

Archaeology Field School Set for Summer 2021



CHAIR NOTES

*Interim Chairperson,
Dr. Tawnya Adkins Covert*

I am honored to serve as Interim Chairperson for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Western Illinois University. I joined the department as an assistant professor in 2000. My areas of research and teaching specialization are media, politics, and social stratification.

I come into this role following the retirement of Dr. John Wozniak. Dr. Wozniak served WIU for nearly 40 years, first as an instructor, as a tenure track faculty member, and for more than two decades as department chairperson. Please join me in thanking Dr. Wozniak for his dedicated service to WIU and to the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and offering our best wishes in his retirement.

This spring, our campus made the rapid shift to online/remote delivery with the rise in COVID-19 cases. Our faculty began streaming courses live, recording course content, and reworking activities and assessments for remote delivery. Assessment data from the spring semester attest to the exceptional skill of our faculty members in navigating this transition.

Because our department offers fully online programs for both Anthropology and Sociology majors, our faculty were uniquely positioned to make these shifts as we are already engaged in the development and delivery of high quality online learning for our students.

We continue to explore innovative ways to share Sociology & Anthropology with our students during this pandemic. I am extremely proud of the work our faculty members and our students are doing during this time.

In Summer 2021, the WIU Archaeological Field School will continue excavations at the Orendorf prehistoric archaeological site in Fulton County, Illinois.

The Orendorf site is a world-renowned Mississippian village and mound group located on a bluff top overlooking the Central Illinois River Valley. Orendorf has been the subject of WIU excavations since the 1970s, and has been found to comprise at least four distinct settlement sites, resulting from the relocation of the village several times over a period of 150+ years.

In the 2021 excavation season we will continue exploration of Orendorf Settlement B, which was unexcavated prior to our 2019 season. With newly-completed subsurface images to help us target prehistoric structures, we expect to expand our understanding of the sequence, duration, and character of this Orendorf settlement, relative to the others. Settlements C and D were decimated by fire and abandoned with an amazing variety of artifacts left in place, frozen in time, on the house floors.

Whether Settlement B met the same fate will be a major question for the 2021 season.

Field school students will enjoy this rare opportunity to participate in the excavation of such an unusual, multi-component site. Although the excavations will be conducted on prehistoric archaeological sites, forensic archaeological field techniques, and special considerations for forensic evidence collection, will also be discussed and demonstrated.

Fundraising is underway for materials, travel, and other expenses. To make a contribution, please go to:

<https://www.givecampus.com/schools/WesternIllinoisUniversity/fund-anthropology-field-school>

Sociology and Anthropology at Western Illinois University



Our Online Programs Meet Students' Needs Where(ever) They Are

Our department offers online undergraduate degrees in both Anthropology and Sociology.

Online courses are available to all WIU students, but are especially valuable for students who need flexibility in completing their academic goals.



Stephanie Becker, a May 2020 graduate of our online programs, double majored in Sociology and Anthropology.

"I chose Western to complete a bachelor's degree because they offered my chosen degrees completely online, they have a great reputation, and it was very affordable. I chose Anthropology because I find learning about human beings fascinating, and I chose Sociology because it teaches you about human society. I highly recommend sociology's many programs and fantastic faculty."

Stephanie Becker
B.A. in Sociology
B.A. in Anthropology
2020

FALL DEPARTMENT SCHOLAR NIKI NATION



Niki Nation is a senior at Western Illinois University, where she is majoring in Anthropology and minoring in Computer Science.

She was attracted to the online Anthropology degree at WIU due to a long interest in local Native American and Indigenous cultures and history but soon fell in love with the holistic four field approach developed by Franz Boas and taught by her four Anthropology professors. She gained a broad knowledge base of human evolution and biological processes through Physical and Forensic Anthropology. She also learned of applying qualitative research methodologies such as ethnography and participant observation in studying different cultures through Cultural Anthropology and the field of Linguistics. She was also fortunate to attend WIU's Archaeological Field School and work with an all-female team on an excavation at the Orendorf Site in Fulton County.

Along with a unique minor in Computer Science, Niki will take her analytical skills and love of data to explore how technology is shaped by human interaction and dynamic cultural processes in her current job as a Data Engineer at OSF Healthcare Systems in Peoria, IL.

Niki was active in the WIU Chapters of Pi Gamma Mu Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Golden Key Honor Society, Lambda Alpha Anthropology Honor Society, Centennial Honors College, Western Anthropology and Sociology Club, CAS Student Council, Computer Science Association, and the Electronic Gaming Association. She was honored to receive the Randall & Delores Lindsay Anthropology Scholarship, Jay W. Stein Young Scholar Award, and is the 2020 Fall Scholar in Anthropology. Niki holds a 4.0 GPA for her college career at WIU and plans to pursue a Master's degree at WIU in the spring.

Along with her academic pursuits, she currently holds a full-time job and is a mother to two bright and beautiful children, one who is starting his college career, and the other is an amazing child with special needs. She also enjoys cycling, running, and playing video games.



New Pathways Scholarship for Transfer Students

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology has a strong history of supporting students through scholarships. We are proud to announce the formation of a new **Pathways Scholarship for Transfer Students**. This scholarship will help us recruit and support Sociology & Anthropology transfer students.

The Pathways Scholarship will be funded through annual donations until we reach our goal of endowing the scholarship. We will award \$1,000 to an incoming Sociology or Anthropology transfer student each year.

Through the link below, you can donate and help us reach our goal. Please consider making a one-time donation, a recurring monthly donation, or signing up for payroll deduction.

You can donate at: <http://www.wiu.edu/giveCAS>. The Pathways Scholarship for Transfer Students can be accessed from the pull-down "Designate my gift" menu.

Sociology and Anthropology at Western Illinois University

FACULTY NOTES

THE STRUGGLE FOR
A MULTILINGUAL
FUTURE
Youth and Education in Sri Lanka
CHRISTINA P. DAVIS



- **Dr. Christina Davis**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, recently published *The Struggle for a Multilingual Future - Youth and Education in Sri Lanka* from Oxford University Press.
- **Dr. Lora Ebert Wallace**, Professor of Sociology, has an article forthcoming in the journal *Women's Reproductive Health*, "Risk language and infant feeding behaviors: a longitudinal analysis" (with Dr. Erin N. Taylor).



Cannabis and Culture Minor

FALL DEPARTMENT SCHOLAR JULIA RIVERA



I am a senior majoring in Sociology and minoring in Anthropology and Political Science.

I started out as a Psychology Major at Spoon River College. It was there that I met a teacher by the name of Michael Maher. His passion for Sociology really stuck with me and I ended up changing my major the next semester. I credit him with getting me excited about the subject, and when I got to Western.

I had the pleasure of taking a class with his partner Diane Sandage before she retired. I hope to go on to grad school at some point. I would love to teach at a junior college and inspire someone the way that these teachers have inspired me.

Anthropology faculty, in collaboration with colleagues in English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and Religious Studies have created a new interdisciplinary minor called *Cannabis and Culture*.

The minor in Cannabis and Culture is one of a kind. No other public or private institution in the state offers a minor of this type that addresses issues specifically related to the cultural use of cannabis and the culture of the cannabis industry.

This new interdisciplinary minor, which has several Anthropology classes at its core, will expose students to a diverse group of faculty members in the humanities and social sciences and the theoretical and methodological approaches that their disciplines use to approach the study of cannabis.

Courses are available in the classroom, online, or in a combination of both formats.

For more information please contact Dr. Sarah Haynes s-haynes@wiu.edu or Dr. Heather McIlvaine-Newsad h-mcilmvaine-newsad@wiu.edu.

Graduate Students receive Departmental Awards



Joy
Ofuokwo

Three graduate students were recently honored for their achievements.

Joy Ofuokwo is the 2020 recipient of the *Sociological Masters Scholarship* sponsored by former faculty members Ken Mietus and Chris Adamksi-Mietus.

Chima Anyanwu and **Jeremiah Egbetayo** are the 2020 recipients of the *Dr. Won Moo Hurh Memorial Graduate Thesis Award in Sociology*.



Chima
Anyanwu



Jeremiah
Egbetayo

Sociology and Anthropology at Western Illinois University

GRADUATE PROGRAM NOTES



Dr. Patrick McGinty, Graduate Advisor

The graduate program in Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology continues to pride itself on the excellent students we attract from across the United States as well as internationally.

While international enrollments in the Master of Arts program are up over the past few years, the Covid-19 pandemic has created a number of constraints on the ability of the department to enroll international students – in most cases related to the cessation or extreme slowdown of visa interviews at consulates and embassies. Even in the face of current difficulties in matriculating into the program, the number of international applications continues to grow year-over-year. At the same time, domestic applications and enrollment in the program remain steady.

Even as the Covid-19 pandemic has produced some notable constraints for program enrollments, it has also created new conditions for the department and faculty to reflect on opportunities for program growth. Most notably, the graduate committee and department faculty continue to explore how it might be possible to develop and offer a fully online M.A. program in Sociology effective Fall 2021.

The development of any such program would place the sociology program at WIU among a select group of only twelve other programs across the nation that offer an online option for earning an M.A. degree in Sociology. Beyond potentially attracting more highly qualified students into the M.A. program, developing such an online program would also provide an opportunity for the undergraduate program's online students an option for continuing their studies at Western.

In addition to exploring programmatic changes and opportunities that are responsive to the continuing changes in graduate education, the program also seeks to continue to be responsive to our alumni and friends. One of the continuing efforts of the graduate program is to strengthen the network of program alumni throughout the world. If you ever become aware of opportunities that might provide experiences for our students, or if there are ways in which the program can continue to serve you in your professional endeavors I would love to hear from you.

Graduate Student Profile Cara Erude



Engaged and Leading in the Community

My name is Cara D. Erude. I am a graduate student in the Department of Sociology at Western Illinois University. After the death of George Floyd that sparked a national movement, one of my good friends, Dr. Sarah Schoper Salazar, came to me and posed the question, "What would make me feel safer in our community given what had occurred?" I thought briefly and said, "At the very least, Body Cameras."

From that interaction, a group of four women wanting to make a difference in their community came to fruition—the "Because We Care" team began. I am very grateful to have taken part in a campaign that positively impacted our community. I recently became a part of another group called "One Human Family" - Macomb Chapter. This group aims to focus on welcoming and protecting the lives, dignity, and human rights of all people in all places in our community.

<https://www.tspr.org/post/fundraising-macomb-police-body-cameras-hits-home-stretch>

<https://www.tspr.org/post/campaign-reaches-fundraising-goal-police-body-cameras>



From left: Cara D. Erude, Sue Marshall, Sarah Schoper Salazar, Vanessa Huston

Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Morgan Hall 404

Western Illinois University

1 University Circle

Macomb, IL 61455

Phone: 309-298-1056

Email: misoc@wiu.edu



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Sociology and Anthropology at Western Illinois University