



Signs & Symbols

Fall 2022 • VOLUME 22

Newsletter of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Notes from the chair

Dr. Joan Brehm, department chair and professor of sociology

Another eventful year has come and gone, and I remain honored and grateful to serve as chair for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and appreciate the support, confidence, and encouragement from my fellow col-



leagues and peers in the department. Although we started to see some things move back toward “normal” with classes mostly in-person and students, faculty, and staff back on campus, many of the residual hardships from the pandemic remain. I suspect that some of the changes we have witnessed will be with us permanently, for

better or worse. We also continue to struggle with some significant social issues, including ongoing institutional and structural racial and social injustices, an unprecedented loss of women’s rights to their own health care decisions, unknown future threats to basic human rights and privileges, and a level of gun violence that has reached catastrophic proportions. These issues and injustices are not new, but they are even more significant today, as we find ourselves at a critical tipping point in time where direct and consistent action is needed.

But despite all difficulties, I have also personally witnessed immense resilience, compassion, and commitment among our students, faculty, and staff as we all continue to come together to support each other through the evolving struggles on campus and in our broader society. There is a very palpable commitment to social justice and basic human rights that is inspiring and motivating. These experiences continue to propel me forward with a significant dedication to support and empower those around me and have made me immensely proud to be a member of this department.

Through these many and complex trials, our faculty, staff, and students continually seek and find the strength and commitment to persevere, and not only survive, but in many ways thrive. Although most of our classes have returned to fully in-person and campus feels much more like “normal,” several changes borne via the pandemic seem to have become positive influences for the future. For example, several faculty have discovered the value of online learning and teaching, and we now have several classes that are regularly taught in this format. Students also seem to appreciate some choice and flexibility in how they can engage in learning, allowing them to better meet their own needs and circumstances. Zoom has allowed us to greatly expand the audience for our Brown Bag Research Talks, which has made for some very engaging and lively discussions. It has also provided greater flexibility in honoring the unique and evolving needs of students, faculty, and staff and their families.

As you will see in the following pages, we have much to celebrate this year as we continue to grow and thrive at Illinois State University and beyond. We are excited to celebrate the creation of the newly endowed Ed and Juliet Jelks Scholarship (pg. 2), we were finally able to return to our Spring Awards Banquet—in person—and honor our outstanding students with various scholarships and awards (pg. 2), the Sociology Club returned to a more active year under the guidance of Dr. Chris Wellin (pg. 6), we officially opened the new Schroeder Hall Commons as a place for students to relax, study, and share in community (pg. 7), and the Sociology Graduate Program significantly expanded its reach with the admittance of three outstanding students from Kenya and Ghana (pg. 13). We also share the bittersweet news of the retirement of Dr. David Brown after 21 years of service (pg. 22). Dr. Brown leaves a huge hole in our department, and he will be deeply missed. There are so many accomplishments to celebrate among students, staff, and faculty and reasons to have hope for the future—hope that can lead to a more collective worldview, both economically and socially. I hope you enjoy reading about our successes and join me in congratulating everyone in our department on the multitude of outstanding accomplishments and milestones.

Student recognition and awards

The department's 22nd annual student awards ceremony and luncheon resurfaced this year after being canceled in 2020-2021 due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.



Students, family and faculty join together to celebrate student achievement at the 2022 student awards ceremony and luncheon.

So, there was much to celebrate between our amazing students and faculty and staff who supported them.

Ed and Juliet Jelks Scholarship

Our newest scholarship, created in honor of Dr. Ed and Juliet Jelks after his passing, was first conceptualized under the leadership of Dr. Jim Skibo in collaboration with Dr. Mike Wiant and a few former students of Dr. Jelks. Over \$35,000 was quickly raised to create the now endowed [Ed and Juliet Jelks Scholarship](#) in early 2022.

This scholarship is awarded to provide financial assistance to an anthropology student enrolled in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology with a concentration in archaeology and with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above. The student must be at a grade level of sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate.

In this inaugural scholarship year, we were honored to be able to give *two* scholarships, thanks to the generosity



Jelks' scholarship recipient Jon Otto, *right*, with Dr. Mike Wiant and his wife Terri Treacy. (Recipient Chell O'Doran not pictured)

of our donors, and most notably Dr. Mike Wiant and his wife Terri Treacy.

Martin K. Nickels Scholarship

The Martin K. Nickels Scholarship was established to help support an ISU undergraduate anthropology major's participation in a summer field school. An award of \$750 is made to the student selected. The scholarship must be used to attend an anthropological field school experience during the summer following receipt of the award.



Nickels' scholarship recipient Desteni Walker, *right*, with Dr. Logan Miller, associate professor of anthropology



Kinneman scholarship recipient Eddie Parrott, *right*, with Dr. Aaron Pitluck, professor of sociology

John Kinneman Scholarship

John Kinneman was a sociologist and the chair of the Social Science Department prior to the founding of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

This scholarship is awarded to a junior or senior sociology

major who has demonstrated a serious record of academic excellence. The award is the highest academic honor the sociology program bestows on an undergraduate student.

Ben Keeley Scholarship

The Ben Keeley Scholarship is awarded to a senior in sociology and recognizes a student who has demonstrated significant involvement in service and/or volunteer work to the community. The award winner must have at least a 3.0



Keeley scholarship recipient Yasmin Odeh, *left*, and Dr. Sue Sprecher, Distinguished Professor of sociology

GPA and they must submit an essay on the relevance of sociology to service and volunteerism in American communities.

R. Douglas & Janice Luecke Irvine Scholarship

The R. Douglas and Janice Luecke Irvine Endowed Scholarship was established in 2013, named after sociology master's alum Doug Irvine and his wife Janice, also an alum of ISU. The Irvines continue to be very active with ISU, keeping up with previous scholarship winners;



Luecke Irvine scholarship recipient Ki'Ambri Edwards, second from left, with Douglas and Janice Luecke Irvine, and Dr. Jason Whitesel, associate professor of sociology (right)

Doug is also the treasurer of the SOA alumni board. This scholarship is awarded to one sociology major of at least sophomore standing who has attained a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

The Wib Leonard Scholarship

The Wib Leonard Scholarship provides \$500 to a student majoring in sociology or anthropology who shows competence and passion for the quantitative side of either discipline. Wib Leonard wrote the proposal for social statistics in



Leonard scholarship recipient Sarah Patterson, center, with Dr. Shelby Putt, assistant professor of anthropology and Dr. Wib Leonard, professor

the early 1970s, has taught social statistics over 130 times, has five revisions of the original text, *Basic Social Statistics*, that's been used since the initial publication in 1976, and has been a Faculty Consultant for the AP (Advanced Placement) statistics tests.

Robert Dirks Outstanding Senior Thesis Award

Robert Dirks is a cultural anthropologist who specializes in the relationship between food and culture, especially in the Caribbean. Dr. Dirks was one of the first cultural

anthropologists in our department and therefore helped to shape the curriculum. He was adamant that each anthropology major should complete a senior thesis, a tradition that continues

to this day. The Robert Dirks Senior Thesis Award is therefore given to an anthropology student in each senior thesis class for their remarkable thesis.



Dirks award recipients, from left, Elena Cotter for her thesis, "Eurocentric Femininity: Societal Construction of the Ideal Woman Through a White Lens" and Anastasia Ervin for "Landscapes of Forgetfulness: Sewagescapes in Central Illinois"

Ed Jelks Outstanding Anthropology Senior

Dr. Ed Jelks was the first anthropologist hired at Illinois State University.

He is a historical archaeologist and a founding member of the Society for Historical Archaeology. He founded the Midwest Archaeological Center that was housed in this department, and in 2010, he was presented with a lifetime achievement award by the Illinois



Jelks award recipient Anna Tulley, right, with Dr. Logan Miller, associate professor of anthropology

Archaeological Survey. Each year, the anthropology faculty present the Ed Jelks Award to a senior student who embodies academic excellence and active engagement with anthropology within our program and beyond.



Recipient of the ASA/ISU Distinguished Sociology Graduate Student Award, Dani Park

ASA/ISU Distinguished Sociology Graduate Student Award

This award has been given annually since 1994 to the sociology student who has most distinguished himself/herself over the course of the master's degree program.



Juliana Vidal, recipient of the Department Charter Graduate Student Excellence Award.

Department Charter Graduate Student Excellence Award

This award has been given annually since 1994 to the graduate student who demonstrates the most academic promise for success in our program.

Alpha Kappa Delta, Sociology Honor Society

Alpha Kappa Delta, an international honor society in Sociology, aims to develop scientific knowledge that promotes human welfare and contributes to solving social problems. Membership in AKD is a high honor that lasts a lifetime.



AKD membership recipients, from left, Maria Ross, Taylor Kanuk, Wyatt Frere, Lizette Gregg, and Yasmin Odeh with Richard Sullivan, associate professor of sociology and AKD faculty advisor (not pictured: Kristie Hougas and Melissa Quimby)

Lambda Alpha, Anthropology Honor Society

Lambda Alpha is the National Collegiate Honors Society for Anthropology. Its purposes are to promote interest in the study of anthropology as a university discipline,



Lambda Alpha membership recipients and faculty advisor, from left, Julia Carranza, Dr. Logan Miller, Elena Colter, Sophia Pressler, Kristine Carey, Desteni Walker, and Tyler Mantia (not pictured: Isabelle Barriball, Jenifer Bresley, Elizabeth Crawford, Madeline Davidson, Shannon Engelhardt, Laura Erickson, Ryleigh Hickman, Kenyetta McGowens, Quinn Ricci, Sarah Ruffolo, Michaela Schroeder, Anthony Vecchio, Jr.)

to recognize outstanding student performance, and to encourage scholarship and research in anthropology. To be invited, undergraduates have to have a 3.25 overall GPA and graduate students have to have a 3.6.

Nick Maroules Study Abroad Award

One of the goals of our department is to increase the number of students participating in study abroad. Realizing that one of the impediments to going abroad is the additional



Maroules award recipients, from left, Shaniece Cole (Italy or Spain) and Claire Bousson (France)

costs, our department and alumni board have taken on the mission of finding additional funds to award to students who show an interest in studying abroad. We have also highlighted this fund as one of our priorities in recent fundraising efforts such as Birds Give Back in 2022. We are excited to award two scholarships this year to our students who will be studying abroad starting this summer and into the next academic year.

Scott Elliott Endowment for Sociology & Anthropology

Scott M. Elliot attended ISU from 1979-1984, graduating with a major in economics and a minor in sociology. After leaving ISU, Scott received a master's in statistics and economics. In 2006, Scott made a sizable gift benefitting the Departments of Economics, Philosophy, and Sociology and Anthropology. In SOA, we use the funds to support travel for undergraduate and graduate students who travel to professional meetings and make presentations. Due to the pandemic, we had a limited number of students who could travel this year, and we hope to return to many more scholarships next year. The ability to support this kind of professional development is simply invaluable for both students and faculty.



Elliott award recipient Courtney Ebersole who presented, "Online Sex Work, Women College Students, and Capitalist Crisis" at the Midwest Sociological Society in Chicago, April 2022

Honors Students

The mission of the Honors Program is to promote exceptional learning by enriching students' learning experiences



Fall 2021 honors students at the awards ceremony

at Illinois State University. Honors students must maintain a 3.3 GPA or higher and participate each semester in honor's experiences. Only fall 2021 honors students are able to be recognized at our spring banquet due to timing, but all honors recipients from the 2021-2022 school year are recognized here.

Fall 2021

Anna Tulley, Rebecca Groebe, Ryleigh Hickman, Michaela Schroeder, Brianna Sherwin, Ashley Woolard, Fiona Fleming, Tenaya Muhammad, Mary Andersen, Ariel Branch, Kristie Hougas, Brittney Lewis, Edwin Parrott, Anastasia Ervin, Megan Lowe, Lawrence Landfair

Spring 2022

Charlotte Reynolds, Anna Tulley, Rebecca Groebe, Ryleigh Hickman, Brianna Sherwin, Ashley Woolard, Tenaya Muhammad, Ariel Branch, Kristie Hougas, Brittney Lewis, Edwin Parrott, Kaley Beckman, Anastasia Ervin, Megan Lowe, Lawrence Landfair

Dean's List

Undergraduate students who meet high academic standards are included in a Dean's List issued each semester. To be on the Dean's List a student must complete 12 or more semester hours and have a GPA in the top 10% in the college. Only fall 2021 Dean's List students are able to be recognized at our spring banquet due to timing, but



Fall 2021 Dean's List students in attendance at the awards ceremony with Dr. Diane Zosky, interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, left

all Dean's List honorees from the 2021-2022 school year are recognized here.

Fall 2021

Mary Andersen, Isabelle Barriball, Ariel Branch, Elena Cotter, Shannon Engelhardt, Fiona Fleming, Conor Grande, Lizette Gregg, Rebecca Groebe, Margarette Hacm, Ryleigh Hickman, Ciara Jennings, Taylor Kanuk, Deborah May, Tenaya Muhammad, Caylin Noonan, Kaysee O'Gara, Hattie Parsons, Michaela Schroeder, Megan Slagel, Anna Tulley, Noah Virklan, Ashley Woolard



Dr. Paul Baker, professor emeritus and chair, second from the right, attended the awards ceremony honoring his granddaughter, Rebecca Groebe (Dean's List and honors).

Spring 2022

Angelina Abad, Jen Bresley, Elena Cotter, Elizabeth Crawford, Maddie Davidson, Shannon Engelhardt, Wyatt Frere, Conor Grande, Lizette Gregg, Rebecca Groebe, Ryleigh Hickman, Ciara Jennings, Taylor Kanuk, Sophia Larson, Megan Lowe, Ellen Mawyer, Deborah May, Tenaya Muhammad, Yasmin Odeh, Anna Raymond, Charlotte Reynolds, Michaela Schroeder, Grace Smith, Nadia Smith, Anna Tulley, Noah Virklan, Nolan Wiese, Jayden Wilburn-Johnson, Ashley Woolard

Program notes

Undergraduate advising news

By Ryan Gray, Director of Student Services

This past year has been quite busy in the advising office with a mix of in-person and virtual meetings, although it has been leaning toward more in-person, which I'm really happy about!

As we move back to a more normal experience, students have been navigating the internship/job market as it's gone through changes the last two years. New possibil-



Ryan Gray, undergraduate advisor and assistant to the chair

ities in the professional world have increased the amount of virtual work, and that is likely here to stay. This allows our interns and graduates more flexibility and careers they may not have considered without a virtual option. The Career Services office has done a great job helping students navigate these changes, and we look forward to more internship and job opportunities that our students embark on.

Summer Preview provided an opportunity to meet with our new class of sociology and anthropology majors for this fall. Illinois State welcomed 3,983 freshmen, the largest class in 35 years, to its student body for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Don't forget to check out our department Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram pages, you can link to them at SOA.IllinoisState.edu. Stay in touch and let us know what you are doing—we love to hear from you and would enjoy sharing your story! If you'd like to be featured on our webpage highlighting where you are and what you are doing, please contact me (krgray2@IllinoisState.edu). Please drop by and visit us any time you make it back to campus!

Student ambassadors, peer recruiters and advisors for SOA

The [Student Ambassador program](#) for our department completed its third year. The student ambassadors help with student recruitment and peer advising. This year, they worked from their Schroeder Hall office and virtually. We are grateful for the perspective and energy they bring.



Spring ambassadors, from left, Jamiya Scott, Lawrence Landfair, Sophia de Sa e Silva, Hattie Parsons, Anna Tulley, and Erin Hennessy



Brigid Aslin leading the workshop

This year a special leadership workshop was held in April for the ambassadors on the topic of “Confidence as a Leader: Finding your Purpose.” Brigid Aslin, program coordinator from Leadership Education And Development (LEAD) on campus, held the workshop.



Creative work being done at the ambassador leadership workshop

Sociology

The Sociology Club, a central hub

By Dr. Chris Wellin, Sociology Club faculty advisor

Social clubs

After a two-year hiatus due to coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions, the department is pleased to see the return of the Sociology Club, a registered student organization (RSO) that is led by students, who define the events and broader agenda of the club. Over recent years, the club has been an important vehicle for and reflection of community among students who, whether majors or not, are committed to exploring and applying a sociological perspective outside of the classroom. This is the counterpart to SOSA, the Society of Student Anthropologists, which has a similar



Dr. Chris Wellin, associate professor of sociology

mission and, we hope, will be involved in collaborative, joint events in the 2022-2023 academic year. RSOs are an important part of student life at Illinois State—there are some 400 on campus—helping to build and expand intellectual and personal networks, as well as linking students to the surrounding community in myriad ways.

Social spaces

Some 40% of students in the sociology program are transfer students, and it can be challenging to make friends and develop study groups in the final, demanding years of completing a degree. The Sociology Club, along with other events to orient transfer students organized by our advising specialist Ryan Gray and supported campus-wide, is a welcoming and informal forum to meet people and reinforce a sense of esprit de corps. That sense of community and connection is important for all students, especially so in the aftermath of online learn-



Students enjoying the new “Commons” space in Schroeder 230 during the grand opening on August 23, 2021

ing which began in March of 2020. Sustaining this sense of community has been enormously enhanced by the opening of the student “Commons,” on the second floor of Schroeder Hall, which was inaugurated last fall and is space that we share with other social science programs in Schroeder Hall. This provides a place to visit and have a snack (aided by a microwave oven and refrigerator), read between classes, print out needed documents, and/or work on a group project with a large format screen. We are grateful to Professor and Department Chair Dr. Joan Brehm, and the College of Arts and Sciences for their vision and generous support in making this student space, long a need, become a reality. The Commons, able to accommodate a group of up to 24, has made it easier to schedule Sociology Club meetings, in the late afternoon and early evening hours after the larger student community has access.

Social events

Over the years, the Sociology Club has reflected the range of interests and goals that students seek to pursue. This includes elected officers, who take the lead in organizing



Sociology Club gathers for a fun photo after a pizza party and trivia

events, and the broader student body who are always welcome to suggest activities. These have included lectures, from within and beyond the ISU faculty; panels on such issues as internships, graduate school options, and careers for which sociological training is especially relevant; film viewings and discussions; and even purely social, informal events such as a recent Trivia night. Occasionally we have managed field trips through the club, and the department is committed to supporting any/all goals and activities that students and officers define as desirable.

Social support

The current officers are Ki'Ambri Edwards, Lawrence Landfair, and Daniela Martinez. During an event last winter, Professor and Department Chair Dr. Joan Brehm met with the group and offered candid and focused reflections on her career, prior to and culminating in her faculty and administrative roles in sociology. This session, framed by sharp and thoughtful questions that Ki'Ambri Edwards had submitted prior, was a point of entry to a broader discussion of the many routes and goals that are available to students following college work in the social sciences, and solidified a sense of mutual interest and collaboration between students, faculty, and the University administration. Another recent event—held shortly before coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions—featured a discussion of writing, and associated stresses, which is a pervasive but too seldom examined part of students' lives. That is certainly true of the sociology program, which is among the most writing-intensive majors in the college, and we found a sociological perspective to be as relevant and valuable for understanding this practice as it has proven to be for so many others.

Social import

Opportunities to serve as officers in the Sociology Club are available and rewarding, both in providing students with leadership roles, and in expanding on and connecting themes and experiences in their college experience. Other opportunities exist to serve as student ambassa-

dors, a more recent program, and all reflect our ongoing commitment to know, collaborate with, and celebrate students. Unlike many pre-professional majors (e.g., nursing, accounting, teacher education), in which the occupational goal is explicit, students in sociology are given a foundation of skills and perspectives that, while invaluable, are rarely applied in the field of sociology, per se. Thus, we invest care, time, and effort to engage students in the important process of exploring options (often, through internships) and applying their learning in the wider world. Collectively we seek to make connections between our academic program and promising and fulfilling careers. The Sociology Club, then, is important both in the present tense, and also, for the broader agenda of launching students toward whatever next steps in life and work that they choose to pursue.

Sociology graduate program news and updates

By Dr. Michael L. Dougherty, professor and sociology graduate program coordinator

We welcomed eight students in the fall of 2021, although two of these students elected not to continue. And we welcomed an additional two students in January of 2022. Altogether, then, the 2021-2022 academic year cohort consists of eight students: Mercy Chepkosgei, Ryan Maranville, Bree McCall, Sophie Rout, Chansé Sonsalla, Melon Tanui, Juliana Vidal, and Vivian Yawson. Together they make up a lively group that includes: three returned Peace Corps Volunteers from Guatemala, Tanzania, and Sierra Leone;



Michael Dougherty



From top left, Ryan Maranville, Bree McCall, Sophie Rout, Juliana Vidal, Melon Tanui, Chansé Sonsalla, Vivian Lawson, and Mercy Chepkosgei Kiprop

two ISU sociology graduates; and three international students from Kenya and Ghana.

Among our first-year cohort are people with undergraduate degrees from Baylor, UIUC, ISU, Appalachian State, the University of Cape Coast Ghana, and the University of Nairobi, among others. They come from undergraduate backgrounds in sociology, of course, but also in tourism management, planning, community development, criminal justice, economics, Russian, physics and biology.

Our three Stevenson Center Fellows have received their second-year placements already. Chansé Sonsalla will be working at The National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations in Washington, D.C. Ryan Maranville will be working at the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority in Chicago, and Juliana Vidal will be working at Lacy Consulting in Denver.

Congratulations to our newest graduates. We're grateful to have been a part of your journey!

December 2021 grads

- Erik Carlson: "Never Again is Now:" The Use of Cultural Frames in a Social Movement Organization
- Luke Ploessl: "Perceptions of Masculinity and Femininity in Online Dating Profiles of Men: Intersections with Race"
- Liz Barnhart: "Emerging Adults in the McLean County, Illinois Criminal Justice System"
- Melissa Quimby: "Aid Worker Burnout as Injury: Policy Implications for the Aid Sector"
- Peter Elias: "Corruption and Coordination in Russia's Economy"

May 2022 grad

- Maria Ross: "A Qualitative Inquiry of the Body Project on College Campuses in Illinois"

And, as we wish our graduates well, we look to our incoming fall 2022 students. They hail from places such as Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Nigeria.

Alumni news

- May 2021 graduate Chia-Hang Hsu received admission with full funding to a Ph.D. program at the University of Florida.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me with ideas or resources for our graduate students and alumni. And continue to spread the word, to any interested individuals, about the high-quality and well-funded master's degrees in Sociology at ISU. Contact me at mdoughe@IllinoisState.edu for brochures (redesigned and hot off the presses) and other promotional material. Thanks in advance!

On the lighter side

This from Dr. Mike Dougherty, regarding a collection of Jokes gathered from his Sociological Inquiry class from 2012-2016:



Part of the goal in teaching Sociological Inquiry, Sociology 206, is to develop, on the part of the students, a collective identity as sociology majors. The inside joke is a common emblem of group belonging. To that end, I assign my SOC 206 students, in the last weeks of the semester, to write two sociology inside jokes.

Here is a small selection of such jokes:

Q: What brand of grills do sociologists use for their barbecues?

A: Weber

Peggy McIntosh has hit upon hard times and is hired to paint a red fence white. McIntosh reports the job complete, but when the boss comes to inspect, the fence is still red. Furious, the boss shouts, "Dr. McIntosh, you were supposed to paint the fence white! What happened?" to which McIntosh replies, "I did. I can't help it that whiteness is largely invisible!"

[Dr. Peggy McIntosh is a senior research scientist of the Wellesley Centers for Women. She is the founder of the National SEED Project on Inclusive Curriculum (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) and author of "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" in *Peace and Freedom Magazine*, July/August, 1989, pp. 10-12, a publication of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Philadelphia.]

Q: What was the sociology student's excuse for not turning in her paper on time?

A: She was challenging social norms.

Anthropology

Society of Student Anthropologists (SOSA)

By Sarah Patterson, former SOSA co-president

While SOSA, or the Society of Student Anthropologists, may be the "Anthropology Club" it is better represented as a group of people coming together to appreciate all facets of anthropology, no matter their academic interests. Luckily, with safety regulations in place, SOSA was able to return to biweekly in-person meetings during the 2021-2022 school year, held in the new Schroder Hall Lounge. This year, our events included "Anthropology Hot Takes" in which students present their most controversial opinions of anthropological discoveries old and new, various trivia games, observation of graduate student research, and an old tradition that was almost lost in the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The group took a long journey to the Windy City to receive a tour around



SOSA field trip to the Field Museum of Chicago with tour guide and former SOSA member, Ylanda Wilhite '11, and her newest exhibit, "Restoring Earth." From left, Allie Saunders, Sarah Patterson, Logan Meagher, Ylanda Wilhite, Liz Crawford, Aaron Gilpin, Isabelle Barriball, and Sarah Ruffalo.

the archives of the Field Museum, directed by the Human Remains Collections Manager Stacy Drake, and facilitated by Ylanda Wilhite '11, an alum of Illinois State University and the Society of Student Anthropologists. During the tour, SOSA was shown artifacts from all corners of the world, including a modern replica of a traditional pacific islander wedding gown, Spanish funerary mats, and iron furniture from ancient Roman homes. The Field Museum



SOSA president, Aaron Gilpin with "ancestor" replica at the Field Museum

and its staff recognize that it is built on native ground and is currently in the process of repatriating as many artifacts as possible. Some have been gifted back to the museum by the native people, such as utility items that do not belong to any one lineage or

group: baskets, tools, hairbrushes, and carvings, or larger items that are no longer wanted. Items not being repatriated are those unsafe to be touched due to an outdated

form of preservation that renders many pieces toxic to handle. As a bonus, students were able to watch dinosaur bones being excavated from chunks of dirt that had been carved out and brought into the museum, as well as the maceration process of animal remains via carrion beetles. SOSA is forever grateful to the Field Museum and all our contacts there, and we can't wait to go back next year.

Anthropology graduate program news and updates

By Dr. Gina Hunter, interim anthropology graduate program coordinator

The Anthropology Master's Program was delighted with the return to face-to-face courses during the 2021-2022 school year. We welcomed our new cohort of graduate



students in person and felt as though we were just meeting some of our returning graduate students since we had not had the opportunity the previous year to meet frequently in person.

Two of our M.S. students, Emily Cring and Colt Graves, worked with Dr. Logan Miller at the archaeological field school during the summer;

Samantha Patterson and Sommer Martin are working on their thesis research in biological anthropology. Kenyetta McGowan, Applied Community and Economic Development (ACED) and anthropology student, is finishing up her 11-month internship at Change Happens in Houston and writing an ethnography of community leadership in the Northern Third Ward neighborhood for her capstone project. While Kiera Eckhardt, another ACED/anthropology student, has an internship at the Sentencing Policy Advisory Council (SPAC) in Chicago. Some of our cultural anthropology students used the summer for data collection and fieldwork for their theses on topics ranging from the trauma and the diagnosis of complex PTSD (Michele Blatzheim), to racism and Chinese American restaurants in the COVID era (Rebecca Ma), to the popularity of pickleball (Max Manthou).

This past year, we were delighted to see our students defend theses and present their research at meetings as well as be recognized with some grants and awards. Sarah Patterson (our accelerated M.S. student) won a \$500 BirdFEEDER grant from the Office of Student Research to help her purchase saws and a freezer for her experimental forensic anthropology research on human dismemberment. Yes, you read that right—dismemberment! But she is using deer bones (which are surprisingly similar to human bones). Sarah also won an Honorable Mention in ISU's Image of Research competition. ACED students Genesis Buendia and Jose Molina completed their ACED capstone projects and graduated last summer. Meagan



Clockwise from top left, Chell O'Doran, Max Manthou, Colt Graves, Lincoln Scheiding, Jay Blatzheim, Kiera Eckhardt, Sarah Patterson, Rebecca Ma, Emily Cring, Sommer Martin, and Janeth Montenegro

Thies-Sauder co-led a two-part seminar series addressing sexual harassment in the field of archaeology for the Society of American Archaeology last October. And more recently, in April, Tyler Mantia defended his thesis in archaeology, "Ani-Kitu Hwagi Center Places: A Study of Survivance." These are just some of things our students have been up to, and we are very proud of them.

Finally, please reach out and join our [new private Facebook group](#) for alumni, faculty, and friends of our master's programs. If you would like to join, find us through our [main Facebook page \(facebook.com/MAAnthroILSTU\)](#), under "groups."

Archaeology Field School, May–June 2022 The Noble-Wieting site

By Logan Miller, associate professor of anthropology

The 2022 archaeological field school returned to the Native American village of Noble-Wieting, located along Kickapoo Creek north of Heyworth, after a two-year



2022 Field School crew, from front left, Quinn Sherwin, Lillian Kell, Michaela Schroeder, Logan Miller and his dog Finn, Emily Cring, Marie Grimm, Colt Graves, and Ryleigh Hickman; From back row left, Jon Otto, Julian Marvel, Zach Long, Charles Roelant, Noah Virklan, and Hayden Bernard (of Indiana University)



One of several copper beads found on the dig

hiatus due to the pandemic. While it sits in an active agricultural field today, Indigenous occupants called Noble-Wieting home during the 1300s. Thirteen students spent one month excavating the remains of pit features associated with a house in the southeast section of the village. Days were filled with digging, screening

for artifacts, collecting soil samples, filling out paperwork, rescuing wildlife from excavation units, and cramming everyone onto the bus for the trip to and from the site. The features were filled with many artifacts, especially burnt beans, squash, corn, and other food remains. And Feature 79 will always be remembered as the bottomless pit by those who are in the know. This was also the year of copper beads, as nearly as many were recovered in this one field season as all previous years combined. Work will continue in the lab through the school year in preparation for the next archaeological field school.

Museum Studies display

Have you ever walked down the west wing of the second floor of Schroeder Hall and wondered about the large display cases there? They are the showcases for the Museum Studies class, and they are full once again of current class displays. Please take a moment to [check them out](#).



Part of a display from the Museum Studies course, ANT 374

News from the Stevenson Center

The Stevenson Center is always a bustle of exciting events and opportunities, and we love collaborating in their mission. The students that ACED attracts are top notch. Check out all that they have been up to on their website, News.IllinoisState.edu/unit/stevenson-center-community-economic-development.



2021-2022 ACED Students from the anthropology and sociology sequence before they begin their various internships, *from left*, Ryan Maranville, who will be working with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority in Chicago; Juliana Vidal will be working remotely for Lacy Consulting in Denver; Kiera Eckhardt who will also be working remotely with the Sentencing Policy Advisory Council (SPAC) in Chicago; and Chansé Sonsalla working remotely with the National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations in Washington, D.C.

Features

Schroeder Hall Gallery–The Sixth Annual Gallery Exhibit

“Material Culture and Visual Ethnography of the COVID-19 Pandemic”, curated by Dr. Abigail Chipps Stone

The “Material Culture and Visual Ethnography of the COVID-19 Pandemic” exhibit visually documents and explores the effects of the current pandemic on our lived exper-



Dr. Abigail Stone at the opening exhibit, September 16, 2021



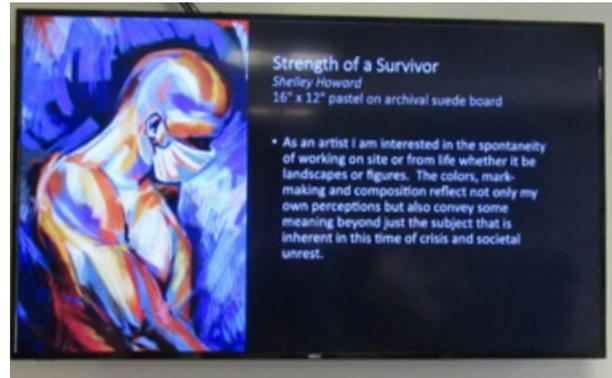
Various submissions that were about places to breathe during a lockdown, by Jessi Reid-Swiech, office manager, EAF



Ellis Zimmerman, eighth grade art student, Metcalf Elementary, with her submission, "Huh"



"Sacred Texts" by Ladan Bahmani, assistant professor, and Brian Franklin, associate professor, Wonsook Kim School of Art



"Strength of a Survivor" by Shelley Howard, artist, Denver



Evelyn Whitefield, ISU building service supervisor, with her submission, "The Mask Pandemic of 2020"



Four portraits by Amaya Fernandes, University High School senior

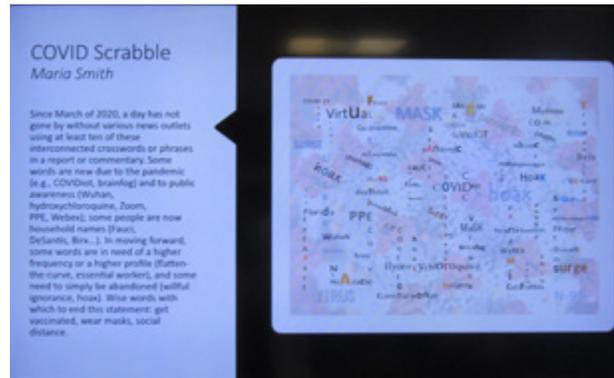


Dr. Nathan Carpenter, School of Communication, sharing his work, "Networks of Pandemic Tweets in Bloomington-Normal"



"COVID-19 & Face Masks" by Hoyjung Lee, BFA graphic design senior

periences. What are the material markers of this moment? How does social distancing change our daily interactions? What do social uprisings look like in the midst of a pandemic? How has the isolation and uncertainty of the past year affected our mental and physical health? These are the questions that the exhibit sought to answer. Art was received from all over the University, community, and



"Word Scrabble" by Dr. Maria Smith, professor emeritus, anthropology

beyond by both artists and non-artists, and it spoke to the many ways this pandemic has affected us all.

The Schroeder Hall Gallery is a collaboration between the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Wonsook Kim School of Art at Illinois State University and is designed to showcase sociologically and anthropologically relevant artwork in a venue with wide exposure to students. The exhibits typically remain up the entire school year. Up next: "What is Hip Hop Culture?" to be opened in the fall of 2022

International graduate students: Three women from Africa provide perspective

International graduate students have an added challenge when they come to Illinois State University. Obtaining a master's degree is difficult for anyone, but imagine what it is like for those students who must also learn a new culture and sometimes overcome language and dialect barriers as well. Three international graduate students, all sociology students from Africa, shared their experiences in a recent [News story](#).



Grad students who traveled the globe, found each other and became friends, from left, Mercy and Vivian (both from SOA), Christine (DFCS), Melon (SOA), Ja Tavia (COM) and Sophie (SOA).

Minor in water sustainability

By Dr. Joan M. Brehm, department chair and co-director, Center for a Sustainable Water Future

The Water Sustainability Studies minor provides students with an interdisciplinary perspective on a critical and necessary global resource that impacts every aspect of our lives: water. Water is a global resource and issues around water security are crucial concerns for our future. Sustainable water management has profound implications for a variety of sectors, including agriculture and food security, energy, economic development, public health, and ecosystem services. Additionally, how we interact with water affects the health of other species, ecological communities, and entire ecosystems. Understanding water from diverse perspectives is critical to the future management of this essential resource.

Established in spring 2021 as part of the [Center for a Sustainable Water Future](#), the water sustainability minor now has 17 students from disciplines across campus. As an interdisciplinary minor, students take a total of 18 credit hours from a variety of different fields and have opportunities to select classes that complement their specific



Students in Dr. Eric Peterson's class place sensors along the lake to measure temperature and oxygen levels. (Photo by Joan Brehm)

major, helping them to pursue their personal career goals. The one core required class, Thirsty Society (SOC 103/ GEO 103/POL 103), is co-taught with a natural science and social science faculty member every spring semester. In spring 2021 and spring 2022, [the course was co-taught by Dr. Eric Peterson and Dr. Joan Brehm](#). The course actively integrates insights from both the natural and social sciences to offer a fully holistic understanding of water as a global issue for our future.

The water sustainability minor at Illinois State represents an innovative approach to teaching and to preparing our students to address the complex problems that threaten water security through an interdisciplinary lens that promotes collaboration across a diversity of disciplines. Through this minor, they explore all the complexities of the water sustainability field from a variety of perspectives and disciplines, highlighting how these all play a role in future policy and management decisions, preparing them to address these challenges beyond ISU.

Sabbatical news

Group identity in animal rescue work

By Marion Willetts, professor of sociology

I was granted a sabbatical leave during the fall 2021 semester to conduct a qualitative, exploratory investigation of the construction and maintenance of group identity in animal rescue work. A companion animal overpopulation problem continues to plague the U.S., with an estimated 1.5 million adoptable companion animals killed by shelter personnel each year (ASPCA, n.d.). Numerous strategies have been implemented to reduce kill rates, including low-cost spay/neuter programs and transferring shelter animals from high-kill, open-intake shelters to private, no-kill rescue groups where they are made available for adoption. I studied in my research members of a 501c3 multi-state shelter animal transport team that conducts transports of animals residing in high-kill shelters in the southern U.S. (typically in Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, and southeast Missouri) to no-kill rescues in the northern U.S. (typically in Northern/Central Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Minnesota). The overarching research questions for this study included the following: How do members of a specific animal transport team construct group identity, and how do they maintain this identity? What are the specific challenges they encounter while working with other members of the team that may undermine group identity, and what particular satisfactions do they experience as a function of their participation with other team members that may foster group identity? What are the benefits and drawbacks of group identity among animal rescue workers?

Research participants represented the various roles played by animal rescuers on this transport team. First, transport coordinators organize each transport by managing a "run sheet" of approximately 18 "transport legs." The



Maizy, a yellow lab puppy, arrived at a northern shelter with an untreated broken leg. She was mended and placed up for adoption.

run sheet indicates which dogs are traveling on which legs as they make their way northward and how many drivers are needed for each leg. Coordinators monitor each transport, update all drivers throughout the transport day, and handle logistical problems as they arise. Personnel at sending shelters provide veterinary care and conduct temperament tests on each animal that enters their shelters. They write biographies of each animal and take photographs of them, which are then sent to the receiving rescues.



Dr. Willetts with a grateful transport dog

Personnel at receiving rescues determine space availability for transported animals and collaborate with personnel at the sending shelters to select specific animals for transport. Finally, drivers select specific animals to transport on a specific transport leg. I am currently working on a paper exploring how group identity mediates conflicts among transport coordinators. Given the complexity of multi-state animal transports, my eventual goal is the completion of a monograph that may have significant implications for not only the subfield of sociological non-human animal studies but also for the educated lay public that works (or is considering working) in some capacity in animal rescue.

A year-long sabbatical researching Midwest farmers as well as the history of autogestión in Mexico City

By Dr. Livia K. Stone, associate professor of anthropology

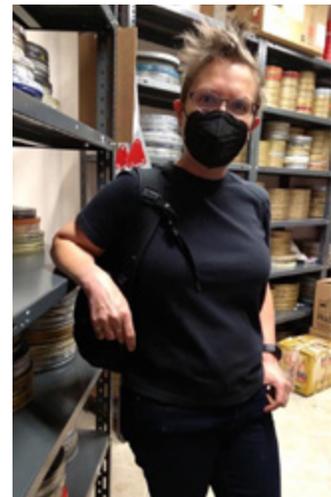
Dr. Livia K. Stone spent her year-long sabbatical writing a book manuscript on one research project and conducting the ethnographic research for a second research project.

The book manuscript is tentatively titled *Autogestión: An Anthropological History from Algeria to Mexico City* and is about the journey and popularization of the ethico-political conception of autogestión from Algeria in the 1960s, through French anarchists in the 1968 student movement, to the punk movement in Mexico City in the 1980s and anti-neoliberal Zapatista movements of the 1990s. A highlight during the sabbatical was the opportunity to spend a week reading punk zines from the 1980s in Mexico City's anarchist library.



A wall in a worker-run cafe in Tlalpan, México called Café Victoria. The translation of the wall: "Dignified Work and Autogestion (self-management)." The cafe is run as a cooperative where all decisions are made by consensus and there is no hierarchy among employees.

Stone also received a prestigious anthropological research grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation to conduct the research for a project interviewing Midwestern farmers about work, the legacies of land, and the challenges of being a farmer in our contemporary world. The research is interested in the economies and politics of land ownership and land rents, but also in how heartland farmers conceive of their economic, political, and even cultural plights more broadly.



Dr. Livia K. Stone in the film archives of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)

Inspirational hallways

The Sociology and Anthropology department hallways received a facelift. Walk down the third floor near the office, and you will see inspirational quotes from famous sociologists, anthropologists, and leaders as well as departmental student submissions for the Office of Student Research's Image of Research contest. Many thanks to Dr. Joan Brehm for her initiative and efforts in corralling the faculty to provide quotes to help create this attractive, mentally and visually stimulating space.



Some of the inspirational quotes in the SOA hallway



Image of Research photos on the second floor of Schroeder Hall

Presentations

- August 27, 2021 – Dr. Gina Hunter gave the keynote address, “Advancing Inclusion and Equity through Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs) and Mentorship” at the virtual faculty summit for the University of Louisiana in Lafayette.
- September 9, 2021 – Dr. Joan Brehm worked with sociology alumna Raelynn Parmely, M.S. '19, to engage farmers in discussions about practices that protect headwater streams during [Field Day for farmers](#).

- September 30, 2021 – Dr. Katie Sampeck was a panelist for the Monuments and Counter-Monuments: ReVista Launch.
- October 12, 2021 – Dr. Nobuko Adachi and Dr. James Stanlaw presented the Zoom webinar, America Meets East Asia: Mayonnaise in the Sushi.
- November 1, 2021 – Dr. Maura Toro-Morn along with Archana Shekara organized and presented at a special program and art installation on the quad for [National Immigrants Day](#).
- November 2, 2021 – Dr. Aaron Pitluck gave a lecture titled, “An Economic Sociology of Islamic Banking and Finance” via Zoom to an Economic Sociology class at the Universitas Brawijaya in Malang, Indonesia.
- December 1–5, 2021 – Dr. Winfred Avogo completed qualitative data collection on migration, urbanization and COVID/health resiliency for his work with the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship. He also gave virtual grad workshops on methods and presented a paper at the IUSSP virtual conference.

- November 31–December 10, 2021 – Dr. Katie Sampeck co-facilitated a [pre-texts workshop](#) in Oklahoma on decolonizing education to support Native American civic engagement and historical sovereignty.



Dr. Katie Sampeck

- February 16, 2022 – Dr. Gina Hunter gave the talk “Edible Insects: A Global History” for the Culinary Historians of Chicago.
- April 8, 2022 – Dr. Katie Sampeck presented virtually for the University Club, “From Twins to Opposites: Exploring the Cultural History of Chocolate and Vanilla”
- April 13-16, 2022 at the MSS
 - Dr. Frank Beck gave two talks at the MSS, presenting “Race, DUIs, and Policing” and, “When Can One Point to Systemic Racism? Evidence from a Jail Study.”
 - Courtney Ebersole presented, “Online Sex Work, Women College Students, and Capitalist Crisis.”
 - Erik Carlson presented his work entitled, “Never Again is Now: Use of Cultural Frames in a Social Movement Organization.”
- April 17, 2022 – Chanse Sonsalla and Ryan Maranville, SOC grad students, presented “Entrepreneurship and Criminal Justice: A Multidimensional Approach to Recidivism and

Re-Entry” at Illinois Association Networks’ Social Innovation Workshop

- April 25, 2022 – Dr. Maura Toro-Morn gave the CAS Distinguished Lecture, “Gendered Migrations in the Age of Global Disruption”
- May 2022 – Dr. Shelby Putt presented virtually at a workshop in Leiden, Netherlands, “Connecting Minds. Integrating Models of Cognitive Evolution.”
- May 4, 2022 – Dr. Katie Sampeck and a colleague gave an online talk of the history of vanilla using the British Library’s historical collections.

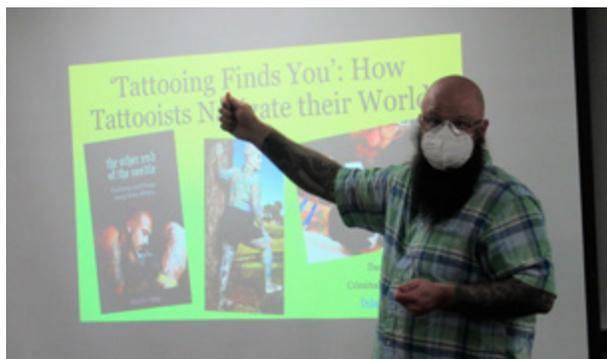


Dr. Maura Toro-Morn with her Distinguished Lecturer medal

Research series

The SOA Department Research Series, organized by Dr. Aaron Pitluck, continued into the past school year with research talks by various alumni, professors, and guests. These are presented periodically throughout the year, and all are welcome to attend.

- **Dr. Daniel Jaster**, Eureka College assistant professor of sociology, presented “Returning home: Midwestern farm protests and re-living bygone utopias as resistance” on November 12, 2021
- **David C. Lane**, assistant professor of criminal justice science, presented “Tattooing Finds You: How Tattooists Navigate their World” on August 12, 2021



Dr. David C. Lane presenting at the first Research Series of the 2021-2022 school year.

- **Dr. Liv Stone**, associate professor of anthropology, presented “Popularizing Anarchist Ethics: Autogestión in Mexico City” on January 21, 2022.
- **Dr. Gina Hunter**, associate professor of anthropology, and Dr. Noha Shawki, professor of political

presented “Building Solidarity in the International Slow Food Movement” on February 25, 2022.

Faculty publications

Dr. Joan Brehm – Brehm, J.M., Bulengela, G. & Onyango, P. [Beyond rules and regulations: understanding the cultural and social significance of beach seine fishery on Lake Tanganyika](#), Tanzania. *Maritime Studies* (2021).

Dr. Gina Hunter – published *Edible Insects - A Global History*, Reaktion Books, 2021.

Dr. Aaron Pitluck – Co-wrote with **Dr. Dustin Stoltz, M.S. '14** (former master’s student and now an assistant professor of sociology and cognitive science at Lehigh University), “Resources in Relational Packages: Social Capital as a Byproduct of Relational Work” in *Social Currents*, the journal of the Southern Sociological Society.

Dr. Shelby Putt – published “The evolution of combinatoriality and compositionality in hominid tool use: a comparative perspective” in the *International Journal of Primatology*, 2022.

Dr. Katie Sampeck – published “Pandemic and Museums: A View from El Salvador” in *eVista: The Harvard Review of Latin America*. revista.drclas.harvard.edu/pandemic-and-museums

Dr. Sue Sprecher published online with [ScienceDirect.com](https://www.sciencedirect.com) the article, “Is chatting with a sophisticated chatbot as good as chatting online or FTF with a stranger?”

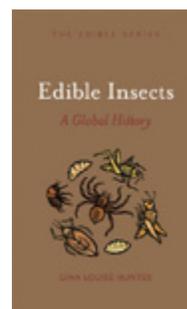
Sprecher and mentor, Dr. Elaine Hatfield, published “Ratings of the physical attractiveness of an interaction partner after a getting-acquainted interaction” in *Personal Relationships*, a Journal of the International Association for Relationship Research.

Dr. Intan Suwandi co-authored a paper, “Imperialist Appropriation in the World Economy: Drain from the Global South through Unequal Exchange, 1990-2015” that was accepted to be published in *Global Environmental Change*.

Suwandi also published in *International Critical Thought*, “COVID-19 and Imperial Value: Commodity Chains, Global Monopolies, and Catastrophe Capitalism.”

Tip of the hat

Jalal Fetрати, M.S. '21, sociology, won the 2022 ISU James L. Fisher Outstanding Thesis award in the Social Sciences division for his thesis, *Non-Violent Resistance Movements and Substantive Democracy*, which was chaired by Dr. Aaron Pitluck.

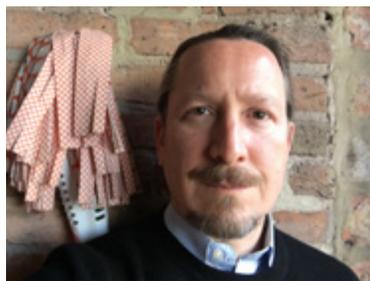


Kelsey Hanson, M.S. '16, anthropology, is the recipient of the 2022 Lister Fellowship award.

Dr. Gina Hunter was chosen by the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology (CTLT) and the Cross Endowed Chair for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning to be a Teaching Scholar-in-Residence for Student Success and Engagement through the next academic year beginning in the summer of 2022.

Dani Park, sociology master's student, published the article "The Structure of Fiction and the Emergence of the Other-Than" in [InquiriesJournal.com](https://www.inquiriesjournal.com).

Sarah Patterson, anthropology accelerated student, received honorable mention at the Image of Research competition.



Dr. Aaron Pitluck, professor of sociology

Dr. Aaron Pitluck received promotion to full professor, effective August 2022.

Dr. Aaron Pitluck was approved by the 2021-2022 Research Proposal Review Committee/

University Research Grant program to receive a faculty research award to fund the project: Making Meaningful Finance: Co-producing Islamic Banking and Finance in Malaysia.

Meagan Thies-Sauder, anthropology grad student, led a two-part online seminar series addressing sexual harassment and bullying in the field of archaeology on October 12 and 19, 2021, through The Society for American Archaeology.

Dr. Marion Willetts received promotion to full professor, effective August 2022.



Dr. Marion Willetts, professor of sociology

Faculty interviews and news

Dr. Joan Brehm was featured in the [Pantagraph](https://www.pantagraph.com) for her work as a volunteer handler for search and rescue work, as part of the Sustainability Strategic Plan Task Force for the new ISU Sustainability Strategic Plan, and again interviewed by [WGLT](https://www.wglt.com) on the issue of PFA's in the local water supply.

Dr. Mike Dougherty was quoted in an article, "Guatemala Cracks Down on Q'eqchi' Resistance in El Estor" in the [NACLA Report on the Americas](https://www.naccla.org).

Dr. Gina Hunter was interviewed in the [Pantagraph](https://www.pantagraph.com) about the new Student Opportunity Center; she was

quoted in the Sunday Post of Scotland on December 12, 2021, and on April 11, 2021, Hunter was quoted in the Ventura County Star regarding her book, *Edible Insects*.

Dr. Wib Leonard was profiled in the [Pantagraph](https://www.pantagraph.com) on March 13, 2022: "Flick: Meet Wib Leonard, legendary ISU professor of 52 years"

Dr. Katie Sampeck was interviewed on [WGLT's Grow](https://www.wglt.com) about her research on chocolate, vanilla and the intersections of race.

Dr. Intan Suwandi was interviewed by [WGLT](https://www.wglt.com) regarding supply chains disruptions being "inevitable" and by the Iran Daily News:

"Imperialist characteristics of world economy are difficult to ignore."

Dr. Jason Whitesel was interviewed on NPR's *The Takeaway*, August 25, 2021; Whitesel was also interviewed [by Good Morning America](https://www.goodmorningamerica.com) and [OUTCincinnati](https://www.outcincinnati.com) regarding body shaming and body dysmorphia within the gay community.



Dr. Jason Whitesel, associate professor of sociology

Department awards

Outstanding College Researcher Award

Katie Sampeck

Outstanding University Teaching Award, NTT

Jennifer Woodruff

Stan and Sandy Rives Excellence in Undergraduate Education Award

Ryan Gray

Outstanding Administrative Professional Staff award

Ryan Gray

ISU The Impact Award

Dr. Richard Sullivan



Jennifer Woodruff, instructional assistant professor of sociology

Alumni

Genesis Buendia, M.S. '21, ACED/ANT, works at The Immigration Project as the office manager. Buendia is utilizing what she learned in the SOA and ACED programs in her current career path toward working in non-profit administration.

Erik Carlson, M.A. '21, SOC, recently became the business services manager at the Lakeview Roscoe Village Chamber of Commerce in Chicago.

Elizabeth Deiters '21, SOC and POL, was accepted to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, for a Ph.D. in sociology with a half-time teaching assistantship. Her research interests include gender and work.



Peter Elias after defending his thesis in the fall of 2021, "Corruption and Coordination in Russia's Economy"

Fitts currently supervises crew during Phase I, II, and III environmental surveys for ISAS. From these surveys she helps to produce compliance reports for the Illinois Department of Transportation. Fitts also engages the public in outreach events and assists in training new staff in all manners of field and lab work. She has been with the Illinois State Archaeological Survey since she graduated, for over 12 years. Fitts is also a member of the SOA alumni board.

Peter Elias '08, SOC & PHI, M.S. '21, SOC, works for a medical auditing firm, Medical Business Associates, Inc., a small business that does medical revenue cycle consulting work and provides expert testimony for a variety of legal cases, from personal injury to whistle-blower cases.

Lauren Fitts '09, ANT, was promoted to research archaeologist at the Illinois State Archaeological Survey.



Lauren Fitts

Tyler Flockhart, M.S. '13, SOC, is currently an assistant professor of sociology and community justice at Viterbo University, in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. As a first-generation



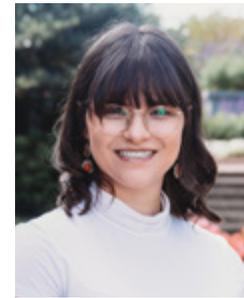
Tyler Flockhart

college student who really had no idea what it meant to be an academic, he credits Tom Gerschick, Maria Schmeeckle, Marion Willetts, Diane Bjorklund, David Brown, Joan Brehm and Richard Sullivan for enabling him to tread those waters and ultimately pursue a Ph.D. at North Carolina State. The teaching and inspiration from Gerschick and Bjorklund helped to refine his interests toward gender studies, qualitative methods, and symbolic interactionism. He also wants to credit Kathleen McKinney for help with his professional development. But emphatically he states, "...every professor I had at ISU was amazing..."

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Rebecca Forsythe, M.S. '20, SOC, will be a Ph.D. candidate in sociology at Colorado State University in August 2022.

Iwona Franczak, M.S. '18, SOC, has been teaching introduction to sociology classes as an adjunct and as a high school dual credit instructor at Richland Community College since graduating from ISU. She also subbed at public schools in Champaign until the pandemic. During the past two years, Franczak has been volunteering with the Project READ as an ESL tutor. In fall 2021, Franczak began the Ph.D. program in sociology at Syracuse University in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.



Rebecca Forsythe

Hannah Gdalan, M.S. '20, SOC, was promoted in January to senior associate, financial services solutions at the Financial Health Network. Gdalan continues to work on a wide variety of research projects with the aim of improving the financial health of people in America. She was a part of the research team that recently published the [2022 FinHealth Spend Report](#), which provides in-depth analysis of year-over-year trends in consumer spending for more than two dozen financial services. She also led the research for a [data brief on buy now, pay later \(BNPL\)](#). The brief utilizes findings from a nationally representative survey to better understand the BNPL market, the users who are driving it, and the implications for their financial health. This research comes at a time when many stakeholders are seeking to understand this emerging financial service and is an important first step in guiding the market in a way that advances consumer financial health.

Kelsey Hanson, M.S. '16, ANT, is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Arizona and was awarded the Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant from the National Science Foundation.

Emma Hafner '21, SOC, accepted a position in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduate program at Northwestern University to complete her master's degree in art.

Emily Healy '10, SOC, M.S. '14, SOC, served for two years in the Peace Corps in Mongolia before obtaining her master's. She then moved to Boston where she worked for seven years at Bunker Hill Community College. She now returns to Illinois as a recently appointed full-time instructor of sociology at Elgin Community College. A community college graduate her-



Emily Healy

self, Healy is passionate about the work that community colleges do and looks forward to her new role teaching, advising, and helping students transfer to four-year institutions.

Chia-Hang Hsu, M.S. '21, SOC, received an acceptance and a funding package to the doctoral program within the Department of Sociology at the University of Florida at Gainesville.

Randi (Utzinger) Karban, M.S. '10, ANT, received her Ph.D. from Iowa and has just been promoted to associate professor of biology at Illinois College in Jacksonville.

Whitney M. Karriger, M.S. '12, ANT, received her Ph.D. from Tulane and is in her second year as an assistant professor of anatomy at the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine in Dothan, Alabama.

Zach Koutsky '06, SOC and POL, started a boutique consulting/lobbying firm, Berteau Consulting, focusing on local, state, and federal engagement on behalf of over two dozen clients. This follows five years as the legislative and political director for a large statewide union, with multiple state and federal election cycles under his belt. He lives in Chicago with his wife Stephanie and three children.

Dani Lamb '21, SOC, upgraded her internship at the University of Texas at Dallas Office of Research to full-time coordinator for the Research Education Programs and Outreach team in Dallas.



Christian Maynard

Christian Maynard '20, SOC, successfully defended his master's thesis in sociology, "Cannabis Consumption Techniques among Adolescents Across Legal Contexts in the United States," at Washington State University.

Júlia Mendes '17, SOC, graduated from Loyola University with a master's in Sociology in 2019, and then, with a doctor-

ate in philosophy in higher education in May 2022. She recently began working full time as a research associate at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

José Molina, M.S. '21, ANT/ACED, works in Washington, D.C., as a contractor at the National Defense University, providing business and operations support for the Institute for National Strategic Studies. He helps support the tasks that keep the university running such as travel documents, background checks, outreach, and organization.



Chris Nicosia

Christopher Nicosia, M.S. '17, ANT, is a social bioarchaeological anthropologist studying human skeletal remains in archaeological contexts of societies that formed in South America's ancient Andean area and the southeastern United States. After

graduation from ISU, he worked on a multi-month CRM project with United States Military Academy-West Point University and taught at Westchester Community College (WCC) in New York. He began his Ph.D. program in 2018 and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Louisiana State University's Department of Geography and Anthropology. His dissertation project is pursuing a spatial paleopathological study of nonspecific stress in Ancient Americas. In addition to his dissertation work, he volunteers at the LSU Forensic and Computer Enhancement Services (FACES) lab, where he assists with forensic investigations and projects. Nicosia is a bioarchaeological researcher for the Cerro [San Isidro Project](#) taking place in Morro, Peru, that investigates the rise of divine lordships. He engages in community outreach/engagement through [Skype A Scientist](#), which connects scientists with teachers and classrooms, being an Anthropology mentor for [The Social Scientist](#), and webmaster for [Queer Archaeology](#) that provides information, resources, and a community for queer archaeologists and archaeological allies.

Stacey Pickrum '15, SOC, received a master's degree in social work at Governors State University with a membership in the Honors Society Kappa Delta Pi. Pickrum is now a licensed social worker pursuing a clinical license. She works as a therapist at Miller Counseling and Associates in Frankfort.



Stacy Pickrum

Cori Rich, M.S. '14, ANT, is a project manager for TriLeaf Corporation. She gave a job talk, "CRM: The good, the bad, the ugly, the fun, and the money. Ya dig?" to future anthropologists at ISU on October 8, 2021.

Kamie Schladenhauffen '18, SOC, works as an office project contributor at McMaster-Carr.

Robert Shorty '06, SOC, is a director of Nike Inc.'s Global Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) team. You may read more about his dedication to DEI in the summer 2022 edition of [Illinois State magazine](#).

Jennifer (Swick) Larson, M.S. '17, SOC, is the data monitoring coordinator at Heartland Head Start and an adjunct professor at Bradley University.

Dalton Stevens '15, SOC and COM, is a doctoral candidate at Syracuse University and was chosen to receive the Research Excellence Doctoral Fund Fellowship to complete his dissertation, "Adulthood while Disabled."

Joshua "JT" Travis '15, ANT, received a master's in non-profit management from DePaul University and is currently seeking a doctorate in Interdisciplinary Leadership at Governors State University. Travis began his career supporting national and state nonprofits such as the Alzheimer's Association, Children's Home & Aid, and Youth Guidance. From 2020 to 2022 Travis served as the executive director of the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus, securing over \$1 million in funding and doubling staff capacity. In February 2022, Joshua accepted a role with the Global Alzheimer's Platform (GAP) Foundation as the Regional Manager for Diversity and Community Outreach. In his role, Travis leads partnerships with communities throughout Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana to link historically under-resourced populations with awareness, health education, and access to clinical studies.

Jessica Vinson, M.S. '19, ANT, has full funding as a Ph.D. candidate at the University of South Florida, working with the Strong Coasts program in food, energy, and water.

2021-2022 alumni graduates



Elena Cotter '21, ANT with a SOC minor, will be attending Illinois State University to pursue a master's degree in sociology. Her main research plans to focus on femininity and its construction. She will be working on campus in the Student Counseling Services office with the Multicultural Outreach Team and the Body Image Outreach Team for the upcoming school year. Her future plans include teaching higher education sociology.



Hannah Askew '22, SOC, will be working toward her master's in clinical counseling in the fall at Bradley University.

Alumni spotlight

Thomas Brannen talks about his experiences and passion for conservation

By Thomas Brannen '21



Thomas Brannen teaching hitting fundamentals to children at their home field in Remedios, Chiriquí.

After graduating from Illinois State with a degree in sociology and a minor in Spanish, I left in 2018 to serve as a Peace Corps volunteer in Panama for 27 months. I lived in Remedios, Chiriquí, a beautiful mixed Latino and indigenous community on the coast of the Pacific with a population of roughly 4,000.

I volunteered as a Teaching English Leadership & Life Skills volunteer (TELLS). To fulfill the English teaching portion of my service, I worked in an elementary school, helping English teachers better their practice through methodology training. I was frequently invited to classrooms to co-teach or help monitor new lesson plans.

To fulfill the leadership and life skills portion of my service, several local community representatives and I created the International Baseball Club. This club connected several high schools in the Chicagoland suburbs to six different communities in Chiriquí, Panama. Through this relationship, we held a resource drive, which allowed us to deliver over 2,500 lbs. of bats, balls, helmets, catchers equipment, mitts, and other baseball necessities that are often difficult to find in parts of Panama. We also created bilingual flip books that taught proper mechanics for throwing and hitting, as well as non-baseball related tips such as goal setting and dieting.

Currently, I am at the tail end of a dual-degree master's program that focuses on Environmental Policy and Sustainability at Bard College, a beautiful liberal arts college in upstate New York.

My time in Panama allowed me to rediscover my passion for conservation, as I am hoping to use my degrees to create an urban forest/green infrastructure consulting firm, specifically looking at stormwater runoff in large cities and how we can mitigate flooding through innovation and environmentally conscious solutions. As we continue to see policy change at the local, state, and national level, it is incumbent upon ourselves as environmentalists to lead the charge and right the ship on climate change.

Illinois State University and the Sociology Department will always have a special place in my heart. I wouldn't be where I am today without that experience.

Dr. Evan Brown, Homecoming guest speaker, fall 2021

Dr. Evan Brown '99, anthropology, M.S. '02, sociology, has held a variety of teaching and leadership roles in higher education, primarily in the fields of sociology and anthropology. In addition to being a full- and part-time faculty member for many years, Brown has also found success as a department chair, director of global studies, associate dean of arts and sciences, faculty development facilitator, instructional designer, and learning design coach. In 2017, Brown achieved his doctoral degree in interdisciplinary leadership from Governors State University, his research having explored indigenous cultures and leadership trends with a specialization in Arctic higher education administration and indigenous student retention. Through Brown's research, the Cultural Value Model of Student Retention was created, highlighting the importance of cultural competence in institutional curriculum development and student services. Brown has a diverse research



Dr. Evan Brown presenting "Often Non-Linear, Always Vital: Meaningful Careers in Sociology and Anthropology" during homecoming week 2021

portfolio with publications in leadership, education, natural sciences, and social sciences. Brown has received numerous accolades for innovation and quality in online learning, HLC assurance review development, and curriculum development. Brown also received grants for multicultural curriculum development. Outside of academia, Brown founded and was President of a successful 501(c)3 non-profit organization, the USA Wheel Gymnastics

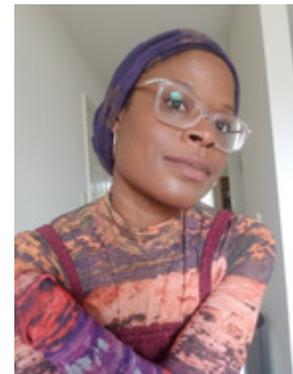
Federation. Brown spends his free time gardening, wood-working, and traveling extensively with his wife, Lisa (Burns) Brown '03 (anthropology) and their daughter, Erin. Brown's foundation in anthropology and sociology at ISU prepared him for a career dedicated to spreading cultural awareness, escalating the value of diverse thought, and providing quality academic programming.

Dr. Evan Brown presented, *Often Non-Linear, Always Vital: Meaningful Careers in Sociology and Anthropology* as the department alumni speaker for Homecoming on Friday, October 14, 2021.

Evelyn Reynolds, from student to instructor

Evelyn Reynolds, M.S. '09, sociology, is an associate professor of sociology at Parkland College in Champaign

where she has taught for over a decade. Reynolds is an activist, formerly a lead organizer with the Black Lives Matter Global Network and founder of the Black Lives Matter Champaign-Urbana chapter. Reynolds wrote a popular article featured in The Huff Post and Next Avenue that connects aging with anti-Blackness and the unique experiences that Black Americans face



Evelyn Reynolds

as they age. She is also a textbook editor of *A Sociology Reader: Foundational Concepts for the Introductory Student* and the author of an upcoming textbook titled, *Introduction to Sociology: The Essentials*. Reynolds will be teaching Sociology of Gender, SOC 341, for us this fall 2022! The department looks forward to having her back in the program as an instructor this year.

Look who retired!

Dr. David K. Brown, associate professor of sociology, 2001-2022

By Dr. Chris Wellin

Dr. David K. Brown has retired from his faculty position in our department after two decades of teaching, service, and contributions to scholarship. Despite his broad and cosmopolitan interests, Brown has deep roots in Illinois State University and in the surrounding region, having grown up in Dwight, some 50 miles northeast of campus. Tall, lean, laconic, and possessed of a sharp, dry (but benign) wit, he seems to have inherited some of the qualities of a figure who remains central to our region, so associated with Lincolnia. Indeed, Brown built his foundation in sociology in our program, where he completed his B.A. in 1979 and worked with such faculty members as Richard Stivers.

Prior to arriving at Illinois State in 2001, Brown held teaching positions at the University of Illinois, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Northeastern Illinois University, and the Illinois Institute of Technology. The earliest of these roles were taken on in greater Chicago, as he completed his doctorate in sociology at Northwestern University (completed in 1993). He had earlier earned a M.A. in sociology at the University of Virginia (in 1983), and while there, Brown delved more deeply into work by Randall Collins, then at UVA, whose questions and (1979) book *The Credential Society* Brown would go on to interrogate and build upon later in his career.

The intellectual rigor and range of Brown's teaching are leavened by a conversational style and an ability to anchor and apply abstract concepts and theoretical arguments with colorful and down-to-earth examples, an ability put to especially rewarding use in his (2004) book, *Social Blueprints: Conceptual Foundations of Sociology*, which was published by Oxford University Press and served as an essential and distinctive source for students in his courses on social theory. In discussing theory and theorizing, Brown wrote, "Theories point beyond immediate stories and examples to a whole range of similar cases. Once one understands the basic mechanisms of sociology as expressed in its central concepts and theories, one becomes capable of interpreting a vast array of personal experiences in a new light" (2004: 45). In the book, and in his teaching and presentations, Brown illuminates and anchors abstract concepts and arguments in stories that are vivid, humorous, often personal, and always engaging.

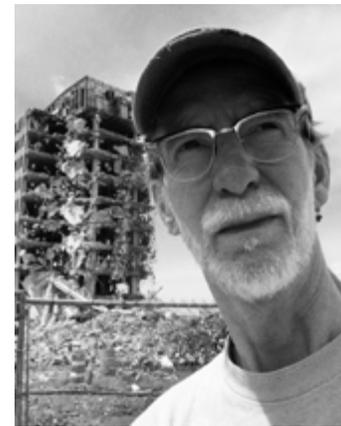
Clearly, in his teaching role, Brown's mastery of and commitment to theory has been an especially significant contribution. His courses have been an intellectual rite of passage for thousands of students—both at the undergraduate and graduate levels—in the 70 or so sections that he offered throughout his career. Even among the most talented students, motivation to study social theory is often lacking. This is partly because of the need to grasp the historical contexts in which major "classical" perspectives and arguments emerged, in Europe in the mid-19th Century, and partly because of students' limited ability and experience, especially prior to the capstone course, in applying these conceptual tools to empirical research. Thus, as with statistics, "theory" is a required course for which teachers must overcome what is often a combination of low interest and intimidation among students. For those with the maturity and seriousness of purpose to navigate the heavy reading (including many primary sources) and discursive lecturing style that Brown favors, the intellectual challenge and growth have been essential and rewarding parts of their experience in the major. It also bears mentioning that, given the many graduate students in sociology who enter ISU through the Stevenson Center program on Applied Community and Economic Development, or ACED, Brown often taught the advanced theory course to students with scant earlier exposure to sociological thinking and writing.

Nonetheless, Brown presided over sections of social theory that were warm, supportive, and as rigorous or more than those of many found in doctoral programs.

It is fitting, given that his career unfolded in a large public university, that among Brown's abiding research interests has been in credentialism, or the growth in the demand for (and some-

times rewards of) formal educational attainment. In the forward to Brown's book, *Degrees of Control*, David Labaree summarized the core question: "When compared with other Western countries, why did the United States experience such extraordinary growth in higher education? Whereas in most societies higher education has long been seen as a privilege that is granted to a relatively small proportion of the population, in the U.S. it has increasingly come to be seen as a right of the ordinary citizen. Nor was this rapid increase in accessibility a very recent phenomenon. As Brown notes, between 1870 and 1930 the proportion of college-age persons (18-21 years old) who attended...rose from 1.7% to 13%. And this was long before the proliferation of regional state universities and community colleges made college attendance a majority experience for American youth" (1995: ix). At the risk—nay certainty—of oversimplifying the multi-dimensional, historical argument that Brown advances, influenced strongly by a Weberian mode of analysis, he concludes that "Fundamental structural and cultural features of educational expansion and credentialism crystallized by the 1930s. Recruitment of college-educated bureaucratic and professional labor was entrenched and spreading to new positions in government, business, and client-based practices, in each case guided by the combined forces of increasing workplace hiring uncertainties and worker-initiated labor market monopoly movements...The phenomenal rate of enrollment growth in the early decades of the 20th century was matched and sometimes exceeded in later decades, guided by continuing credentialing of positions and incorporation of new class, ethnic, and racial groups within less prestigious sectors of the higher educational system" (1995: 163).

This argument, still vital and contested, contributed in important ways to debates regarding whether to see the impact of higher education in terms of increased productivity, based on the substance of training (the human capital model), or rather as part of a labor market signaling process in which educational degrees are a proxy for other attributes and abilities among applicants, helping



A Dr. David Brown selfie in front of the destruction of the south campus residence halls, 2016

employers to screen and select among them. Of course, a parallel debate continues to arise among students themselves, puzzling over whether liberal arts education today is “worth it,” in labor market returns, as the inflation in credentials leads many to question whether the college degree is less valuable, or, whether they should opt for a more vocational perspective—choosing majors they believe will lead to more lucrative careers. In any case, such questions lie at the heart of our understanding, not only of the growth and curricular priorities of college, but also of broader processes of social stratification.

Brown’s contribution to this stream of research was capped off in 2011, with the publication of a co-edited volume (with David Bills), *New Directions in Educational Credentialism*, which expanded and updated the comparative scope of related inquiries. And at a time when many question the continued viability of funded doctoral programs—in the face of shrinking numbers of tenure-track positions—Brown has advanced an argument which recasts this institutional process as a kind of safety valve in managing job scarcity among the ranks of highly-educated career aspirants, in a manuscript



Dr. David Brown as Vincent van Gogh, painted by a graduate student

(under review), entitled “The Formation of a Higher Educational Welfare State: Beyond Skills and Credentials to Latent Unemployment Alleviation.”

In addition to yeoman’s service as manuscript and book reviewer, Brown also taught introductory courses, and others on the sociologies of culture, education, and organizations, and served on many and varied thesis committees. His service to the discipline involves substantial contributions to professional associations at the national, regional, and state levels; closer to home, he has served generously and conscientiously on departmental committees tasked with faculty hiring and graduate student admissions, and on earlier initiatives in curricular reform.

Among Brown’s interests, outside of Schroeder Hall, are woodworking and antiques—all part of an enduring fascination with material culture. However, these activities, too, have been integrated in and informed by his sociological perspective. He has, for example, given papers at professional meetings on “Negotiating Tastes: Cultural Production of Interiors, 1900-2005,” and on “Interior Theory: Toward an Economic and Cultural Sociology of the Arts and Crafts Movement in U.S. Design.” In these ways, Brown has embodied and modeled the kind of holistic engagement with sociology which we, as teachers, seek to inculcate in students. His intellectual and personal

qualities have had a distinctive and invaluable impact on the sociology program at ISU for two decades. We appreciate his enduring contributions and wish him well in the future.

Dr. Diane Zosky, 2001 – 2022

Dr. Diane Zosky

exchanged office shoes for golf shoes in July 2022. Many thanks to her years of service, particularly as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and as former interim chair of the Sociology and Anthropology Department in 2007-2008.



Interim Dean, Dr. Diane Zosky, retired July 2022

Emeriti news

Dr. Robert Dirks, along with Dr. Gina Hunter, published in January 2022, a chapter: “Anthropology of Food” in Routledge International Handbook of Food Studies. According to Google Scholar the chapter has received 26 citations in academic journals, has been downloaded from internet sources some 6,000 times, and continues to be accessed online over 50 times per month.

Dr. Tom Gerschick began his new role as Interim Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of McLean County.

Dr. Barbara Heyl and **Dr. Bill Rau** had a full summer with travel and home projects.

Heyl recently completed her memoir of prose poems and photos that she had been working on for several years. This was just in time to take copies to her brother and his family and Heyl’s own two grown children and her granddaughter, Kai, now 15 years old. The family gathered together at the Hidden Creek Cabins just north of Bryson City, North Carolina, for the Fourth of July week. Rau keeps busy with their family garden and writing a monthly column for *The Community Word*, a progressive Peoria newspaper.

Dr. Jim Skibo has been named as the [state archaeologist](#) for the state of Wisconsin. As such, he helped [dig a 1,200-year old canoe](#) out of Lake Mendota.

Dr. Fred Smith is listed as a Sigma Xi distinguished lecturer for 2022-2023.

Smith also published the second edition of his book: Matt Cartmill and Fred H. Smith (2022) *The Human Lineage*. Hoboken: Wiley Blackwell.

In memoriam

Dr. Edward Jelks (1922-2021), beloved Professor emeritus of anthropology will be sadly missed, but he leaves a [legacy](#) for future students.

Dr. Grant Shoffstall '02, M.S. '07, sociology, (1977-2022) received his Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Illinois-Champaign. Most recently he was an assistant professor at Rowan University. Our condolences to the family.



Dr. Ed Jelks

a multi-platform podcast called *Historical Humans*. They record videos in a variety of formats on topics relating to history, biography, and literature. Two of their main platforms are YouTube and TikTok, but they also upload on Anchor, Instagram, Spotify, Discord, Facebook, and Twitter.

Photos of the year



Did you know?

Dr. Shelby Jedele Putt, assistant professor of anthropology, and her husband Mark Jedele are expecting a baby. Sometime this August, their son Phoenix will have a brother. Due date: August 29, 2022! (Update: A healthy baby boy was born on August 30!)



Shelby and son Phoenix

One of our current graduate students, **Max Manthou**, anthropology, is a tennis champion from the Northwest. He was the University of Washington's No. 1 player in 2014.

One of our current graduate students, **Mercy Chepkosgei**, sociology, was No. 2 in her home country of Kenya as a champion ping pong player.



Mercy Chepkosgei and Max Manthou—exceptional athletes and graduate students.

Anthropology graduate students Colum Coleman, Gwendolyn Allen, and Justin Woods have started



Dr. Abigail Stone invited two Metcalf Elementary kindergarten classes to her zooarchaeology lab on March 21, 2022. They were told to touch the animal skeletons and imagine things like what these animals might have looked like based on their skeleton and what they ate based on their teeth. One can easily imagine that from their enthusiasm, a few of these students may be back in that very same classroom in 15 years!



Not too unlike the kindergarten class, Normal Community High School sociology students were guided through an archaeology lab with anthropology master's student Colt Graves, left, during a department open house on April 1.



Normal Community High School sociology teacher Stefen Robinson, *middle*, with Joan Brehm, *left*, and Richard Sullivan, *right*. Robinson is an alum of ISU, graduating in 2012 with a sociology minor.



Rip Brehm, 5 months, pretending to be chair. The doctor is IN.

Sociology-Anthropology Donor Roll: January 1-December 31, 2021

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