

Fall 2025

WASHBURN
UNIVERSITY | Sociology & Anthropology
Department



NEWSLETTER

Summer and Fall 2025 was a period of celebration and transition for Washburn's Sociology & Anthropology Department! To prepare for the exciting remodel of Advisors Excel Hall, we have moved to West Hall 100 and are settled into our new offices and laboratory spaces (see page 2). Some familiar faces are missing this semester as Drs. Ibañez and Miller are on academic sabbatical this year (also page 2). As always, the department students and faculty have been busy in the classroom (see pg3), the community (pages 5-6), and abroad (page 4)!

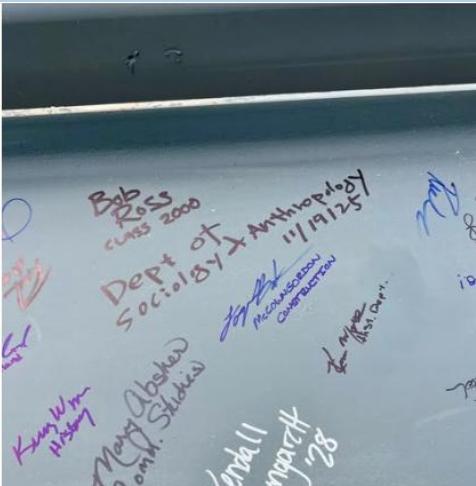


*Congratulations to our Fall
Graduates!*

Sophia Calderon-Sosa (left)
BA Anthropology, Religious Studies Minor



Maria Fernanda Villegas (right)
BA Sociology, History Minor



Construction is officially underway at the new Advisors Excel Hall (formerly Henderson). The SOAN Department moved to our temporary new home in West Hall 100.



All SOAN Department Faculty were named WU Retention All-Stars!

Faculty are recognized for their efforts to connect with students, promote their success, and went above and beyond to help retain WU students.

Stay tuned for
more updates on
their exciting
work!

Dr. Jason Miller is on sabbatical this semester for his research using applied ethnographic research to plan for Place-Based Community Engagement. Dr. Miller is working with campus and community stakeholders to identify sustained and reciprocal partnerships!



Dr. Lindsey Ibañez is on sabbatical this semester working on her research project, with a collaborator at The Ohio State University, learning to use NotebookLM (Google's Artificial Intelligence) for qualitative analyses in Sociology!



Alumni Update: First day of 19th grade picture! Brailey Moeder ('22 BS Anthropology, Forensic Concentration) started her Doctorate in Anthropology at the University of Nevada, Reno this Fall. From Ichabod, to Laker, to now Wolf Pack!

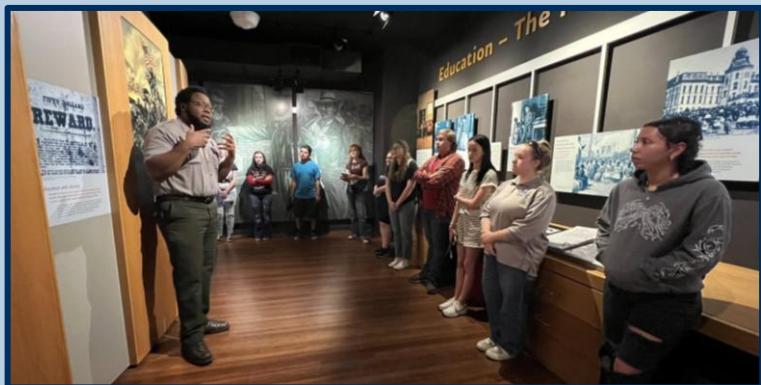


Students learn human osteology with Dr. Sundal in AN116 *Biological Anthropology*



Students present research in Dr. Murphy's AN370/KS399 *Historical Archaeology* class

SOAN BODS IN & OUT OF THE CLASSROOM



Dr. Murphy's AN 370/KS399 *Historical Archaeology* class visited the NOTO Arts & Entertainment District's Arts Center to interact with the "Camp To-Sha-Ka" exhibit, which confronts how Native American imagery, mascots, and stereotypes have been used and are continued to be used in our culture (left image). Students also toured the Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park (right image).



Dr. Maxwell's AN112 *Introduction to Cultural Anthropology* classes visited the Mulvane Art Museum's DoPiKa: Reinstate exhibit, which features contemporary art and historical research highlighting the many ways Native Americans are connected to Kansas (right image and image page 1). Students engaged in important dialogue regarding the reinstatement of identity and the history of forced assimilation. Dr. Murphy's AN370/KS399 *Historic Archaeology* class also visited the exhibit.

Dr. Murphy's AN320 *Ancient Latin America* class took a trip to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art's "Painted Worlds: Color & Culture in Mesoamerican Art" to experience the temporary exhibit of artifacts from the Mesoamerican world (left image).





Students in Dr. Park's Korea Study Abroad visited many places, such as the World Cup Park, and Digital Media City. They also climbed the Nam-Tower, and toured markets and medical schools! Some students even enjoyed yoga and a live music concert at Gangnam! Dr. Sundal was faculty co-lead on the program.



Summer Abroad in Korea & at Home in KS with the Archaeological Field School

Dr. Murphy led the 50th annual Kansas Archeology Training Program field school in conjunction with the Kansas Historical Society and Kansas Anthropological Association. This year's field school was near Lecompton at the remnants of a 167-year-old mansion constructed in 1858 for Frederick Stanton, the former acting governor of Kansas territory. Participants contributed over 4,000 hours in the field and laboratory, answering questions about the history of the property. Students presented their work to nearly 100 people at the Washburn Archaeological Field School Open House!



FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

- ◊ Named the *Assistant Director* of the Washburn University Forensic Anthropology Recovery Unit (WU-FARU)



MAXWELL

- ◊ Participated in a discussion forum about the current push to remove divisive interpretations from public cultural institutions
- ◊ Presented *Envisioning the Future of Geoarchaeological Training for Cultural Resources Management* at the Geological Society of America conference
- ◊ Participated in Title VI Native Languages Summit & Indigenous Youth Gathering held for local area Native American students (page 6)

- ◊ Supervised sociology minor Alina Vetrova's Scholarly & Creative Washburn Transformational Experience research project (page 6)

- ◊ Co-authored publication *Using Posterior Probability Informed Thresholds to Develop Best Practice Recommendations for MorphoPASSE* in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*

- ◊ Presented workshop & public presentation at Ohio State for National Forensic Sciences Week

- ◊ Joined American Standard Board's Forensic Anthropology committee on Sex Estimation to develop best practices for estimating skeletal sex

KLALES

- ◊ Travelled with Dr. Park and his students to Seoul, Korea



- ◊ Submitted successful five-year General Education reports for AN112 *Cultural Anthropology* and SO100 *Introduction to Sociology*

- ◊ Led the Explore Korea study abroad program (page 4)

- ◊ Hosted the event Korea through K-Pop Demon Hunters & hosted the Korea table and assisted the Japan Table at Celebration of Cultures

- ◊ Served as faculty advisor for the SOAN Club

KLALES

SUNDAL

PARK

SOAN On Campus & in Our Community



Dr. Murphy and BA Anthropology students, Adelaide Justus and Paloma Martinez, visited with Native American middle and high school students from around the area for a summit on Native languages. The department thanks Yale Taylor, consulting teacher for Native American Studies at Topeka 501, for organizing this event (image left)!



Drs. Sundal and Murphy represented SOAN at the Labor Your Legs 5k in Memory of Dave and Marcia Provorse (image above)!

Sociology minor Alina Vetrova presented her Scholarly & Creative Washburn Transformational Experience project (with faculty supervisor Dr. Myers) entitled *Murderous Socialization: Power and Control Theory of Violent Behavior* during Washburn's Fall 2025 Day of Transformation (image below). Congrats Alina!



SOAN Club students Jewel Blaine and Beetle Hatch represented the department at WU Fest (image left)



Dr. Park, along with the SOAN department and club, hosting Korea through K-pop Demon Hunters Event (image right)



The Washburn University Forensic Anthropology Recovery Unit had a busy semester with a forensic archaeological recovery the first week of classes. The WU-FARU onboarded 7 new student volunteers this semester and 2 lab assistants, Griffin Lickteig (pictured right with Drs. Klales and Maxwell) and Katie Denholm.



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