DEPARTMENT WEBSITE GETS FRESH NEW LOOK

The culmination of several years of work, the Department now has a new website with a fresh new look, easier navigation and updated content. A committee of department faculty and staff, assembled and led by Jackie Urla, reformulated the website with help from representatives from the SBS communications team. Our own Shelley Silva then worked hard to add the content to the newly-built site pages. Check it out at www.umass.edu/anthro.
The 2021 Report from the Department of Anthropology at UMass Amherst

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ON THE FRONT COVER:
This academic year, the corridors of Machmer Hall were mostly empty, with the majority of courses being held online due to the pandemic. While the building may have been quiet, the members of the department worked diligently from their homes and in socially-distant offices and labs, employing amazing creativity and innovation to maintain as many of our teaching and research activities as possible.
Greetings to all our alumni, friends and former colleagues and welcome to the fifth edition of Being Human, the Department of Anthropology’s annual newsletter! I am honored to be back again – this time as newly appointed Chair. I took over from Jackie in January as she stepped into her new role of Dean of the Graduate School.

Jackie has been an extraordinary Chair and we are so grateful for her profound contributions to the department! We are sorry to lose her, but our grad students couldn’t be in better hands. Please see our special tribute to her on page 15.

This is, alas, the Pandemic Issue. The academic year has been like no other and as we go to press, we are in the 14th month of working remotely. My initial thought was to devote a section of this newsletter to the topic, but as we compiled material it became clear that the pandemic has influenced all dimensions of our lives this past year.

I am grateful for the creative and inspiring ways members of the department have met its challenges. Faculty stepped up to teach remotely and pulled off amazing things in their virtual classrooms as you’ll see. And that unpromising cover shot notwithstanding, there has been some light and life in Machmer Hall! Some of us held our Zoom classrooms here and enjoyed masked interactions; others elected to teach face-to-face, leading our students in hands-on work in forensics, skeletal biology, and in our collections.

Faculty and graduate students have contributed their critical insights on the pandemic via their research, talks and publications and devised creative ways to connect and build community. In the pages that follow you’ll read about the Zoomtis and virtual colloquia via which we’ve come together and the silver linings we’ve experienced.

Several of these initiatives focused on the overlapping pandemic of racism and systemic inequity - of note, the anti-racism reading group Associate Professor Amanda Walker-Johnson organized and facilitated. Attended by faculty, graduate students, and alums of the department, it became a space of community and reflection where we began to imagine ways we could better advance antiracist goals in our teaching and departmental work. And, in a creative extension of her work directing the University Alliance for Community Transformation (UACT), Jen Sandler designed an innovative online course for emerging leaders of the new racial justice movements that have been mobilizing nationally.

Beyond this, we have lots to celebrate. We welcomed two new faculty, Achsah Dorsey and Nick Caverly, continuing the encouraging growth in faculty numbers we saw last year. I’m excited about the new courses they plan to offer and for the departmental and campus level research collaborations they have already embarked on.

My departmental colleagues and students have continued to shine. A few highlights: Associate Professor Sonya Atalay and Professor Whitney Battle-Baptiste were both named Chancellor’s Leadership Fellows by the Office of Faculty Development. Professor Lynnette Leidy Sievert was selected for the Distinguished Faculty Lecture series and awarded the Chancellor’s Medal for the 2021-2022 academic year. Professor Betsy Krause was selected as the 2021-2023 Terrence Murray Professor by the Honors Commonwealth College. Professor Krista Harper and her interdisciplinary colleagues were awarded a major NSF grant for their research on renewable energy systems, social equity, and climate change resiliency. And, check out our graduate students’ accomplishments and meaningful research contributions starting on page 10.

Finally, I’d like to share that the good energy of our 50th anniversary conference lingers. Inspired by the commemorative events and connections reestablished, I initiated a history of the UMass Anthropology department project with my junior-year writing students. Thus far, we’ve welcomed six emeriti colleagues to Zoom with us, gathering their recollections for an archive. With the support of Blake Spitz, Special Collections Librarian at the DuBois library, we are creating an online exhibit that I’ll be excited to share news of in future issues. A shout out to Art Keene, Alan Swedlund, Brooke Thomas, Martin Wobst, Ralph Faulkingham and John Cole for participating and for all that they’ve contributed.

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 14 and see the Supporting Anthropology section starting on page 23 for more information on how you can contribute to the future success of our students.

Julie Hemment
Chair, Department of Anthropology
WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

The 2020-2021 academic year brought many changes to our department, including new roles and new faces. We welcomed Julie Hemment as the new Department Chair, and we wished former Chair Jacqueline Urla the best as she entered her new role as Dean of the UMass Graduate School. Check out page 15 for more on Jackie’s transition, and read on to learn who is new and who will be missed.

WARM WELCOMES

Achsah Dorsey joined us in fall of 2020 as an Assistant Professor with a focus in disease ecology. She earned her PhD in Anthropology the same year from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Her research incorporates biocultural perspectives on health and human development. Recently, she has studied iron supplementation and its effects on anemia and other health burdens in Lima, Peru. UMass Anthropology is nationally known for its strength in developing biocultural perspectives, so we are particularly excited about Dr. Dorsey’s potential to contribute new ideas in this area. In her own words on joining the department, “While learning about the department and university through physical interactions with people and spaces has been limited, I have enjoyed getting to know my new colleagues through zoom meetings, emails, and phone calls. I am thrilled to join such a warm and caring community and am excited to see what the future brings!”

Nicholas Caverly also joined our department in fall of 2020 as an Assistant Professor with a focus in urban anthropology. He earned his PhD in Anthropology at the University of Michigan the same year. His research uses a Science and Technology Studies focus to understand how people in urban North American landscapes experience, produce, and contest structural inequities in the context of racial capitalism. We are excited about the strong commitment to social justice in his research. In his own words on joining the department, “I’m deeply grateful that in time when so much is broken, I landed in a department where people have gone to such lengths to welcome me. Our staff have made the transition as seamless as possible. And I appreciate all the walk and talks, backyard gatherings, and zoom coffees people have invited me to.”

FOND FAREWELLS

At the end of Spring 2020, we said goodbye to Senior Lecturer, Jean Forward, who retired. Dr. Forward received her PhD in Anthropology from UMass Amherst in 1986, joining the department as a lecturer in 1991. She was one of the founding forces of the Certificate Program for Native American and Indigenous Studies (CPNAIS) and was its Director for 8 years. In addition to teaching, she advised with BDIC, and chaired a number of grad students’ committees. We wish Dr. Forward all the best in her retirement.

In June of 2020, long-time staff member Deborah Averill retired. Debbie started with the department as a part-time receptionist in 2008, and as a full time Department Assistant in 2009. With time, Debbie’s role grew substantially, eventually to include assisting with facilities, personnel, event planning, and so much more. She was often the first welcoming face we all encountered as we visited the department’s main office and was a source of vital assistance to so many of our faculty and students. Debbie is an avid quilter, active grandmother, and loves to travel - we know she will be enjoying these and many more activities during her retirement, and we wish her all the best.
INSPIRATION AMIDST CONSTERNATION: RESEARCH, TEACHING AND COMMUNITY IN THE TIME OF COVID

This past academic year has been like no other, but we responded to the challenges we were faced with in creative and innovative ways. Members of the department, faculty, students and alumni alike, contributed their critical insights on the pandemic via, research, talks and publications, and devised new ways to connect and form community. From Professor Betsy Krause’s inventive research on immigrant experiences and responses in Italy during the pandemic, to grad student Eleanor Finley’s inspirational work and contributions to the new book, Pandemic Solidarity, to alumnus Seda Saluk’s research on debates around the COVID-19 vaccination, we found opportunities to thrive in the midst of this crisis.

Those faculty members who instructed also rose to meet unique challenges this academic year. Lecturer Eric Johnson missed seeing his students face-to-face, so he got crafty and made a colorful audience for his lectures out of acorns. Johnson’s dogs, frequent visitors to campus, made appearances in photos and short videos at the beginning or end of lectures on Zoom. Professor Krista Harper commented that these fun ways to keep students engaged are “so typical of the way Eric really cares about his students as full human beings.”

Professor Todd Disotell (right) took entertaining his students during Zoom lectures to a whole new level, setting up a studio green screen in his home, and selecting a favorite movie theme for each week’s lecture, from King Kong to Star Wars.

And, despite the difficulties around in-person teaching and research, intrepid instructors like Professor Brigitte Holt and Associate Professor Ventura Perez held in-person courses and kept their labs accessible for students who needed to continue their work hands-on. Perez was inspired by the perseverance of his students and remarked, “despite the obvious discomfort my students experienced in wearing so much PPE, masks, face shields, gloves, it was clear they really wanted to connect, engage and be there to learn.”

Read on to see, scattered throughout this report, the pioneering ways our department has succeeded in finding positive opportunities amidst the pandemic, starting with some of the fantastic special events and programs we offered this past year.
SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

ETHNOGRAPHY COLLECTIVE
Members of the department, including Betsy Krause, Julie Hemment and Krista Harper, participated in an interdisciplinary and grassroots initiative to form the Ethnography Collective during the spring. This COVID- silver lining project took form early in the pandemic in response to the ban on in-person research, and was driven by a yearning for connection and recognition of the intellectual and political value of deeply immersive research. The Collective brings together faculty and graduate students from seven departments across UMass to support fellow ethnographers in their work, and to increase visibility and education for ethnographic research across disciplines. More than 300 people around the world have participated in Ethnography Collective events.

ANTHROPOLOGY COLLOQUIUM SERIES
Assistant Professor Felicity Aulino and the Department’s Colloquium Committee worked hard to move our ongoing colloquium series online this year. We were delighted to welcome so many exciting and engaging speakers – and to discover some of the silver linings of going remote. As graduate student Caroline DeVane noted, it allowed for international participation, enabling us to welcome a more geographically diverse group of speakers and audience members. Assistant Professor Nick Caverly remarked, “while it would have been nice to have the collective effervescence of in person stuff, we were able to build other sorts of connections that were only possible in the digital world.”

In addition to hosting discussions on some of the timeliest topics of the day, the colloquium series provided a virtual space for faculty, staff, and students to gather and get to know one another. The fall semester launched with a virtual cocktail party and ended with a “Quarantini” holiday party and scavenger hunt, where all toasted exiting-chair Jackie Urla as she prepared to move into her new role as Dean of the UMass Grad School.

As Colloquium Committee Chair, Aulino commented, “the virtual colloquium series has really been a blessing. Indeed, we were able to bring in many more speakers, from near and far. And despite ZOOM fatigue, I dare say we’ve had some really inspiring intellectual exchange in this forum.”
“ORGANIZING FOR NEW MOVEMENT LEADERS” – A COURSE TO MEET THE MOMENT IN 2020

In the wake of the 2020 racial justice uprisings against police violence led by the Movement for Black Lives, UACT Director Jen Sandler worked with a large team of UACT alumni to design an online Anthropology course for emerging leaders of racial justice movements. Once the need for this course was identified, Sandler and UACT leader Leslie Saree Abraham worked quickly to assemble a stellar team of BIPOC organizers and educators around the country to develop a syllabus, promote the course nationally, and run the application process, which enrolled 24 students working in sixteen different cities for its fall 2020 launch. The UACT alumni network also developed a scholarship fund, raising over $18,000 to meet all student requests for aid. In the urgency and chaos of overlapping pandemics, it was an exciting moment to pull together a solid curricular response: space for young organizers of color to be together, support one another, dig into resources to help them make sense of their work, and learn from powerful mentors. The UACT alumni who made this course happen were many; central people included trainer and graphic facilitator Leslie Saree, ONML section facilitators Maija Hall, Kandace Montgomery, Molly Brown-Hill, Monique Roberts, Alina Salvatierra, and Mica Reel, and alumni fund organizers Brennan Tierney and Lily Brown.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ETHNOGRAPHY

In December 2020, the Graduate Certificate in Ethnographic Research was launched, spearheaded by Betsy Krause. Faculty across several departments collaborated to form this 12-credit certificate that combines theory and method seminars to facilitate critical thinking and sophisticated ethnographic knowledge production. It will allow students to practice a variety of both well-established and innovative ethnographic research methods, including digital storytelling, photovoice, arts-based, collaborative, and virtual and digital ethnographies. The certificate program drew inspiration from Anthropology’s 50-year-old European Field Studies Program, participants of which highly valued its power to create dialogue across subfields. The graduate certificate in ethnography moves “toward an inclusive Area Studies 2.0, conceptualized as being about place-based knowledge and transregional connections.” Learn more at: https://www.umass.edu/sbs/academics/ethnographic-research
CONNECTING TO OUR ALUMNI

This year, you’ll also see featured more recent alums who are doing us proud in their work and research.

Zachary DuBois (PhD 2012) received the Michael E. Little Early Career Award, which recognizes a member of the Human Biology Association for significant contributions and promising future contributions to the field of human biology. DuBois is currently an assistant professor at the University of Oregon’s Department of Anthropology, where he studies social determinants of health and embodied social lives. He is currently working on a project called Trans Resilience and Health Across Sociopolitical Contexts, which combines interviews, online surveys, and biomarkers of health. DuBois hopes this project “can be used to advocate for greater protections and more inclusive policies for transgender individuals in the future and add to our understandings about the impacts of oppression on health and resilience.” To learn more about the project, visit: https://transresiliencestudy.com/

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Seda Saluk (PhD 2020) was researching the sociopolitical dimensions of vaccine hesitancy in Turkey and the Middle East. She was interested in the historical, social, and political conditions that influence people’s reluctance to get vaccines, and how these responses interact with the gendered and racialized discourses about biosecurity and fears of epidemics. Originally, she hoped to focus on debates around the polio vaccine, but during the pandemic she expanded her scope to look at COVID-19 vaccine discussions as well. Saluk says that vaccine skeptics are not a homogeneous group, and there are many reasons for which people delay or refuse vaccination. Sometimes, their hesitancy comes from long-standing critiques of Western medicine and pharmaceutical companies, but others refuse vaccines because of their ethno-racialized encounters with Turkish medical professionals. Regardless of their reasons, a common theme for vaccine skeptics is their “deep awareness of local and global inequalities in vaccine distribution and preservation, which urges us to talk more about which bodies are deemed more valuable” and prioritized.

Saluk is working on this research as an LSA (Literature, Science, and the Arts) Collegiate Fellow in Women’s and Gender Studies at the University of Michigan. Her second current project is a reimagining of her dissertation research, an ethnography of reproductive health surveillance in Turkey. She worked in clinics and homes to understand how nurses and patients perceived the implementation and impact of digital health technologies such as centralized databases. Saluk hoped to make the gendered labor behind these technologies more visible. She is drawing upon this research for her book, tentatively titled Capturing Reproduction: Surveillance and the Limits of Privacy. Digital tracking is presented as the ultimate solution to health-related crises, but Saluk examines how new technologies can actually provide tools for authoritarian regimes to extend their control into intimate lives. At the same time, these technologies also trigger strategic forms of care and solidarity. Saluk says that mainstream accounts of digital worlds tend to focus on the liberal notions of autonomy and privacy, but she focuses her research through the issue of relationality.
Pamela Stone (PhD 2000, Adjunct Associate Professor), in addition to teaching Human Origins and Variations for us in the Fall of 2020, recently published the book *Bodies and Lives in Victorian England: Science, Sexuality, and the Affliction of Being Female*. Her book explores what it was like for women to live and die in Victorian England, from childhood, to puberty and adolescence, to motherhood, to senescence. Stone draws from osteological data, medical discourses, demographic statistics, and ethnographic and archival research to examine the experience of being female for women across classes. Social ideals, the economy and environment, and science were shifting dramatically during this time, and these challenges came together to shape women’s lives from youth to old age. Book available at: https://www.amazon.com/Bodies-Lives-Victorian-England-Affliction/dp/0367026112

Before Lauren Woodard (PhD, 2019) started graduate school, she lived in Russia and Kazakhstan, where she became interested in post-Soviet national identity. Shown at left in front of the Zolotoy Bridge that crosses Vladivostok’s bay, she returned to conduct her MA research in 2015, just after Russia annexed Crimea. Some of the Russian-speaking Kazakh people she worked with decided to move to Russia, fearing they would soon face similar discrimination as Russian-speakers in Ukraine. Her research focused on the Resettlement of Compatriots Program, which facilitated their migration. While its online materials feature white, ethnic Russian families returning to their ethnic homeland, she discovered that in practice, a diversity of immigrants, including non-Russian people qualify. Fascinated by this portrayal of a “return to the homeland,” she focused her dissertation research on immigrants’ experiences. While Woodard was writing her dissertation, she began working as an analyst in the US Government Accountability Office, doing applied research for Congress. She credits UMass courses and internship opportunities for providing an excellent foundation in qualitative methods and data analysis.

Woodard enjoys doing applied research in a team, but missed writing, teaching, and having her own research agenda. In 2020, she was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship at Yale’s MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, where she is currently a lecturer in Yale’s Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies and in Anthropology. She is reframing her dissertation research into a book, *The Politics of Return*. Conversations about migration tend to emphasize border closures and restrictions. Woodard cautions that it is just as important to look at the racialized programs that seek to attract certain types of immigrants. Her research highlights conversations about national belonging and national identity, who makes those claims, and who is visible (or invisible) in those narratives.

Downtown Vladivostok features the architecture prevalent at the turn of the 19th century amongst typical Soviet constructions from the 2000s, often half-finished.
THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

Our grad students continue to demonstrate that we produce some of the highest caliber researchers in the discipline, publishing productively and winning competitive awards and fellowships.

Erica Kowsz has been awarded a Mellon-CES Dissertation Completion Fellowship for her dissertation “Rules of Recognition: Legacies of Multiculturalism in European and Settler Colonial Liberal Democracies.” The fellowship supports the final year of dissertation writing and a presentation at the Center for European Studies’ International Conference for Europeanists, where Kowsz will present, “Indigeneity as a Political Resource in Europe: Fieldnotes from Norway.” She is also serving as soliciting editor for the CES’s online journal EuropeNow for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Danielle Raad was awarded the Judith A. Barter Internship Fellowship from the UMass Amherst History Department, which supported her work over the summer of 2020 as an Education Intern at the Slater Memorial Museum in Norwich, CT. Working remotely, Raad wrote the art, historical and ethnographic components of their interpretation manual intended to train museum staff and volunteers. Raad has also published the article “The power of collective vision: landscape, visual media, and the production of American mountains” in the Journal of Cultural Geography. The article explores how visual media and domestic tourism have constructed the collective vision of mountains in the United States, a vision which “possesses the powers to colonize, to nationalize, to exclude, and to constrain ways of seeing mountains.” She was also recently awarded second place in the Jamie Chad Brandon Student Paper Prize at the Society for Historical Archaeology’s annual conference.

Ahmad Mohammadpour was a co-recipient of the University of Central Florida Kurdish Political Studies Program’s Best Article Award for an article he co-wrote, “Interrogating the Tribal: the Aporia of ‘Tribalism’ in the Sociological Study of the Middle East.” The selection committee noted the article highlights the colonial and ideological underpinnings of the concepts of tribalism, successfully challenges the tendency to assume that tribalism is an inherent feature of the Kurdish experience, and criticizes the statist, nationalist, and Eurocentric perspectives that are entrenched in so many academic works. Read more at: https://networks.h-net.org/node/11419/discussions/6594184/announcement-best-article-award-kurdish-political-studies

Mandy Fuchs received an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant and a research grant from the Leakey Foundation to support her dissertation work on the effects of water quality on Kinda baboon movement ecology and gut microbiome diversity. This is the first study to examine how water quality influences primate gut microbiomes in the wild! The study also examines how Kinda baboons locate important resources, such as water, in a complex habitat.

The Kasanka Baboon Project, founded by grad student Anna Weyher, turned 10 this year! Before this program, Kinda baboons had never been studied in the wild. In addition to the important discoveries Weyher has published about Kinda baboons, the project has contributed to local anti-poaching efforts. Weyher also established a scholarship fund to help local girls complete grades 10-12 and launched the Girls Science Club, to help local girls to learn about conservation and first aid and to improve their science, math, English, and computer literacy. Read more about her project here: https://www.umass.edu/newsoffice/article/kasanka-baboon-project-marks-10-years
Adam Netzer Zimmer was the winner of the UMass Graduate School’s Three-Minute Thesis Competition during Spring of ’21. Zimmer presented his dissertation research, “Prime Harvest: Cadavers & Our Source of Anatomical Knowledge” in simple terms during a compelling 3-minute talk.

Drew Best recently published an article about the cross-training paradox in the *American Journal of Human Biology,* which was also highlighted in *Outdoor Magazine.* Best examined why strength training improves performance in endurance sports. He found that competing selective pressures and millennia of human evolution in energy-scarce environments have imparted high muscular plasticity. Read the full article at: [https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ajhb.23526](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ajhb.23526)


Ying Li teamed up with Betsy Krause to publish the article “Out of place: everyday forms of marginalization, racism, and resistance among Chinese migrants in Italy,” in the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies.* They explore the ways in which the Chinese migrants live “out of place” as they experience racism and marginalization, but also “in place” as they resistant and create meaning and identities through their experiences and interactions with particular places. Read the full article at: [https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/VBWDAFMVUMRCSF8RMQ82/full?target=10.1080%2F1369183X.2020.1801399](https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/VBWDAFMVUMRCSF8RMQ82/full?target=10.1080%2F1369183X.2020.1801399)

Eleanor Finley wrote a chapter “Solidarity Flourishes Under Lockdown in Italy” in the recently published book *Pandemic Solidarity.* This work is a collaboration among Colectiva Sembrar, a global network of activist scholars who challenge the dominant narratives of selfish individualism in response to the pandemic. The book explores examples of mutual aid and community organizing in eighteen different regions. Finley hopes “it provides inspiration, ideas, and food for thought about the inherent human inclination toward solidarity and cooperation during times of danger, crisis, and duress.” In October, Finley and other members of Colectiva Sembrar were invited to our colloquium series to celebrate the launch of their book, and share a roundtable discussion on mutual aid, including organizing efforts and ways to get involved on campus and in the Pioneer Valley. Read more at: [https://www.plutobooks.com/9780745343167/pandemic-solidarity/](https://www.plutobooks.com/9780745343167/pandemic-solidarity/)

Vanessa Miranda Juarez recently published an article titled: “Ni Chapoli: Un cuento Nahuatl de la Huasteca de Hidalgo, México” in *Tlalocan XXVI.* Journal of the Philological Research Institute of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. This article is the result of a long-time linguistic documentation effort and part of her dissertation research.
Anthropology majors work in a variety of fields post-graduation, and internships can be a valuable opportunity for students to gain real-world experience and develop their professional aspirations. At the same time, many students feel pressure to get internships, and often those internships feel exploitative or unrelated to students’ career and educational aspirations. The Community Based Summer Internship Program, now in its 4th year, is one program that works to ensure that undergraduates’ internship experiences are meaningful to students and useful to the organizations they work with. Facilitated by Lecturer and Director of Undergraduate Advising Boone Shear, the program aims to connect students with local organizations in order to support the organizations’ needs, build upon students’ anthropological skills, and foster university-community relations. Last summer, three anthropology undergraduates worked with the Center for Economic Democracy (CED), “a social movement building organization, growing capacity in our communities to transition American capitalism into a more just, sustainable and democratic economy.”

Students worked with CED staff, organizers, and community members in CED affiliated organizations on three research projects that advanced the work of CED and developed the interns’ qualitative research skills. For example, as part of a narrative tracking project, students researched and analyzed how media across the political spectrum are framing issues and projects that CED is involved in, including police defunding, cooperative development, and systems change. This work helped CED to have a better sense of how to mobilize their own narrative framing of issues, as well as gain a better understanding of how the process of narrative tracking might be developed and modified for their aims. Students describe their internship experience as helping to clarify and further their post-college aspirations.

“The internship] was extremely valuable to furthering and developing my own beliefs and generally figuring out what direction I wanted to go in life. I thought that the work I did was meaningful and tangible, and to be able to do it across such a wide range of talented, wonderful people was truly a blessing.”

Shear is developing other programs that he hopes will bring further legibility and support to the internship process, both to help ease the burden on faculty who wish to sponsor students’ outside internships and to bring more opportunities for students. The Alumni and Friends internship program pairs students with businesses and organizations who have historical ties with the department, and creates internships particularly for the anthropology major. If you would like to be a part of this program, please contact Boone Shear at bshear@anthro.umass.edu.
Micky Cox, a senior Anthropology major, has been working as a search manager for the World Librarians Project since 2018. The project aims to make online information more accessible across the globe, and is currently partnered with an educational organization in Malawi, with plans to expand to Kenya. Students and educators send requests for information via Twitter, through which Micky sorts and delegates to other UMass students to locate and make available. Micky commented, “It’s really rewarding to hear from the schools and see that our resources helped, or hear someone say, ‘we built something off of a video or PDF you sent us.’” To learn more about the project, visit https://www.umass.edu/sbs/news/students/meet-sbs-people-involved-world-librarians-project

In the Spring semester of 2020, Rafaella Fabrizi was a student in Krista Harper’s Qualitative Research Methods course. Although the course moved online very abruptly due to COVID-19, students were still able to learn and practice many qualitative data collection and analysis techniques. At the end of the semester, Kristen Whitmore, a fellow classmate and graduate student in Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, asked Rafaella to be a summer research assistant for her dissertation research on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on local food systems and food insecurity. Rafaella received the Feldman-Vorwerk Family Undergraduate Research Award to help support her work. Over the summer, they interviewed more than 20 people via Zoom about their experiences buying food during the pandemic. They partnered with CISA (Communities Involved in Sustainable Agriculture) to provide data about how the pandemic has affected consumers and how CISA could adapt their practices to make farm shares more accessible. The need to transcribe, code, and analyze data enabled Rafaella to continue working with Kristen on this project for the next two semesters as an independent study. They will present their findings to CISA and publish them soon. Rafaella hopes this research will have a positive impact and help more people access fresh, local food.

New Books

Archaeologies of the Heart, Co-authored by Sonya Atalay

Bodies and Lives in Victorian England, co-authored by Pamela Stone

Pandemic Solidarity, contributions by Eleanor Finley

Latin American Extractivism: contributions by Castriela Hernandez
Awards, Honors and Other Achievements

On May 6, 2020, the department held a cheerful virtual awards ceremony to recognize and celebrate our triumphs and achievements during what became a very challenging academic year. These awards were made possible by the support of our generous donors. See page 23 for more information on how to make these awards and other support available for our students.

Armelagos-Swedlund Research Award: Eric Griffith, Claudia Morales, Pe’te Rulu, Madeline Conway
Art Keene Student Leadership Award: Jess Slattery
Dissertation Writing Fellowship: Ana Del Conde, Dana Conzo
Grad Travel Award: Seda Saluk, Adam Zimmer, Vanesa Miranda Juarez, Julieta Chaparro, Claudia Morales Ramirez, Priscilla Mollard, Danielle Raad. Also awarded but deferred due to the pandemic: Drew Best, Victoria Bochniak, Tabitha Dorhorst, Mandy Fuchs, Vanesa Giraldo, Eric Griffith, Ahmad Mohammadpour, Sofiya Shreyer, Andrew Zamora.
Nat Smith Community Service Award: Brittni Howard, Kat Kjaer
Nathalie F.S. Woodbury Distinguished Service Award: Cedar Robideaux, Kay Mattena, Nellie Marshall-Torres
Oriol Pi Sunyer Dissertation Prize: Ashley Sherry
Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Award (deferred due to the pandemic): Ahmad Mohammadpour, Claire Gold, Gabriela Quijano-Seda, Meredith Degyansky
Richard B. Woodbury Travel Award: Shannon Nelson-Maney
Sylvia H. Forman Graduate Fellowship: Ahmad Mohammadpour, Claudia Morales
Sylvia H. Forman MultiModal Writing Prize: Nasya Blackshear
Sylvia H. Forman Writing Prize: Niki Bavar
Undergraduate Study Abroad Award: Makhai Dickerson-Pells, Shannon Nelson-Maney, Abgail Riggs
Undergraduate Summer Internship Award: Alex Ganote, Nellie Marshall-Torres, Jess Slattery
50th Anniversary Special Recognition Award: Shannon Nelson-Maney

Other Awards and Achievements:

Graduate School Dissertation Fieldwork Grants: Ryan Rybka, Victoria Bochniak, Pe’te Rulu, Mandy Fuchs
UMass Natural History Collections Scholarship: Tabitha Dorhorst, Claire Gold

Graduate Degrees Conferred
MA’s: Gabriela Quijano, Sofiya Shreyer, Cedar Robideaux
PhD’s: Ashley Sherry, Seda Saluk, Elias Capello, Julieta Chaparro

Positions Accepted
Eric Griffith accepted a position as a post-doctoral associate at the Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity at Duke University focusing on the influence of religion/spirituality on Alzheimer’s disease and its related dementias (ADRD) for African Americans.

Julieta Chaparro has accepted a lectureship at Cambridge University beginning this fall. Her lectureship is in sociology specializing in the sociology of gender.

Drew Best has accepted a tenure track position as Assistant Professor in Biology at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, pending completion of his dissertation.

Congratulations!
A TRIBUTE TO A TRANSFORMATIVE LEADER

How to count the ways we are grateful for Professor Jacqueline Urla? During her near 6-year run as Anthropology Department Chair, she worked to reinvigorate our department, from curriculum to infrastructure, community and more, inspiring and empowering department members to come together and accomplish so much. Above all, in her hands we remained a happy healthy department! Read on to learn about some of her many contributions.

Jackie started as Chair during a time of transition - she worked to establish new staff leadership and relationships, bringing in an accomplished MBA, Beverly Morrison, as Department Administrator. She also fought for funding to appoint a permanent Director of Undergraduate Advising, which resulted in the addition of the indispensable Boone Shear to our team. And that was just the start – she was successful in securing several new fabulous faculty hires, reversing a trend of several years of declining faculty ranks.

Profoundly aware of the importance of community and relationships, including those with alumni, Jackie spearheaded our 50th Anniversary Conference, Engaging Anthropology, in 2019. It was a spectacular and inspiring event, as many of you experienced, featuring exciting keynotes and cutting-edge panels, as well as opportunities for connection and reunion. Also of note, she founded this fabulous newsletter!

Recognizing the importance of the department’s physical spaces, Jackie tackled the aging Machmer Hall infrastructure to make some radical improvements. Among them, she facilitated the creation of a comfortable, large conference room in E24 as a space for community, as well as for job talks and dissertation defenses. She oversaw the makeover of the dingy, dark mailroom in 201 into a bright, welcoming space to lounge, casually meet, or take a lunch break. She paved the way for Beverly Morrison and Whitney Battle-Baptiste to renovate the large lab E17, creating the now well-equipped Community Archaeology Lab. And, she fought for funding to transform E14 into a brand new Human Anatomy Lab, equipped with state-of-the-art anatomy models.

She also made profound contributions to the department’s undergraduate curriculum, invigorating and clarifying undergraduate students’ path through the major via concentrations. She found creative ways to enhance our support for graduate students, expanding our dissertation writing fellowships by securing supplemental funding through the college.
Jackie recognized the urgent need to organize and curate our department’s collections, securing much-needed supplemental funding from the UMass Office of Compliance. This enabled critical repatriations to be facilitated with Sonya Atalay’s expert guidance, and PhD Candidate Julie Woods to be appointed as a Repatriation Coordinator to continue this vital work. Jackie also spearheaded the complete reorganization of the department’s storage spaces, maximizing capacity and making room for new items. Along this vein, she helped finalize Brigitte Holt’s project to acquire a Medieval skeletal collection from Noli, Italy. This tremendous new addition to the department’s research collections has provided valuable research opportunities to many graduate and undergraduate students.

Our virtual real estate was much improved under Jackie also, with her forming and leading a committee to create a brand new department website with streamlined content and easier-to-navigate structure.

Jackie involved the department in an NSF-sponsored Faculty Workload and Rewards Study, which focused on ways to foster more equity in and recognition of the many forms of service work performed by faculty in the department. On its heels, she reconceived and revamped department governance, overseeing a more participatory approach. Those of us involved greatly appreciated the opportunity to bring transparency and greater equity to our work.

Throughout all this, Jackie maintained an active research agenda, continuing to publish research on Basque language revitalization and activism, mobilizations and resistance. She contributed to a major international collaborative research project on “new speakers” of Basque and other languages undergoing revitalization. She also secured funding for the annual lecture, the William A. Douglass Chair in Basque Cultural Studies, from the Etxepare Institute of the Basque Ministry of Culture. Named after anthropologist William Douglass, who pioneered both European and Basque studies, the lecture expands the Department’s international reputation in the Anthropology of Europe. Invited speakers have included: William Douglass, Joseba Zulaika, Sharon Roseman, Susan Carol Rogers, Caroline Brettel, Juan José Ibarretxe, Maialen Lujanbio, and Miren Artexte.

Jackie inspired many in the department through her leadership, but also through her humanity. Former PhD student turned coworker, Boone Shear commented, “I love Jackie. She is one of my very favorite people. It’s been really cool getting to know her in different ways over the past 15 years - as a super smart and engaging instructor, as a colleague who embodies integrity, and as a generous and caring and really, fun friend.”

Former Chair Tom Leatherman toasted Jackie’s dynamic leadership at our Holiday Zoomtini party in December of 2020, “Administrative positions of all sorts are often thankless tasks, but speaking on the behalf of the department, I want to give a huge shout out of THANKS for Jackie. I have served under a lot of chairs and spent too many years myself in that role, and Jackie has dealt with more curveballs and challenges thrown her way - and has done more, and done it well - in her two terms than any chair I have known. So, I raise a glass to Jackie Urla for her hard work, good humor, and wise and effective leadership over the past 6 years – To Jackie!”

January of 2021 was a bittersweet moment, as we saw Jackie step into her exciting new role as Dean of the UMass Amherst Graduate School. Her new colleagues are so very lucky to have her at their helm! When we raised our glasses to toast her, we also pledged to hold an in-person/hybrid celebration when the weather is warmer. Congrats, Jackie! And you’re not off the hook yet.
Assistant Professor **Lynnette Arnold** published an article in *American Anthropologist*, "Communication as Care across Borders: Forging and Co-Opting Relationships of Obligation in Transnational Salvadoran Families." She also co-edited and wrote the introduction of a *Medical Anthropology* Special Issue on Communicating Care. This special issue brings together articles from linguistic and medical anthropology to examine some of the complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic. "Everyday communication is a powerful force that works both within and beyond immediate care work encounters," so Arnold examines the ways in which cross-border communication enacts and consolidates care for transnational Salvadoran families. Arnold comments, "All of this work is important to me because it lays out my thinking about the multifaceted relationship between communication and care in a way that I worked hard to make accessible to scholars beyond linguistic anthropology."

Associate Professor **Sonya Atalay** was selected to be a Chancellor’s Leadership Fellow by the Office of Faculty Development during the 20/21 Academic Year. This fellowship seek to cultivate future campus leaders through a year-long, half-time appointment in an administrative area on campus. She is working with UMass Deputy Chancellor Steve Goodwin to develop an Office of Community-Based Research for the campus. Atalay played a key role in securing funding from the Mellon Foundation granted to the Five College Consortium for Native American and Indigenous Studies, which will focus on developing a Land Acknowledgement and Educational Materials for the Five Colleges. She also moderated the Wenner-Gren sponsored webinar “Reclaiming the Ancestors: Indigenous and Black Perspectives on Repatriation, Human Rights, and Justice” in September of 2020, and completed a new co-authored book, *Archaeologies of the Heart*.

Assistant Professor **Felicity Aulino** has published the article, “Sensing the presence of gods and spirits across cultures and faiths” in the *Proceedings of the National Association of Sciences*. It summarizes four studies involving over 2,000 participants from around the world. Aulino and her co-authors explore why some people have sensory spiritual experiences and others do not. She also co-authored the article “Concepts of Mental Life Among Adults and Children in Five Cultures,” a continuation of the aforementioned project, forthcoming in *PNAS*. Aulino has also published a new photo essay for The Jugaad Project, "Spectres of Obligation: Care Across Realms in Northern Thailand" which explores ways people habitually perceive and perform care for others, both dead and living, "probing what attuned perceptions and trained responses to Thai spirits, ghosts, and ancestors can reveal about care and the force of felt obligation."

Professor **Whitney Battle-Baptiste** was also selected to be a Chancellor’s Leadership Fellows by the Office of Faculty Development during the 20/21 Academic Year. She is working with Nefertiti Walker to develop the Black Presence Initiative, dedicated to celebrating the impact of African American and Black members of the UMass community. Launched in February of 2021, it includes a living history website featuring interviews from dozens of Black alumni. She is also developing a virtual guided tour of spaces that have defined Black life at UMass, past and present. Battle-Baptiste was named an ADVANCE Faculty Fellow by the NSF-funded UMass ADVANCE program, and contributed to a discussion of the biocultural imagination in *Archaeological Dialogues*, organized by Michael Blakey.
Assistant Professor Nick Caverly’s article “Empty Sites: Replacing Incarceration in Detroit” was accepted for publication in *Anthropological Quarterly* as part of a special collection on vacancy. Caverly uses ethnographic and archival work in Detroit to analyze how mass incarceration is shaped by environmental racism.

Professor Krista Harper was amongst a team recently awarded $6.3 million from the NSF to pursue research on renewable energy systems, social equity, and climate change resiliency. The project, called ELevating Equity VAIues in the Transition of the Energy System (ELEVATE), involves scholars from UMass Engineering, Natural Sciences, Computer Science, and Social and Behavioral Sciences who will collaborate to study the intersections of electricity technology, energy economics and policy, climate science, and social equity. Harper’s specialties in qualitative and community-based participatory research methods will be particularly valuable in understanding the human dimensions of electricity, including “how people make sense of changing environmental conditions, social inequalities, and technological systems.” The program will also provide many paid fellowship opportunities for graduate students interested in energy and climate justice. Read more at: [https://www.umass.edu/anthro/news/faculty/krista-harper-among-researchers-awarded-63m-nsf-funding-study-energy-transition](https://www.umass.edu/anthro/news/faculty/krista-harper-among-researchers-awarded-63m-nsf-funding-study-energy-transition)

Harper has also been named Distinguished Teaching Faculty for the National Science Foundation’s Summer Cultural Anthropology Methods Program (NSF Summer CAMP). She will train students in participatory visual and multimedia methods. Harper has contributed that during the pandemic, she cross-country skied on some early mornings before busy school days. She has also started painting abstract color studies, which “despite the grid, serve as an antidote to the Zoom grid.”

Julie Hemment’s chapter on Russia’s state-run youth organizations was published in a new Cambridge University Press volume, *Ruling by Other Means: State-Mobilized Movements*. A second piece, co-authored with her long-time collaborator Valentina Uspenskaya, was published in a special issue of *ASPASIA* last Summer.

Professor Lynnette Leidy Sievert was selected for the Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series and awarded the Chancellor’s Medal for the 2021-2022 academic year. She and PhD student Sofiya Shreyer have also been busy estimating brown adipose tissue activity (see thermal images before and after cooling protocol, at right) for an NSF-funded study of hot flashes relating to menopause. Sievert’s research was also featured in a recent *Smithsonian Magazine* article, “How Much Did Grandmothers Influence Human Evolution?” Her research on menopause challenges the popular Grandmother Hypothesis, supporting the idea that grandmothers played an important role in the survival and success of their grandchildren because of their post-reproductive life. Read the full article at: [https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-much-did-grandmothers-influence-human-evolution-180976665/](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-much-did-grandmothers-influence-human-evolution-180976665/)
Associate Professor Jason Kamilar published the article “Does Facial Hair Greying in Chimpanzees Provide a Salient Progressive Cue of Aging?” in PLoS ONE. A decade in the making, this project started while Kamilar was a post-doc at Yale. He and his coauthors found that chimpanzees grey prior to mid-life, but it is not well-correlated with age as with humans, suggesting greying evolved at some point after our divergence from chimpanzees. Read more at: https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0235610

He also published the article “Mid-Cenozoic Climate Change, Extinction, and Faunal Turnover in Madagascar, and their Bearing on the Evolution of Madagascar’s Lemurs” in the journal BMC Evolutionary Biology. He and co-authors aimed to determine whether there was a mid-Cenozoic vertebrate extinction and recovery event in Madagascar. Read more at: https://doi.org/10.1186/s12862-020-01628-1

Kamilar also succeeded Tom Leatherman as Graduate Program Director during the summer of 2020. He noted, “It has been great to interact with more grad students in the department than I otherwise would. It is exciting to see that we have so many smart and passionate students in the program.”

Professor Elizabeth Krause published several articles, including “Viral Encounters: Xenophobia, Solidarity, and Place-based Lessons from Chinese Migrants in Italy” in a special issue of Human Organization and “A Disease Origin Story,” published in Vestoj: The Platform for Critical Thinking on Fashion. In these articles, Krause and her co-author trace global impacts of the pandemic, spontaneous solidarity efforts, and the prioritization of health and community wellbeing over business and money. The research documented a widespread shift in native Italians’ dominant attitudes toward the Chinese migrants from one of xenophobia to one of respect. Krause has also published several articles that focus specifically on Chinese migrant parents in Italy, their experiences of migration and belonging, and their integral role in the “Made in Italy” brand. Krause also took a sabbatical in Fall 2020, spending the semester in Tucson as a School of Anthropology Residential Scholar at the University of Arizona. Hosted in an historic adobe home adjacent to the University Indian Ruin, a Classic period Hohokam archaeological site, she and her husband (above, right) helped serve as co-stewards of the 13 acres, and also enjoyed time hiking, volunteering and working on a new book project.

Assistant Professor Haeden Stewart contributed to the June 2020 issue of Archaeological Dialogues (Vol 27, No.1) with a research article on the ‘archaeology of the contemporary’. Stewart defines “the contemporary as a period caught between the boom-and-bust cycles of capitalist production and the persistence of industrial waste.” In his article, he uses the Canadian shanty town Ross Acreage as a case study of a community “defined materially by its long-term relationship with industrial waste.”

Lecturer Boone Shear, graduate student Justin Helepololei, and our alum, Vin Lyon-Callo contributed to the Summer 2020 issue of Rethinking Marxism with a special dossier on the “Pandemic and the Crisis of Capitalism.” Lyon-Callo and Shear serve as co-editor and associate editor, respectively of Rethinking Marxism. Shear and Lyon-Callo also published essays in a summer 2020 special issue of Collaborative Anthropology, alongside Jen Sandler, senior lecturer and director of UACT. Shear and Sandler each wrote articles on their current engaged teaching projects. Read more at: https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/42662
Associate Professor **Amanda Walker Johnson** organized and facilitated a department Anti-Racism Reading Group this past year as part of a series of department initiatives focused on the overlapping pandemic of racism and systemic inequity. She was also featured in an article about standardized testing during the pandemic, asserting that in-person testing required by some states will heighten anxiety and won’t accurately represent what students know. Read more at: [https://www.kbia.org/post/standardized-testing-will-happen-year-teachers-still-question-their-worth?mc_cid=c6889c6fc7&mc_eid=6b6e48ae34#stream/0](https://www.kbia.org/post/standardized-testing-will-happen-year-teachers-still-question-their-worth?mc_cid=c6889c6fc7&mc_eid=6b6e48ae34#stream/0)

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**FACULTY AWARDS FROM SBS**

In May 2020 several anthropology faculty received awards from the School of Behavioral Sciences. For a complete list of SBS awards, visit: [https://www.umass.edu/sbs/news/faculty/sbs-announces-spring-2020-faculty-grant-award-winners](https://www.umass.edu/sbs/news/faculty/sbs-announces-spring-2020-faculty-grant-award-winners).

Lecturer **Boone Shear** received an outstanding mentor award for his exceptional commitment to students, both in and out of the classroom. Said one student who was mentored by Shear, “Boone was one of the only professors I have ever had (or heard of!) who taught from a position of genuine humility - and we were undeniably uplifted because of him. He was always, unfailingly willing to meet with me outside of his office hours if I needed advice or support beyond our regularly scheduled meetings.”

Professor **Lynnette Leidy Sievert** received an outstanding research award for her skill in communicating and collaborating with a wide variety of people in the US and abroad. A colleague who chose to remain anonymous remarked, “I am struck by how adept Lynnette is at communicating and empathizing with the people she is studying... These social graces are also evident in her wonderful ability to work with a wide variety of collaborators both in the U.S. and internationally.”

Assistant Professor **Haeden Stewart** received an SBS grant for his research project, An Archaeological Excavation of Lead Toxicity in the Lives of Immigrant Labor in Arizona’s Historical Mining Town of Ruby.

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**CHAIR’S NOTE: OUR DEPARTMENT’S STAFF**

A heartfelt shout out to our fabulous staff, who have kept us all going and without whom my transition-to-chair would not have been possible. Thanks to **Beverly Morrison**, Department Administrator, **Shelley Silva**, Academic Programs Manager, **Grace Rock**, Finance Manager, and **Danielle Sedelow**, Department Assistant, for your incredible good humor, patience and unfaltering support through this tough year!

From left: Shelley, Danielle, Grace and Beverly; looking forward to being able to work and gather F2F again soon.
EMERITI UPDATES

Emeritus Professor John Cole, whom we haven’t heard from in some time, checked in to let us know how he has been doing. In his own words:

“My wife Ellan and I continue to live in Brookfield, in rural Vermont. We’re supported by our two daughters and granddaughter, as well as by a network of medical and health professionals. We are both in our late eighties and each has an interesting assortment of health issues. We’ve both had our COVID shots and when we can find a ride, love to get out in search of a well-made cappuccino. We eagerly anticipate that our favorite café will soon be open for full service.”

We are so glad to hear from you, and hope you get to enjoy a cappuccino at your favorite café soon.

Emerita Professor Laurie Godfrey has published an online blog about her experience with the continuing NSF-funded project studying recently discovered fossils from flooded caves in Madagascar’s Tsimanampetsotsa National Park. Godfrey, who is PI of the grant, worked with a large, international, interdisciplinary team of researchers who found that Madagascar’s megafauna survived a major, 700-year drought and only began disappearing after the arrival of farmers and herders. Her hope is that understanding how biodiversity changed over the past several millennia will help to preserve the species that remain today. Read the blog at: https://beta.nsf.gov/science-matters/fossils-flooded-caves-madagascar-offer-new-perspective-regions-history

Godfrey with Dr. Alfred Rosenberger examining fossil specimens in Madagascar.

Emeritus Professor Art Keene’s most substantial project since retiring from the Department in 2014 has been co-founding an independent online news source, The Amherst Indy (www.amherstindy.org), focusing on Amherst government, local community issues and events, and progressive politics. A 2019 change in Amherst government from the quintessential, hyper-democratic New England Town Meeting to a 13 member City Council, saw many residents expressing both opposition and concern that the new government might be less transparent, less accessible and less accountable. This prompted the idea of creating a vehicle for keeping an eye on the new government and keeping the public informed, and the Indy was born. “We started out by saying that we’d get a few folks to attend Town Council meetings and we’d take some notes and throw them up on the internet. How hard could that be? Turns out it was a lot harder and a lot more time consuming than we imagined,” said Keene.

Keene notes that he didn’t have much journalism experience prior to the Indy. Despite being sports editor of his high school paper and Associate Editor of the academic peer-reviewed journal, the Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning for over a decade, he wasn’t exactly prepared for this gig, though being an anthropologist helped. Fortunately, three former professional journalists sit on the current editorial board.
Keene said “There are so many challenges in trying to invent something like the Indy from scratch, including that many of our writers are retired academics and they tend to have a pretty flexible relationship with deadlines. We put the paper to bed every Friday night around midnight and everything must be in place by then. If people miss the deadline, it’s old news by next week’s edition.”

The Indy is now pretty much a full-time job for Keene, who is its Managing Editor. His wife Maura, a local physician, is the Indy’s most prolific reporter. Together with a stable of about a dozen regular volunteer writers and a small editorial board, each weekly edition features about 30 articles. Since its inception, it’s published more than 1500 articles and letters by more than 135 unique writers, and it has expanded its reach to about 1000 regular subscribers, and about 26,000 visitors in a month. Subscribers receive a summary of the week’s headlines via email every Saturday evening. It is advertising-free and aspires to remain so - its mission statement can be read here. [https://www.amherstindy.org/mission/](https://www.amherstindy.org/mission/). “One of our goals was to stimulate civic awareness and civic participation which declined precipitously with the discontinuation of Town Meeting. That’s been slow in coming but we’ve seen substantial increase in submission of opinion pieces and commentary over the last few months. Combined with growth in readership, we like to think that there’s a civic reawakening happening in Amherst.”

Emeritus Professor Alan Swedlund was invited to develop two webinars on the history of pandemics and the current Coronavirus pandemic during 2020. The first was sponsored by the School for Advanced Research, Santa Fe, titled: “From Smallpox to 1918 Flu to Coronavirus: Pandemics Past and Present.” The second was presented by Alan and two colleagues from the University of Colorado, Professors Catherine Cameron and Gerardo Gutierrez, for the Osher Life-Long Learning Institute, University of Arizona Tucson. It was titled: “Beyond Germs: Global Hegemonies and Structural Inequities from Smallpox to COVID-19.” Both webinars are available on YouTube through their respective sponsors.

**Emeriti Check in for Anthro 364’s History of the Department Project**

Some of our emeriti professors Zoomed in to share their recollections of the department with Julie Hemment and students of her Junior Year Writing class, Anthro 364.

Thanks to Brooke Thomas, John Cole, Ralph Falkingham, Art Keene, Alan Swedlund, and Martin Wobst (photo right, listed from top left to bottom right) for taking the time to contribute.

Stay tuned for more to come on this fantastic project.
REMARKABLE DONORS SUPPORTING ANTHROPOLOGY

Included in the many challenges of the past year have been budget cuts; however, we would like to highlight some amazing donors who went above and beyond to establish and extend additional funds to support our programs and students, along with our other opportunities to support anthropology. You can learn more and make a gift of your support by visiting us online at www.umass.edu/anthro/giving-opportunities.

The newly formed Samya Rose Stumo Memorial Fund has been established in honor of Samya, who earned a BA in Anthropology and Spanish from UMass in 2015, with her honor’s thesis focused on health inequities among women in Andean Peru. She went on to earn an MA in Global Health at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark. Samya died in the 2019 crash of Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 on her way to Kenya for her first assignment as a health care analyst for the nonprofit ThinkWell. This new fund will provide scholarships to support undergraduate and graduate anthropology students committed to promoting people-centered global health practice in the US and around the world. To read more about the Memorial Fund, visit: https://minutefund.umass.edu/project/24125

Co-founder of the Armelagos-Swedlund Medical Anthropology Fund, Emeritus Professor Alan Swedlund, worked to free up funding to create an additional graduate dissertation support fellowship this year, to be awarded to a student committed to working in medical or biocultural anthropology or bioarchaeology, or a closely related field. Many students have felt the impacts of the pandemic especially acutely, facing delays, expiring funding, and inability to complete their research. This additional fellowship will provide critically needed support at just the right time. 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, who was a colleague of George’s, for his great contributions to the department and the field.

OTHER GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT ANTHROPOLOGY

In addition to the aforementioned, we have many other programs, research projects, scholarships and fellowships to benefit our students. Contributions of any size may be made to support either a specific program, or to our general fund to be allocated where the need for funding is greatest. Your gift can make a huge difference!

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.

University Alliance for Community Transformation (Alternate Spring Break)
The UACT organization, part of the Department of Anthropology, 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.

Anthropology Department General Gift Fund
You can help us achieve our goals, fund summer fieldwork, or improve our teaching and research laboratory spaces 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.

Department award winners from the last in-person awards ceremony held in May of 2019 - awards made possible with your support. Thank you!
THANK YOU TO OUR OTHER GENEROUS DONORS

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Richard Chamberlain
Sarah Buttenwieser
Sonya Atalay & Teddy Mendoza
Tilman Freitag
Many other generous individuals have contributed to the department and one of our many 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.

LEARN MORE AND MAKE A GIFT OF YOUR SUPPORT BY VISITING US ONLINE: WWW.UMASS.EDU/ANTHRO/GIVING-OPPORTUNITIES

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Despite the pandemic, the renovation of the old Student Union building was completed during this academic year. The grounds outside of it next to Machmer Hall, as well as the grounds around the Lincoln Campus Center have been completely transformed and are a lovely place to walk and sit to take in the new sights.