Letter From the Chair

Todd Koetje, Anthropology Department Chair

It is with a heavy heart that I start this note. Dr. Joan Stevenson passed away on December 4th. She had been on medical leave since late October. Her passing was a heavy blow to all of us and had a great impact on many of our students and alumni. She was a tireless advocate for women and especially the Bio/Anth program and majors, but had an enormous impact on the entire program.

Joan was hired in 1979 and became a full professor in 1992. Over the years she chaired at least 100 MA theses committees and served on countless others, while maintaining aggressive research, publication and service commitments. She was the only Physical or bio/medical anthropologist in the department for many years and carried that program by herself until Michael Grimes, and later MJ Mosher, joined us. Joan was a main driving force behind the laboratory space creation and remodeling over the last ten years. She had a major impact on me personally, because she was a strong supporter of my research from the beginning, and was always encouraging me to publish more, while also pushing me to take a more vocal leadership role in the department. We, as a department, are deeply indebted to her and will always remember her dedication to keeping students and their needs first in our planning and hearts. Joan is survived by her Husband, Phil Everson, and sons John and Ward. As I write this, her family’s plans for a memorial service are not set, but we are putting together a memorial on campus for mid January. In the department, we are naming the bio/anth lab in her honor and will be setting up a scholarship fund in her name shortly.

In much more pleasant news, Dr. Josh Fisher applied for tenure this Fall, and we expect a positive outcome. He joined us two years ago from High Point College with a nearly completed tenure process and impressive teaching and research experience, focusing on contemporary political economy of community based labor movements in Latin America.

We held a very successful scholars week last spring, two days of undergraduate papers, presentations and workshops. Recent alumna Parsan Saffie was keynote speaker. Parsan was a dual Bio/Anth, and Archaeology undergraduate major who took a different path after graduation and now runs a customer satisfaction team at Expedia. She was able to directly relate her experience with us to her success in this career.

With generous help from donors over the past several years, we have been able to add to our collection of fossil and contemporary skeletal casts, and have started to institute programs to help defray undergraduate and graduate research and conference travel costs. We hope to expand these programs in the next several years.
Thank You to our 2017 Donors

We would like to thank the following generous contributors

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Facility News

Joyce Hammond

Hello Everyone, This year I spent six months of professional leave in French Polynesia researching an aspect of popular culture that caught my attention in 2013. In the annual Miss Tahiti contest and other smaller regional and district beauty contests, there is a segment in which participants appear in attire made from natural materials from the island environment. Local artists (and others, such as family members) use shells, pearls, plant fibers, bark, flowers, leaves, and feathers to create unique island fashions that give the beauty contests a distinctively Polynesian character. These wonderfully creative garments are sometimes ephemeral, lasting only for the evening of the contest. Contest themes such as “Mermaids,” “All the Flowers,” “Bohemian Woman,” and “The Belle Epoch” provide both inspiration and constraints. I spent most of my time on the island of Tahiti where the largest number of people in French Polynesia reside and where there are many, many beauty contests throughout the year. I went to a lot of those competitions, interviewed candidates and local stylists, and even learned how to work with some of the materials the designers use. Now, back in Bellingham, I am going over my notes and photos and have begun to write about what I learned.

When I returned to the U.S. in August, I went to a family reunion in New Mexico. During my week long stay, I visited Taos, stuck my head through plywood painted scenes of the Wild West and ate a lot of chips and salsa. It’s great being a tourist and an anthropologist interested in tourism at the same time! Speaking of tourism-- I am excited that an article I wrote about Tahitian destination weddings (from some research I did in 2013) appears in a just published anthology entitled Mimesis and Pacific Transcultural Encounters!

The Anthropology Club

The Anthropology Club welcomes anyone who is interested, to join them at their weekly meetings, special events, or field trips held throughout the year.

Meetings: Mondays @ 5pm in AH319

Website: https://chss.wwu.edu/anthropology/anthropology-club

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WWUAnthropologyClub
We’ve had quite a year in the WWU Medical Anthropology Lab. The 2016-2017 year was busy with pilot projects, presentations and manuscript writing.

I started the year by attending Short Courses on Research Methods, University of Florida and National Science Foundation, followed by a productive year with pilot grants and research. Samantha Whalen, MA Candidate, received a Fund For the Enhancement of Graduate Research grant for her MA project, “Gestational Carriers Cyberframe the Emotional Experience and Resilience.” All told, the lab received roughly $33k in 2017 for projects that were co-designed with students!

In the fall I presented at the American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting (AAA) in Minneapolis, MN. My talk, Is Ethnographic Evidence Public or Private, will be coming out in an edited volume later this year. In the spring Giselle Kiraly (undergraduate) and I presented a research update at the Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting (SfAA) in Santa Fe, NM on a gender analysis of editorial boards for anthropology journals. Though not a conference, I presented at the Ethics in Science Seminar hosted by the Biology Department and had a GREAT time talking with students about the ethics of human research.

The Lab also hosted the The Cascadia Seminar in Medical Anthropology. The Cascadia Seminar is an experiment in creating a new kind of intellectual space for medical anthropology in the “Cascadia” region (i.e., the US Pacific Northwest and British Columbia). The Cascadia Seminar is a small, intimate, high-interest, low-cost weekend conference organized collaboratively by medical anthropologists on faculty at a number of different universities and colleges in the US Pacific Northwest and British Columbia. This conference coordinated with the assistance of Tori Bianchi (undergraduate) and funding from the WWU Fraser Lecture Series Endowment award and the Department of Anthropology.

This year we also welcomed new members to the lab, including undergraduates Giselle Kiraly, Tori Bianchi, Madeleine Rackers and Angel Terry, as well as MA candidate, Samantha Whalen. And congratulations to the Medical Anthropology Lab graduates: Bryn Knapp (BS, Psychology, 2017), Steve Martin (BS, Biology & Anthropology, 2017), Lillian Loescher (BA, Pure Mathematics, 2017), Evangelia Pantoleon (BA, Cultural Anthropology, 2016). I might also add that Giselle is part of the NCAA DII Rowing Championship Team.

The Medical Anthropology Lab is developing into a wonderful support, mentoring and network for undergraduate and graduate students. We continue to grow and are looking forward to sharing manuscripts from research as they become available. Check back at seanbruna.com for details and to learn more about the wonderful students that make it a success!
Daniel Boxberger

This past year has finally seen the forthcoming publication of our book, Before and After the State: Politics, Poetics and People(s) in the Pacific Northwest, by Alan McDougall, Lisa Philips and Daniel Boxberger, due for release in the Spring of 2018. I am currently working on a chapter on Indigenous people for a general reader on the Salish Sea and a chapter on treaties for an edited volume on the Kalapuya. Fall term 2017 I am Fulbright Canada Visiting Research Chair in Aboriginal Studies at Vancouver Island University where I am continuing my work on the Douglas and Stevens treaties in British Columbia and Washington.

In July I continued my BC2BC walk completing the Oregon section – Columbia River to the California border – on the Oregon Coast Trail. Cheryl joined me this year so I didn’t have to walk it alone. You may recall that in July 2016 I walked from the British Columbia border to Astoria, OR. The plan is to complete the northern California section in the summer of 2018 and southern CA in 2019 ending at the other BC border (Baja California).

Kathleen Young

I have been a part of the Western community for decades but it wasn’t until last winter that I asked myself, “If our university is on Coast Salish land, exactly who lived here and what happened to them?” Why was this not common knowledge? The literature and archival research led me to my own files and the kinship charts I compiled in the early 1980s for a friend beginning with his great-great grandmother, Xwelas Mary Sehome, the daughter of the first chief Sehome and the sister of the second Chief Sehome, the man whom Sehome Hill is named after. She and her niece both lived here, in the area around Western Washington University. The research led me to the settler colonialist, Edmund C. Fitzhugh, who filed the land claim for the area and his fellow Virginian George E. Pickett. I will present the research during Winter quarter as part of the Western Reads series. This year’s Western Reads book, Tidalip, from my heart, was written by Harriett Dover, the great niece of Xwelas Mary Sehome!
James Loucky

Health of earth and of humanity are so interconnected as to be self-evident, and yet the crushing impact of political and corporate trends are disheartening to say the least, and planet-crushing if they continue. Reality has rarely needed so much to be imagined and inspiration to be welcomed. In these times, then, anthropology is crucial. This means working for peace through justice, encouraging resistance to distraction and lunacy, and highlighting active hope in the myriad and collective ways it finds expression. For me, this entails working on a community ethnography with Tz’utujil Maya colleagues and youth, seeing education as solidarity, pushing WWU to explicitly put earth and equity as the core of our mission, and advocating for people on the move and sanctuary for all.

Left: James, with human rights activists visiting from Mexico, at Western Washington University as part of the weekly World Issues Forum. Right: Diego Perez Medez, mayor of a small village in Highland Guatemala when James was first there in the 1970s. He delighted in being campesino and alive. I had a precious visit with him in July (2017), just weeks before he died at the age of 94.

Yeon Jung Yu

When I first arrived at Western, I was a little overwhelmed by my responsibilities as a new member of the faculty. It can be challenging to find the right balance between teaching, research and service. I’m now in my second year and starting to feel at home. The faculty have warmly welcomed me to the department, and it’s been a great joy to work with our award-winning staff and diverse students. I feel grateful and proud to be a part of this supportive, happy and healthy community, which extends beyond the Anthropology Department and into larger Western community as well.

Before I came to Western, I had spent many years in research institutes, where I had forgotten the importance of teaching in academia. However, upon witnessing how much effort and time our department as a whole dedicates to enriching Western students’ educational experience, I became reminded of the great responsibility and privilege that comes with training the generations that will follow us. I’m still learning about our students and the university’s culture, but I’ve greatly enjoyed communicating with my students, who are full of curiosity, respect, and open-mindedness.
Yeon Jung Yu, cont...

During the summer, I enjoyed spending quality time with my family in Portland, Oregon. Thanks to the CHSS summer grant, I completed some long-delayed article revisions on *Female Sex Workers, Drug Users, and People Living with HIV in China*. My research and teaching experience integrates a range of scholarly interests, including labor migration, HIV/AIDS, stigma, marginalized populations, and social networks. This year, I have published two articles in peer-reviewed journals and one with a public anthropology journal geared towards a general audience. As the fall kicked off, my son started kindergarten, which promises to bring much change to my life. I’m looking forward to this year’s development as a teacher and researcher serving our Western community.

Judy Pine

The highlights of 2016-17 for Judy Pine were teaching a Winter quarter study-abroad course in Thailand and giving a presentation at the International Pragmatics Association meeting in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The trip to Thailand took Judy to a Karen village in the north, a Thai village in the central region, and included her first trip to the south of Thailand, where the group stayed in an ethnic Moklen village. Judy enjoyed learning a little bit of two languages that were new to her, working to knock the rust off of her Thai, making new friends and visiting old friends both at Chiangmai University and in the NGO community.

The trip to Belfast was equally interesting, albeit much briefer. Judy took the opportunity to bring her daughter along, as a high school graduation present, and the two of them took in the sights when she was not in a conference room.

The year also saw the completion of revisions for a 4th edition of *Harriet Ottenheimer’s Anthropology of Language* textbook and workbook/reader, books with which former ANTH 247 students are quite familiar. Judy is the co-author on the new edition which is to be published in January 2018.
Mike Etnier

Here’s an update on what’s been going on in my lab (recently moved down to Rm 302). I’m about half-way through year two of a three-year NSF-funded project studying the history of sea ice in and around Unalaska Island, in the eastern Aleutians (Alaska).

Decades of zooarchaeological research in the Aleutian Islands has shown that the marine environment of the North Pacific has been mostly stable over the past several thousand years, despite evidence elsewhere of major global warming and cooling trends. The one major exception to this pattern is a sequence of sites from Unalaska Island spanning nearly 5000 years, with evidence of substantially more sea ice in the area 4700-3000 years ago than there is today.

The evidence comes in the form of bones from ice-adapted species such as ringed seal, bearded seal, and polar bear. Curiously, ice-averse species such as fur seal, sea urchin, and butter clams are also found in the same archaeological deposits. So was there really more sea ice? Have the various species changed their ecological preferences? Or was seasonality just much more extreme back then?

I’ve teamed up with several other researchers at other institutions to try to figure it out. For my part, I’ll be (re)analyzing all the mammal bones from three different sites (all of the sites have been previously analyzed by other researchers). My other colleagues will be focusing on bird and fish bones, and chemical analysis of the butter clams. I currently have one student, Ellen Hallings-tad, working the lab. She helps with the tedious process of labeling each individual bone with a unique catalog number (over 4000 so far) and is also getting practice at identifying marine mammal bones along the way.

One fun thing we’ve stumbled on during the routine analysis is a stone harpoon fragment embedded in a porpoise vertebra (lower right). This is the first example of this that I have ever seen or heard of, after analyzing thousands and thousands of porpoise bones in my career.

Because I wanted to know more about the harpoon fragment, but didn’t want to dig it out of the bone, I sent the specimen to researchers at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, WA. They specialize in 3D microscopic X-Ray scans. Here’s a short press release about some of the preliminary results: https://www.emsl.pnl.gov/emslweb/news/4000-year-old-bone-offers-rare-insight-ancient-people
M.J. Mosher

In October I presented at the 2nd International Human Migration Conference in Mexico City. My talk was titled “What Migrating Populations and their Dietary Variation Tell Us About Epigenetics.”

A photo collage of my trip: top and right: Dancers at an Aztec Ceremony, remaining photos: exhibits at the National Museum of Anthropology. My favorite is the center photo of the Original Chac Mool, from inside The Great Venus Platform at Chichén Itzá.
Paul James

This year several projects came to fruition, several have been in the works for some time. The highlight was a new summer course Anth 437G, where anthropology students Annie Peterson (BA 2017), Dane Douglas, Ryan Anderson, and Emma Walter traveled to East Timor and Bali, Indonesia to study cultural adaptations in water management amidst the impacts of climate change. The course grew from a 2016 WWU CIS Global Learning Travel Grant that allowed me to develop community partnerships and scope logistics. Though in retrospect, Bob Marshall may have implanted the interest once upon a time, when the entire reading list he selected for a graduate theory course, focused solely on Bali. The profound cultural richness of that island, combined with the openness of Balinese people makes the time spent there an absolute pleasure. In contrast, East Timor is the fifth youngest country with still tender scars of civil war but with incredibly rich cultural and linguistic diversity. From Atauro Island supporting the richest marine biodiversity in the world, to the warm hospitality in the mountainside village of Laclo, Timor Leste feels like a distant home. The course begs to be repeated, so let’s do that.

Students in my Introductory Anth 201 courses continue to engage in service learning and applied anthropology projects as a way to get a taste for anthropological methods and deliver tangible outputs. One class is currently developing a glossary for the free on-line wiki-textbook, which students wrote nearly 10 years ago. This project was revived by a 2016 Center for Instructional Innovation and Assessment, Faculty Development Summer Grant and although it is interesting, as a true open edit wiki I am not sure it will ever be a polished or authoritative text, but feel free to contribute your expertise or passion (https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Cultural_Anthropology ). My other introductory course is addressing design anthropology, applying focal follow methods to conduct user interface studies in a collaboration with WWU’s Vehicle Research Institute (VRI). The project with Eric Leonhardt of VRI started back in 2015 when we received a WWU Sustainable Action Fund/Green Energy Fee Grant to involve undergraduate students from different disciplines to design and build the Lyn Okse Campus Electric Utility Vehicle. It remains an engaging assignment to teach students video ethnographic methods and basic qualitative analysis. I presented the project, Interdisciplinary Teaching and Design Anthropology: Lyn Okse Campus Electric Utility Vehicle, at the 2017 SfAA meetings in Santa Fe, NM.
Kathleen Saunders

Transitioning to University/Reflecting on Teaching and Learning

New beginnings are full of hope tinged with fear of the unknown. For many years I acted as a Summer Start faculty advisor helping entering freshmen choose their first set of classes at Western. This experience gave me better insight into the hopes and fears of the students in my large lecture class, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, in the fall. Student fears included being in large lecture classes – precisely the kind I teach. They had heard rumors that their entire grade depended on a mid-term and a final exam. Exams would be scantron graded objective tests. After classes started, the anxiety got worse. Professors did not lecture on the reading! The study strategies that worked in high school did not necessarily work in a university. Breaching a professor’s threshold to ask questions was daunting.

I modified my approach to large lecture teaching to incorporate suggested practices from SOTL (Scholarship of Teaching and Learning) sources with the goal of providing a more humane learning experience. While I do give scantron exams, students also write four short analytical essays during the quarter. That’s 180 students x 4 essays = 720 essays to grade with commentary. My TA and I split the load. (I do wonder if graduate students plead to be assigned to a different professor for TA-ships!) The benefit to students is that they start receiving input on university level writing expectations and have an avenue for evaluation that is not a multiple-guess test.

A decade ago the Center for Public Anthropology began a writing competition for American and Canadian students enrolled in an introductory cultural anthropology course. The topics have varied over time but always center on an ethical dilemma in Anthropology for which students had to pick a position and write a convincing argument for that position based on evidence. At the conclusion of a competitive round, five submissions are selected as the best of the approximately 2000 submitted. Western students have been disproportionately successful in producing national winners. This year I am happy to report that Julia Soes was a national winner.

Getting all students to register, write their piece, and do peer evaluations of five other students’ work is time consuming. It takes lots of reminders and old fashioned nagging to help them hit the deadlines. The pedagogical payoff makes every minute of this extra work worth it. Students get commentary from their peers at five different institutions and feel connected to a wider body of young scholars than just their home school. Most realize that they do have something of value to contribute to an ongoing scholarly conversation. Because the best of essays are shared with decision makers on the issue, it is more than just an assignment. It is scholarly action in the world. For example, student essays pressured the University of Pennsylvania to return blood samples to Yanomamo people decades after their extraction because researchers had no permission to re-purpose their use. The Yanomamo were relieved to have the blood of their ancestors returned and burned. This year the topic is, Proposed Changes to Internal Review Board Standards for Research with Human Subjects.

When we have a national winner, we celebrate as a class. This demonstration of excellence amongst us seems to help the class feel incorporated into university life. End of quarter student course evaluations mark this assignment as a high point. I am always energized by the beginning of quarter enthusiasm as a new group of freshmen start their academic journey. But it is more deeply satisfying to see students grow more competent and confident in their role as active agents based on scholarship.
Sarah Campbell

Over the last few years, I have been involved with Mike Etnier and researchers from Portland State University and University of Rhode Island in NSF-funded research focusing on faunal remains from the Čhímən village site near Port Angeles, Washington, and what they can tell us about how ancestral Klallam inhabitants adjusted to gradual and rapid environmental changes. In October 2016, we gave a public presentation to the Port Angeles community entitled Past Forward: Tse-whit-zen Village archaeological site and what findings tell us about environment and community, and were gratified to have a standing room only crowd. I was invited to give a synopsis of this at the 19th Annual School District Information Fair and Potluck sponsored by the Lower Elwha Klallam. Being honored along with tribal members who worked at the site excavation was humbling, and the potluck was very special because the LEKT high school students were responsible for the preparation, serving and protocol.

I am grateful to have so many active students who are involved in public outreach and research projects. For the third year in a row, a number of students participated in the October Archaeology Fair held at Whatcom Community College and sponsored by the Association for Washington Archaeology, WCC, and WWU. We contributed net weights and interpretive graphics about Coast Salish net fishing for a display at the library in conjunction with the 2017-18 Western Reads selection, Tulalip, From My Heart: An Autobiographical Account of a Reservation Community. Ellen Hallingstad, an Anth 470 Museology intern, facilitated the library display and is currently preparing a display on Coast Salish marine subsistence for the anthropology hall.

In the lab class, students do research projects built on past M.A. thesis research and field school collections. This year, lithics from the test cuts at 45WH004 (K. Montgomery thesis research) and modified bone from the 1986 field school...
**Sarah Campbell, Cont...**

at Cherry Point, 45WH001 have been the focus. Kelsey Forbes and Andrew McKinley conducted a replication project that also fulfills a community service. They replicated bone-barbed wood fish hooks to help the Whatcom County Library expand the number of “People of the Salish Sea” educational outreach kits from 2 to 6. The kits are in high demand by Whatcom County educators, and this will allow more kits to be in circulation. They also made a full-size herring rake (9' long, with 23 barbs) that they are donating to the lab.

Ever since I began teaching here, I have wanted to know more about a South American vessel in the ceramics teaching collection. With the expansion of digital resources, I have finally been able to identify this double-chambered stirrup pot as a Chimú whistling vessel! This style of pot originated in what is now northern Peru, and is designed to emit a whistling noise from the “head” as water is moved from the open-spout chamber to the other. The tone of the whistle depends on the volume of water in the pot. Though most Chimú vessels were fired in a reducing atmosphere and then burnished to create a waxy black finish, the one in our collection was fired in an oxidizing atmosphere. I was grateful to have this as an example of molded pottery, and now that I know the origin, I have been able to find archaeological examples of Chimú press molds, including some with the little dot pattern that is very common on Chimú vessels. In the lab class, we experimented with the vessel and produced a nice deep whistle by blowing across the spout, but were not able to get a whistle through motion.

Above: In 2016, the department worked collaboratively with the Lummi Nation Cultural Department, who obtained a grant to re-examine the entire archaeological collection from the Cherry Point site to identify any previously missed ancestral remains or objects of cultural patrimony.

Shown in the photo, from left to right are: Ryan Desrosiers, B.A.'17; Tamela Smart, M.A. '09; Ralph Thom, Lummi Nation; Josh Heflin, B.A. '17; Dr. Joan Stevenson; Alyson Rollins, M.A. '98; Kaitlin Dempsey, B.A. '16; Dr. Sarah Campbell.

Left: After completion of the project, the entire Western team was honored by the Cultural Department at a celebration event. Shown in the photo are Dr. Joan Stevenson and Dr. Sarah Campbell.
Student & Alumni News

Maria Bruno  After graduating with an Anthropology degree from Western Washington University in 2011, Maria joined the Peace Corps in Lesotho. She was contemplating graduate school, but life had other plans for her. She quickly discovered that she enjoyed teaching primary school, so when she learned about a teaching certificate program for people who had taught in the Peace Corps, offered through the State of California, she jumped at the opportunity. Afterwards she spent two years teaching an interesting combination of Music and remedial English at an International School in Myanmar, followed by teaching English in China.

She recently accepted a position at an International School in Cambodia where she is teaching 6th grade; English, Social Studies, Science, and Math.

Maria had a terrible fear of math during her years at school, and although she did well in her math classes, it was not without a lot of stress. She says Dr. Joan Stevenson helped her work through her “math PTSD” and had a lot to do with her successes in the maths. Maria strives to help her own students avoid that pitfall as they begin their journey toward high school and even higher education.

Dessa Meehan  Dessa is a recent graduate from the history and anthropology departments at Western Washington University and is currently pursuing her Master’s degree in Classical Archaeology at the University of Oxford. Her focus is on gender studies in the Early Roman Empire, specifically the representations of masculinity and femininity in small finds and erotic art and whether these representations correspond with the “sex” of the object; recently, an edited version of her undergraduate history thesis was published in the Armstrong Undergraduate Journal of History, titled “Containing the Kalon Kakon: The Portrayal of Women in Ancient Greek Mythology.” She is in the midst of applying to PhD programs in the United Kingdom and hopes to explore the sexing of objects and gender representation and expectation in her thesis.
Outstanding Graduating Senior Award

Maria Battor
BA Cultural Anthropology
Winter 2017

This year’s Outstanding Graduating Senior is Maria Battor. Maria was awarded a BA with Honors in Cultural Anthropology (2017). Maria’s scholarly interests centers on education. Specifically creative programs for K-8 students. She was accepted into a graduate program at the University of Illinois which centers on the anthropology of education. Her career goal is to establish a school for K-8 students that nourishes their intellect and their creative growth.

Taylor-Anastasio Awards

The Taylor-Anastasio Awards for Outstanding Undergraduate Research are in honor of retired professors Herbert Taylor and Angelo Anastasio in recognition of excellent undergraduate research. Faculty nominated papers, poster presentations or other scholarly endeavors completed the prior spring quarter through the winter quarter of the current year are eligible. Three selected awardees present their research papers during Scholars Week each year. We are proud to announce this year’s recipients.

Alex Matthews

Testosterone mediated immunity: mechanisms, clinical implications, and the importance of holistic treatment strategies

Recent research has indicated that immune cells carry intracellular, non-genomic testosterone receptors which modify the secretion of cytokines responsible for communication between immune cells. Testosterone reduces the population and sensitivity of immunoglobulin producing cells, mitigating the intensity of the immune response. These cells carry analogous receptors for various other hormones, including leptin, cortisol, and melatonin. The effects of endocrine conditions are additive. A patient’s immunocompetence is thus influenced by their lifestyle choices related to sleep, stress, diet, and exercise. This provides the opportunity for conservative, non-chemotherapeutic treatments of immune conditions, and highlights the importance of a holistic approach in evaluating immunity.

Scott Sutton

Structural Violence in Childbirth

In the last century there have been significant changes in the views, practices, and locations of childbirth in the United States. Though some beneficial technological advancements have been made, the over-medicalization and pathologizing of childbirth itself have created a harmful dichotomous system. Though often viewed separately, these two practices, when viewed as a singular sociocultural construction, illustrate a form of structural violence that not only subjects women to unnecessary medical procedures and elevated risk, but often situates them within an antagonistic power-struggle between obstetricians and mid-wives that serves to diminish personal agency when making decisions about childbirth.

Nicole White

Student Perspectives of Rape and Consent at Western Washington University.

Student Perspectives of Rape and Consent at Western Washington University.
Taylor-Anastasio Awards, cont...

University ties two years’ worth of undergraduate research data into a single paper examining how Western students define and negotiate sexual consent and rape. By drawing on interviews, a student survey, and anonymous social media posts, this paper illustrates the contradictions between Western’s apparent rape-free campus culture - namely the absence of a formal Greek system and a heavily monetized varsity sports presence - and student perceptions of the frequency and threat of sexual assault. The ethnographic data presented reveals ambivalence towards Western’s bystander intervention training, and campus support services.

Friends of Anthropology Undergraduate Research Grant Recipients

Thanks to the generous donations from alumni, the Department of Anthropology is able to establish an endowment to fund up to three undergraduate research awards each academic year. The grants may be used for either research or travel and are limited to a maximum of $350.

Giselle Kiraly

Winter 2017

The Gatekeeper Project: Crowdsourced Examination of the Gender Composition of Anthropology Journals

Over the course of the past year I have spent countless hours as part of an anthropology research group as the undergraduate researcher, examining the editorial boards of 10 anthropology journals over the course of 40 years to determine gender composition. These editorial boards maintain the integrity and standards of journals and it is extremely important to provide equal opportunity. I am asking for $350 to present the findings at the SfAA conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico, over the course of three days. The findings and manuscript will be then sent for publication in a leading anthropology journal.

Ellen Hallingstad

Spring 2017

Locarno Beach 45WH55

This grant would subsidize the costs of five students’ presentations at the Northwest Anthropological Conference (NWAC). The goal of our travel is to present research projects at the conference to peers and experts in the field of Northwest Anthropology. Hughes’ project involves the analysis of quartzite distribution and use during the 3500-2400 BP occupation. Meehan and Hurst’s project analyzes lithics from two activity areas, focusing on type and distribution. Hallingstad’s project analyzes mammal and avian exploitation patterns at prehistoric midden site 45WH0055. O’Leary’s project examines the faunal remains of the 45WH0055 bone processing area, focusing on fragmentation and marrow extraction.