

ANTHROPOLOGY

Western Washington University, Bellingham Vol. 5 Issue 1

Letter From the Chair

Todd Koetje, Anthropology Department Chair

2019 has been a year of change and transition in the Department. Dr. Joyce Hammond announced her plans to retire this coming spring quarter, and Dr. James Loucky will also be teaching his final courses. We appreciate all the hard work from these stalwarts of the Department! They leave excellent legacies, and have all set high standards for the rest of us to live up to.

Viva Barnes has also announced her retirement as of this spring. She has led the Department’s administrative side for many years, and has earned several university wide awards in the process. In my career here, she is the only Departmental administrator I’ve ever known. We Will miss her detailed knowledge of the processes and history of the Department !

We were able to hire Dr. Tesla Monson as a Bio-Anthropologist, she has now finished her first quarter of teaching for us, and is settling in well, with active research and service plans.

We were able to secure funding to hire Dr. Jake Pfaffenroth as our lab and curation manager. The Department was able to purchase and install a compact shelving system for our storage room in the Arntzen basement. Jake, Sarah Campbell, and a cadre of archaeology and Bioanth lab students have moved much of our collection into the new room and system, freeing up lots of space and providing much better research access to the materials.

Last year we began the process of decolonizing our curriculum, initially focusing on ANTH 201, Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology. With student

and faculty input we set up a subcommittee to create an outline of a fully decolonized course, and collect a pool of appropriate curricular resources. We’ve done this in a decidedly decentralized way, in line with our general approach to classes; individual instructors have great leeway in how they approach the intro classes, and which specific topics are covered. This has proven challenging. Although much discussed, there are relatively few examples in the discipline of actually accomplishing major changes in this direction. We seem to be ahead of the curve here, at least amongst comparable institutions. Ultimately, this will be a substantial and dynamic change to the curriculum, starting and continuing with ANTH 201, but extending to all of our classes.



Last, but not least, we have finally completed and began to implement a (or perhaps ‘the latest’) comprehensive assessment plan for the Department. In conjunction with our efforts in ANTH 201 decolonization, we have focused this year on the 200 level classes, and began collecting data from the fall 2019 sections.



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Thank You!

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Kelly Quirk

Andrew Randles

Carolyn Smith

Tabitha Squires

Mary Stender

Annette Stillwell

Tess Trosko

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Candice Weingart

Faculty News

Kathleen Young

Noémi Ban Many of our alumni will remember Noémi Ban, the indomitable woman who generously shared her narrative of surviving the Holocaust with so many of us. She first spoke to the Anthropology of War and Human Rights class sometime in the early to mid-1990's (I am unsure of the exact date) and the last time she visited was in the winter of 2018 when she spoke before the Trauma and Recovery class. She died on June 7, 2019. I feel blessed to think of her as my friend, but she was much more than that, as you know if you heard her speak. She loved life and loved students and we could not help but love her back. Her legacy is preserved on campus through the Ray Wolpov Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity <https://rwi.wwu.edu/>

Alumni from the War and Human Rights class will be pleased to know that there is a new academic minor in Noémi's honor, the Holocaust and Genocide Studies Minor. From the website: "Western is the first public university in the state with such a minor," says Sandra Alfors, Director of the Ray Wolpov Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity. "It is another major accomplishment for us. Western is clearly starting to address state needs, particularly in light of the recently amended Washington State Senate Bill 5612, which strengthens Holocaust Education in Washington schools, including the teaching of genocide and crimes against humanity."

If you have recollections of hearing Noémi Ban speak and want to share them, please send them to me. I would also love to hear from alumni from the "trifecta" classes, War and Human Rights, Trauma and Recovery, or Death and Dying. Did you ever have reason to think about the classes over the years? What did you find useful? Actually, I'd love to hear from any of you about anything – please let me know what you are doing with your lives post-anthropology.

Please know I have appreciated your presence as we navigated these subjects together and learned together how to talk about these difficult subjects.

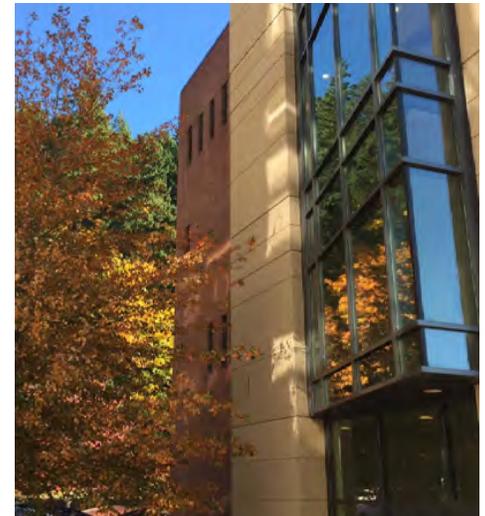


photo credit: Lauren Townshend 2019

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



Western Washington University
Anthropology Club

Noémi Ban and Kathleen Young



Joyce Hammond

Last winter I took a quarter off from teaching and went to an ASAO (Association of Social Anthropology of Oceania) conference in Aotearoa/New Zealand, held on the campus of the University of Auckland. This is the university where I attended some classes on Māori language and culture way back in 1972. It was exciting to visit the university's Māori meeting house and marae since they did not exist in the 1970s. There were a lot of Māori and other Pacific scholars at the conference; that too is a reflection of positive changes happening in anthropology. After the conference, I traveled to Wellington to visit the Te Papa Museum, a very conscientiously multicultural museum that employs a lot of Pacific Islanders as curatorial staff and welcomes Pacific Islanders with open arms. With my interests in tourism, I took a side trip to the Weta Workshop and a place called Zealandia which is a conservation project restoring the biodiversity of precontact times in a 500 acre ecosanctuary. Then I took a ferry to the South Island and travelled by train on that island's east coast to view damage from a recent earthquake. Another train took me to the island's interior where I went hiking. Having time to revisit N.Z. in 2019 was a rewarding experience for me since that was where I began an anthropology career that has encompassed a lot of wonderful time among Pacific Islanders.



Tesla Monson

I am really excited to be contributing to my first ever Western Anthropology newsletter! I am the brand new Assistant Professor of Biological Anthropology, and I am looking forward to introducing myself to the WWU Anthro Community. It's been a fast-paced first quarter – I am currently teaching ANTH 215 – Intro to Bio Anth, and I have been redesigning the labs and lectures to bring my own perspective to the curriculum. Of course, there are big shoes to fill, but I hope that I am doing justice to the long tradition of biological anthropology here at Western. I will also be teaching ANTH 420 - Osteology in the Winter quarter, and I am debuting a new class called The Evolution of Cognition next spring.

Earlier this year, I was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Zurich in Switzerland. While in Switzerland, I was working on a project using micro-CT scanning to look at the evolution of human dental variation and what it can tell us about human population structure in the archaeological record. While in Zurich, I also organized and hosted the first ever Integrative Human Evolution Symposium (IHES2019), an innovative conference that brought together a diverse set of researchers from many fields to talk about how their work is relevant to the past and future of human evolution. As I move forward at Western, I hope to organize the next iteration of this conference right here on campus.

Over the summer, I also travelled to Ethiopia to continue working with a team of scientists as part of the Middle

Awash Research Group. I have been part of this team for several years now, and, along with my colleagues, I am describing new fossil monkeys from the Middle Awash of Ethiopia. This is an exciting ongoing project that draws on my love of primate paleontology and evolutionary biology.

I am still setting up my new Primate Evolution Lab here at Western, but I already have two motivated undergraduate students working with me on research. Kelley is active on a project investigating primate reproductive ecology and life history, and Tristen is expanding his osteological skills through a collaboration with Professor Campbell and the Archaeology Lab. We hope to present the preliminary results of these projects sometime in the Spring, so stay tuned! I am also finishing up a few papers on dental morphology and primate cranial variation, and those should be out in the first half of 2020. Additionally, I am still posting weekly episodes of Washington Women, an outreach project that highlights inspiring women that contributed to Washington State history (Twitter: @WASStateWomen).

Everyone in the Department has been so nice and inviting, and I am quickly settling into the University and Bellingham. I have already done some hiking up at Kulshan and kayaking on Lake Whatcom, and I am looking forward to the winter season. It's great to be back in Washington, and I can't wait to see what the rest of this year at Western holds for me and my lab. Thanks again WWU Anthropology!



From Left to Right: Tesla at the Matterhorn in Switzerland, and with the Middle Awash Research Group in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tesla Monson, cont...

Several years ago, I participated in the Bearded Lady Project, a scientific outreach program designed to increase awareness about gender disparity in paleontology. This project has become quite a success, touring museums nationally and becoming a feature-length documentary, with a book soon on the way. While I am one of many incredible women scientists featured, my portrait did make the cut to hang in the Smithsonian. This is an incredible honor, and I was delighted to see the results while I was there recently.

The exhibit will be on display until April 2020, so if you are in DC, please feel free to stop by! Please use these links to the project if you want to learn more:



[Bearded Lady Project: Challenging the Face of Science](#)

[Featured portraits](#)

[Movie trailer](#)



Yeon Yu

Time really flies – it’s already my fourth year at Western! I’m really feeling at home in Bellingham this year. Over the summer, I was able to publish a journal article and another piece for general audiences—both of which examined the lived experiences of women in the sex trade in contemporary China. This past year, I’ve been busy developing a new course and some local research projects. I was also busy presenting my research at four annual meetings: the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in San Jose, CA, the Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting in Portland, OR, the Annual Western Regional Global Health Conference in Bellingham, WA (which was very successfully hosted by wonderful Western students, including our own Anthropology student, Ms. Christiane Jones), and the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting in Washington,

DC. This past year has been quite rewarding as I have observed many students grow, develop their studies, and achieve success. Sixteen students in my “Introduction to Cultural Anthropology” class, for example, won awards from the Center for Public Anthropology’s national multi-collegiate competition for their excellent applied anthropology writing projects on climate change.

During the fall 2018 quarter, I finally launched the WWU Applied Anthropology Lab with two brilliant undergraduate students, Ms. Jasmine Castro and Ms. Kelley Opendeck, to deepen our training and research on applied and medical anthropology (Congratulations to both for graduation and successful first steps toward their careers!), closely collaborating with Prof. Sean Bruna’s WWU Medical Anthropology Lab. Prof. Bruna and I have already embarked on collaborative research to examine various health issues of trafficked women

in the U.S. This year, five wonderful students joined the Applied Anthropology Lab (AAL): Emily Hill, Zarea Lavalais, Jill Ringoen, Ashton Eyer, and Eva Wolcott. As a subsidiary of the AAL, we also established the “WWU-UNLV Human Intimacies and Sexuality Lab” with researchers at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). Though we have only recently started working on new projects, thanks to our lab members’ substantial contribution, we have already submitted an abstract for the 2020 Law and Society Association (LSA) Annual Meeting and expect to submit a couple of publications and grants by the end of this academic year. This year, our lab members will get a broad range of training, including interview/survey design, data cleaning, database management, the transcription of interview audio, content analysis, statistical analysis, literature reviews, conference presentations, and paper writing.



Yeon Yu, cont...

This year, I'm engaging in more service activities at department, university, and professional levels. With a strong support from Profs. Sarah Campbell, Judy Pine, and Joyce Hammond, as well as our wonderful administrators (Ms. Viva Barnes and Ms. Lauren Townshend), our Anthropology Club has hosted the annual event of Compass to Campus, to increase opportunities toward higher education by providing mentoring for 5th grade students from traditionally underrepresented and diverse backgrounds in Whatcom and Skagit counties to great success. As a new faculty advisor of the Anthropology Club, I'm excited to see a productive year that the new officers and club members will create! Here's to another year of new and innovative collaborative research partnerships as well as new teaching and serving opportunities at Western and beyond!



"The Islands of the Rose Apple Tree Surrounded by the Oceans of the World for You, Oh My Darling"
 1987 Alice Aycock, waterfilled cast concrete. 9' x 10.5'
 (Click here for the story behind this intriguing sculpture located north of Morse Hall) photo credit: Lauren Townshend 2019

James Loucky

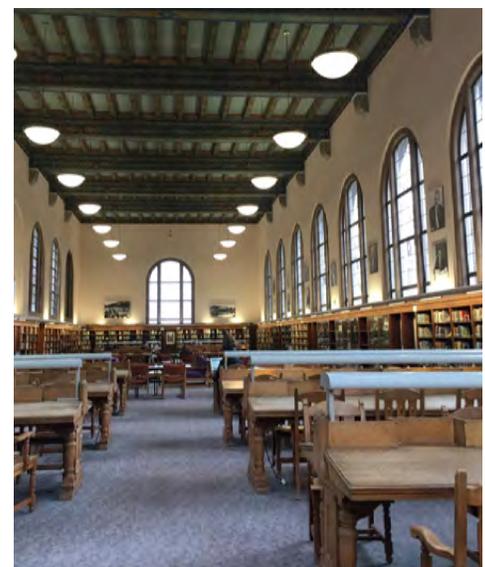
When I came to Western 30 years ago, I began collecting "just quotes." One that is especially insightful is an observation by St Augustine: "Hope has two beautiful daughters; anger at the way things are, and courage to see that they do not stay that way." Certainly "the way things are" today calls for full mobilization of knowledge – and potentials for hope, righteous anger, and courage – particularly by and through anthropology, the discipline whose focus is the single species responsible for the climatic, ecological, and social crises we now face.

The combination of anthropogenic power, anthropocentric hubris, and unprecedented inequalities today represents limitless opportunities for informed, humanitarian praxis. My bit-parts involve learning, educating, and advocating for veracity and justice on campus, through community engagement, and worldwide. My experiences living and working with place-based and sagacious people

in Latin America and Asia continue to be among the most valued of my life. I am grateful to be able to provide expert testimony about in-country conditions, to support court cases of people seeking safety beyond violence in their homelands. Through opinion writing, I join others in challenging current U.S. immigration and refugee policies, which are as illegal as they are draconian. Working with the Bellingham Human Rights Film Festival, which hosts its 20th year in February 2020 (bhrff@webs.com), bolsters my hope and my roles of scholarly activism.

On campus, I encourage my students to advocate for those who are less privileged, and also for children and young people, who will long bear the weight of the lunacy and larceny that today disguise themselves as normal politics and acceptable policies. My hope extends also through being active in interdisciplinary partnerships around a healthy Salish Sea, human rights, respectful support for indigenous

leadership, and university divestment from fossil fuels. Faculty members, along with students, have both rights and responsibilities to work to provide protections and inclusion for everyone, regardless of accident of birth, gender, or economic means. That is, after all, what matters – and what ultimately it can mean to be sapiens.



Wilson Library
 photo credit: Lauren Townshend 2019

BRUNA'S INDEX



Sean Bruna

Four Years With WWU Anthropology

I'm happy to announce that this fall I started as a tenured professor in the department. This task was not accomplished alone – my fiancé, family, friends, students and colleagues in Anthropology and elsewhere helped me along the way. To all of you that supported me, thank you.

A big part of being a professor is evaluating accomplishments. So last night while reading Harpers Index I thought I would take my own look back at my four years in Bellingham.

Awards: 4
 Grants: 8
 Publications: 6
 Posters: 5
 Collaborators at Other Institutions: 13
 Unique Courses Designed: 10
 Grad/Undergrad Course Sections: 119
 MA Thesis Committees Chaired: 7
 MA Thesis Committees as Member: 8
 Undergrad Hrs or Self Designed Majors: 6
 Post-Baccalaureate Lab Mentees: 1
 Undergraduate Lab Mentees: 21
 Graduate Student Research Grants: 12
 Cross Country Flights to Visit Fiancé: 14
 Cross Country Miles Driven with an Irish Wolfhound to Visit Fiancé: 18,300
 Pounds of Dog Food Purchased: 2,180
 Black V-Neck Sweaters Purchased: 5
 WWU Parking Tickets: 52
 Office Plants Killed: 3
 Sailing Races: 240
 Successful Tenure Packets: 1

Jerry Ek

The past year has been quite a whirlwind. I had the opportunity to expand the courses I teach at WWU substantially, with four new classes. This has given me the opportunity to interact with different literature, subject matter, and students.

Likewise, new research opportunities have recently emerged, with the conclusion of a few projects overlapping with the initiation of new endeavors. My research foci have also diversified, particularly outside of my comfort zone of Mesoamerica. Last summer was my second year as director of the WWU Archaeological Field School, the first time I've had the opportunity to work in the Pacific Northwest since I was undergraduate. The first two seasons of the field school focused on archaeological survey of late 19th to early 20th century communities in the Mount Baker Mining District. The 2019 field season

Snoqualmie National Forest, and the descendant communities who have served as the stewards of these lands. My favorite part of the field school is getting to work with students as they get practical experience outside the classroom. We've reached out to local employers in cultural resource management to align the field school activities with the specific skills that are currently in demand in the job market. In just two years, we've had multiple field school participants use that background to get paid jobs in the field.

My studies in Mesoamerica are also in a period of transition, with one project reaching its conclusion while new projects are entering their initial phases. My last major project - a study of settlement patterns and human-environmental interactions in the Río Champotón drainage, Campeche, Mexico - has reached the final stages. While working to disseminate the results of the regional survey

View of Mt Rainier from Corral Pass



Last day of survey at Corral Pass

represented a crossroads. After completing surface survey in the Shuksan Town project study area, we moved from the northern to the southern edge of the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest to the Corral Pass area near Mount Rainier. The Norse Peak Fire heavily impacted Corral Pass in 2017, affecting vegetation and soil across 55,920 acres. While highly destructive, the wildfire produced ideal surface visibility for archaeological survey. The alpine landscape in the Corral Pass area was utilized by humans for thousands of years, including indigenous groups from both sides of the Cascade Range. Survey in 2019 was highly limited, representing a pilot study for future work. Ongoing surface survey in this region will be a collaborative effort between WWU, the Mount Baker

into published monographs and interpretive works, I will also be launching two new projects. The Proyecto Arquelógico Uxte'tuun (PAU) will examine similar issues of sustainability and resilience in the region surrounding the UNESCO World Heritage Center of Calakmul, Campeche. During the sixth through eighth centuries CE, the Kaan'ul (Snake) Dynasty of Calakmul extended control over a network of vassal states across the Maya Lowlands. The PAU will focus on two themes. The project will examine the social and economic impacts of the political processes documented in hieroglyphic texts, including the expansion of the Snake Kingdom within the region under its direct political control. The study will

Jerry Ek, *cont...*

also include paleoecological research, focusing on long-term human-environmental dynamics and the factors that ultimately culminated in the abandonment of all cities in the region by the tenth century CE.

I am also very excited about the launch of a new collaborative research project with faculty and students in WWU's Computer Science Department. We are currently working to apply machine learning and computer vision technologies for archaeological survey. During the past decade, LiDAR airborne laser scanning technologies have revolu-

tionized survey methods in the Maya Lowlands. Unlike other remote sensing methods, LiDAR scanners can penetrate the dense tropical forest canopy in the Maya Area to generate precise digital elevation models of the surface beneath the trees. While traditional surface survey methods in this environment required decades to map the central areas of Maya cities, LiDAR can collect high quality data over hundreds of square kilometers over the course of a few weeks. The goal of this rather unique interdepartmental collaboration is to explore the viability of artificial intelligence to identify and label archaeological features from

very large LiDAR datasets. Although still in the initial stages, it has been incredibly rewarding to work with colleagues with unique skills sets and different academic perspectives.

The common theme in the last year has been transition. The nature of archaeological research is that every project generates as many questions as it answers. Thus, it always feels premature to label any project as 'finished.' On the other hand, it has been exciting to tackle new challenges, engage with new subject matter, and create connections with new groups of students, colleagues, and stakeholders. As part of our departmental objective to decolonize the curriculum, I am particularly enthusiastic about integrating these perspectives into both my teaching and research. As someone who is coming from a place of privilege, I am committed to interrogating my own role as a Western scholar and the ways that background influences my teaching and scholarship. Some of the ways I plan to integrate these ideas into practice is through broadening collaborations and actively working to decentralize control over historical places and historical narratives.



Classic Maya hieroglyph for Uxté'tuun (Three Stone Place), a regional toponym for the area surrounding Calakmul. Uxté'tuun is today encompassed within the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, in Campeche, Mexico. The Proyecto Arqueológico Uxté'tuun will examine geopolitical and human-environmental dynamics in this region. This hieroglyph was part of a broader text from Naranjo Hieroglyphic Stairway 1 that recounts the establishment of Calakmul as the Late Classic capital of the Kaan'ul (Snake) Dynasty (drawing by Simon Martin).

Judy Pine

2019 has been a busy year for me. One highlight has been the opportunity to teach an ANTH 490 seminar on Raciolinguistics. This theoretical lens, developed by linguistic anthropologist Jonathan Rosa and educational linguist Nelson Flores, requires that we notice the entanglement of language and race in current discourses here in the US and elsewhere. It asks us to engage critically with taken for granted assumptions about language and languaging, and points to the need for culturally sustaining pedagogies which place the burden of change on the dominant group. This course, along with my engagement with Word Gap myth-busting, has been an opportunity for me to connect my commitment to language and social justice as service work to my pedagogy. It has also emphasized the value of interdisciplinarity and the important contribution that an anthropological perspective can offer. Students who have taken semiotic anthropology (and even those who have not!) may be interested in checking out Jonathan Rosa's 2019 book *Looking Like a Language, Sounding Like a Race: Raciolinguistic Ideologies and the Learning of Latinidad* (Oxford U. Press).

I had the opportunity to visit Siem Reap for the Conference on Asian Linguistic Anthropology in January 2019. This was a marvelous experience! Small conferences such as CALA provide space for conversations that grow into later projects. I am once again co-chair of the planning committee for the Society for Linguistic Anthropology biennial conference. The SLA 2020 conference, the second ever such conference and also a small, intellectually stimulating and productive conference. We'll be meeting in April in Boulder, CO.

Finally, as I draft this note I realize that this is the eleventh year of Created Language construction in ANTH 247, and 10 more nifty conlangs came into existence this Fall quarter. It has been interesting to see the existence of conlangs become part of general public knowledge, in particular with the popularity of *Game of Thrones*. I hope that students from previous years remember their conlangs as fondly as I do! I am hoping to teach a short conlang construction course for Grandparent's U in the summer of 2020 -- if you know any interested grandparent/grandchild sets let them know!





Captain Bligh of Mutiny on the Bounty was a real person! Here is the actual saber of a midshipman who sailed under Captain Bligh during his 1787 expedition.

M.J. Mosher

Summer visits to the European Bagpipe Championship in Inverness (see photo: next page), and the Bagpiper Mackenzie family on the Isle of Skye were good for this Celtic soul. The visit to Mòr-thìr (Mainland Orkney Island) reintroduced me to the joys of archaeology and the Scottish museums.



Mòr-thìr is a magnificent island. Lush and green, it is much different than the rocky cliffs and Outlander look of Skye. This Orkney island is home to a Neolithic village called Skara Brae, which dates to 3180 BC (that would be the village, not the person in the picture). Inhabited only 600 years, this series of 8 homes leaves a trail of hints about the inhabitants and their lives, although none apparently conclusively identifies who

they were. The nearby museum offers visitors a chance to learn about their diet and their interior decorating (See photo at left).

Further along the island, you find a burial ground—really burial waters—of a WWI German war fleet, sunk by the Germans themselves in 1919 to prevent their use by other forces. Rusted hulls still protrude from the water (see photo: below). The Stromness museum, about 30 minutes away, offers many books written about or by some of the sailors themselves.



This museum also held an exciting relic for me: the saber of a midshipman assigned to Captain Bligh of the *Bounty*. Attention, students in Anthro 215—that illustration for Founder Effect really existed. I have the picture to prove it (photo: top). More photos on the following page.

M.J. Mosher, cont...

Top left and right: Neolithic Village of Skara Brae, dating back to 3180 BC. Lower left: European Bagpipe Championship in Inverness.

The Anthropological Genetics/Nutrition lab is participating in several new studies:

1. Leptin and nutrition in energy signaling - of the great apes. Working with UW anthropology and an Ohio State graduate at the Smithsonian Institute, we are examining diet, adipokines, and hopefully some DNA methylation of LEP in the great apes who reside in zoos, and who are very prone to cardiovascular disease.
2. Gene by environment interaction (diet and migration) effects on the onset of Type 2 Diabetes in the Amazonian Indigenous populations of Peru. This study is funded by University of Kansas Medical Center and the WWU lab is designing tools for collecting dietary and energy expenditure by which to collect data, and will be entering that data on a new nutritional software designed for international studies.
3. Leptin (LEP) DNA methylation and energy signaling in the Siberian populations. We are working to get DNA more Siberian populations to examine sex-specific variation in leptin signaling and cold adaptation.

Sarah Campbell

I spent part of the past year on medical leave, being treated for ovarian cancer. I really didn't expect lightning to strike twice after having had breast cancer only a couple of years ago. Thanks to everyone in the department and to current and former students; your positive messages really buoyed up my spirits. The good news is that my treatment has been as successful as possible and I came back to work this fall. I experienced afresh how stimulating it is to be in a classroom with our wonderful and dedicated students and how exciting to work with those wanting to pursue research opportunities and extra experience outside of said class structure. Currently I am steering students towards work on 45WH10, a site on Birch Bay where Dr. Garland Grabert held a field school in 1970. The excavation was never written up, but the site is of particular interest because it is adjacent to a recently documented fault scarp, uplifted a little over 1,000 years ago. Graduate student Marsha Hanson has obtained funding from the Graduate School for two radiocarbon dates for the site as part of her thesis research on environmental change and the Birch Bay cultural landscape. Last spring, undergraduate Rachel Pinkman organized site materials, scanned field notebooks, redrew profiles, and did a preliminary analysis of invertebrate species in one excavation unit. Her analysis, and analysis of two additional units by students in the Laboratory Analysis class reveal a potential signature of a high energy depositional event that may be related to tectonic movement.

Archaeology Lab News



The newly improved primary storage space for Archaeology contains moving shelves and has added more than 50% additional storage.

The Archaeological Laboratory spaces have been undergoing some exciting changes this fall, many of them made possible by our Foundation funds, to which alumni have generously contributed! In September 2019 Dr. Jake Pfaffenroth began a new role in the department as repository manager. This position had been funded with grants for two years, but it's been five years since the role was last filled. Jake brings a fresh set of eyes to the laboratory to help it run efficiently and to continue proper care of the collections. This fall Jake has established a procedure for monitoring temperature and humidity in the repository, implemented a pest management system, and began refining our digital accession and cataloging system. This latter project will enable students, faculty,

and researchers to quickly search across the thousands of objects in our collections.

Another big development is the installation of new movable compact shelving in our primary storage space in Arntzen Hall. Installation was completed in October and we're now in the process of filling them with collections. The old stationary shelves held nearly 500 boxes, with very little empty space. The new shelves will hold more than 850 boxes! This will allow us to better organize the collections across several storage spaces and focus use of the AH317 space on teaching and research. It also leaves us with more room for temporary storage of collections being analyzed by Dr. Mike Etnier and housing additional appropriate collections in the future.

Sarah Campbell/Archaeology Lab, cont...

We've accepted relatively little in the way of new collections in recent years, partly because of limited storage space, but also because we have not met the formal federal standards for archaeological repositories as laid out by the Secretary of the Interior. This is the standard used by the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for curation arrangements for publicly funded projects, which includes materials recovered from WWU archaeological field schools, limiting our ability to provide such important learning opportunities to our students. Meeting the Secretary's standards would enable us to legally accept archaeological materials collected from publicly funded projects, effectively allowing us to operate excavation-oriented field schools again and opening up new possibilities for

teaching, and research. Additionally, contracting with private cultural resource management firms to curate their materials would provide a source of revenue to help sustain the repository. Hiring Dr. Jake Pfaffenroth as repository manager, improving our primary storage space, and starting new climate and pest monitoring systems are great steps in that exciting direction.

Foundation funding allowed us to hire Sean Fay (B.A. 2019) who has been spearheading rehousing projects and helping Pfaffenroth and Campbell supervise museology students. Museology students Emily Hill and Simon Schultheis completed several rehousing projects (including hundreds of rusty nails from 45WH17), and assisted with the logistics of emptying out Arntzen Hall 006 and reshelving boxes later. Museology students Kiana Allen and Alexandra Ritter photodocumented Pacific Islands artifacts, mostly textiles, in the Collins-Gunther collection we inherited from the former State Normal School museum. Our goal is to involve WWU Pacific Island students and their communities in decision-making about access and storage conditions for these delicate and culturally significant objects. Dr. Holly Barker, the Pacific Islands curator at the Burke Museum has given us very useful input based on her experience with similar collaborative efforts. Funding awarded to the Lummi Nation has been used to support a collaborative project with WWU. As a team, Lummi cultural specialists, WWU lab staff and students have been going through collections from Whatcom and San Juan County to identify any previously unidentified human remains and also objects of cultural patrimony.



Drs. Sarah Campbell & Jake Pfaffenroth in the newly renovated AH 06.



*Wilson Library
photo credit: Lauren Townshend 2019*

Josh Fisher

It's been a marathon of a year for me in the world of anthropology!

I finished out my first full year as Co-Editor of the *Anthropology of Work Review* (AWR), the labor journal of the field, this year. We also launched its own, open-access, open-peer reviewed journal, entitled *Exertions* the first contribution to which is a photo essay by an anthropologist and photographer working in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It's based on a neat, new experimental platform launched by MIT, called PubPub, and if you go to the site make sure to check out the slider at the top of the page. It will allow you to go back and forth in time to see how the text evolves in tandem with the feedback and care of each reviewer. A living text!

On the writing front, revisions to my book *Fragile Solidarities* are coming along, and hope that it will be in print in the next year or two. I'm editing an annual review issue of *Environment & Society* on the anthropologies of pollution and toxicity (for which I'm grateful to have received a total of 51 submissions from around the world, but it did mean that I had to make some hard decisions!). I wrote two more articles that are now in press. One is entitled "The End of the Cooperative Model (As We Knew It)," to be published in *Environment & Planning E: Nature and Space*, in a special issue on the commons and commoning. In it, I challenge the very notion of a "development model" — the idea that the final form is given in the beginning — and suggest that, as anthropologists, we could consider ourselves partici-

pants in conversations about how to build new forms of commons and cooperatives that are more inclusive, more just, and more responsive to our times. The second article, entitled "Ethnographic Designs for Living Well" and coming out in *Collaborative Anthropologies*, is the culmination of my NSF project in Nicaragua so far. In it, I challenge the notion that our job requires "balancing" teaching and research, and I show how, in addition to research feeding our teaching, our teaching can also invigorate our research. In my case, drawing on my experiences as a teacher — including teaching two new classes on "Empire" and "Energy in the Global South" — has enabled me to develop a new suite of collaborative ethnographic methods.



Research participants prepare their own 'sociodramas,' or dramatic interpretations of critical social issues

I also had the chance to travel talk about my NSF research in a number of venues this last year, as this stage

of my research in Nicaragua is quickly coming to an end. I organized a five-session special track called "Designs for Turbulent Times" at the Society for Applied Anthropology conference, which was about how we could rethinking what it means to "apply" anthropology in times like these. At the national anthropology conference in Vancouver, I gave two papers on "The Vitality of Trees" (about the ecological infrastructures of cities) and "Beyond the Grid" (about anarchist experiments with building micro-electric grids with new solar technologies in Managua). And last August I was also invited to contribute to a panel on power, governance, and new materialist philosophies at Cambridge in the UK this last November. This was the first of four symposia that I'll be contributing to in coming years, thanks to support from the European Research Council. In January, I'll be going to the Netherlands and Germany to present on more of my research project's findings.

But it's not all work, all the time. (Only most of it!) This last year, my partner and I were also able to join some good friends and colleagues here at Western to hike in the Dolomites in northern Italy. And I trained for and ran my second marathon. Warning to those thinking about doing that — it's addictive — and I'm already back to training for a third.

Exciting new things are happening in anthropology, at Western and beyond! As always, I'm grateful to all my colleagues and students to have the opportunity to be part of this amazing community of scholars and activists.

Daniel Boxberger

As retirement was approaching in 2018 I kept saying that “I’m not retiring, I just won’t be teaching anymore.” The year 2019 definitely held that statement to be true. I have had the busiest year of my life with my work with First Nations and it looks like things will not slow down in 2020. Our travels in 2019 included three weeks in the Caribbean in January, with ten wonderful days in Cuba. Our BC2BC walk was on hold in 2019 while we awaited the birth of two grandsons in June and July. Maddox Danielsen was born June 24 and Henry Hatch on July 15. They are both a delight. During the Spring and Summer I was busy doing elder interviews with tribal members of the First Nations I am working with, mostly in SW Washington and in the Fraser River Valley. After spending the summer in Bellingham we took a road trip in September. We flew to Cleveland and spent a few days exploring Cayahuga Valley National Park.

That makes #44 on our quest to visit all 59 US National Parks. After CVNP we drove to State College, PA to attend the Ethnohistory conference. We were barely back in Bellingham when we left for Phoenix where I played in the Mens Senior Baseball League World Series. I had some good games (.650 batting average over ten games and defensive player of a game) but my team didn’t do well. In November we traveled to Equador, spending ten days on the Galapagos. I can’t begin to explain how amazing it was. We then spent the holidays with family and on my birthday (12/27) we went to Tucson. We will be here until April or May, depending on when the heat gets unbearable, then back to Bellingham. So far retirement is good, the only differences I see are that I don’t have to grade papers, I don’t have to attend committee meetings, and I don’t get a paycheck. Hope 2020 is good to you all.



Cruising towards Daphne Major, home of 8 species of Darwin's finches. This is the island that figured so prominently in the Grant's famous studies of natural selection. Their work is beautifully presented in the book "The Beak of the Finch."

Student & Alumni News



Maryssa Cornett

In Spring Quarter 2019 I interned at the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce through the Anthropology department. This was my last quarter and I feel this was very apropos as I transition from college to the job market. At the Chamber I hoped to experience the bridging between community and business. Specifically I wanted learn about organizational culture, and further, the cross-culture between different organizations that make-up the economic network of the Chamber and its countywide constituents. Through this experience I became more aware of the intersection of community and business, am planning on pursuing this type of work as a career.

Under the supervision of the Program Director, I was able to attend a wide range of Chamber events and assist in its operations. These contextualized Ferndale

business from a Geo-economical perspective and gave insight into countywide business network.

I also appreciated the opportunity work on marketing and copywriting projects, such as contacting sponsors for city events. I was also tasked with evaluating the Chamber website in terms of membership benefits, writing campaign emails for prospective Chamber members and sponsors, and creating digital and physical maps and brochures for different Chamber programs and events. This type of work allowed me to build on the skills gained from my previous two tech writing internships.

There were many opportunities to conduct qualitative research, such as researching other Chambers in Washington and designing a survey to receive members' input on future initiatives. I am very grateful to have gained such high quality hands-on experience with applied social science in the business sector.

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Julia Ide

I am now working as an admissions counselor for WWU. I will be serving Central and Eastern Washington, and Idaho. What I am most excited about is the opportunity to work to dismantle systemic barriers that URM students face in higher education, and connecting students to resources that will best serve them. In serving Central and Eastern



Julia Ide

Washington, I will be visiting high schools with lower rates of university attendance. I want to provide the support and encouragement that students need to pursue higher education, especially when they are disproportionately faced with barriers that other students may not encounter. My anthropological education will be invaluable to this endeavor (I even talked about proximate and ultimate causes in my interview!)

Also I get business cards and have my own little cubicle-office, which is very exciting!

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James Pai

Quick update - I am now working as a clinical research coordinator at the VA Puget Sound in their Health Services R&D division. Specifically, I am working on a study investigating the effectiveness of provider side interventions on the care and quality of life of

James Pai, cont...

COPD and HIV+ patients being treated by VA infectious disease providers across the country. I will be enrolling eligible patients to the study, obtaining informed consent, administering surveys, and conducting qualitative interviews with patients and providers post intervention.

It turns out that my background in anthropology and working as a medical assistant during undergrad fit well with the coordinator position in this study. I'll be sure to keep you updated as things progress and fingers crossed I eventually make it to med school.



James Pai

Molly Dowell

(A letter written to Professor Bruna, reprinted with Molly's permission):

Dear Dr. Bruna,

Greetings from the Western countryside! I hope you've had a good last couple quarters and a great summer! How is everything shaping up for you?

I'm writing to give you an update on where I'm at, since you have had such a hand in getting me here. I'm still debating whether my next step will be medical school; alternatively, I'm now seriously considering an accelerated program to get my BSN and become a nurse. But regardless, I know that medicine is where my heart is!

I have been working for the last six months as a medical assistant in a family practice clinic in the small town of Hamilton, Montana. It has been great experience, exposing me to all the joys and challenges of patient care and rural medicine. The doctor I work with really cares about each patient, knows them well, and aims for a holistic approach to their care. I'm lucky to have found another such great advisor to help me on my way.

I'm loving this place and this job, but I know my next step is approaching fast. I thank you again for the help you gave me in my independent study last year, when we looked at pediatric referrals to mental health and how to

improve the process. It's a project I still have on file and may need to use in some way soon!

Thanks again so much for the help you gave me throughout my time at Western. I'm really happy with where I'm at now, and with where I'm headed, and much of that is thanks to your guidance! Best of luck with the upcoming fall quarter!

*All the best,
Molly R. Dowell*



Molly Dowell



Emma Poutain

This summer I had the opportunity and privilege to work with the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office! After taking ANTH 420 here at Western, where we learned about human osteology and forensic anthropology, I knew I wanted to explore a related career path! I was fortunate enough to tour the Snohomish

County Medical Examiner's Office earlier in the year and ended up being able to intern there soon after! I didn't necessarily know what I was getting myself into and it was definitely a challenge to overcome! I would be lying if I said it didn't have a huge impact on me the first couple weeks but after more exposure, I know that I want to pursue a career with the Medical Examiner now!

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Fallon Puckett (*BA Anthropology, 2018*)

I have some exciting news about grad school. I got accepted into programs at both the University of Edinburgh and the University of South Carolina. I ended up choosing University of South Carolina, as they offered me tuition coverage in exchange for taking on a TA position.



Fallon Puckett

Most of my colleagues are well versed in medical anthropology and archaeology of indigenous landscapes. I will personally be honing in my skills in Visual Anthropology as it relates to topics falling under the Cultural branch. I'll be teaching two sections of the same course to undergrad students this semester.



Lisa Osadchuk

A whole new world...Welcome to Anthropology!

There is a story in the disability world entitled, "Welcome to Holland." The gist of it is that with disability, you plan and prep for one life and along the way end up somewhere totally different than you expected. At first that difference is scary and not at all what

you would have chosen but when you open your eyes and experience the beauty around you, it becomes a place that you enjoy and come to love. Welcome to anthropology. A place that I never expected to be, but now it's home. I always thought I'd do the standard things like be a racecar driver, stuntwoman, famous actor, strong woman, whitewater raft guide or professional hockey official not be an anthropologist. Life's funny though...

Lisa Osadchuk, cont...

Had I not had a brain tumor and joined clubs no one really chooses to join (the young adult cancer/tumor club and the disability club), I wouldn't be here right now.

I started my journey at WWU eons ago, bouncing around between school and the mysterious "real world" until I got Hugo, my first service dog. After being told he probably wasn't going to be allowed in the chemistry labs, we took a different road and landed in the world of play. The Recreation Department was where for the first time in a long time, we found some stability and a home. Hugo and I spent a glorious 13 months together before he departed for the rainbow bridge to make way for little bro, Hunch, to take over the duties. Hunch and I climbed a lot of mountains (we really did, not just in the metaphorical sense), struggled over a lot of barriers and finally limped over the finish line last fall.



While "playing" around, I really started to find my lifelong passion for disability and disability studies, especially after encountering many instances of exclusion outside the Recreation department because of my own disabilities. That led to being part of a collaborative group that formed Vikings on Wheels, a 3 on 3 wheelchair basketball tournament hosted every spring in the Wade King Recreation Center along with helping to create the wheelchair basketball team, WWU's first adaptive sport club. It also set me on a path to be one of the founding members of WWU's DSAC (Disability Studies and Action Collaborative)

and which provided the ability to be fully engaged in the creation of the first annual, UnConference, held this past October. As far as we know, it was WWU's first accessible, disability focused conference ever held on campus. It was so exciting to see close to 60 community members with and without disabilities together working on concrete, viable solutions to creating



Lisa, Dr. Andrew Lucchesi, Dr. Cori Knight at DSAC Unconference

better inclusion, visibility, and understanding of the disability world! Next year is going to be even better! I know at this point, you're all thinking this is nice and all, but how did she land in the anthropology department? Hunch and I dipped our toes in another grad program and after 3 weeks, all I could hear in my head was Ollivander saying, "Nope. No. Definitely not" as Harry wreaked havoc on his shop while looking for his first wand. It wasn't home. As we searched for a new place to play, consistently one name kept popping up (no, not Dumbledore, as much as I want my letter to Hogwarts), Sean Bruna. I'm like, well, this dude better be good considering how many 5-star reviews as I'm getting. Turns out, they weren't wrong, he's bloody brilliant. Poor lad, not sure he knew what he was getting into when this tornado blew into his office that spring day and plunked herself down on his black couch. Once I started to explain that I wanted to do a project using adaptive sports to create better inclusive communities on higher ed campuses, we had our in. I think having the dog was the clencher

Lisa Osadchuk, cont...

though really. Who doesn't want a smiling giant red ball of floofy fluff who loves adventures and has been to Walt Disney World in their department?



On Spaceship Earth at EPCOT as you end the ride they say, "The end. Or should I say the beginning of your future!" Seems quite applicable here. Hunch and I beat a hasty retreat from the former and jumped with both feet into a new world that we had no context of. Those first few weeks here? Quite terrifying really. It's like being dropped into a foreign land with nothing but friendly strangers who want to help, but sometimes you still just don't understand what's going on. But as time goes on, we understand more, made some amazing friendships, learned about some people I haven't heard of since that time I slept through cultural anthropology years ago and set about trying to set the world on fire without driving Sean too nuts. I'm sure we probably drive Sean

and M.J. and everyone else crazy with all our questions and weird geeky nerdiness, but it's been a heck of an enjoyable ride so far. This quarter has been full of firsts along with continuations of old projects. Glided around the dance floor at my 2nd ballroom dance competition where my partner and I did spectacular for a new kid to the sport in our American Smooth division. Took my ballroom partner to Denver for the "Fight Like A Bronco" game and got to dance on national tv in the halftime show at Empower Field at Mile High Stadium. Presented on women and autism at my own UnConference and had one of my best friends fly from UC Riverside in to be the



keynote speaker. Guest lecturer in honors Psychology 101 and Recreation 210. Went to the AAA's where we made some new friends, participated in a round table discussion on grad school and mental health, geeked out a bit and got to show Sean how different the life of

a service dog handler is off hal- lowed grounds where we're known entities. Picked up a \$5,000 grant for the WWU Wheelchair Basketball team. And the cherry on top was getting accepted to do my first poster presentation at the PacRim International Conference on Disability and Diversity in Honolulu in March! Oh, and wrote the bulk of a literature review (we did do some scholarly things...)

Can't wait to see what the rest of our time here brings. Watch out world, like Katy Perry says, Team Hunchosaurus is coming at ya like a dark horse. Are you ready for a perfect storm? 'Cause once you're mine, there's no going back. Never count out the kid with disabilities and a big red dog. Even with the barriers in front of us going forward, we're going to do it all. We'll own every second of our journey and in the end, we'll say, we lived. We found our beautiful new home. Welcome to Anthropology. The club I never thought I'd join but it's nice here. The people are pretty good, there's snacks and I anticipate there will be a buttload of shenanigans over the next few years...

"...I, I did it all

*I owned every second that
this world could give*

*I saw so many places, the
things that I did*

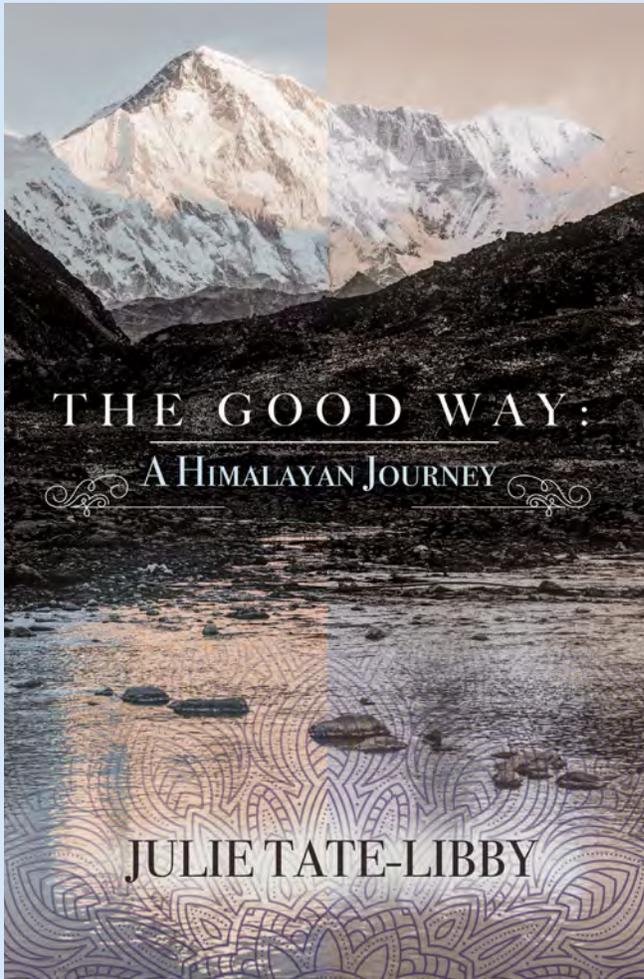
*Yeah with every broken bone
I swear I lived"*

-One Republic

Julie Tate-Libby (*MA Anthropology, 2014*)

Julie Tate-Libby is an anthropologist from the Pacific Northwest. She is an instructor of sociology and anthropology at Wenatchee Valley College and has published several academic works on amenity migration, the power of place, and sacred mountains. She has also dabbled in creative non-fiction, drawing from

her experiences in the Himalayas and Southeast Asia. Her writing has appeared in *Cirque Literary Journal*, and her poem "Fire Summer" was published on the Washington State Poet Laureate website. Her book *The Good Way, A Himalayan Journey*, was released fall 2019. More information can be found at: julietatelibby.com/



WHEN 19-year-old anthropologist, Julie Tate abandons her missionary group near Mt. Everest in Nepal, she embarks on a solo trek in the Himalayas. Battling an eating disorder and an upbringing riddled with fundamentalism, Julie's journey is a quest to understand the sacred mountains and people of the Himalaya, and a chance to rekindle her own faith. But soon she takes a wrong turn and stumbles upon a nunnery near Everest, where she contemplates becoming a Buddhist nun. Eventually she makes her way to a village in Eastern Nepal and meets a Christian man from Nagaland who happens to be looking for a wife. Told with honesty and humor, Julie's story chronicles her struggle to grow up and find a deeper faith, even when things fall apart.

"Evocative blend of ethnography and memoir, *The Good Way* is a revelatory account of a young woman whose questioning of rigid religious expectations leads her to undertake an anthropological pilgrimage to remote Himalaya passes, for which she is alone and scarcely prepared, but courageous enough to venture. As insightful as it is poetic, this book will be welcomed by anyone who has dared to seek, for a variety of social science and methodology courses, and by mountain lovers everywhere."

- James Loucky, Professor of Anthropology, Western Washington University

Annual Anthropology Award for Outstanding Student Research

The Annual Anthropology Award for Outstanding Student Research recognizes excellent undergraduate research. Faculty nominated papers, posters, presentations or other scholarly endeavors completed the previous Spring quarter through Winter quarter of the current year are eligible. Three selected awardees present their research during Scholars Week each year. We are proud to announce this year's recipients:

Pauline Elevazo

Don't Let this Institution Kill You: Student Burnout in Ethnic Student Center Clubs

-nominated by Joyce Hammond

This fieldwork focused on student involvement in Ethnic Student Center (ESC) officer boards at Western (WWU). Guided by Spradley's (1970) participant observation, literature review, and student narratives among ESC club officers, the relationship between community engagement, identity building, and student burnout were examined. This multidimensional model describes the relationship between leadership and burnout at the intersection of ethnic identity and institutional oppression, how students cope with burnout, and how they stay resilient in a predominately-white institution (PWI).

Jasmine Castro

The impact of Intentional Language at Generations: An Ethnographic Study at Generations Early Learning & Family Center

-nominated by Joyce Hammond

In this ethnographic study, I explored the ways in which teachers use intentional language to interact with the children at Generations Early Learning and Family Center. Intentional language is framing questions, phrases, or requests in a specific way that either encourages critical thinking or results in being more effective in communication with the children. Through my research at Generations, I found that the intentional language is impactful because it teaches children valuable skills such as: body

autonomy, communication skills, critical thinking skills, inclusivity, and observation, informal conversations, interviews, and my field notes to support my thesis.

Natalie Anderson

Whose Life is Worth More? A Critical Look at the Devaluation of Black Lives as Evidenced by the Racial Disparity in Infant and Maternal Deaths in the US

-nominated by Kathleen Young

This paper serves to examine the implications of the racial disparity in maternal deaths within the U.S. While the United States is considered to be the most developed country in the world, it is indicative of a much more deeply-rooted issue that in no other country is the racial inequity in maternal deaths as wide. Black mothers are three to four times more likely to die than white mothers while black babies are twice as likely to die compared to their white counterparts. This paper explores the history of the devaluation of black lives and dehumanization of black bodies cemented within our social institutions, including medicine, where race can be a determining factor in what kind of treatment one receives or whether one lives or dies. This paper seeks to understand how institutionalized racism has affected the life and death outcomes for black women and babies and how it remains a silent killer that must be acknowledged in order for it to change.



The Hall, Carver Academic Building

photo credit: Lauren Townshend 2019

Outstanding Graduating Senior Award

Shay Edwards

*BA Anthropology
Spring 2019*

Shay Edwards of Baker City, Oregon, graduated magna cum laude in June with a Bachelor of Arts and majored in anthropology. Edwards says that her proudest achievements at Western were maintaining a high GPA, her research and her work as an undergraduate teaching assistant for biological anthropology. Edwards' research includes the implications of academic bullying, the societal implications of embryonic genetic editing, and the Ukrainian Genocide, the Holodomor. Outside of her academic studies, Edwards was on the Navigators Leadership Council, a leadership committee whose role was to mentor incoming high school students. Edwards is a graduate of Gates High School in Tacoma and is daughter to Stacy Dwyer.

