

## 2022-2023 Newsletter

### *Chair's Welcome*



Greetings to all the friends, colleagues, alumni, and students of the Department of Anthropology! 2022-2023 was truly a wonderful year because it was our first year fully back and in-person. It was a year where camaraderie, teaching, research, and programming blossomed. This year was

also my first year as Chair and I am grateful for all the support that I received from so many members of our anthropology family who helped make this year a success.

I want to congratulate our twenty-three majors and minors who are graduating this year and our nine PhD recipients. Go forth and show the world the unique perspectives that Anthropology can provide.

Our department is proud to have been recognized as a 2023 top ten Anthropology Department by College Factual and as you read this newsletter you will see why we achieved this national ranking. Here in Anthropology researchers and students alike address crucial questions about the diversity of the human experience and the challenges humans face.

Our department was a hustle and bustle of activity with speakers, researchers, and students coming and going all year long. We closed out this spring hosting the Society for Economic Anthropology meetings bringing to our campus anthropologists from across the US and indeed across the globe. Special thanks go to alumni John Millhauser (PhD 2012) and faculty member Hiro Miyazaki for organizing this event.

This year we welcomed a new staff member, Adam Wagner, who created this wonderful newsletter. Five

of our department members, Erin Waxenbaum, Diego Arispe-Bazán, Aaron Miller, Nancy Hickey, and Will Voltz received well deserved promotions. Two department members, Matthew Johnson and Jessica Winegar, received endowed chairs, the highest honor that Northwestern University bestows on its faculty. I share with pride that professor Emeritus Tim Earle was not only awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for American Archaeology but he was also inducted into the National Academy of Sciences. Our alumni are indeed taking on the world: Johnnetta Cole (PhD 1967) was awarded the National Humanities Award from President Biden for her pioneering work on the contributions of Afro-Latin, Caribbean, and African communities that have advanced American understandings of Black culture and the necessity and power of racial inclusion in the US.

I want to acknowledge the passing of one of our own in 2023: Oswald "Ossy" Werner was a member of our faculty for 35 years and a department chair. Ossy was also an ardent supporter of undergraduate research, one of the hallmarks of our program. His legacy is huge in our department and our Distinguished Honors Thesis in Anthropology award is named after him to recognize his commitment to undergraduate research.

Please read on to see the many accomplishments of our faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. The Anthropology Department wishes you a wonderful summer 2023.

Cynthia Robin

Professor and Chair of Anthropology

## *Faculty News, Awards, and Honors*

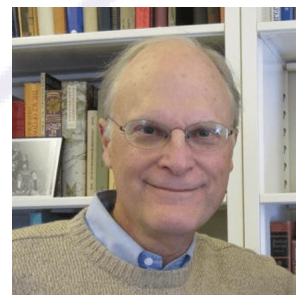
### News:

- **Craig Stevens:** New virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) experience, “Augmented Curiosities: Virtual Play in African Pasts and Futures” at University Library
- Professor **Sera Young** Helps Develop Test for Detecting Toxic Fluoride in Water
- **Chris Kuzawa’s** OpEd, “The Overlooked Reason Reparations Make Sense in California and Elsewhere” printed in the Los Angeles Times. March 12, 2023.
- **Sera Young:** Study provides first snapshot of global experiences with water insecurity
- The Scarcity Slot Author Prof. **Amanda Logan** Discusses Ongoing Food Scarcity with NBC News
- **Sera Young** helps provide priceless education through Northwestern’s prison program



### Awards and Honors:

- **Timothy Earle** elected to the National Academy of Sciences
- Northwestern Anthro PhD **Johnnetta Cole** ‘67 awarded National Humanities Medal presented by President Biden
- Professor **Jessica Winegar** has been appointed to the Hamid Bin Khalifa Al-Thani Chair in Middle East Studies
- Professor **Matthew Johnson** has been appointed to the Kenneth F. Burgess Professorship
- **Seyma Kabaoglu** awarded an International Doctoral Fellowship for 2022-2023 from the American Association of University Women (AAUW)
- Contingent Lives: Honoring **Caroline Bledsoe’s** mark on Anthropology
- Congratulations to **Diego Arispe-Bazán, Katie Amato, and Jessica Winegar** for making the 2021-2022 ASG Honor Roll!
- **Timothy Earle** receives prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from Society for American Archaeology

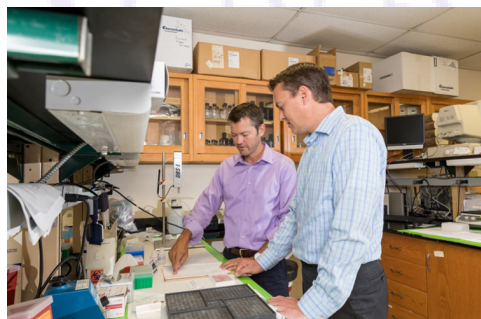
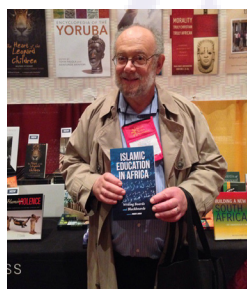
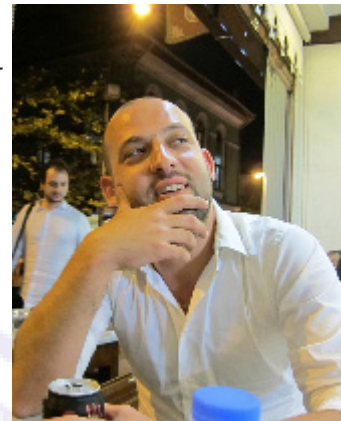




# 2022-2023 Newsletter

## Faculty Publications

- **Waxenbaum, E.B.**, Grauer, A.L. (2022). The Journal of Forensic Sciences. "Forensic anthropology casework at the Cook County Illinois Medical Examiner's Office, Chicago, IL, 2012-2022."
- **Yildiz, Emrah.** (2022). A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies 33(1). "Migrant Sexualities, Queer Travelers: Iranian Bears and the Asylum of Translation in Turkey,"
- Mallott, E.K. and **K.R. Amato.** (2022). Butyrate production pathways in primate gut microbiomes. Molecular Biology and Evolution. 39(1): msab279.
- Mallott, E.K., L.H. Skovmand, P.A. Garber, and **K.R. Amato.** (in press). The fecal metabolome of black howler monkeys (*Alouatta pigra*) varies in response to seasonal dietary changes. Molecular Ecology
- **Launay, Robert.** (2022) The Qur'an School and Trajectories of Islamic Education. Routledge Handbook on Islam in Africa. ed. Terje Ostebo. Routledge, pp. 92-103.
- **Launay, Robert.** (2022) Defining Religion: Durkheim and Weber Compared. Religions 13.
- **Launay, Robert.** (2022) What does it mean to be a person? The Conversation.
- **Johnson, Matthew.** (2022) English landscapes. American Journal of Archaeology 126:2, EO35-EO38.
- Meloni M, Moll T, Issaka A, **Kuzawa CW.** "A biosocial return to race? A cautionary view for the postgenomic era" Amer J Hum Biol. 11:e23742
- Ryan CP, Jones MJ, Edgar RD, Lee NR, Kobor MS, **McDade TW, Kuzawa CW,** "Immune cell type and DNA methylation vary with reproductive status in women: possible pathways for costs of reproduction" Evol Med Public Health, 10(1):47-58
- **Kuzawa CW,** "The Overlooked Reason Reparations Make Sense in California and Elsewhere." Los Angeles Times. March 12, 2023.



## *Message from Erin Waxenbaum, Director of Undergraduate Studies*



Our world today is ever-changing, and Anthropology provides a cross-cultural, comparative analysis of diversities and inequalities worldwide. Understanding cultural, biological, archaeological, and linguistic differences and similarities is central to everything we do. Graduates, we applaud you! We are eager to see what you will do in the years to come!

Many of our Anthropology major graduates wrote theses, presented their research, received grants, and won awards:

### Phi Beta Kappa

Five Anthropology majors were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, America's most prestigious academic honor society that recognizes excellence in the liberal arts and sciences and champions freedom of thought:

**Elizabeth Vazquez** (junior)

**Brian Whetsell** (junior)

**Lyra Johnson** (senior)

**Greta Lunder** (senior)

**Jordan Vaughn** (senior)

### Senior Honors Theses

Five Anthropology majors wrote year-long senior theses based on original research in Anthropology:

### **Stephanie Torello**

Thesis titled: Early life factors on the infant gut microbiome in Cebu, Philippines

Advisor: Katie Amato

### **Blair Donohue** (junior to graduate in 2024)

Thesis titled: What we talk about when we talk about evidence: a cultural analysis of the Term Breech Trial

Advisor: Sarah Rodriguez

### **Annalise Biesterfeld**

Thesis titled: Big and small nature: an ethnographic case study of the lawns in Evanston, IL

Advisor: Mary Weismantel

Award: Elizabeth M. Brumfiel Award for Distinguished Honors Thesis in Environmental Anthropology

### **Bengi Rwabuhemba**

Thesis titled: Indigenous postcoloniality: asserting being in the wake of historical disavowal

Advisor: Diego Arispe-Bazán

Award: Friends of Anthropology Award for Distinguished Honors Thesis in Public Health

### **Rebecca Wu**

Thesis titled: Baby got Bac: Associations between maternal psychosocial stress and infant gut microbiota in Cebu, Philippines

Advisor: Katie Amato

Award: Oswald Werner Prize for Distinguished Honors Thesis in Anthropology

# 2022-2023 Newsletter

## *Message from Erin Waxenbaum, Director of Undergraduate Studies (Continued)*

Our rising seniors are already beginning to embark on their senior research projects in Anthropology.

In fact, the FAN Foster Summer Research Award went to **Jennifer Baik** for her project entitled, “Exploring how Korean immigrant’s food choices in the United States contribute to the diversity of their gut microbiomes.” We cannot wait to see what they will develop as their research adventure begins for 2024!

We are so proud of all of our Anthropology Majors and Minors. They continue to impress us with their insight and experiences, and we look forward to seeing how they change the world!

-Erin Waxenbaum

Director of Undergraduate Studies and  
Professor of Instruction

### Undergraduate Research and Arts Exposition

We also congratulate those students who presented their work at the Undergraduate Research and Arts Exposition 2023:

**Annalise Biesterfeld**, “Big and Small Nature: An Ethnographic Case Study of Lawns in Evanston, Illinois” (senior)

**Sophie Konde**, “How Evanston’s Changing Alcohol Laws of the 1970’s and 80’s Uniquely Shaped the History of Northwestern University’s Campus Drinking Culture” (junior)

**Stephanie Torello**, “Effects of Early Life Factors on the Infant Gut Microbiome” (senior)  
Elizabeth Vazquez, “William Jones: Indigenous Intellectual in Pieces” (junior)

**Rebecca Wu**, “Maternal Stress Associated with Infant Gut Microbiota in Cebu, Philippines” (senior)



## *Message from Katie Amato, Director of Graduate Studies*

This year we enjoyed a full return to normal for our graduate program. While coursework shifted back to in-person last year, we were excited to be able to host our professional and social events in person again this year. All of our students and faculty did a tremendous job maintaining a sense of community despite the absence or virtual nature of these events for the past few years, but it has been refreshing to talk face to face. There is a tangible enthusiasm back in the air.

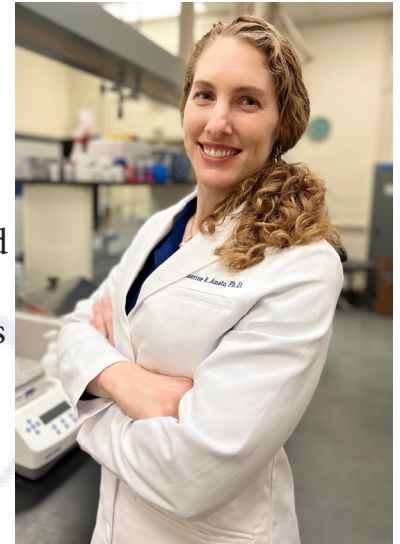
We had six new Ph.D. students begin this fall. One of the highlights of my year was running the bridging seminar for them together with Cynthia Robin. As we discussed papers provided by each of our colloquia speakers, we had fantastic discussions about four-field anthropology and common themes being explored by all the scholars that came to visit. Additionally, we used this course as an opportunity to check in with first-year students about their transition into the program and provide guidance and resources as relevant. This exercise turned out to be extremely valuable in terms of helping orient our new students to graduate school and providing professional development beyond our academic readings.

Our larger graduate student population also benefitted from the return of our in-person 'Professionalization Seminars'. We returned to core topics such as grant-writing, grant logistics, and academic job applications, and we held our annual departmental symposium for students to practice their AAA talks in No-

vember for the first time since the pandemic began. Students had plenty of suggestions for future seminars, and we plan to get as many of these topics as possible into a regular rotation.

As usual, our graduate students have been extremely successful in obtaining grants, fellowships, and awards. Thirty students received support and/or acknowledgement from external organizations including the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Council Mellon Program, Society for Psychological Anthropology's, Society for Historical Archaeology, American Anthropological Association, American and Indonesian Cultural & Educational Foundation, and the International Primatological Society. They have also been successful with Northwestern programs such as the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, the Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, the Sexualities Project at Northwestern (SPAN), the Northwestern Prison Education Program, and the Society, Biology and Health Cluster.

We have had nine talented students earn their Ph.D.s since last spring. Jacob Aronoff, Dela Kuma, Jenn Lupu, Zach Nisson, Kim McCabe, Vanessa Watters Opalo, and Emily Schwalbe all finished their degrees during the



# 2022-2023 Newsletter

## *Message from Katie Amato, Director of Graduate Studies (Continued)*



2022-2023 school year, and Melissa Manus and Patrick Mbullo Owuor had their degrees conferred during summer 2022. We have also had five recent graduate students and/or post-docs receive five professor positions, and three postdoctoral fellowships.

Finally, it was our great pleasure to host our prospective graduate student interviews in person this year again. I want to give huge thanks to our department staff as well as the Anthropology Graduate Student Association for all the work they did to make the event a successful one. We have recruited seven fantastic students for next fall.

One last important note is that Northwestern University graduate students voted to unionize this year. Negotiations have just begun and are likely to continue for months. For now, we continue to be in a status quo period in which no major changes to current processes will be made. We look forward to sharing information about how student unionization will benefit our ability to recruit, train, and place outstanding students as it becomes available.



Thank you to Tracy Tohtz for all her support as I transitioned into my first year as DGS. I look forward to working with her as well as the rest of the staff, students, and faculty next year.

Have a wonderful summer!

Katie Amato  
Associate Professor





## 2022 - 2023 Dissertations Defended

### **Dr. Jacob Aronof**

*A Life History Approach to Innate and Adaptive Immune Function Across the Lifespan in Cebu, Philippines*

Advisors: Chris Kuzawa / Thom McDade



### **Dr. Kimberley McCabe**

*Integrating geographic and anthropological perspectives in the study of urbanization and health in Cebu's extended metropolitan region*

Advisor: Katherine Amato



### **Dr. Vanessa Kathleen Watters Opalo**

*Credit Worthy: Pentecostal Finance in West Africa*

Advisor: Robert Launay

### **Dr. Rita Dela Kuma**

*Legitimate Trade: Local Taste Practices & Consumer Power in Southeastern Ghana, Amedeka (19th to early 20th C.A.D)*

Advisor: Amanda Logan



### **Dr. Jennifer Lupu**

*Consuming Care: Household Medicine Consumption in Washington, DC, 1840-1920*

Advisor: Mark Hauser



### **Dr. Emily Schwalbe**

*Navigating Power: An Archaeological Examination of Movement on Lowcountry Waterways*

Advisors: Mark Hauser / Sherwin Bryant



### **Dr. Ashish Premkumar**

*Foreclosing and enclosing: the choreography of harm of perinatal opioid use disorder*

Advisors: Caroline Bledsoe / Rebecca Seligman





# 2022-2023 Newsletter

## *Summer 2023 Dissertations to be Defended*



**Foroogh Farhang** defending June 23

*The Traveling Dead: Narratives of displacement and death in post-2011 Lebanon*

Advisor: Jessica Winegar



**Liz Koselka** defending June 30

*Logics of eating in Alicante, Spain: Biosocial relationships connecting migration, food, stress, and health*

Advisor: Bill Leonard



**Stephen Sullivan** defending June 30

*Foreclosing and enclosing: the choreography of harm of perinatal opioid use disorder*

Advisor: Ana Aparicio



**Hafsa Oubou** defending July 31

*Schools without Allah: Islam, Race, and Education in Belgium*

Advisor: Robert Launay



**Sindhunata Hargyono** defending August 24

*The Making of Indonesian National Front Yard*

Advisor: Jessica Winegar

# 2022-2023 Newsletter

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