



CHAIR NOTES

*Interim Chairperson,
Dr. Tawnya Adkins Covert*

As I come to the end of my first year as interim chairperson, I am struck by the dedication and resilience of our students, our faculty, our staff, and our institution. In the midst of the challenges brought by the pandemic, our department accomplished a great deal this year and has much to celebrate.

- We experienced an increase in both overall enrollment and in our majors for all of our departmental programs
- We established two new scholarships for undergraduate majors
- We underwent a successful review of Anthropology Program
- We raised funds through a WIU organized crowdfunding campaign for the delivery of 2021 Archaeology field school
- We revised curriculum and/or program requirements for Anthropology BA, Sociology BA, and Sociology MA programs to better serve our students
- We launched a promotional campaign partnering with regional community colleges on Associate to Bachelors online options for their students
- We gained approval for a 2022 Study Abroad program for Anthropology in Amsterdam
- We supported student research efforts resulting in campus and conference presentations for our undergraduate and graduate students
- Our faculty delivered nearly a dozen presentations at regional, national, and international conferences and published their research in a number of scholarly publication outlets

I am deeply proud of the exceptional work of our students and faculty this past year and look forward to what the next year brings for our department.

Sociology BA Program changes to emphasize experiential learning

The Undergraduate Sociology major will undergo some changes this fall, including the addition of two exciting capstone experiences for our students. Our updated program will provide students with hands-on learning experiences based on their academic and professional goals.

Beginning fall 2021, incoming majors will elect to complete either an internship or an individualized project under the mentorship of a faculty member.

Internships have long been a part of our sociology major but will now serve as a capstone experience option. Our students have interned at a variety of sites and agencies, including Quincy Teen REACH, Department of Human Services, Rock Island County Probation Office, Genesis Garden, and the Ashaunti Residential Management System, Inc. We are excited to grow our partnerships with regional offices and agencies in future internships for our students.

The new individualized project, formally called the "Individual Investigations" capstone option, will provide students with training and skill-development in areas such as data collection, statistical analysis, evaluation and assessment research, applied sociology, and grant, research, and policy proposal writing.



Pictured above are three of our M.A. students who participated in the May 2021 commencement ceremonies. left to right: Deborah Olaiya, Joy Ofuokwo, Carolina Lopez

Sociology and Anthropology at Western Illinois University

Anthropology Notes



**Dr. Heather
McIlvaine-Newsad,**

**Anthropology
Program
Coordinator**

The Anthropology program continues to thrive and this spring is graduating five students. We are very proud of all of your achievements and are confident, despite the chaotic world you are stepping into, you are prepared for success. The fact is, the future has always been uncertain. Change is taking place in every moment and with change comes rising opportunity. As Anthropology majors you have been trained to observe the patterns of change and see openings for opportunities where others may see only obstacles. Continue to use the skills you have acquired over your time at Western Illinois University, stay in touch with your professors and classmates, and go do good things!

Dr. Patrician Anderson is retiring after 22.5 years of teaching at WIU. She holds the institutional knowledge of the department and has experienced the evolution of the major into what it is today. She is an internationally respected scholar who specializes in Anthropology, archaeology, anthrozoology, human-animal interactions, human-avian bond, bird training and behavior. We are grateful for all that she has contributed to the Anthropology program and the department. She will be greatly missed.

Dr. Andrea Alveshere has been granted tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of Anthropology. Some of the research that she has done in the past leading to this accomplishment includes collecting the DNA from a washcloth in 2008 that was used to convict a man in a 1991 cold case killing. While she did not have to offer expert testimony at trial this spring, since the individual waived his right to a jury trial, she can still be called upon to testify on any of the cases she worked on from 2005-2009.

Dr. Christie Davis co-edited a book coming out in July published by Routledge press called, "Language, Education, and Identity: Medium in South Asia." Her research and teaching interests continue to focus on the intersections between multilingual language and media practices, education, and conflict, with a geographical focus on South Asia. She continues to serve as the Book Review Editor for the Journal of Linguistic Anthropology.

Dr. Sarah Haynes continues to serve as an integral member of the Anthropology faculty and has been the driving force behind the Cannabis & Culture Interdisciplinary minor that features a larger number of Anthropology courses. The minor currently has 13 minors in it's second semester. She and Dr. McIlvaine-Newsad will be leading a short term study abroad course in Spring 2022 to Amsterdam where they will explore the changing culture around cannabis legalization and attitudes in the Netherlands. Dr. Haynes has also been named the co-editor of the Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies.

Dr. Heather McIlvaine-Newsad served as a member of a multi-disciplinary team funded by NOAA to explore the "Socioeconomic Impacts of Harmful Algal Blooms" that are becoming more frequent as the result of climate change. The final report will be published on the NOAA website. She also co-authored a book chapter with Gloria Delany Barmann titled "Study Abroad as Community Engagement and Activism: Cultivating a Pedagogy of Place."

2022 STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITY

Cannabis & Culture
**Study Abroad
in Amsterdam**

MAY 20-30, 2022
ANTH 379/679 OR LAS 379/679

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Sociology and Anthropology at Western Illinois University

Anthropology Notes



New Field School Scholarship Created

We are excited to announce the creation of a new scholarship for students participating in our Archaeological Field School.

The scholarship was initiated this year to offset an increase in costs to students to attend the field school due to COVID-19, which necessitated changes to housing, dining, and transportation for the 6-week summer field school.

Students staying on campus will be eligible for up to \$300 in scholarship funds this summer and students residing off campus will be eligible to receive up to \$200 each.

Funding for these scholarships comes from a recent field school fundraising campaign and donations to our department's foundation funds. We thank our generous donors for their continued support of our department and our students.

We anticipate continuing the scholarship for future field school sessions, subject to available funds.

Visit <https://www.givecampus.com/yruhfy> to learn more about our field school or to make a donation.



SPRING DEPARTMENT SCHOLAR HEATHER LEONARD



I currently live in Pflugerville, Texas. I have been a high school English teacher and Reading Specialist for over a decade. I hold prior BA's in Drama and English and a Masters in Secondary Education. I am active with my local archaeology group as well as the Houston Archaeological Society and the Texas Archaeological Society. I have an 11-year-old daughter named Nora and my husband is Paul, both of whom have been incredibly supportive of my archaeology studies.

My educational goal is to complete graduate and post-graduate programs in archaeology in the United Kingdom. My career goal is a professorship and to teach at the college level. My research interests are funerary archaeology, bioarchaeology, and Viking colonization of the United Kingdom.

My experience as a part-time online student for the last two years at Western Illinois University has been nothing but terrific. The university was flexible and worked with me to develop a coursework plan that satisfied both my research interests and graduation requirements. For example, I was able to complete an in-depth internship in at my local archaeology lab last summer for credit. The classes were challenging but not overwhelming for a full-time working mom. Despite being almost a thousand miles away, I was still able to develop solid relationships with my professors.

Sociology and Anthropology at Western Illinois University

Sociology Notes

SPRING DEPARTMENT SCHOLAR SARA FEHL



My name is Sara Fehl, I am 23 years old and have been studying at WIU for three years now and am currently a senior set to graduate in May. I currently live in Peoria, IL with my parents and three younger sisters.

Career/Educational Goals: I am not totally sure what I want to do when I first graduate but I am hoping to get a career that involves helping people, such as working for the Center for Prevention of Abuse in my hometown, and I hope that someday I can work for way up to working in the FBI someday as a sort of consulting agent.

My experience: My experience with the staff and the department of Sociology has been nothing but exciting. I have had so many different professors from different backgrounds, and it is interesting to learn in so many different forms from the different professors. All the professors I have had have been understanding, interesting, and really seem to love what they teach. I could not thank them more for helping me in achieving my goals and becoming the best student I could be.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Jessie Lizak

MA in Sociology (2009)

Studying sociology at WIU gave me exactly the spring I needed to make the most out of life. I credit the lessons I learned in sociology at WIU for my career achievements in technology, government and politics.



In my early career, working on (and winning political campaigns) was due to the fact that I knew how to look at a population of voters in a given area, target those voters, understand them, communicate with them and turn them out to vote. Without the quantitative analysis I learned in sociology at WIU most of the targeting would have been impossible. Without the qualitative knowledge from sociology, none of the messaging or human connection would have been possible.

After politics became too much, I worked for the Alameda County District Attorney's Office (Oakland, CA) where I got to help build a community campaign to raise awareness of domestic child sex trafficking. As a representative for the DA, I ran a weekly meeting to review the top 15 most vulnerable children who were commercially, sexually exploited children and helped create an inter-agency plan to help create a safety plan with community-based organizations for those children. In this position, I also got to directly utilize my sociology skills when I got the chance to interview young girls who survive "the life" in an attempt to help the community understand what worked in helping these children succeed.

After having a daughter of my own, working in child sex trafficking became much too heavy. Living in California was expensive and technology jobs were ubiquitous. I've always had the belief that technology connects more than it separates us. In fact, I remember having many debates about that topic in WIU sociology courses back in 2008 that shaped who I am today.

In 2014, I went to work for private technology companies and now a data company as marketer. Today, I'm the Head of Marketing at [BDEX](#). Additionally, I've started my own marketing side-hustle called [Click-Cause](#).

At the end of the day, marketing is about being able to understand an audience and communicate with that audience to get them to do something, whether that's buying a product, voting a certain way or being aware of local crime in your area. Sociology at WIU gave me the quantitative and qualitative skills that help me in my career.

Sociology and Anthropology at Western Illinois University

Sociology Graduate Program

GRADUATE PROGRAM NOTES



**Dr. Patrick McGinty,
Graduate Advisor**

The M.A. Program in Sociology continues to thrive amidst change and uncertainty, in no small part due to the ongoing commitment of the excellent faculty of the department as well as the dedicated students the department continues to

attract from around the world. While the program might not be the largest terminal M.A. program in Sociology in the U.S., it continues to position itself as a quality program that provides its graduates the right combination of skills, experiences, and depth and breadth of perspective that helps propel them to their next professional endeavors.

As the graduate program continues to adapt to the changing landscape in higher education, it too needs to continue to grow and change in response to both internal and external demands and constraints. Like the undergraduate Sociology major, as presented by Dr. Adkins Covert on the front page of this newsletter, the graduate program is also making some changes effective with the 2021-2022 academic year.

The most significant change that future students will recognize is the equalization of the required credit hours for the program, effective Fall 2021 the program will consist of 30 credit hours of coursework, including 15-18 hours of required coursework depending on exit option. This change represents a direct benefit to students as it will allow future graduate students to spend their final semester in the program focused exclusively on their exit option (thesis, internship, or non-thesis paper). To be able to free students to deepen their capstone experiences in the graduate program will undoubtedly pay dividends to students in their future pursuits.

However, the changes to the program also help position the graduate program for future growth and development. As the field of higher education has been increasingly embracing virtual and distance learning technologies over the past couple of decades, the Covid-19 pandemic has asked all departments and programs to think differently about what our instructional practices and processes look like amidst social and institutional changes. Accordingly, as the department continues to explore possibilities for a possible future online M.A. degree the curricular changes that have already been made serve to ensure that the program will be able to retain its quality and student-centered focus.

Graduate Student Profile Emmanuelle O'Connor

My name is Emmanuelle O'Connor. I am a first semester graduate student in the Sociology department.



During my educational experiences prior to this graduate program, black history and women's history were separate lessons divorced from the usual history we learned. I eagerly pieced together women's history with black history, and I loved putting together the puzzle pieces to understanding our society's current configuration.

When the Black Lives Matter movement took shape, I became more radicalized. Why were so many people unwilling to acknowledge racism was real? After all, my grandma was in her late teens when the country was still segregated. My brother and I were born to a mixed race couple before interracial marriage was legal in all 50 states. People were calling President Obama a monkey and simultaneously crying out that racism had ended from his victory.

It was all confusing to me, but when I took sociology courses at WIU, I felt exhilarated and finally understood. My experiences didn't stand on their own, but were apart of larger systemic issues. It was a relief to know that not only was I not alone, but there were hundreds of scholars dedicated to studying those systemic problems. It was thrilling knowing there was a plethora of information talking about exactly what I sought out my whole life! Sociology became so precious to me as it provided the concrete statistics and empirical data to back up the experiences I had.

I aspire to better understand and reduce major social inequalities like racism, sexism, and poverty. I hope to feel prepared in empowering marginalized people and building a strong community. Just by being in this program, with amazing professors to learn from, I know I'm headed in the right direction to make my community a better place.

Sociology and Anthropology at Western Illinois University

Faculty Notes and Accomplishments

FACULTY PROMOTIONS

- **Dr. Andrea Alveshere** - promoted to Associate Professor of Anthropology.
- **Dr. Davison Bideshi** - promoted to Professor of Sociology.

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

- **Dr. Lora Ebert Wallace**, Professor of Sociology, is the 2021 recipient of the College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Faculty Award in Multicultural Teaching.
- **Dr. Patrick McGinty**, Professor of Sociology, will begin a three-year term as President of the WIU Chapter of the University Professionals of Illinois Local 4100.

RECENT/FORTHCOMING FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

- **Bideshi, Davison.** 2020. "Residence, Democracy, and Substantive Justice: Toward an Integrative Approach." *International Review of Sociology/ Revue Internationale de Sociologie* 30(3): 413-442.
- **Bideshi, Davison.** 2020. "On Inequality, Law, and Residential Segregation: Rousseau's Linkages to Contemporary Sociology." *Michigan Sociological Review* 34:74-104.
- **Davis, Christina.** 2020. "Growing Up in the Shadow of Sri Lanka's Civil War." OUP Blog. August 2020.
- LaDousa, Chaise and **Christina Davis, eds.** (forthcoming July 2021). *Language, Education, and Identity: Medium in South Asia*. New York: Routledge.
- **McGinty, Patrick J.W.** Forthcoming, 2021. "Social Organization, Macro Phenomena and Symbolic Interactionism," in W. Brekhus, T. DeGloma, and W. Force, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Symbolic Interactionism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- **McGinty, Patrick J.W.** Forthcoming, 2021. "Organizations and Institutions," in N. Ruiz-Junco, D. Vom Lehn, and W. Gibson, eds., *The Routledge Handbook of Interactionism*. London: Routledge.
- Delany-Barmann, Gloria and **McIlvaine-Newsad, Heather.** *Cultivating Change in the Curriculum through International Faculty Development in Anthropology and General Education*. Taylor & Francis. In press.

INVITED FACULTY LECTURES

- **Dr. Christie Davis** - Discussion of *The Struggle for a Multilingual Future: Youth and Education in Sri Lanka*. New Books in Anthropology: Zoom Speaker Series. American Institute for Lankan Studies. February 2021.
- **Dr. Christie Davis** - Discussion of chapter five of *The Struggle for a Multilingual Future*. CaMP Anthropology Virtual Reading Group. November 2020.
- **Dr. Christie Davis** - "Language, Identity and Education in South Asia." (with Chaise LaDousa). Cornell-Syracuse South Asia Consortium Virtual Discussion. October 2020
- **Dr. Gordon Chang** - guest lecture "Engaging the Historically Specific, Multi-Sited Dialectics in Asia: Reading Masao Miyoshi" for the course ASIA 202: Race, Nation, and Empire at Rice University in February 2021.
- **Dr. Lora Ebert Wallace** - virtual talk with the WASC group on April 15, 2021 on "The Current Status of Women's Health in the U.S."

**Sociology and Anthropology at
Western Illinois University**

Faculty Notes and Accomplishments

RECENT/UPCOMING FACULTY CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **Andrea Alveshere** and Vincent Riccardi. A candidate mechanism for hominin brain expansion: NF1, DHEA/S, and the ERK/MAPK cell signal cascade. Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. Virtual meeting. April 19th 2021.
- Delany-Barmann, Gloria and **Mcllvaine-Newsad, Heather**. Cultivating Change in the Curriculum through International Faculty Development. Paper presented at the annual Society for Applied Anthropology meetings. Virtual meeting. March 22, 2021.
- Delany-Barmann, Gloria and **Mcllvaine-Newsad, Heather, Heather**. Hurricane María and Therapeutic Yoga in Puerto Rico. Paper presented at the annual Society for Applied Anthropology meetings. Virtual meeting. March 21, 2021.
- **Mcllvaine-Newsad, Heather**. Feeding Our Own in Forgottonia: Grassroots Activism during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Paper presented at the annual Society for Applied Anthropology meetings. Virtual meeting. March 23, 2021.
- **Chang, Gordon C.** 2021. "A Tale of Symbolic Disorder: Why Chaotic Events Happened in Mao-Era China the Way They Did." 84th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, 21 March 2021, Virtual Meeting.
- **Chang, Gordon C.** 2021. Panel President, "Symbolic Interaction and Negotiated Order" 84th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, 21 March 2021, Virtual Meeting.
- **McGinty, Patrick.** 2021; Panelist, Sustaining Sociology: Defending our Discipline in a Climate of Austerity", 84th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, 21 March 2021, Virtual Meeting.
- **Adkins Covert, Tawnya.** 2021. "Homefront Patriotism: Defining Women`s Role for Victory during WWII" 84th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, 21 March 2021, Virtual Meeting.
- **Adkins Covert, Tawnya.** 2021 Panel Participant and Presider, "Developing and Delivering the Sociology Major Online" 84th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, 21 March 2021, Virtual Meeting.
- **McGinty, Patrick J.W,** and Daniel R. Morrison. 2021. "Using Content Analysis to Support Theoretical Arguments: The Case of Interactionism in Introductory Textbooks." Annual Canadian Qualitative Conference, June 21-24, 2021.
- Prus, Robert, and **Patrick J.W. McGinty.** 2021. "The Sociological Potency of Herbert Blumer's 'Acting Units': Community Life as Living Theatres of Operation." Annual Canadian Qualitative Conference, June 21-24, 2021.

JOINT FACULTY/STUDENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **Lora Ebert Wallace** and **Joy Ofuokwu** (Sociology MA Student) will present, "Use of "Risk" Language in Breastfeeding Promotional Materials: U.S. State, Territorial, and Local Health Departments," at the 2021 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 6-10, 2021.
- **Elizabeth N. Lutz** (Sociology/Anthropology Double Major) and **Lora Ebert Wallace** will present, "Coach Like a Girl! Collegiate Athletes' Views of Women as Coaches" at The Society for the Study of Social Problems 71st Virtual Annual Meeting, August 4-7, 2021.

**Sociology and Anthropology at
Western Illinois University**

Dr. Patricia Anderson Retires After 23 Years



I'm retiring after 23 years of teaching at the same university where I began my academic career. After completion of BA (Sociology & Anthropology), and MA (Geography) degrees at WIU, I went on to pursue a PhD in Anthropology at the University of Chicago.

During my undergraduate studies WIU professor Lawrence Conrad recruited me to begin my archaeological field training at Orendorf, the same archaeological site where Dr. Alveshere continues to instruct WIU students. Dr. Edward B. Kurjack, another WIU professor, mentored my interest in Maya archaeology. I participated in archaeological investigations in Yucatan, Mexico with a year at Chichen Itza, as the cartographer and co-director of a Harvard sponsored project, and later two years with my NSF sponsored project at Yula, topic of my PhD thesis at the University of Chicago (1998). From Mississippian temple towns to Maya pyramids with hieroglyphs inhabited by the descendants of those who created them, it has been an exciting career.

My anthropological and archaeological field work provided wonderful material to illustrate anthropological concepts and fabulous stories from "truth is stranger than fiction"

field experiences. From "killer" bees to venomous snakes, to tales of shape shifters and demons, to participating in an overnight Maya rain god ceremony, it held student interest. As a colleague I'm proud of our accomplishments; I worked with fellow anthropologists, Dr. Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, Dr. Christie Davis, and Dr. Andrea Alveshere to build first a face to face major in anthropology, and later a successful online major in Anthropology, the first in the state and one of the first in the nation.

During my time at WIU I taught 12 different courses, including four new courses that I created: ANTH 215 Fantastic Archaeology, 330 Sex and Gender in Archaeology, and 405 Forensic Anthropology, and 410 Anthrozoology. Later human-avian bond research led me to observations in a veterinary clinic specializing in exotic and avian medicine, and into people's homes through online surveys. It also led me to workshops in zoos and aquaria on animal behavior and training to add essential material to my anthrozoology course. By learning to more humanely communicate with animals, I learned to better design my course syllabi and to better communicate with my human students. I love that my career has led me to continuously learn new approaches and new material to keep courses relevant and lively. I will miss my wonderful colleagues and students. I'm lucky to have held my dream job.

Graduate Students receive Departmental Award



Joy Ofuokwu

Joy Ofuokwu and Ejura Salihu are this year's recipients of the Dr. Won M. Hurh Memorial Graduate Thesis Award in Sociology.

Joy's thesis is titled "Gender Equity in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Sexual/Reproductive Dimension."

Ejura's thesis was titled "Use and Attitudes Toward Complementary and Alternative Medicine Among University Students: The Role of Gender and Race."



Ejura Salihu

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