

Spotlight on Experiential Learning: Internships in Sociology & Anthropology

The WIU Department of Sociology & Anthropology has a strong tradition of **Experiential Learning** in the classroom and out.

In our classrooms, students engage in hands-on work, constructing survey instruments, identifying artifacts, drafting research and grant proposals, and conducting small-scale studies.

Outside of the classroom, they engage in **Service Learning Projects** that take our students into the community and spend their summers conducting excavation through the **WIU Archaeological Field School**.

They also participate in structured **Internships**, an increasingly popular option for students in all of our degree programs.

Beginning with the Fall 2021 semester, all new Undergraduate Sociology majors will have the opportunity to complete an internship for their capstone course option. Undergraduate Anthropology students can complete an internship for elective credit. Graduate students can elect to complete an internship as their graduate exit option or as an elective.

This spring, two of our undergraduates completed internships, gaining critical hands-on experience, learning about future career opportunities, experiences, and applying their disciplinary knowledge.

Mya Hellenthal

(undergraduate Sociology major)

Mya worked as an intern for Quanada, a domestic violence and crisis support center located in Quincy, Illinois this spring as her Sociology capstone experience. After completing 65 hours of required training, Mya shadowed and assisted their legal advocate, who works with clients to obtain orders of protection and accompanies clients to court appearances. After completing the internship, Mya plans to continue to volunteer at Quanada and is considering employment with a women's advocacy group after graduation.

Thalia Ruiz

(undergraduate Anthropology major)

Thalia completed an Internship during the spring 2022 semester working with Late Woodland- and Mississippian-period prehistoric archaeological collections from the Western Illinois Archaeological Research Center (WIARC), applying analysis methods that she's learned in her WIU Anthropology courses. Her internship grew out of a Directed Research project that she completed in Spring 2021, and builds on experience that she gained as a participant of the WIU Archaeological Field School in Summer 2021. These opportunities have provided Thalia with an excellent foundation for her career interests in the forensic and archaeological sciences.

CHAIR NOTES



**Dr. Tawnya
Adkins Covert**
Interim
Chairperson

Commencement is probably my favorite formal social ritual. I love everything about it: the pomp and circumstance, seeing students and faculty in their academic garb, watching graduates walk across the stage and shift their tassels from one side of the mortarboard to the other. Most of all, I love hearing families and loved ones cheer as their student walks across the stage. Commencement is a collective celebration - it is about more than the accomplishments of individual students. Each graduate is the embodiment of their families and their communities. Our cheers are an expression of the hope for the future of the entire society, of what has been and can be accomplished.

As a first generation college graduate, I remember the deep pride my family and I felt when I walked across the stage in 1994 to receive my BA in Sociology degree from Marshall University. My accomplishment was not mine alone: it was the combined achievement of the generations that came before me.

This commencement season, Western Illinois University returned to a traditional commencement ceremony following virtual and modified ceremonies since spring 2020 due to COVID-19. I was deeply honored to lead our BA graduates across the stage, to congratulate them on their accomplishments, and to participate in some small way in the social ritual of commencement.

Sociology and Anthropology at Western Illinois University

Anthropology Notes



Dr. Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, Anthropology Program Coordinator

As I write this, the spring 2022 semester is wrapping up and our newest class of Anthropology graduates will soon be receiving their degrees they have all worked so very hard for. I will be in attendance at graduation and will physically meet some of our students for the very first time, as we graduate a cohort that contains several fully online students. And although I am not a fan of crowds, I am so very much looking forward to this significant rite of passage.

A rite of passage is defined as a "ceremony or ritual which occurs when an individual leaves one group to enter another." This is essentially what a university graduation is. Rodosthenis Charalampous writes that "It is not just an event to commemorate your efforts, celebrate your achievements and take a lot of photos. It is a cultural ritual which signifies that you have now entered a new domain in the social landscape and that your previous identity has been changed to reflect your newfound skills and knowledge." As Anthropologists, one thing we teach all of our students regardless of the sub-discipline, is the art of seeing. Whether that is seeing the patterns in DNA, potshards, language or the larger cultural, social, economic, historical, and political forces that shape our everyday lives. The skills Anthropology graduates take with them of seeing and thinking can be utilized in any profession from health care, to teaching, market research, contract archeology, or environmental stewardship.

In his 2005 commencement address to Kenyon College graduates, the late David Foster Wallace said, "Twenty years after my own graduation, I have come gradually to understand that the liberal arts cliché about teaching you how to think is actually shorthand for a much deeper, more serious idea: learning how to think really means learning how to exercise some control over how and what you think. It means being conscious and aware enough to choose what you pay attention to and to choose how you construct meaning from experience."

As you transition from graduating seniors to the next phase of life, we wish for you what we as your professors have found for ourselves in teaching and mentoring you. That you find work you (mostly) love, you surround yourselves with humans (and non-humans) of substance and integrity, and that you remember you have the ability to decide what to pay attention to - the annoying everyday details of life like bill paying and traffic - or this grander human experience of being one of many interconnected species on this planet.

Go do good things and stay in touch.

SPRING DEPARTMENT SCHOLAR IN ANTHROPOLOGY

BROOKE HERMANOWICZ

I live in Bloomington, IL and have been an online WIU student for the past four years. Along with being a Leatherneck, I am an ISU Redbird employee by day. I work with over 40 departments/schools around campus to oversee and manage their inventory. My role can seem like an archaeological dig at times with finding interesting relics along the way.

I am grateful that my Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology started out with a course by the late Dr. Patricia Anderson. From that point forward, I knew that this was something that I could do and would enjoy along the way. I am proud to be a first-generation student and am accomplishing my goal of finishing my degree before my daughter graduates from high school. In addition to courses in Anthropology, I have been studying for my minor in TESOL. It has been fulfilling when these two areas of study intersect such as through Sociolinguistics and Language and Culture.

Outside of school and work, I volunteer for an adult English language learning program and a non-for-profit counseling center. I also enjoy yoga, 'Werg' (a hip-hop dance class), walking my dog- Pip, gardening, calligraphy, reading, and especially travel. My family including my significant other, Dave, and our daughter, Mia, has had the privilege of traveling to Belize over the last five years. It is our goal to live there at least part-time. I envision working with adult learners and continuing my work (both professionally and personally) in antiracism and social equity. I am thankful for the instructors and courses in Anthropology and TESOL for aligning with and helping to continue my growth in those important parts of life.



Sociology and Anthropology at Western Illinois University

Sociology Graduate Program



**Dr. Gordon Chang,
Graduate Advisor**

The academic year 2021-2022 is coming to a close, and our M.A. students have continued to be able to connect their unique passion and interest to a concrete exit-option project that suitably expresses their cumulative learning. A few snippets may help me illustrate this point.

Deborah Olaiya completed an M.A. thesis entitled "Cultural and Institutional Barriers to Formal Employment for Women in Sub-Saharan Africa." The project examines the relative salience of several causal factors that bar Sub-Saharan women from full, formal employment—and the country from full economic development. Her paper considers the intertwining relations between subsistence agriculture and woman's gender roles, and how such a linkage may inhibit developmental potentials in developing countries.

A few graduate students have also pursued the **internship exit option**.

Stacy Shearer has been a case worker with 16 years of experience at the Inland Regional Center located in San Bernardino, California. The agency focuses on providing assessments, management, and mediation services to clients with developmental disabilities. Stacy approaches the topic of disability not by focusing on the physical dimensions of clients' needs or the available resources provided by the state-sponsored support system; instead, her focus was the very roles played by parents. Parents with disabled children have to wrestle with—in social constructionist terms—"realities" which are multiple in nature. Parents must navigate and mediate both the disabled children's realities and the "normal" society's; yet, as Stacy highlights, the stereotypical "husband" and the "wife" often live out different realities according to their gender roles within the household.

Samantha Rymus interned at the Housing Authority of McDonough County (HAMC), an organization that seeks to build a "community" in low-income housing. This enterprise involves so much more than simply arranging living spaces: the principles of normative integration, capital building, and boundary maintenance are shown to be pivotal factors in determining the success of the organization's endeavor.

Carolina Lopez interned at Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Her major point of reflection was to link the psychological and sociological dimensions of youth development, including minority youths' development. Often youth camps or programs emphasize skillset attainment (e.g., math, music, art, sports), while others are simply "fun" and social in nature. Carol observes the central role played by mentors—specifically to her site, the importance of creating a match between youths with an "adult" figure who is also a peer. Like Samm's and Stacy's, Carol's is also an intellectual project embedded in the field of professional practice.

We will surely miss these and all the other students who are either graduating this semester or will do so in the summer. In search of a farewell quote, I have found one that I hope would actualize things for them: "This is the beginning of anything you want."

Christina Cottle receives 2022 Dr. Won M. Hurh Memorial Graduate Thesis Award in Sociology

Christina's thesis was titled "Protesters, Politicians, Power Elites, and The First Amendment Right to Protest." Her thesis committee chairperson was Dr. Davison Bideshi.

She completed her master's degree in Sociology in December 2021 and is currently employed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.



Sociology and Anthropology at Western Illinois University

Sociology Notes

Ryan Warren selected as *The Sociological Masters Scholarship Award 2022* recipient

Ryan is a Peace Corps Fellow working towards a master's degree in Sociology with a post baccalaureate certificate in Community and Economic Development.

She is in her second year of the program and has an internship with Good Food Collaborative. She will complete her degree in December 2022 and hopes to pursue a career in federal law enforcement.



Sociology Alumnus Patrick Magoon named Western's 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient



Patrick Magoon
(BA Soc '76)

Patrick Magoon graduated with his BA in Sociology in 1976. He served more than 20 years as the president and CEO of the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago until his retirement in 2020. While at Lurie, Magoon oversaw significant growth in both capacity and research funding and the hospital ranked nationally as a top children's hospital.

"Magoon has been an advocate in all matters of children's health. He had a major role in both federal and state arenas on issues such as Medicaid reform for medically complex children, graduate medical education, pediatric research and child safety."^

^Quotation drawn from WIU Press Release (May 11, 2022)

SPRING DEPARTMENT SCHOLAR IN SOCIOLOGY ALYSSA SHOCKEY

I'm Alyssa Shockey and am a senior here at Western Illinois University. I will be graduating in May with a double major in Sociology and Law Enforcement/Justice Administration.

Majoring in Sociology had never crossed my mind when I first came to WIU until I took my first class and loved it! Then another class followed and another. The next thing I knew, I decided to start majoring in it, and am so glad I did! While my goal has always been to pursue something in Law Enforcement as a career, what I've realized is that majoring in Sociology will only help me with that career. By definition, the google definition at least, Sociology is "the study of development, structure, and functioning of human society." Having this degree, no doubt will assist me in interacting with people on a daily basis as I pursue my dream of becoming a police officer.



Sociology and Anthropology at Western Illinois University

2022 Undergraduate Scholarship Recipients

Randall and Delores Lindsey Scholarship in Anthropology

My name is Allisyn Cryer. I am a mom to five kids ranging from 11 to 10 months.

Since my husband is finishing up his veterinary residency, I recently decided to return to school to complete my degree in Anthropology with a minor in psychology.

I love learning about different cultures from the past as well as present day. I love to travel and one day hope to travel to more places around the world.

I plan on going to graduate school after I complete my bachelor's degree here at WIU. I want to teach at a university and work on research once my children are a little older.



Allisyn Cryer

Kara Leigh Broughton Scholarship



Zander Doan

My name is Zander Doan and I am a Junior Law Enforcement & Justice Administration and Sociology Double Major.

When I came to Western Illinois University I was only a LEJA Major and took a couple Anthropology and Sociology elective classes and fell in love with it. I wanted to add a major that I feel like I could benefit from and help my career so I added a Sociology double major with an emphasis on Criminology and Deviance.

Every staff member and professor I have been in contact with within the Sociology & Anthropology Department has been exceptional in every way and always willing to help me with anything and everything whether that be over email or even visiting their office. I plan to use my degree to bring a different perspective and knowledge to the law enforcement field that not a lot of people in that profession have to hopefully bring law enforcement back to the honorable profession it once was and help the community.

Harriet Stull Memorial Scholarship

My name is Amy Bull. I will be a senior in the fall at Western, majoring in Sociology, with a minor in Human Resource Management.

Currently, I work for the Glencoe Park District as their operations associate and have recently taken on the role of HR assistant. It is my hope to use my Sociology degree to continue to pursue a career in the field of Human Resources, as well as have the opportunity to be part of an organization that implements family-friendly, accessible, inclusive workplace policies, especially when it comes to non-discriminatory hiring practices. In my spare time, I enjoy baking, attempting various arts and craft projects on my Cricut machine, and spending time with my son, Ian, and our cat Finnegan.

I am so grateful for the Sociology program at Western Illinois. It is a challenging, rewarding opportunity structured in a way that allows working adults the chance to complete their degrees. Thank you to the entire Sociology and Anthropology Department at Western, you are all wonderful!



Amy Bull

To learn more about our scholarships, visit:
<http://www.wiu.edu/cas/sociology/soc/scholarships>

Sociology and Anthropology at Western Illinois University

Faculty Notes

GRANTS/AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

- Congratulations to **Dr. Andrea Alveshere**, **Dr. Christina Davis**, **Dr. Heather McIlvaine-Newsad**, and **Dr. Lora Ebert Wallace**. Each was awarded a 2021-2022 Provost Travel Awards to cover research and conference travel costs.
- **Dr. Andrea Alveshere** was awarded 2022-2023 URC Grant in the amount of \$5,000 for her project, "Utilization of new, portable DNA sequencing technology to examine the expression of Neurofibromin, Ras, and associated human tumor proteins in the model organism, social amoeba Dictyostelium discoideum."
- **Dr. Christina Davis** was awarded a 2022 Summer Stiped Award in the amount of \$3,500 for her research project "New Wellawatte: Sri Lankan Tamil Identity and Place in Online and Offline Interactions."
- **Dr. Christina Davis** and **Dr. Lora Ebert Wallace** were inducted into the WIU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.
- **Niall Hartnett**, academic advisor for Sociology and Anthropology was named Advisor of the Month for January 2022.
- **Heather McIlvaine-Newsad** was appointed to the President's Anti-Racism Taskforce at WIU. The taskforce consists of students, faculty, staff, and members of the Macomb community to address issues of systemic racism at WIU.
- **Beate Wilson** was named the 2022 recipient of the College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Faculty Award in Teaching.



Congratulations to Professor Beate Wilson

Recipient of the 2022 College of Arts & Sciences Award for Excellence in Teaching

Congratulations to Professor Andrea Alveshere

Recipient of a \$5,000 2022-2023 University Research Council Grant



Anthropology Scholarship Endowment Initiative



Dr. Patricia Anderson

Our Department has launched a campaign to endow the **Carl B. and Alice Larson Scholarship in Illinois Archaeology** to honor the memory of our dear colleague and friend, Dr. Patricia Anderson, who passed away in July 2021.

Pat's commitment to her students, the Anthropology program, and Western Illinois University was without equal. She dedicated her entire academic career to WIU, serving 23 years sharing her scholarship, teaching, mentoring, and service.

Everyone who knew Pat could speak of her passion for her work and her compassion for others. She was an influential scholar of human-animal interaction, with emphasis on human-avian bonds. She led the WIU Archaeological Field school for many years, providing unforgettable hands-on training for students in field methods.

Pat created and was the sole benefactor for the **Carl B. and Alice Larson Scholarship in Illinois Archaeology**. This award, named for her grandparents, grants \$1000 to an outstanding Anthropology student participating in our Archaeological Field School.

To contribute to this fund, please contact the **WIU Foundation Office** at WIUFoundation@wiu.edu or 309-298-1861.

Sociology and Anthropology at Western Illinois University

Faculty Notes

RECENT/FORTHCOMING FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

- **Chang, Gordon C.** Book Review Forthcoming. "Authentic Identities in Late-Modern Globalized Social Scenes." Book Review of *Studies on the Social Construction of Identity and Authenticity* edited by J. Patrick Williams and Kaylan C. Schwarz (Routledge, 2021 182 pages). *Symbolic Interaction*.
- **Davis, Christina.** Co-edited a special journal issue released on December 16, 2021. Das, Sonia N., Christina P. Davis, and Erika Hoffmann-Dilloway, eds. 2021. Essays in Honor of Judith T. Irvine. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 31(3).
- **Davis, Christina.** Article Contribution to Special Issue. Davis, Christina. 2021. "Memes, Emojis, and Text: The Semiotics of Differentiation in Sri Lankan Tamil Social Media Groups." Special Issue, *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 31(3): 429-450.
- **Davis, Christina.** Article Contribution to Special Issue. Davis, Christina. Das, Sonia N., Christina P. Davis, and Erika Hoffmann-Dilloway. 2021. "Judith T. Irvine and the Social Life of Scholarship." Special Issue, *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 31(3): 429-450.
- Lindsay Donaldson, Lisa Matthies-Barnes, **Heather McIlvaine-Newsad**, and Amanda Zunner-Keating (2022). *Representations: An Open Invitation to Anti-Racist Anthropology*. PB Press Books, Creative Commons. It is an open source textbook available at <https://oer.pressbooks.pub/representations/> for anyone to use.

RECENT/FORTHCOMING FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

- **Dr. Andrea Alveshere**, Dr. Lynne Kelly, and Dr. Vincent Riccardi. "Art, Orality, and Migration: The roles of NF1, mnemonics, and somatic adaptation in the hominin biocultural toolkit." Poster and Virtual Podium Presentations, American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA) 91st Annual conference, March 2022.
- **Dr. Andrea Alveshere** presented a virtual podium presentation, with the same title, during the online portion of the American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA) 91st Annual conference, March 2022.
- **Dr. Andrea Alveshere** chaired online session Genetics & Genomics: Adaptation and Complex Traits at the American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA) 91st Annual conference, March 2022.
- **Dr. Gordon Chang** "Understanding Ideology: Seeing Programmatic Activities within Programmatic Systems." Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April 2022.
- **Dr. Christina Davis** "Teaching the other Official Language: Spoken Tamil Standardization in Postwar Sri Lanka" invited workshop *Chicago Tamil Forum* at the University of Chicago, May 2022.
- **Dr. Christina Davis** served as a Presenter at an Editorial Round Table, Society for Linguistic Anthropology Conference, April 2022,
- **Davis, Christina** and Chaise LaDousa. 'Mother Tongue, On Stage and in Discussion.' Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. Honolulu, Hawaii. March 2022.
- **Davis, Christina** and Chaise LaDousa. 'Mother Tongue, On Stage and in Discussion' Paper delivered (with), Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, March 2022.
- **Dr. Lora Ebert Wallace** "Teaching Mental Health, Gender & Sexualities Stigmas with "Halloween Homework" Assignments" Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April 2022.
- **Dr. Patrick McGinty** served as a panelist for the session "Is MSS Leadership for Me? Expanding Opportunities and Engagement" Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April 2022
- **Dr. Heather McIlvaine-Newsad.** "Yoga as Fieldwork: Incorporating Yoga into the Introduction to Cultural Anthropology Curriculum" at the Society for Applied Anthropology Meetings, March 2022.
- **Dr. Elgin Mannion** and Jeremiah Egbetayo. "80 Cents to the Dollar: The Pre-Pandemic Male/Female Pay Gap at the County Level Aggregation" Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April 2022.

**Sociology and Anthropology at
Western Illinois University**

Alumni Notes

Alumni Profile

Justin E. Corbett BA, Sociology (2017)

Justin Corbett joined the Georgia Tech Athletic Association in January 2022 as an Assistant Director for Academic Services. A football letterwinner at Western Illinois and Central Michigan, Corbett started his career working in athletics at Quincy University, where he began coaching and working as a learning specialist with the football program. He spent one year at Quincy University before transitioning to Oakton Community College for two years overseeing the academic support programs, compliance and student-athlete development as an athletic academic and compliance specialist.



While at Oakton, Corbett monitored the academic support for over 150 student-athletes for both men's and women's programs, and maintained compliance with National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) regulations to ensure student-athletes' competition eligibility. He implemented new programs at Oakton to help student-athletes transition during the Covid-19 impacted 2020-21 seasons. Corbett created the "Student-Athlete Academic Workshops" to focus on the overall development of student-athletes and also directed the academic program to monitor weekly study table hours and progress reports during the semester.

With the help of these programs, Corbett helped guide a pair of teams to posting a 3.0 team grade point average or higher, while the men's soccer program posted its highest team GPA in program history.

A native of Kankakee, Ill., Corbett graduated from Western Illinois with a bachelor's degree in sociology in 2017. He earned his master's degree in science administration in 2019 from Central Michigan.

Updates from our Alumni

- **Christina Cottle** (MA Soc '21) recently began working as a Methods and Procedures Career Associate for the Bureau of Water within the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.
- **Justin Corbett** (BA Soc '17) joined Georgia Tech Athletic Association as Asst. Dir. for Academic Services.
- **Xana DePino** (BA Anth '13) recently started a new position as an ER nurse.
- **Shyan Edwards** (MA Soc '19) is a data analyst for Amazon.com.
- **Cara Erude** (MA Soc '21) is employed as an Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant for Caregiver Connections.
- **Rich Fishel** (BA Anth '85) is an Associate Research Scientist/ Senior Research Archaeologist with Illinois State Archaeological Survey.
- **Azat Jumayev** (MA Soc '15) works as an IT professional with Abbott Labs.
- **Jeremy Randolph** (MA Soc '12) began work as an investigator with DCFS in February 2022.
- **Jackie Smith-Esters** (BA Anth '11; MA Soc '17) is serving as a member of the Galesburg City Council in 2021.



We love to hear from our Alumni!

**DROP US A LINE OR
CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**

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