Grinnell College Spring 2024

ANTHROPOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Faculty and Graduating Class Photo (2nd floor overlooking atrium of HSSC)

(back, left to right) Prof. Owen Kohl, Prof. Maria Tapias, Franny Atmore, Ekta Shaikh, Juli Vajda, Selassie Ricehill, Harvey Wilhelm, Prof. Jon Andelson, Prof. Monty Roper, (middle, left to right) Prof. Brigittine French, Mary Ann Schwindt, Lucy Suchomel, Reese Hill, Anthony Cruz, Prof. Vicki Bentley Condit, Prof. John Whittaker, Em Huss-Lederman, Prof Lily DeMars, (front, left to right) Abby Lynch, Alyson Won, Izzy George, Prof. Kathy Kamp, Prof. Laura Ng

Not Pictured: Sabrina Dordevic, Tim Johnson, Aidan O'Keefe, Da Hye Oh, Grayson Woodhouse, Prof. Katya Gibel Mevorach, Prof. Tess Kulstad, Prof. Cynthia Hansen

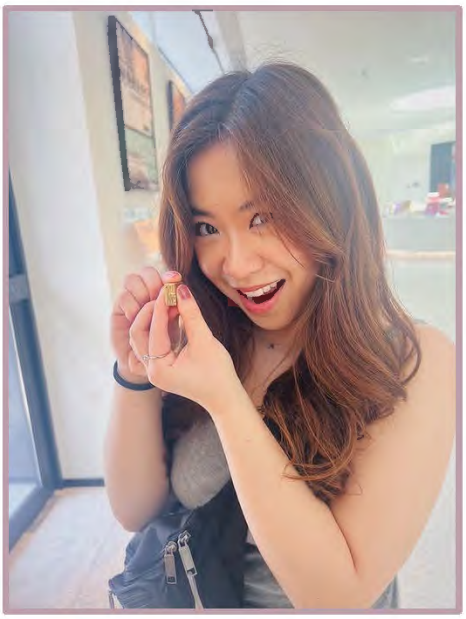
2024 Graduates

Ekta Shaikh I will be working on the Davis Projects for Peace grant over the summer in Karachi, Pakistan. I intent to write and publish something on this experience, and hopefully continue toward graduate studies in anthropology and gender in the following years.

Abby Lynch After graduating, I'm excited to be part of Project Horseshoe Farm's 2024-2025 Community Health Fellowship class in Greensboro, Alabama! I'll be volunteering in a variety of local initiatives that build on community strengths and improve residents' health, well-being, and quality of life. In the future, I plan to pursue master's degrees in nonprofit leadership and social work.

Izzy George After graduation, I will work as a paralegal at an immigration law firm in Minneapolis, MN. After a year or two, I plan to attend law school for environmental, family, health, or immigration law.

Harvey Wilhelm I will be traveling to Vietnam this summer to visit family and then pursuing social science research opportunities in the Chicago area!



Alyson Won This Summer I will be returning to San Francisco to see family and work at the Chinatown YMCA teaching with their Summer School program. I will also be continuing my role as Director of Volunteer Management for Save Cantonese: a global nonprofit for the advocacy of Cantonese language and culture. I have one more semester at Grinnell College, where I will be working as an Admissions Office Senior Interviewer and NSO Coordinator and upon completion in December of 2024, I will be moving back to California to work and pursue a degree in either business or law.

Julianna Vajda After graduation I'll be moving to California to teach at an outdoor-based school. After this, I look forward to pursuing my graduate degree in Anthropology.

Anthony Cruz After Grinnell I'll be taking a year and a half getting to reconnect with my family and friends from back home. During this time, I will also be preparing for the MCAT and pursuing more clinical experience/research in order to get everything in order and apply to medical school in the future.

Sabrina Dordevic This summer I am moving back home to Vernon Hills, Illinois. I will be working in the field of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), and in the process I will get my Registered Behavioral Technician (RBT) license. I will be working with children with autism and other behavioral differences in executing behavioral therapy care plans for them. Within the next few years, I plan on going back to school to get my Masters in Genetic Counseling so I can become a genetic counselor!

Lucy Suchomel After graduation I'll be returning to Kenya as an intern on the Koobi Fora Field School, where I will oversee a student research project, continue my work on lithic analysis, and continue participating in ethnoarchaeological studies in the area. I hope to spend the following school year working, applying for graduate programs in archaeometry or lithic studies, and continuing my research projects.

Franny Atmore This summer, I will be working as a naturalist at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center in Finland, MN where I will teach summer programs about the surrounding ecosystem. After the summer, I hope to find a job in non-profit conservation and environmental education and perhaps apply to some graduate programs in conservation biology.

Reese Hill My short-term plan is to spend the summer saving up money as a barista in my hometown of Iowa City. I'll enjoy the quality time with my cats, my family, and volunteering with community theater programs.

Mary Ann Schwindt After graduation, I plan to return to Des Moines and work at Salisbury House & Gardens. There I will continue to study the book collection, learn more about historic home preservation and assist with event planning. Later down the road, I will return to school to complete a degree in Museum Studies and/or Library Science.

Not Pictured: Selassie Ricehill, Tim Johnson, Aidan O'Keefe

Congratulations to all our 2024 Anthropology graduates!!

Senior Thesis Presentations

Alyson Won *Chinese Transnationalism and the Formation of the Chinese American Identity*

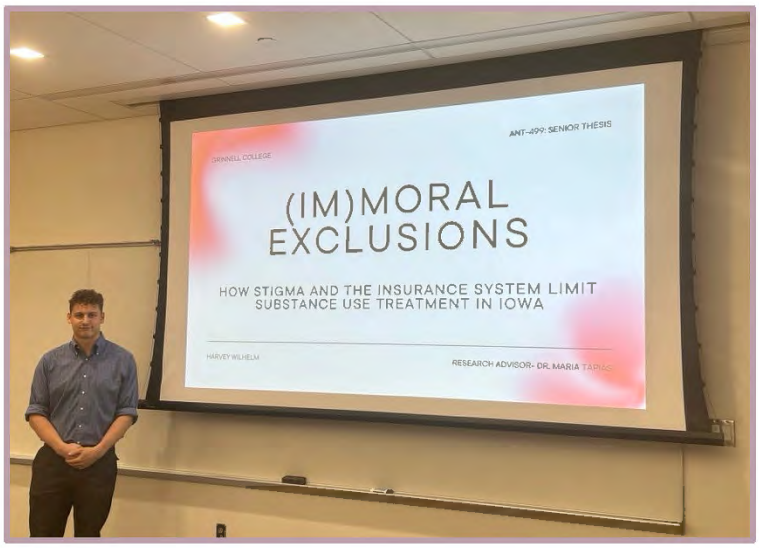
My thesis examines the formation of a Chinese American identity, as influenced by transnationalism and transnational migration. I conducted research in the San Francisco Bay Area and Taishan region of Southern China in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English collecting grave markers, analyzing Chinese Exclusion Act case files, census record data, and conducting oral history interviews using my own family's connection to a home village in China as a case study for the impact of transnationalism across generations. Through an examination of these two main landscapes of migration, I utilize anthropological field methods of participant observation and historical document analysis to explore the causes and effects of transnationalism as a unique factor that impacts the formation of the Chinese American identity from the 1880s to the present day.

Julianna Vajda *Thinking with Food: An Ethnography of Grinnell College's Global Kitchen.*

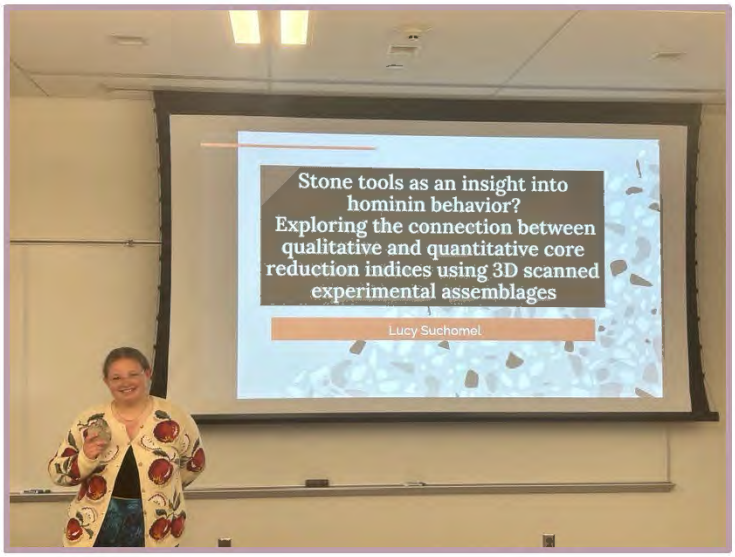
Through participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and textual analysis, this study aimed to operationalize the meaning of a locality within a designated "global space." This study was inspired by the anthropology of space and culture, the production of locality, transnationalism, and

experiential education. It was found that the global kitchen and living room reflect interdisciplinarity, and community building through both social and curricular relationships, and the use of food. Although it's a designated space on campus, the value is in the people and the relationships that are engendered.

Harvey Wilhelm *(Im)moral Exclusions: How stigma and the insurance system limit substance use treatment in Iowa*



This research presents a qualitative analysis of the substance use treatment landscape in Iowa, focusing on the experiences of treatment providers. Through semi structured interviews, clinic directors and counselors identified stigma in and outside the medical system that negatively affects clients. Clinics are burdened by complicated and idiosyncratic insurance coverage policies and are significantly disadvantaged by low reimbursement rates. I found tension between abstinence only and harm reduction approaches, and various definitions of "success" in substance use treatment. Ultimately, I argue that the stigma associated with substance use disorders exacerbates and justifies inadequate, discriminatory insurance policies.



Lucy Suchomel *Stone tools as an insight into hominin behavior? Exploring the connection between qualitative and quantitative core reduction indices using 3D scanned experimental assemblages.*

Humans undoubtedly exhibit a complex cultural framework composed of linguistic, material, and social elements that inform each of our identities, actions, and values. While the cultural tendencies of modern *H. sapiens* are well studied and established, less known are the cultural development and practices of *H. sapiens'* predecessors. Lithic artifacts offer us an insight into hominin behavior, but how reliable is it to compare lithic artifacts analyzed through different methods? My thesis explores the intersections between different schools of lithic analysis methodology to help paleoanthropologists better understand how lithics have changed through time and therefore more about the origins of social learning and culture.

2024 Summer Research Fund Recipients

Hamilton Peacock ’25 was awarded funding from the department of anthropology through the Paul Simmons ’79 and Michele Clark International Research and Learning Fund. Hamilton is starting his senior thesis by conducting an ethnography of remote local identity in the face of post-industrial socioeconomic transformation in Churchill, Manitoba.

George Matthes ’25 was awarded funding from the department of anthropology through the Paul Simmons ’79 and Michele Clark International Research and Learning Fund and the Emeritus Professors’ Student Research Fund. George will be assisting Dr. Laura Ng in her research on Rock Springs, WY Chinatown and beginning his senior thesis, an archaeological study of landscape, race, and racialization of the historical Chinese migrant popualtion in Evanston, WY.

Eleanor Hedges Duroy ’26 was awarded funding from the department of anthropology through the Paul Simmons ’79 and Michele Clark International Research and Learning Fund. Eleanor will be examining the environmentally friendly actions that people in age groups 18-30 and 62+ are taking in the suburban areas of Bretagne, France and the pressures that inhibit their ability to take action.

Faculty News

Professors John Whittaker and Kathy Kamp attended the Society for American Archaeology Meetings in New Orleans in April and presented "Atlatl Dating and Violence in Rock Art in the American Southwest" (John Whittaker, Kathryn Kamp, Chuck LaRue and **Byl Bryce '03**), and "The Exploits of the JAE: Open Access Publishing Meets Archaeology and Education" (Ryan Wheeler and Kathryn Kamp – we co-edit the Journal of Archaeology and Education).

John Whittaker has begun a collaborative archaeology/chemistry project with Professors Lee Sharpe and Andrew Graham and their Chemistry students. Gunflints were a military necessity from the late 1600s to the early 1800s for firing flintlock muskets. They were produced in Europe, mostly in Britain and France, but other centers also made gunflints. Identifying the sources of archaeological gunflints helps trace patterns of trade and political influence. The Chemistry Department now has an advanced Laser Ablation – Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer capable of very precise analyses of chemical composition. We are in the process of building a database of different flints, characterized by distinctive trace elements, which will allow gunflints to be assigned to their origins in specific regions.

Presentations by other faculty and alumni from Grinnell at the main American archaeology meeting included: "Reclaiming and Activating Chinese American Heritage in Wyoming " (**Professor Laura Ng**); "Cave du Pont and the Western Basketmaker World" (Byl Bryce, with Karen Harry and Michael Terlep); "Architectural and Technological Analyses from a Pueblo III Slab-lined Pit Structure in Northeastern Arizona" (Byl Bryce, with Gavin Wisner and Sidney Rempel); "The Curation Continuum: An Example from the Henry Smith Site in Northeastern Montana" (**Michael Neeley '84** and Craig Lee); "The Jones-Miller Legacy Collection: Reexamining the 10,800-Year-Old Bison Butchery Site" (**Steve Nash '86** and others); "Our World: Archaeologists and Zuni Knowledge Keepers Create a Shared Narrative of Life in the Mogollon Highlands" (Steve Nash and others) "Mogollon Murk: Ideas for Some New Ways Forward

through Collections and Collaboration (and a Little Fieldwork)" (Steve Nash and others). **Mike Galaty '91** was discussant for the symposium "World-Systems and Globalization in Archaeology" Steve Nash was presented the "Award for Excellence in Curation and Collections Management."

Professor Jon Andelson I am in my fourth year (of five) on senior faculty status, which in my case means I teach two courses a year, continue to supervise the Grinnell College Garden (about 1,800 pounds of produce harvested last year), continue to serve as publisher of the Center for Prairie Studies online journal, *Rootstalk: A Prairie Journal of Culture, Science, and the Arts,* and continue to work on my own scholarship. The current project is co-authoring an article with Johnathan Buffalo, the Meskwaki tribal historian, tentatively titled, "Why Are the Meskwaki in Iowa?" It involves a detailed examination of the Meskwaki's move from the St. Lawrence River valley south and west to the Midwest and their interactions with other tribes, the French, and the Americans. We also explore the story of how the Meskwaki still reside in Iowa after signing a treaty with the federal government in 1842 ceding their remaining land in Iowa and agreeing to move to a reservation in Kansas.

Professor Tess Kulstad will be conducting ethnographic research in the Dominican Republic in the Fall of 2024. Due to the demise of agriculture and farming in rural Dominican Republic, families have turned to the childrearing strategy of child fosterage. The informal practice of rural families giving their children to relatives/non-relatives in cities resulting in an exchange where receiving families provide schooling and necessities to children, and in reciprocity, the children help with household duties. Building from her previous research done in 2004 and 2010, Kulstad plans to update her data based on any changes in fosterage practices that may have occurred as a result of COVID-19 deaths and the pandemic's impact on households.

This research was made possible through the Harris Faculty Fellowship. The Harris Faculty Fellowship is an annual highly competitive fellowship for early career faculty members at Grinnell College to recognize high-quality, innovative research projects and to support the advancement of scholars and scholarship at the College. The endowment for the fellowship comes from a gift from the late Jack ('39) and Lucile Hanson ('40) Harris and provides awardees with a yearlong research leave and additional funds to apply towards research and travel.

Professor Owen Kohl will spend a significant portion of summer 2024 traveling thanks to a successful competitive grant application with Grinnell. His efforts will primarily be directed toward curriculum development and conferencing. Primary destinations include Zagreb and

Rijeka, Croatia and Tbilisi, Georgia among others. At the University of Rijeka, Kohl plans to collaborate with two regional research groups (REVENANT and MEMPOP) and will present two conference papers. The first of these papers—"Empire Talk: How Lefty Newsmakers Are Presenting American Power"— analyzes the rise of YouTube political commentary focused on critically engaging longstanding US imperial ambition. Such multimodal "talk" filled with gestures, affects, and a range of provocative audiovisuals sees American empire as fundamentally tied to ongoing crises, including gross social inequalities at home and abroad. The paper asks: how and why has "empire" continuously reemerged as a useful critical analytic? The second presentation is based on a forthcoming chapter about the significations of hip-hop across Southeastern Europe, co-written with his late colleague Dragana Cvetanović and entitled "Stacking Nightingales, Male Tears, and Albums of the Year: How the Balkans and Other Scales of Domestic Hip-Hop Are Crafted." The second conference panel has been organized in conjunction with the impending publication of the *Routledge Handbook of Popular Music and Politics of the Balkans* (ed. Baker) in which the full chapter will appear.

Kohl's courses benefitted greatly from the campus visits of multiple colleagues this past semester. Among other great contributors, these voices included esteemed Convocation speakers Jonathan Rosa (Stanford) and Ilana Gershon (Rice) as well as cultural studies scholar Vjeran Pavlaković (University of Rijeka). Lastly, in conjunction with family and colleagues, Kohl honored his late father, Philip L. Kohl, at a memorial event at Wellesley College. Pre-recorded messages from fellow archaeologists and prehistorians from around the world accompanied a ceremony for graduating seniors.

Professor Monty Roper Over the past semester, I have continued to work as the research director on the Build a Better Grinnell Community Visioning project (www.buildabettergrinnel.org). In January, we wrapped up community listening sessions and focus groups on the top seven issues prioritized by the community. Since then, I have been working along with the project coordinator (alumnus Bel Kugel) and student researchers on processing the data. Two of those students are anthropology majors, and one is an intended major. In total, our data includes 80 interviews with key community stakeholders, two surveys (one to broadly identify community strengths and needs

and one to prioritize the needs identified in survey 1 – with over 1800 responses between them), lots and lots of archival data, and between six and fourteen community listening sessions or focus groups on each of the seven top issues. As we have identified the key concerns related to each need, we have also been looking for examples of best practices and evidence-based policy around the country that communities like Grinnell have used to address similar issues. The data has all been processed and at this point I am busy writing drafts of the issue reports.

Alumni Updates

Sarah Casson '11 wrote a book: Good Nonsense: A Body in Motion and A Mind at Play (Dair Press, Berkely, CA, 2024). Many things I learned from my profs at Grinnell ended up (directly and indirectly) in the book. I'm an environmental anthropologist interested in how we interact with one another and the natural environment, how we conceptualize our worlds, and what it means to exist in the nuances our world demands. Find me at SarahAustinCasson.com. Other fun news: Sam (Redlitz '11) and I just had a baby boy (Finn River Casson-Redlitz). He's an absolute delight and is five weeks in April 2024.

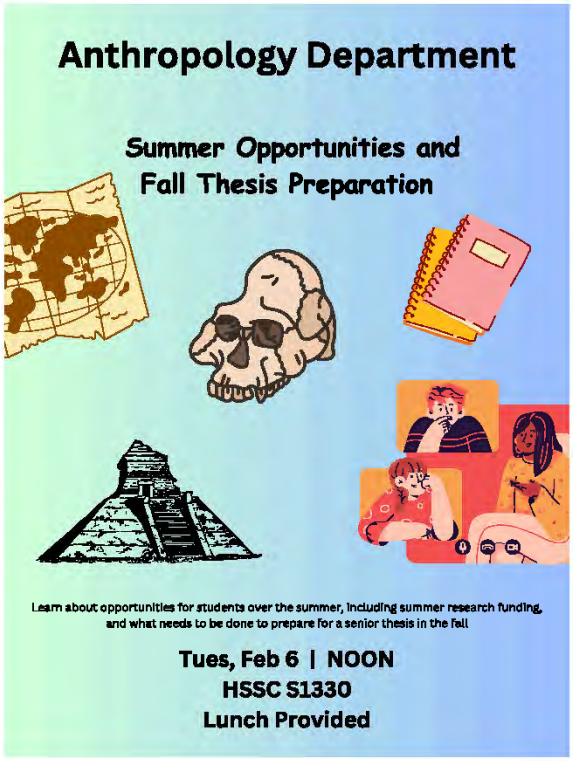
Lane Atmore '16 will be starting a Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in the Department of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia this fall. Her research centers on the historical ecology of the Pacific herring to understand causes behind their recent population declines and strategies for sustainable use in the future. Her research will use oral histories, historical data, population genomics, ancient DNA, and paleoclimate modeling, and will be conducted in partnership with Ainu communities in Hokkaido, Japan.

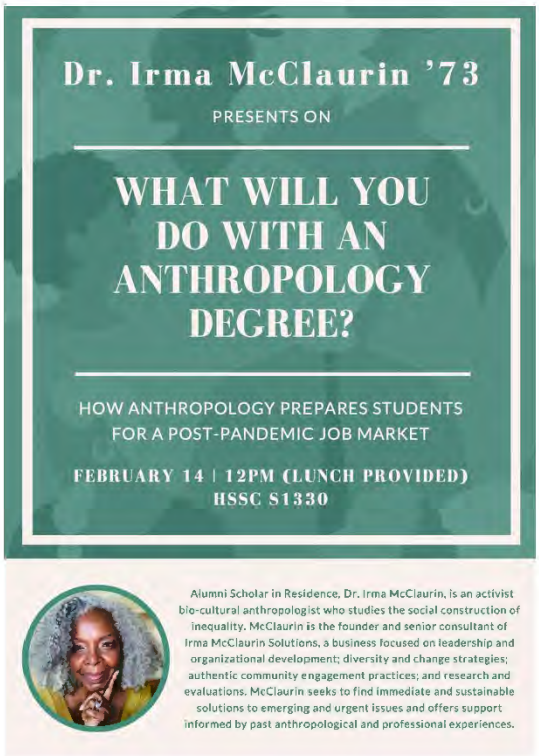
Alumni, please share updates on your lives! We love to hear from you.

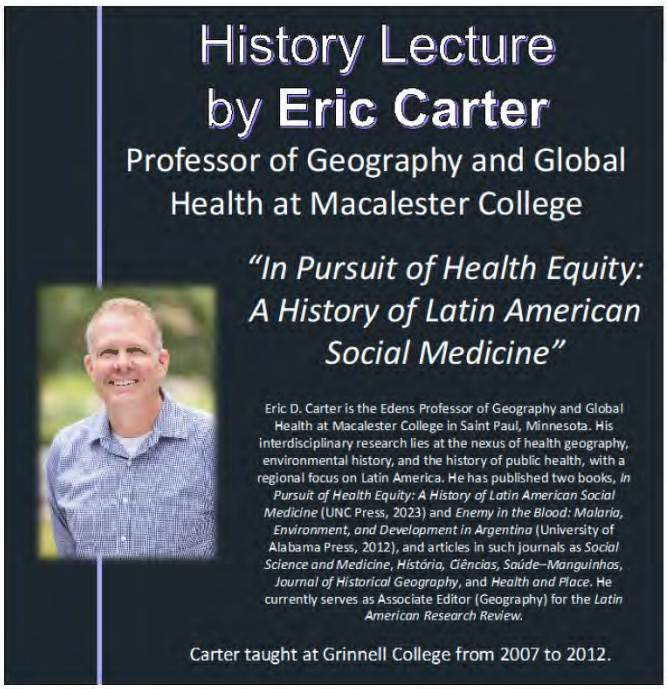
Also, **I could use your help** on a project to help promote anthropology on campus. I would like to fill one of our bulletin boards in the relatively new Humanities and Social Science Complex (prominently displayed on the main hallway on the 1st floor) with pictures and brief blurbs along the line of "this is anthropology," the Prezi created by University of South Florida students in response to Gov. Rick Scott's public assertion that the state of Florida doesn't need more anthropologists (https://prezi.com/vmvomt3sj3fd/this-is-anthropology/). Please send me a picture of yourself in your office or field site, or just a picture of where you work, noting what you do that benefits from anthropological methods or knowledge. Send to roperjm@grinnell.edu. I'll also share stories in subsequent newsletters. Thanks in advance! - Monty Roper, Chair, Department of Anthropology.

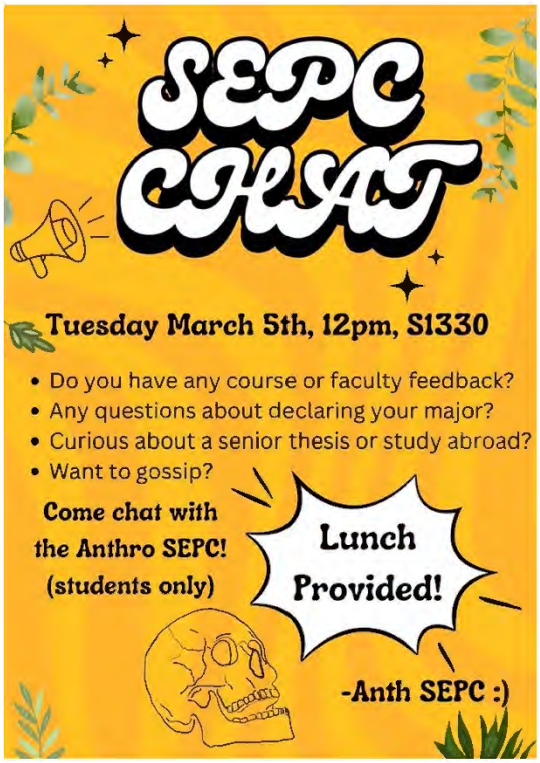
Events

Pictured below are the posters advertising the multiple events that the Anthropology department hosted this semester.



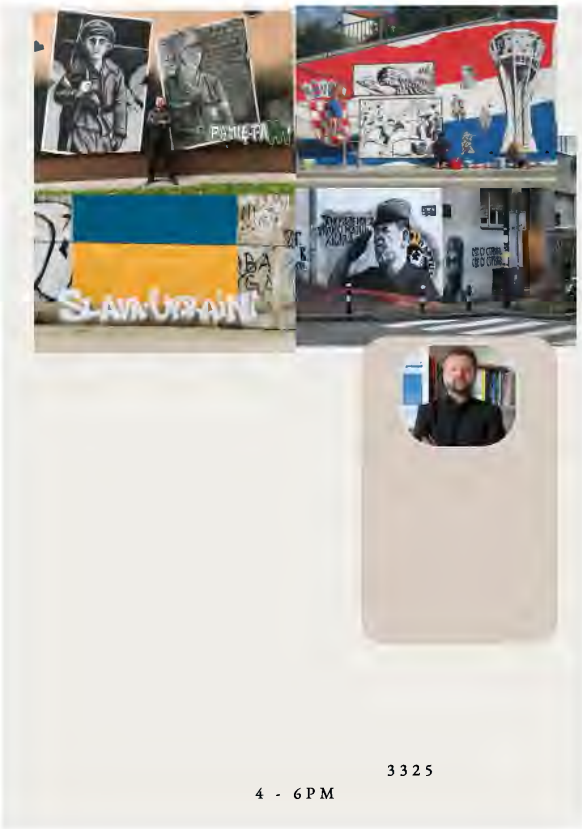






Welcome New Anthro Majors!
04/18/2024
4pm
HSSC - S1330
ALL Anthro majors welcome!
Ice Cream Social!
Meet your peers!
Meet your faculty!
Gossip about humans!
SEE YOU AT THE EVENT!

WATCH PARTY!
A2231 - MAY 6, 7:30PM
DIFF THE PLANET OF THE APES
ARH AUDITORIUM
PAJAMAS ADVISED
PIZZA AND FRUIT!


3325
4 - 6PM

Visiting Faculty

Dr. Hana Cervinkova

With funding from our Institute for Global Engagement International Visiting Fellows Program, this semester Dr. Hana Cervinkova visited us from the National University of Ireland Maynooth, where she is a professor of Anthropology. She taught a short course entitled "Racism and Anti-Racism in Global Perspectives" that answered questions such as "what is race and what is racism?" and "how does racism structure our social imagination and how can we contest it?" Her approach to teaching is to foster critical thinking and active learning, encouraging the anthropological imagination in cross-cultural dimensions.

Dr. Cervinkova is an educational and political anthropologist focusing on East and Central Europe. Her research undertakes the cultural and political paradoxes of post-socialist transformation in the aftermath of the Cold War, nationalism, racism, and memory in Poland and the Czech Republic, and higher education changes in Central Europe and Ireland. Her most recent publications include "Independence, Interdisciplinarity, Internationality: Toward "Higher Bildung" in Doctoral Education" and "Philosophy of education in a new key: publicness, social justice, and education; a South-North conversation'.

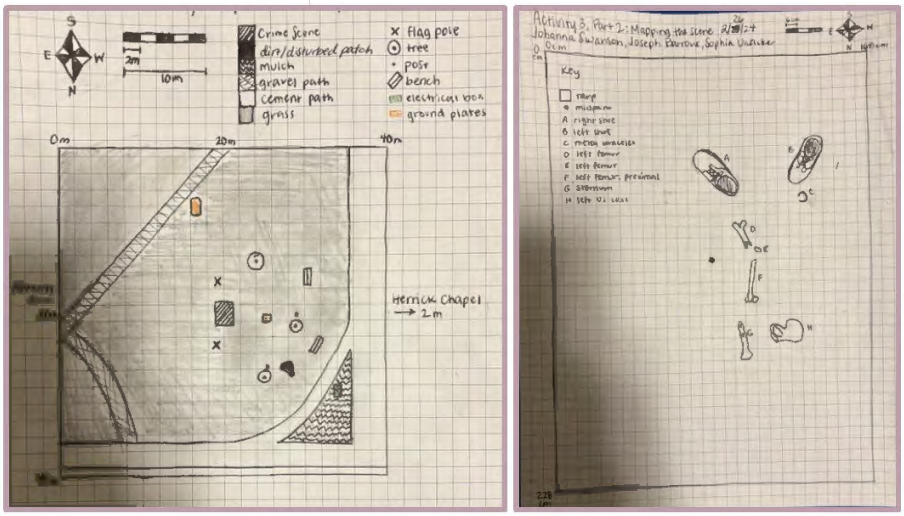
In addition to teaching a course, Dr. Cervinkova also gave a public talk on campus entitled, "A Farewell to Švejk: Militarization and Nation-Building in the 21st=Century Czech Republic". This talk covered her ethnographic research conducted in the early 2000s shortly after the Czech Republic's accession to NATO. She also positioned this intense militarization of the Czech Republic in the context of the Russian attack on Ukraine and its implications for Central and Eastern Europe.

See Dr. Cervinkova's full bio and publication list at: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/people/hana-cervinkova.

Class Activities

Skeletal Forensics Mapping (Professor Demars' Skeletal Forensics Couse)

On an unseasonably warm February afternoon (70 degrees, sunny, and windy), the Skeletal Forensics class worked outside to complete the second half of a two-part activity intended to provide students with experience in documenting the scene of a crime that includes skeletal remains. During a previous class students worked in groups to create a crime scene using casts of skeletal material from the biological anthropology lab collection, as well as other contextual evidence. Once outside each group set up their crime scenes and then rotated to document a scene they hadn't created. In addition to mapping and documenting the scene, each group created a plausible scenario that could have resulted in the crime scene.



Large-scale (left) and small-scale (right) crime scene maps created by Johanna Swanson, Joseph Barrows, and Sophia Unzicker

Sophia Unzicker and Johanna Swanson work on their map.

George Matthes, Arlo Beckman, Eleanor Hedges Duroy, and Harry MacArthur discuss strategy.

Stephanie Liao and Vidushi Keni record measurements of their crime scene.

Field trip to Marshalltown, IA: Ocean City Chinese Restaurant and Burmese-owned Goldenland Market (Professor Ng's Seminar on the Archaeology of Racialized Communities)

Professor Ng's ANT-395-02 class pictured at the Ocean City Chinese Restaurant in Marshalltown, IA

Action shot of Da Hye Oh inspecting a daikon radish.

Cooking in the Global Kitchen: Chinese diaspora foodways and archaeology (Professor Ng's Historical Archaeology Course)

Catherin Fabian, Hannah Pierce, and Jorge Salinas prepare dishes using traditional Chinese cooking methods.

A plate of food featuring all the dishes made by the class.

End of Year Awards

The Rachael M. Asrelsky ’89 Anthropology Paper Prize, for an outstanding paper written in Anthropology.

- **Zakariye Abdilahi** (Auto ethnographic essay on food norms in his family), Anthropological Inquiries
- **Franny Atmore**: (Podcast and short essay*: Katrina Klap*), Anthropology of Global Hip Hop(s)
- **Julianna Vajda**: *WordTune: Your Writing Wingman*; Language, Culture, and Society
- **Reese Hill**: *How to Build a Sex Room and How to Talk About How to Build a Sex Room (and furthermore, How Not to Talk About How to Build a Sex Room)*; Language, Culture, and Society

The Ralph Luebben Prize in Anthropology, for the graduating senior(s) who best exemplifies the ideal anthropology student including meritorious scholarly work, breadth in the discipline, field experience, and an anthropological viewpoint on life.

- Lucy Suchomel
- Harvey Wilhelm

Academic Honors

Frances Atmore
Sabrina Dordevic
Isabel George
Reese Hill
Timothy Johnson
Abigail Lynch
Aidan O’Keefe
Selassie Ricehill
Ekta Shaikh
Lucy Suchomel
Julianna Vajda
Harvey Wilhelm

Donors

- Dr. Harriet M. Phinney, Ph.D. ‘81
- The Austin Family Fund
- Ms. Lara E. Szent-Gyorgyi ’89 (recurring gift in honor of Rachel Asrelsky ’89)
- Paul Simmons and Michele Clark (Paul Simmons ’79 and Michele Clark International Research and Learning Fund)
- Sallee Garst Haerr (The James M. Garst ’79 Memorial Endowed Fund for Anthropology)

Thanks so much to all our donors!
Your support helps to enhance the experience for our students both in and out of the classroom.

A big thanks to this spring’s newsletter student staff!
Franny Atmore ’24 and Jorge Salinas ’26