The 2022 Report from the Department of Anthropology at UMass Amherst

BEING HUMAN
RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE: UMass Amherst Anthropology Ranks Among Top 100 Programs in the World

In October of 2021, UMass Amherst received the distinction of having many of its programs ranked among the best in the world, according to the 2021 QS World University Rankings by Subject. Specifically, our Anthropology Department was ranked amongst the top 100 programs worldwide.

The QS World University Rankings by Subject analyze 51 disciplines at institutions all over the world. They are informed by the opinion of over 100,000 academics and 50,000 global employers, together with the analysis of millions of research papers and citations in the Scopus bibliometric database.

Go UMass Anthropology!
The 2022 Report from the Department of Anthropology at UMass Amherst

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ON THE COVER
The entire west side of Machmer Hall (at center of photo with
Thompson high-rise behind) and the areas around the newly
renovated Student Union have been completely transformed
with new walkways and hardscaping, lush native plantings,
and many comfortable Adirondack chairs which invite all to
sit, connect and enjoy the outdoors.
Greetings to all our alumni, friends and former colleagues and welcome to the sixth edition of Being Human, the Department of Anthropology’s Annual Newsletter!

This was the transitioning back year, as we moved from remote to in-person or “F2F” modality. We kicked off this fall with an energetic round of preparations, led by our amazing staff. Machmer Hall in September was a hive of industry as we cleaned, sanitized andremodeled our space in preparation. We also procured a weird and wonderful array of supplies. Overzealous in our drive to ensure safety, we stockpiled things that now sit unclaimed and waiting for the next White Elephant gift exchange or Yankee Swap: masks of all shapes and sizes, sanitizer and a never-to-be opened giant package of disposable microphone covers, evidenced in the still life on the back cover of this issue!

It has been terrific to be back in person and reencounter each other face to face. We kicked off the fall with a welcome picnic at Groff Park. I was especially glad to be able to welcome our international graduate students, two of whom were prevented from joining us last year due to pandemic travel restrictions. We’ve been able to resume some of the formerly taken-for-granted practices of academic life - in-person participation at conferences, international travel, and, for some of us, our research activities. Again, I am grateful to my colleagues for their good humor and resourcefulness with which they have met the challenges of the last period.

We returned somewhat altered, both by the pandemic’s challenges and its silver linings. We collectively determined to hold the lessons of the previous year as well as the spaces that nurtured us. Indeed, our departmental colloquium series continued to be a vibrant space of community, where we welcomed presenters from near and far. The newly formed Racial Justice Collective, voted in last spring as a successor project to the anti-racist reading group Associate Professor Amanda Walker-Johnson spearheaded, continued our dialogues on anti-racist and decolonizing practices in the department, discipline and beyond. Its cornerstone project, and the highlight of my year, was the virtual homecoming event that brought distinguished Emerita Professor Dr. Johnnetta Cole to campus. You can read about Dr. Cole’s visit, as well as the new graduate award we created to honor her in our special feature on page 9.

Beyond this, we have lots to celebrate. We welcomed a new faculty colleague, continuing the encouraging growth in faculty numbers we’ve recently experienced. Johanna Pacyga, who will join us as a lecturer in Fall 2022, is a historical archaeologist with expertise in Senegal. Her recently completed doctoral research investigates the active roles of West African and French women in Catholic missionization during the colonial period. We are excited for her to join us and by the new courses and collaborations we envisage!

My Departmental colleagues and students have continued to shine, as you’ll see in the pages that follow. A few faculty highlights and milestones: Sonya Atalay was promoted to Full Professor and named Provost Professor, and Felicity Aulino was promoted to tenure. Beyond-campus accolades and accomplishments include Prof. Whitney Battle-Baptiste’s election as President Elect/Vice President of the American Anthropological Association, Prof. Lynnette Sievert’s Franz Boas Distinguished Achievement Award from the Human Biology Association and Associate Prof. Jason Kamilar’s major NSF grant. Our graduate students in turn have done us proud, securing an impressive number of internal and external fellowships and awards. You may read more about these and other faculty and graduate accomplishments on pages 13 and 17. Truly, our 2021 “Top 100” ranking was well deserved!

Finally, we want to gratefully acknowledge your generous gifts and ongoing support for our programs. Please check out the awards your support has made possible on page 12 and see the Supporting Anthropology section for more information.
WARM WELCOMES AND FOND FAREWELLS

The 2021-2022 Academic Year brought us back to campus, rekindling the strong sense of community the Anthropology Department has always enjoyed, and it allowed our welcomes this year to be joyfully in-person.

WARM WELCOMES

Johanna Pacyga joined us as a part-time lecturer this Spring and will be joining us as a full-time lecturer starting in Fall of 2022. She earned her PhD in Historical Archaeology and Anthropology from the University of Chicago in 2021. Her doctoral research was based in Senegal, studying the active roles of West African and French women in Catholic missionization during the colonial period. She has also excavated sites in the U.S., Canada, Dominica, and Spain. Beyond her overarching interest in the lives and agency of women and girls in the colonial context, her research and teaching touch on human/plant relationships, historical ecology, the intersections of gender and religion, inequality, gendered education and community building, and the power dynamics of knowledge production and mainstream narratives. We are excited to welcome her to the department.

Mark Auslander joined us this academic year as a part-time lecturer, offering two classes for us, Language and Culture, Anthro 105, and Race and the American Museum, Anthro 230. He holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Chicago (1997). A sociocultural and historical anthropologist, he works at the intersection of ritual practice, aesthetics, environmental transformation, kinship, and political consciousness in sub-Saharan Africa and the African Diaspora. Mark was an active participant in the Racial Justice Collective this year and played a pivotal role in reconnecting us with Emerita Professor Johnnetta Cole.

Chris Couch made a guest appearance with us during the Fall 2021 semester to teach Anthro 497CR, Cartoons, Comics and Communicating Anthropology. Couch is a senior lecturer in Comparative Literature here in the College of Humanities & Fine Arts and holds a PhD in art history from Columbia University (1987). He is the author of numerous books and articles on Latin American art and on graphic novels and comic art.
FOND FAREWELL

A beloved colleague and fixture of the Department is retiring at the end of this year, and we are very sad to see him go! Lecturer Eric Johnson, who started out as a student in the department in 1979, earning his PhD in 1993, is retiring at the end of this year. Eric held a wide variety of jobs and positions in archaeology, including working for UMass Archaeological Services as field technician, project manager, lab supervisor, graphic artist, lithic and ceramic analyst, editor, and lastly as its director. He has also worked for the Massachusetts Historical Commission in review and compliance, collections research, handling, analyzing and recording tens of thousands of artifacts and documenting hundreds of sites. Beyond this, he has taught widely in the department and is one of our most passionate and popular teachers, weaving insights from this work into his classes and the hands-on experiential opportunities he supervises.

As he says, “I have tried to share what I have learned from all these different experiences with my students, to give them practical skills and ethical attitudes that will help get them started in jobs and careers in archaeology. Knowing that I was able to help a student achieve their goals has been incredibly rewarding to me.” His commitment to teaching is evidenced by the sheer number of students he has taught over the years - Eric estimates “almost 4,500 since 2010, including 153 internships and independent studies.”

When asked about some of his favorite projects over the years, Eric told us, “One of the best projects I have been involved in was the Kampoosa Bog excavations in Stockbridge. I was the project manager for the data recovery excavations at the sites in 1993... (it) included paleoenvironmental studies that indicated that the ancestors of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community were managing the forest through understory burning as early as 4,000 years ago... information that I’ve shared in my large lecture classes.” Eric has also undertaken important deaccessioning work, taking steps to return materials from excavations and fieldschools to local communities and organizations as appropriate. Of note, during the COVID semester of spring 2021 he worked with a team of graduate students and undergraduate interns to assemble and transfer artifacts and documents to the Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

Over the last couple of years, Eric has worked with undergraduates in our curation center, where the collections from over 700 projects conducted over more than 30 years are housed, organizing and documenting the collection to make materials easily accessible for education, research and transfer as appropriate. This work has been essential in assisting the Anthropology Department to fulfill its responsibilities as a state repository.

Post-retirement, Eric will continue to be a part of our department community. He will lecture periodically and will continue coordinating experiential opportunities for our students. Please join us in wishing Eric the best on his retirement!
Distinguished Alumna Dr. Irma McLaurin received the American Anthropological Association (AAA) Engaged Anthropology Award last August, along with the Rochester Museum & Science Center’s (RMSC) past featured exhibition, The Changemakers: Rochester Women Who Changed the World. Dr. McLaurin served as a Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness (DEI) consultant for the exhibition and was a key contributor. The AAA Engaged Anthropology Award honors individual anthropologists or projects which have demonstrated a deep commitment to social justice and community engagement by applying anthropology to effectively address a pressing issue facing people and the planet.

In 2020, McLaurin was awarded a $15,000 Historical Archives Grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Inc. for the development of the Irma McClaurin Black Feminist Archive (BFA) in Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA), in the UMass Amherst Libraries. The BFA was established in 2016, the year she was recognized as a UMass Amherst “Distinguished Alumni.”

Alumnus Alan Goodman (BS 1974, PhD 1983) has a new a book, *Racism, Not Race: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions* (Columbia), in collaboration with Joseph Graves, the first PhD African American evolutionary biologist. It features an accessible Q and A format discussing why race is a cultural concept and not a biological one. The hardcover was published at the end of 2021 and has made a number of best books of 2021 lists, including being an Amazon editor’s pick. Joe and Alan have been making the rounds of podcasts and webinars and excerpts of the book have appeared in *Sapiens and Science for the People* magazine. Alan is a past President of the AAA and former Dean of Faculty/Vice President of Academic Affairs at Hampshire College. He is currently working on updating the AAA’s website for its public education project on race that he co-directs and a range of race and racism initiatives with UNESCO.

Alumna Lauren Woodard (PhD 2019) accepted a tenure track position in the Anthropology Department at Syracuse University’s Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs. She was also offered postdocs by Trinity College and the Kennan Institute for Russian Studies. Lauren is currently a Postdoctoral Associate in the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Program and Lecturer in Anthropology at Yale University where she is revising her dissertation into a book manuscript, tentatively titled *Home to Russia: Migration, Race, and Belonging in the Far East*.

**THE UMASS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

In a year-long consultative and deeply collaborative process with respected advisors from local Tribal Nations, the UMass Native Advisory Council, including Professor Sonya Atalay and campus Repatriation Coordinator and anthropology graduate student Julie Woods, co-developed a campus Land Acknowledgement. This Acknowledgement affirms our campus connection and relationship to the land the campus is built upon and our continued connection to the Nations who were the original inhabitants and caretakers of this land. The Land Acknowledgement is part of a broader effort of building and sustaining relationships and partnerships with the Native Nations to whom we, as a university community, are connected. To learn more about it: [https://www.umass.edu/diversity/native-american-advisory-council](https://www.umass.edu/diversity/native-american-advisory-council)
The Anthropology Department kicked off the 21-22 Academic Year with a pair of wonderful in-person events to rekindle our community spirit – first, a welcome back Department Meeting on September 3rd followed by a lovely outdoor lunch on the Machmer quad lawn, and second, a fun Department Picnic at the Groff Park main pavilion in Amherst on September 12th. Faculty, graduate students and their family members came together to share some delicious food and connect.
DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIUM SERIES

In her role as colloquium coordinator, Associate Professor Felicity Aulino hosted an exciting series of events this year. Building on last year’s successful Zoom series, many of these events were hybrid or Zoom-based, facilitating geographic diversity in our speakers and our audience. The fall semester launched with a virtual visit from Johana Yunker, the Associate Director of the Graduate School’s Office of Professional Development, who shared time management and grading strategies with us.

Other exciting colloquia included Dr. Stacey Tecot, University of Arizona, “Raising Babies in an Unpredictable World: Socioendocrine Insights from Defiant Lemurs,” and graduate student Castriela Hernandez Reyes’ presentation, “Building Truth and Peace in Columbia: An Epistemology of Absences.” Some sessions embraced a dynamic dialogic format. These included the fabulous conversation between Bill Girad, Visiting Lecturer at Mount Holyoke College, and graduate student Claudia Morales on the topic of “Evangelical Worlds and Why They Matter for Central American Migrants;” a book launch roundtable with the interdisciplinary artist Glenna Cole Alee and co-author Mark Auslander, wherein they presented from their new book, Hanford Reach: In the Atomic Field; and a workshop with Shreyas Sreenath, Bowdoin College. We thank Felicity and contributing faculty and grad students for assembling such a wonderful series of events.

ETHNOGRAPHY COLLECTIVE

The newly founded UMass Amherst Ethnography Collective hosted several events during 2021-22. Among them were, a panel on Ethnographic Field Methods in December, Ethnography & Activism in April, co-organized with Sociology colleagues Fareen Parvez and Millie Thayer; and a panel on Fieldnotes: Reflections on Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine also in April, co-sponsored by the Russia, Eurasia and Polish Studies Program and moderated by Regine Spector and Julie Hemment. This timely roundtable centered the voices and experiences of ethnographers of Ukraine. Panelists provided insights on the current war based on their own research and reflected on what kinds of ethnographic interventions are possible in this context.

Alina Parker, PhD in Communication, became the first recipient of the Graduate Certificate in Ethnographic Research in February 2022. Alina’s ethnographic research provided additional data for a dissertation chapter related to the online and social media presence of the ways in which the “Russia—My History Museum” project uses its virtual presence to create the impression of a hip, modern, innovative institution. Julie Hemment served as the certificate advisor, and Betsy Krause directs the recently approved certificate program.
RACIAL JUSTICE COLLECTIVE

The Department’s Racial Justice Collective, co-convened by Associate Professor Amanda Walker Johnson and Assistant Professor Lynnette Arnold and a team of students has worked throughout the year to promote anti-racist and de-colonizing practices in the department, discipline and beyond. The collective met via Zoom throughout the semester and hosted a series of dialogues and events, including hosting a pedagogy workshop. The center point of their activities was the initiative to bring Emerita Professor Johnnetta Betsch Cole to campus as a part of the Black Presence Initiative. It was an inspirational virtual visit, highlighted below.

A HOMECOMING: DR. JOHNNETTA BETSCH COLE

We were thrilled and honored to welcome Johnnetta Betsch Cole to campus for this homecoming event. Johnnetta Cole is one of our most distinguished faculty alums who taught here from 1970-1983. She left her mark on the Anthropology department, on Women’s Studies, and the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies where she played a pivotal role in its development, as well as on the campus writ large, as Associate Provost for undergraduate education from 1981-1983.

The public event, “Speaking Truth to Power: A Homecoming Event,” took the form of a moderated dialogue between Dr. Cole and her long-term colleague Dr. Esther Terry, founding member of the W.E.B. DuBois department of Afro-American Studies where she played a pivotal role in its development, as well as current campus faculty, our own Dr. Amanda Walker-Johnson and Dr. Whitney Battle-Baptiste, and Dr. A-Yemisi Jimoh, Afro-American Studies.

It was a dynamic, powerful and inspiring conversation, wherein Dr. Cole reflected on her time at UMass and recalled her experiences in the “three homes” she contributed to and that sustained her: Machmer Hall, Africa House and WGSS. She urged us to remember that we are never alone in struggles for justice, but that we can turn to and draw strength from each other. It was a powerful and wonderful reminder of the power of her work, as well as the forms of “good trouble” she engaged in!

The event was a tremendous success, attended by 156 people from near and far. Audience members included former colleagues and graduate students, including our own Professor Tom Leatherman, who remembers TA-ing for her in 1981, as well as some of her former undergraduate students. One audience member expressed her thanks for the Havana fieldschool Dr. Cole organized on the 20th anniversary of the Cuban revolution, which she had participated in.

We used the occasion to announce a new award, created to honor Dr. Cole and express our gratitude to her. The Johnnetta Betsch Cole Award for Engaged Public Scholarship recognizes a graduate student who has deeply integrated rigorous scholarship and a commitment to inclusive social justice, in a manner that reflects Dr. Cole’s values and contributions across her distinguished career.
The public lecture event was followed by a more intimate virtual visit where Dr. Cole met with graduate students in Anthropology, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies. The lively discussion centered upon the experiences of students of color. The graduate students brought their own questions to ask of Dr. Cole and they shared their own activist scholarship and engaged research experiences with her and each other. A wonderful word cloud was created in this event, thanking Dr. Cole for her engagement and work (pictured above).

In her kind message of thanks to the department, Dr. Cole recalled “the pioneering teaching and learning that I was privileged to be a part of in classrooms in Machmer Hall.” This included the course she co-developed in the 1970’s with a group of faculty and graduate students, "Issues in Race and Gender/Racism and Sexism," cross-listed in anthropology and Women’s Studies. She added that she also recalled the numerous teach-ins and demonstrations she and department members had engaged in.

In reflecting on these events’ significance, Racial Justice Coalition co-convenors Amanda Walker-Johnson and Lynnette Arnold recalled the powerful intergenerational dialogue between Dr. Cole and colleagues/grad students here at UMass, as well as the powerful figures Dr. Cole invoked in her public talk: Mama (Audre) Lorde, James Baldwin, and Angela Davis, among others. Lynnette added, “I was inspired to think about how we sustain struggle over the long term, sustaining ourselves by drawing strength from one another in our collective journeys.”

Amanda recalled Dr. Cole’s powerful message to us: "The moment we stop learning, the best part of life is all over."

Thank you, Dr. Cole! It was a joy and an honor to host you.

We recently launched a Minute Fund drive in support of the [Johnnetta Betsch Cole Award for Engaged Public Scholarship]. To learn more about the award as well as how to contribute, see page 21.
DISTINGUISHED LECTURE IN THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF EUROPE

The 22nd Distinguished Lecture in the Anthropology of Europe was held in January. Our distinguished lecturer was Dr. Marta Vilar Rosales, University of Lisbon Institute of Social Sciences, who visited with us this academic year as a Fulbright Scholar. Dr. Rolases’ lecture focused on migrants’ homes, which are one of the most productive sites for the study of key dimensions directly related to the impacts of human movements, such as social and cultural identities, networks of belonging, and positioning strategies. Homemaking in a new, often adverse, context is one of the most significant challenges all migrants face. Things, and their appropriation and domestication, play a significant part in this process. Drawing on ethnographic materials gathered in European, African, and North and South American migration sites, she comparatively explored how the (often contested) integration of stuff associated with different cultural settings in a new home contributes to frame, stabilize and display the creative ongoing processes of material and domestic cultures in migrants’ house interiors.

ANTHRO GOES ICE SKATING

The department sponsored a super fun Ice Skating Party in March – all faculty, grad and undergrads, staff and extended family members were invited to the Mullins Center Practice Rink for a fun afternoon of merriment on ice. While many of us took some time find our balance on the ice, Professor Betsy Krause, who in a past life was a competitive figure skater, wowed us with her graceful moves!
AWARDS AND HONORS

On May 11, 2021, the Department held its annual awards ceremony virtually via Zoom. Despite not being in-person, it was a joyful event celebrating our graduate and undergraduate students’ hard work, perseverance and successes through another challenging year.

Armelagos-Swedlund Dissertation Writing Award:
Adam Netzer Zimmer

Armelagos-Swedlund Research Awards:
Sofiya Shreyer, Amanda Fuchs

Art Keene Student Leadership Award:
Makhai Dickerson-Pells

Dissertation Writing Fellowship:
Ying Li

Graduate Travel Awards:
Claudia Morales, Evan Taylor, Amanda Fuchs, Tabitha Dorshorst, Danielle Raad, Virginia McLaurin

Nat Smith Community Service Awards:
Erica Kowsz, Camrin Clayton

Nathalie F.S. Woodbury Distinguished Service Awards:
Thomas Wilson III, Rafaella Fabrizi

Oriol Pi Sunyer Dissertation Prize:
Julieta Chaparro

Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Awards:
Meredith Degyansky, Catie Kitrinos, Ahmad Mohammadpour, Roman Sanchez, Sofiya Shreyer

Summer Undergraduate Internship Award:
Mikayla Martinelli

Sylvia H. Forman Graduate Fellowship:
Vanessa Miranda Juarez

Sylvia H. Forman Writing Prizes:
Ella Reed, Aisha Revolus

Many of the awards bestowed have been made possible by generous donations from people like you. If you would like more information on how you can make a tax-deductible gift to the department, please see page 21.

OTHER AWARDS

Many of our graduate students also received awards and grants from the UMass Graduate School this academic year to support their research, predissertation efforts and fieldwork.

Graduate School Return to Research Grants:
Victoria Bochniak
Sarah Mathena
Vanessa Miranda-Juarez
Claudia Morales
Ryan Rybka

Graduate School Predissertation Grant:
Sofiya Shreyer

Graduate School Fieldwork Grant:
Claire Gold
Priscilla Mollard

CONGRATULATIONS!
THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

This has been the year of defenses with twelve new doctorates and three new master’s degrees - many more than our average. According to Department Chair, Julie Hemment, the large number of defenses this year was made possible, in part, due to the department’s increased funding for pre-dissertation research awards. These awards are given to early PhD students to assist them with dissertation feasibility studies, initial outreach work, and other research to give them a jumpstart on their PhD work.

Writing and defending is always a massive undertaking, and this was especially true for these students as they did it all during a global pandemic. While some students were able to defend in person, the Department of Anthropology also offered Zoom and hybrid formats. This new offering enabled students to invite friends, colleagues and family from outside Amherst and around the world.

We asked the recent graduates how COVID-19 and its developments changed their work habits and affected their dissertations.

“My dissertation was always going to be a look at Indigenous digital media creations, so I was fortunate that much of my research was already online. At the same time, the pandemic accelerated and changed online interactions so drastically that I had to add another chapter just to capture those new developments!” – Virginia McLaurin

“I am so appreciative to Dr. Atalay for creating a writing group... (it) really allowed us to buckle down and get to work. During the pandemic, our writing group spanned across different time zones in the US. Coordinating a time to write was funny because I was just waking up... and (another) person would be getting ready for dinner. My group saw me through the ups and downs of dissertating, and I could not have done it without Victoria and Erica.” – Cecilia Vasquez

“...defending online also came with the great surprise of having UMass colleagues tune in from their various locations all over the country and the world... Even though it was only a box with your name on it, seeing each additional person pop into the Zoom to hear me defend really raised my spirits after a long, often lonely slog of writing the dissertation during a pandemic. Thank you to everyone who made the time to be there.” – Erica Kowsz

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATE STUDENTS WHO SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED THEIR DISSERTATIONS AND THESSES!
GOOD NEWS AND OTHER HONORS

This year, our graduate students have continued a years-long trend of world-class scholarship, publishing, outreach, and civic engagement, with many of them winning prestigious awards and fellowships. Check out their notable accomplishments.

Çağla Ay has been offered a full year WSIP Mellon PhD Fellowship for the building of the Decolonial Global Studies Certificate in 2022-23.

Sharonee Dasgupta (pictured left) was awarded the Prafulla C Mukerji Foundation Fellowship. It comes with two years of support, and she plans to use it for her dissertation fieldwork.

Vanessa Giraldo Gartner was instrumental in organizing about fair and sustainable use of bio-resources after the peace agreement in Colombia that was held in October 2021. It was an inter-disciplinary experiment meant to build dialogues about environmental peace between activists, scholars, and NGOs.

Justin Helepololei accepted the position of Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Colgate University.

Castriela Hernandez (pictured left) wrote an article "Black Women’s struggles against extractivism, land dispossession and marginalization in Colombia," which was the third-most cited article in the journal Latin American Perspectives. In addition, she attended UC Berkeley’s Mellon-funded Global Black Feminisms 2021 Summer Lab.

Sofiya Shreyer has a chapter accepted for publication in the forthcoming University Press of Florida volume Anthropological Perspectives on Aging, co-authored with Julie Hemment.

Priscilla Mollard established the new Rivulus Dominarum Transylvanian Bioarchaeology Project in Baia Mare, Romania.

Claudia Morales was selected to join the Boston University Anthropology Department’s Emerging Scholar program on racism in health in medicine.

Danielle Raad (pictured right) accepted the Cullman-Payson Postdoctoral Fellowship in Academic Affairs and Outreach at Yale’s University Art Gallery. Her focus in this role is to expand curricular engagement with collections, particularly that of STEM faculty and students.

Cecilia Vasquez was awarded the “American Council of Learned Societies Emerging Voices Postdoctoral Fellowship”, funding her position at the UC Davis Global Migration Center. She also launched a new graduate mentoring series titled “Mapping Academia”, alongside Dr. Jonathan Rosa, through the Association of Latinx & Latina/o Anthropologists.

Anna Weyher was featured in UMass Magazine about her work on baboons in Zambia, as well as her outreach with kids that live near the park.

Adam Netzer Zimmer (pictured right) recently gave a talk at the National Museum of Iceland about his dissertation research on Icelandic skeletal collections as a part of their annual lecture series. He also presented a keynote for the British Association of Biological Anthropology and Osteo-archaeology’s annual meeting.
ANTHRO GRAD STUDENTS IN ACTION
Check out this great assemblage of photos showcasing some highlights from our graduate students' work over the past academic year.

Anna Weyher thanks Kafinda school on fieldwork in Zambia; this photo (by Bastiaan Boon) was featured in a UMass Magazine article about Anna's work.

Claire Gold in the lab.

Clockwise from top right: Virginia McLaurin, Cecilia Vasquez and Erica Kowsz during their Zoom and in-person PhD defenses.

Danielle Road teaching at Yale's University Art Gallery.
Engaged work is a hallmark of the Department of Anthropology’s Undergraduate Program and we continue to expand and develop available opportunities for our students to get out of the classroom and into the “real world.” Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Advising, Boone Shear, is spearheading two of these opportunities, Building Solidarity Economies (BSE) and the Mutual Aid Project.

BSE is an assemblage of classes, projects, internships, and engaged research efforts including Anthro 340: Other Economies are Possible, Anthro 341: Building Solidarity Economies, the Community Based Summer Internship Program, and the Mutual Aid Project. BSE is assembled and designed to teach, learn about, research, and build relationships that can strengthen solidarity economies - initiatives and movements that put people and planet before profit.

The core of BSE is Anthro 341, which is a 6-credit praxis-based course. This year’s class (pictured above) worked with and learned from the Coalition for Worker Ownership and Power (CoWOP). Students worked in “pods” on collaborative research projects with CoWOP that will help facilitate relationship building and support policy campaigns. BSE also worked with Common Share Food Cooperative on an effort to bring a full service, inclusive, worker-owned/consumer owned hybrid cooperative grocery to Amherst. Students worked to support Common Shares efforts to reach the 1000-member threshold needed to begin to build the store, and researched other food cooperatives who employ hybrid models, learning qualitative research techniques in the process.

The Mutual Aid Project is a joint project between faculty and students, and between BSE (Building Solidarity Economies) in Anthropology and the Community Scholars Program in Civic Engagement and Service Learning. The Mutual Aid Project researches mutual aid theory and practice and facilitates mutual aid projects. The central organizing mechanism of the Mutual Aid Project is the regularly held Thingswap (pictured left). People bring clothes, food, household items, art, and conversations. They teach each other skills and build relationships between individuals and organizations.

“Through BSE and the Mutual Aid Project I have learned how to engage with my community and larger coalitions to understand what alternatives to capitalism mean to people as they exist right now. I’ve been able to exercise my research, interviewing, coalition building, writing, event planning skills and more.” - Anthropology Major Quinn Kinney (pictured right), Class of 2023
Congratulations to Professor Whitney Battle-Baptiste, who was voted President-Elect of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) last year. Whitney began her term as President-Elect/Vice President at the organization’s Annual Meeting in November and will assume the office of Association President at the 2023 Meeting. Her long history of leadership experience within the Association includes serving on the Committee on Ethics, the Nominations Committee, and the Anthropology of Tourism Interest Group, as well as with the Association of Black Anthropologists, and the Association for Feminist Anthropology. In a conversation with the AAA, she noted, “I plan on accelerating the pace of change envisioned in the Association’s new five-year plan, including taking definitive, actionable steps regarding inclusion, equity, and diversity in our membership and advancing the field through a broad range of career pathways.” She also hopes to use the Association’s full convening power to facilitate a larger public role for anthropology. In addition to this national leadership role, Whitney has also been named co-chair of the newly formed UMass Black Advisory Council.

Professor Betsy Krause was appointed as the Commonwealth Honors College Terrence Murray Professor beginning in Fall 2021. For the two-year professorship, Betsy designed an ethnographic study, “Diversity & Discipline: Inspirations and Impediments to Writing an Honors Thesis” to shed light on the undergraduate honors experience and extend the Commonwealth Honors College mission of inclusivity. In recent years, the CHC underwent significant curricular revision and reinstated mandatory theses. This study focuses on finding effective and creative ways to offer support, assistance, and guidance to help students successfully complete their senior theses. Assisting with the study are Çağla Ay, one of our own grad students as an RA, and two Honors College undergraduate RAs. Betsy has also published a new article in Made in China Journal: “Encounter Ethnography and Making the ‘Made in Italy’ Brand: Chinese Migrant Experiences.” She also gave multiple invited talks this year, including an invited talk as part of Brown University’s Population Studies & Training Center (PSTC) Colloquium Series titled “Pre-Existing Conditions’ and Post-Covid Possibilities: Race and Place among Chinese Migrants in Italy”.

Congratulations to Sonya Atalay, who was promoted to Full Professor and appointed to Provost Professor last year! In addition to this, she was selected as a 2020-2021 Distinguished Graduate Mentor by the Graduate School. Sonya was a guest at the AGUA/SoA Lecture Series at the University of Arizona in November 2021. Her work was profiled in The Daily Collegian in an article titled, “Sonya Atalay: cultivating partnerships with local Native communities and exploring Indigenous education frameworks.” And, she has published a new book, The Community-based PhD: Complexities and Triumphs of Conducting CBPR. Learn more about her book on page 19.
Professor Krista Harper was named a Distinguished Teaching Faculty Member at the National Science Foundation’s Summer Cultural Anthropology Methods Program (NSF Summer CAMP), where in summer 2021 she offered intensive training in participatory visual and multimodal methods, advised PhD students on their dissertation research design, and co-authored articles on research methodology pedagogy. She will return to the program in summer 2022. In addition, students in Krista’s undergraduate and graduate qualitative research methods courses conducted research on students’ perspectives, and this year, they are conducting research on faculty and librarian perspectives on plans to make the campus infrastructure free of greenhouse gas emissions by 2032. One senior anthropology major, Meera Ramakrishnan, helped prepare a final report of last year’s project findings and presented the research at the Society for Applied Anthropology meetings in Salt Lake City. Students in this spring’s class had an exciting participant observation experience when they toured the energy-efficient heating and cooling systems on the roof of our recently renovated classroom building, South College (photo at right), with UMass Capital Projects Manager Ted Mendoza.

Professor Lynnette Sievert won the Franz Boas Distinguished Achievement Award from the Human Biology Association in February 2022. The Boas Award honors members of the Association for exemplary contributions to human biology in science, scholarship, and other professional services. To receive the award, recipients in this profession must be a leading figure, have made a series of contributions that represent a significant accomplishment and/or have made a remarkable contribution that transcends normal scientific achievement. Congratulations, Lynnette, on this lifetime achievement! In addition, she delivered her Distinguished Faculty Lecture in April of 2022, “The Evolution of Menopause and Post-Reproductive Life.”

Congratulations Felicity Aulino, who was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor! Felicity also published a new article in Nature Human Behavior, “Similarities and Differences in Concepts of Mental Life Among Adults and Children in Five Cultures.” The full text of the article may be found at: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41562-021-01184-8.
Professor **Julie Hemment** gave several invited talks last year. She presented at Indiana University’s Russian Studies Workshop, “Russia’s Geopolitical Humor: The Kremlin’s Media, Diplomacy, and Comedy,” and contributed to several teach-ins and panels related to Russia’s war of aggression in Ukraine during the spring. These included a Society for the Anthropology of Europe/SOYUZ event, hosted by AAA, “Anthropological Perspectives on the War in Ukraine,” a panel organized by Södertörn University, Sweden and three SBS sponsored events.

Professor **Brigitte Holt** was awarded an SBS Deans Support Grant this academic year. The project, “Determining genetic (chromosomal) sex of the juveniles from the Medieval Italian site of San Paragorio” contributes to research on juvenile life conditions in a pre-Industrial rural and coastal context.

Associate Professor **Jason Kamilar** was just awarded a $450,000 NSF grant for a 3-year project, “Primate gut microbiomes in relationship to behavioral traits.” In addition, he has received an FRG/HEG grant to fund his proposal, “The Effect of a Massive Bat Migration on the Gut Microbiome and Parasite Diversity of Baboons.” Jason gave a virtual talk at Oxford University, where he discussed his baboon research at Kasanka National Park, including the work done by PhD student **Anna Weyher** and colleagues, as well as new projects starting soon by PhD students **Mandy Fuchs** and **Catie Kitrinos**.

Assistant Professor **Lynnette Arnold** was co-sponsor on a recently awarded Wenner-Gren workshop grant, “The Demystifying Language Project Workshop.” Lynnette, along with **Felicity Aulino**, published a new article in *Anthropology News* in June, “A Call to Care: How a focus on care can open ordinary worlds, hidden in plain sight.” She also received a 2022 Mutual Mentoring Team Grant for the project, “Books in SBS,” along with **Nick Caverly** and other campus colleagues.

Associate Professor **Amanda Walker Johnson** has been awarded an SBS Associate Faculty Leave Grant in support of her current book project. Her book-in-progress examines the theoretical interventions and innovations forged by Black feminist anthropologists. In addition, Amanda’s work with the department’s Racial Justice Collective has been crucial in fostering dialogue within the department and across campus and was key in spearheading the Homecoming event with Dr. **Johnnetta Cole**.

Assistant Professor **Achsah Dorsey** received a 2021 Mutual Mentoring Team grant for her project, “Building a Collaborative Colony: Professional Networking for Human Microbiome Researchers.” She was also awarded a Lilly Fellowship for Teaching Excellence for the coming year.

Assistant Professor **Nick Caverly** was selected as an ISSR Scholar for the 2022-2023 academic year and will be working on a project titled, “Racism, Antiracism, and Infrastructure in the Context of Energy Transition.”
**EMERITI UPDATES**

Professor Emerita Laurie Godfrey shared some recent news she received from the *Journal of Human Evolution*:

“As the corresponding author for the article ‘A new interpretation of Madagascar’s megafaunal decline: The ‘Subsistence Shift Hypothesis’”, it gives us great pleasure to inform you that your article was in the top 10 most cited for the *Journal of Human Evolution* in 2021, out of all the papers published in 2019-2020. This is a very considerable landmark and highlights the critical contribution of your research within the field of human evolution.” In addition, Laurie was part of a research team who, using an unusually well-preserved subfossil jawbone, sequenced for the first time the nuclear genome of the koala lemur (*Megaladapis edwardsi*), one of the largest of the giant lemur species that went extinct on Madagascar. Laurie noted, “Working with the group of researchers in PJ Perry’s lab at Penn State on reconstructing aspects of the lifeways of giant lemur, *Megaladapis*, using functional genomics as well as the more standard methods of behavioral reconstruction that paleontologists have always used, has been a blast. Thank you for remembering me. Despite my “retirement” I will always be part of the UMass Anthropology community.” Laurie also co-edited an all-Indigenous researcher edition of *Malagasy Nature*, the first time the Madagascar-based journal has focused solely on work led by indigenous researchers. Congratulations to Laurie on these achievements!

**THE INDISPENSABLE DEPARTMENT STAFF**

Through a year that featured a rapidly evolving global situation and uncertain conditions, our staff worked hard to support the department and meet every challenge. Two celebrated amazing employment anniversaries with UMass - Academic Programs Manager Shelley Silva, 30 years; and Financial Manager Grace Rock, 22 years. We are lucky to have so much knowledge and experience on our team! Operations Coordinator Danielle Sedelow (*’20, Anthropology BA) was awarded the SBS Dean’s Professional Development Scholarship to help support her efforts to earn a Business Certificate from the Isenberg School of Management. And on a fun note, Department Administrator Beverly Morrison (*’14 Isenberg MBA) won the UMass VCRE “Name Our Newsletter” Contest with her submission, “The R&E News Bee.”
Spring Semester and involves fieldwork during Spring Break. The five-credit advanced Anthropology course which takes place each semester is presented in English by those for whom it is not a first language. The “Alternate Spring Break” moniker stems from the core UACT course, Grassroots Community Organizing, a social justice work. The University Alliance for Community Transformation (UACT) is dedicated to building capacity for diverse, community-based social justice work. The “Alternate Spring Break” moniker stems from the core UACT course, Grassroots Community Organizing, a five-credit advanced Anthropology course which takes place each Spring Semester and involves fieldwork during Spring Break.

### Armelagos-Swedlund Medical Anthropology Fund
This fund was established and named after two Professors Emeriti, George Armelagos, for his key role in training a generation of biological and medical anthropologists, and Alan Swedlund, who was a colleague of George’s, for his great contributions to the department and the field. For a second year, Alan Swedlund has dedicated additional funding to create a graduate dissertation support fellowship, to be awarded to a student committed to working in medical or biocultural anthropology or bioarchaeology, or a closely related field.

### Johnnetta Betsch Cole Award for Engaged Public Scholarship
This new award recognizes a graduate student who has deeply integrated rigorous scholarship and a commitment to inclusive social justice, in a manner that reflects the values and contributions exemplified by Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole across her distinguished career. These values include relentless intellectual curiosity about power and difference; respectful engagement with communities outside the academy; and, a dedication to making research and scholarship accessible to diverse public audiences, with an emphasis on persons and communities that have been historically marginalized.

### “Worlding Anthropology” Award
This new award recognizes the contributions that graduate students are making in building a more inclusive anthropology that honors diversity in language, knowledge practices, and forms of theory. It is inspired by the legacies of former faculty in the department including Emiliana Cruz and Arturo Escobar, whose work has enriched the breadth of anthropology within the department and beyond. Recognized work will include, but not be limited to projects such as, papers written or presented in a language other than English, papers drawing on and thinking with theories emerging from the global South and diasporic communities, papers engaging with indigenous languages, epistemologies, and ethical orientations, work written or presented in English by those for whom it is not a first language.

### University Alliance for Community Transformation (UACT)
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### Remarkable Donors Supporting Anthropology
We are so grateful to our amazing donors, some of whom went above and beyond to establish additional funds to support our programs and students. Contributions of any size may be made to support either a specific program, or our general fund to be allocated where the need for funding is greatest. Your gift can make a huge difference! Learn more and make a gift of your support by visiting us online at [www.umass.edu/anthro/giving-opportunities](http://www.umass.edu/anthro/giving-opportunities).

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### Samya Rose Stumo Scholarship
Founded in memory of Samya Rose Stumo (’15, Anthropology/ Spanish BA, CHS Certificate), this award recognizes commitments to promoting health and wellbeing around the world, particularly with and for groups who have historically been marginalized and underserved, especially seeking to support young women passionate about improving the wellbeing of those in greatest need and who themselves are in financial need. The scholarship is aimed to help support educational and career goals by providing support for a specific project and/or training opportunity, and/or in recognition of accomplishments that demonstrate efforts improving health equity or advancing people-centered engagement for wellbeing.

### Sylvia Forman Graduate Fellowship
The Sylvia Forman Graduate Fellowship supports international and Native American graduate students in anthropology. While they pursue their studies, they enliven and enrich the Department’s diversity, cultural life, and educational mission. This fellowship is a legacy of Sylvia Forman, who joined our Department in 1972 and served as Department Chair from 1984 until just two years before her passing in 1992.

### Undergraduate Study Abroad & Internships
The Department awards many Study Abroad and Travel Scholarships to help fund student research opportunities. These awards help provide hands-on experience with research and fieldwork. Internships and study abroad are some of the more life changing events for our students. Your donations will enable more of our majors to take advantage of these opportunities.

### Pi-Sunyer Dissertation Prize
Established in 2017, the Pi-Sunyer Prize was named after Professor Emeritus Oriol Pi-Sunyer in recognition of his many years of mentoring graduate students. Oriol taught from 1967 to 2008, co-founded the European Field Studies Program, and conducted research in both Europe and Mexico. The prize honors our legacy of mentoring and excellence in dissertation research. Gifts towards this prize reward a student with an outstanding dissertation in Europe or the Americas.

### Anthropology Department General Gift Fund
You can help us fund summer fieldwork, improve our teaching and research laboratory spaces, and more through your tax-deductible gift to Department of Anthropology’s General Fund. Your gifts to the General Fund make it possible for us to allocate your contribution where we need it most, from travel awards to state-of-the-art labs.
WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Many generous individuals have contributed to the department and our programs over the past year. It is with sincere appreciation that we recognize you! If we have accidentally missed you, please contact us so we can add your name to our next publication.

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THANK YOU!
STILL LIFE: A STUDY IN PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

As faculty, students and staff prepared to return to campus in the Fall of 2021, many items were recommended for us to purchase to keep on-hand for our health and safety. Among them were masks, microphone covers, hand sanitizer and alcohol wipes - and so we went on a shopping spree! As we approach the end of the end of the academic year, we realize we may have gone a bit overboard with those purchases. A large stash of these items remains, some pictured below, but we happily have everything we need to start the next academic year safely.