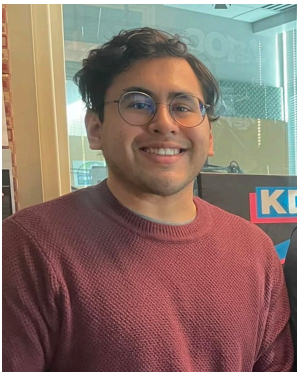
## SOAN Faculty Recognized for Their Pedagogy

Certificate of Teaching and Learning	Certificate of Inclusive Teaching and Learning	Department Certificate of Teaching and Learning
Dr. Lindsey Ibañez Dr. Ashley Maxwell Dr. Jason Miller Dr. Laura Murphy Dr. Mary Sundal	Dr. Jason Miller Dr. Laura Murphy Dr. Mary Sundal	The Department of Sociology and Anthropology

SOAN faculty were once again recognized by Washburn University's Center for Teaching Excellence and Learning (CTEL) which provides pedagogical training for faculty to help improve their teaching. Faculty who participate in nine or more CTET trainings or events during the 2024-2025 academic year receive the **Certificate of Teaching and Learning**. Faculty who participate in nine or more CTET which focused on *inclusive* teaching and learning received the **Certificate of Inclusive Teaching and Learning**. Our SOAN department was also recognized with the **Departmental Certificate of Teaching and Learning**, recognizing that more than 50 percent of our full-time faculty received at least one CTET certificate this year!

## SOAN Alumni Updates

🎓 We love hearing from our alums! Please reach out to one of your former faculty or email us at [sociology-anthropology@washburn.edu](mailto:sociology-anthropology@washburn.edu) and tell us what you are up to now. You can also find us on LinkedIn! 🎓



Anthropology alumnus Eduardo Herrera (ba 2024) is the Language Access Coordinator for the city of Topeka. In that role, he helps provide Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons with meaningful access to the same services as English-speaking individuals and coordinates and implements the City's Language access plan. For example, Herrera worked with the Topeka Police Department to record winter road safety public service announcements in Spanish which could be heard on radio stations across the county and beyond. Moreover, Herrera worked this past year to conduct a city-wide survey of language access needs to help inform how the city should implement language access utilizing the skills he learned in linguistic anthropology, methods of social research, and his capstone project in Applied Anthropology.



◀ Forensic Anthropology alumna Brailey Moeder (bs 2023) was recently accepted into the PhD Anthropology program at the University of Nevada, Reno after completion of her MS in Biological and Forensic Anthropology at Mercyhurst University in Spring 2025.

▶ Anthropology alumnus Riley Florence (ba 2016) is a Team Leader at Valeo Behavioral Health Care. He is also pursuing his Master's of Social Work at the University of Kansas. He became interested in mental healthcare while living abroad in Morocco as an English instructor. His Anthropology background allows him to take a global, cultural, and linguistic approach in his work.





## SOAN Alumni Updates



Anthropology alumna Ashley Webb (ba 2017) is the Internship Coordinator at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) where she recruits for internships and regular positions, creates partnerships, conducts outreach, coordinates career fairs, and conducts analysis and reporting. "My degree in Anthropology has helped me adapt and learn all the time, especially since I am surrounded by so much diversity in such a big agency. One of the things I love to tell people when they ask about my degree is that Anthropology has truly taught me how to be human—or rather, a better human. I apply that not only in my career but in my everyday life. One might not think of KDHE when pursuing Anthropology or Sociology, but the agency's focus is on helping keep the diverse population of Kansas safe and healthy through research, data collection and analysis, offering a variety of helpful services, and more. We help people— our fellow humans and communities, and I love that I can apply my knowledge, skills, and degree in helping with that!"



Sociology alumna Paige Sims (ba 2022) is a JD Candidate at Washburn University School of Law. "Majoring in sociology for my undergrad has had a profound impact on my experience in law school by shaping the way I understand social dynamics resulting from characteristics like race, class, gender, and power, and how those dynamics interact with the legal system. This understanding has allowed me to approach legal issues with greater empathy and to critically analyze the broader context behind legislation and caselaw, as well as the societal implications of different laws. As an intern with the Washburn Law Clinic this semester, I've been able to directly put this knowledge to use by working with and advocating for clients from diverse backgrounds. Overall, a background in sociology has been hugely beneficial for my legal education and I'm certain it will continue to help me in my future practice."



Sociology alumna Katherine Cook (ba 2023) is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Higher Education Administration at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is also a program manager for orientation services at Texas Tech University. "I attribute my academic and professional success to the education I received from the Washburn Sociology [program]," Katherine said. "I was taught to critically examine research and was challenged to improve my writing skills, which has helped me tremendously in my graduate studies. Outside of the classroom, the knowledge I gained on social problems and cultural awareness has helped me in my professional role and made me a desirable candidate. I'm so grateful for my time at Washburn; it has afforded me opportunities I never thought possible."



Sociology alumna Alicia Hay (ba 2022) is a JD Candidate at Washburn University School of Law. Pending passage of the bar exam, she will be starting a position as Associate Attorney at Sloan Law Firm in Topeka, where she plans to focus on criminal defense and family law. Alicia says, "I am grateful to be able to serve my community in these areas, especially when there is a national and local attorney shortage. I have been lucky to gain real-world experience throughout college and law school through completing internships and taking practice-driven courses. My sociology degree has helped me immensely in understanding many of my clients' backgrounds, experiences, and limitations. Being able to see from the broader social perspective, is invaluable in my career. I am so excited to take on the next phase of my life and career, and I am so proud to know Washburn helped get me here."



## SOAN Faculty Updates

### Dr. Lindsey Ibañez

Dr. Ibañez joined the editorial board of Sage Open, an international journal, as Article Editor. Dr. Ibañez also serves on the board of the Valeo Foundation and is part of its scholarship committee, which awards educational assistance to staff. She also serves on the grants committee for The Women's Fund of Topeka. In August, Dr. Ibañez will begin a yearlong sabbatical, during which she will research the client-therapist relationship using novel data from surveys and interviews she collected with the help of student assistants.

### Dr. Alexandra Klares

Dr. Klares began her 3-yr National Institute of Justice funded grant "MOSAIC: Unifying Methods of Sex, Stature, Affinity, & Age for Identification through Computational Standardization" this semester. She also published a technical note: Lesciotto K, AR Klares. 2025 Jan. Sex Estimation Using Metrics of the Innominate: A Validation of the DSP2 Method in the Journal of Forensic Sciences, 70(1): 249-257. and presented two posters at the 77th annual American Academy of Forensic Sciences in Baltimore, MD including: Klares AR, Lesciotto KM. Sex Estimation Using Metrics of the Innominate: A Validation of the DSP2 Method and Lesciotto KM, Carroll AR, Klares AR. The Effect of Mental Eminence Trait Scores on Sex Estimation Accuracy Rates Using MorphoPASSE. Finally, she published a research paper: Klares AR, K Lesciotto. 2025. Reevaluating the Current State of Skeletal Sex Estimation in Forensic Anthropology in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*.

### Dr. Ashley Maxwell

Dr. Maxwell revised her Bioarchaeology: Death and Burials course to include more community engagement, guest lectures, and field trip to the Topeka Historic Cemetery. She also served as a social science representative on faculty senate.

### Dr. Jason Miller

Dr. Miller co-authored an entry in the *Routledge Handbook of Applied Anthropology* about the Consortium of Practicing and Applied Anthropologists (of which he serves as the treasurer). He also attended the Society for Applied Anthropology conference in Portland, OR where he organized a panel titled "Reflecting on 17 years of COPAA's Guide to Applied Scholarship for Tenure and Promotion" and chaired a panel titled "Revitalizing Applied Anthropology Pedagogy: Lessons from Our Classrooms, Our Students, and Our Communities" on which he also presented a paper titled "Fostering University / Community Partnerships One Neighborhood at a Time." In addition, he was awarded a year-long academic sabbatical during the 2025-26 school year where he will conduct research related to implementing a place-based community engagement model at Washburn University. Finally, Dr. Miller also received the CTEL Award for Active and Engaged Learning for incorporating community-engaged learning into his Introduction to Community Studies course.

### Dr. Laura Murphy

Dr. Murphy co-authored an article with Dr. Nikki Klarmann, and Washburn anthropology alum, Tori Shaw (ba 2023), based on their fieldwork at the former Monroe school titled: "Contextualizing the Monroe Neighborhood Using Archaeological Methods at Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park" in the Spring 2025 issue of the Kansas History Journal.

### Dr. Sangyoub Park

This semester, Dr. Park was recognized by Andrew Orr & Amaya Division as the Most Valuable Professor (MVP). Dr. Park gave a presentation about Asian Americans through Food (Kimchi, Tacos, and Hummus: Embrace People, Not Just Food) at the Federal Home Loan Bank in Topeka in May. The talk was to honor AAPI Heritage Month.

### Dr. Mary Sundal

Dr. Sundal published a journal article titled "Challenging the Canon: BIPOC Scholarship at the Syllabi Core" in Teaching Anthropology, Vol. 14 No. 1 (2025).





## Congratulations to our Scholarship Recipients!

Ten SOAN students representing all three of our majors were awarded scholarships for the 2025-2026 school year!

### 2025-2026 College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Scholarship Awards

Erika Borgeson, Anthropology, Emily Dame, Anthropology, Teagan Harris, Sociology, and Joi Hayes, Sociology

### 2025-2026 SOAN Department Scholarship Awards

Mary Paige Bramlett, Forensic Anthropology; Jay-Lynn Bauer, Anthropology (Recipient of the Cheryln D. Seckinger Scholarship); Beetle Hatch, Anthropology (Recipient of the Cheryln D. Seckinger Scholarship); Bryana McDaniel, Sociology; Elvia Nino-Elliott, Sociology (Recipient of the Cheryln D. Seckinger Scholarship); and Maria Villegas, Sociology (Recipient of the Ben and Judy Coates Sociology Scholarship)

**SOAN departmental scholarships are made possible by generous donations from our benefactors, whose support empowers students to pursue transformative educational and community-engaged opportunities. Thank you!**

#### Are you interested in supporting our students through a one-time scholarship donation?

To donate, go to <https://wualumni.org/givenow>. Scroll to the bottom and find the box that says, "Enter Fund Name," Then type "Sociology and Anthropology Scholarship fund" or "Forensic Anthropology Recovery Unit (WU-FARU) Scholarship fund" and enter the amount to donate.

#### Are you interested in supporting our students through a named scholarship?

Contact SOAN Department chair, Dr. Mary Sundal, at (785) 670-1608 to discuss.



Looking for SOAN? Starting in Late May 2025, find us in our new (temporary) home in West Hall, Room 100 while Henderson Hall is remodeled to become Advisors Excel Hall. Drs. Ibañez and Miller are on sabbatical during the 2025-2026 school year, but when they return, their offices will be in the Plass building. We expect to move into our new departmental suite in Advisors Excel Hall in early 2027.