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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY · COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



## Spring 2023

### Message From the Chair

Greetings!

We have been busy in the Anthropology Department, and this newsletter shares several of the highpoints of the 2022-23 academic year. We hope you enjoy our alumni stories, undergraduate and graduate student accomplishments, and faculty updates. We're delighted to recognize both student excellence and

our generous alumni and supporters with the **Department of Anthropology Student Awards**.

I invite you to visit the digital copy of the **Gaines Center for the Humanities Fall 2022 newsletter** to read the article, *What Lies Beneath? Archaeology at the Gaines Center*. The Gaines Center hosted **Dr. Elena Sesma's** Summer 2022 Archaeology Field School, the first on-campus field school offered at the University.

Additionally, in January 2023, the **College of Arts and Sciences**, with support from the Office of the Provost, announced a \$900,000 investment in the repatriation of Native American human remains and grave goods. The funds will be used to hire three new people to assist **NAGPRA** coordinator **Dr. Celise Chilcote-Fricker**. I invite you to read the **UKNow article** to learn more about this significant effort.

We have many more stories and updates, and I hope you will scroll down and enjoy the department's news.

We'd love to hear what you have been doing—please send us your news and any updates!

Best wishes,

**Scott Hutson**

Professor and Chair

[srhuts2@uky.edu](mailto:srhuts2@uky.edu)



Dr. William Jansen II received his undergraduate degree from the Anthropology Department in 1971 and went on to have an amazing career in applied anthropology. Bill discussed his career with students and faculty. [Read more.](#)



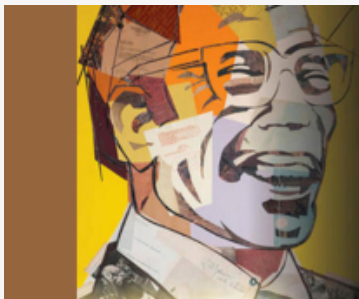
In 2015, Bill Schweri (B.A. '69, M.A. '78) created the Anthropology Legacy Gift Fund to help students develop professional networks through research and other professional opportunities. Through Bill's continued generosity, this fund was converted into an endowment, the [Anthropology Legacy Endowment Fund](#), to provide sustaining support and impact for Anthropology students. [Read more.](#)

All contributions made to the fund will be matched by Bill. [Click here to donate now.](#)

## ALUMNI TRIO USE RESEARCH TO IMPROVE HEALTH IN ALASKA



Anthropology Ph.D.s [Elaine Drew](#), [Brittney Howell](#), and [Travis Hedwig](#) are applying their expertise in community-based research to improve health in Alaska. Health care, social, and senior service shortages along with geographic barriers contribute to health disparities that anthropologists are uniquely positioned to help address. [Read more.](#)



## ANTHROPOLOGY ALUMNA AMINATA CAIRO WINS LYMAN T. JOHNSON AWARD

**The Lyman T. Johnson Torch of Excellence Award was presented to Dr. Aminata Cairo** in the fall of 2022. Dr. Cairo earned her doctorate in anthropology in 2007. Dr. Cairo is the author of the children's book *[Love Me for Me: Stories for Children in Transgender Families](#)* as well as *[Holding Space: A Storytelling Approach to Trampling Diversity and Inclusion](#)*. [Read more.](#)

## Anthropology PhD Alum Diana Hatchett Publishes in *Otherwise*

[Diana Hatchett](#), who received her [doctorate in anthropology](#) in 2021, recently published an essay in *Otherwise*, an esteemed online "space for sharing stories that matter." Dr. Hatchett's piece, [Ashti's Great Expectations](#), centers on the hopes of a teacher in Iraqi Kurdistan torn between staying in her homeland amidst continuing challenges or moving once again to Europe. [Read more.](#)

## BRUNO ATHIÉ TERUEL PRESENTS RESEARCH TO UK BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Anthropology and computer science double major **Bruno Athié Teruel**, presented his summer research to the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees. His work is a collaboration between Anthropology Profesor **Hugo Reyes-Centeno**'s Human Evolution and Virtual Archaeology (HEVA) Lab and the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at the University of São Paulo, Brazil. [Read more.](#)

## GOEUN LEE'S STUDENTS GET OUT OF THE CLASSROOM



Goeun Lee, doctoral candidate in anthropology, has put her ANT 225 students on a path of community-engaged learning in environmental anthropology with funding from the [Student Sustainability Council](#) and the Anthropology Legacy Fund. [Read more.](#)

## ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENTS, DANIEL BENITEZ AND PASAMA COLE-KWELI UNITE 2022 COHORT



The **UNited In True Racial Equity Research Priority Area (UNITE RPA)** welcomed anthropology graduate students **Daniel Benitez** and **Pasama Cole-Kweli** into its inaugural cohort of 18 graduate students. Both will receive funding for research as part of this program. [Read more.](#)



# Anthropology Graduate Students Support Fossil Frenzy

The [William S. Webb Museum of Anthropology](#) teamed up with the [Lexington Children's Theatre](#) to present [Fossil Frenzy](#), an event that combined a display of artifacts, a theatrical production, and Q&A with a paleontologist. [Read more.](#)



*Anthropology graduate students Leah Böttger and Marcus Rodriguez at Fossil Frenzy.*

## POST-DOC AMBER PLEMONS RECEIVES J. LAWRENCE ANGEL STUDENT PAPER AWARD



Anthropology post-doc [Amber Plemons](#) won the **2023 J. Lawrence Angel Student Paper Award** of the **American Academy of Forensic Sciences**. Her paper examines the evolutionary significance of population affinity from craniofacial morphological features.

Dr. Plemons earned her doctorate in anthropology at Michigan State University before arriving at the University of Kentucky to conduct research in UK's Human Evolution and Virtual Archaeology (HEVA) Laboratory. HEVA explores the evolutionary and biocultural mechanisms contributing to the emergence, diversification, and adaptation of modern human anatomy. [Read more.](#)

A banner for the 28th Annual Black Women's Conference. The text reads: "28TH ANNUAL BLACK WOMEN'S CONFERENCE EXCAVATING THE LIVES OF BLACK WOMEN MARCH 24, 2023 ♦ VIRTUAL WEBINAR PANEL: 10AM ♦ KEYNOTE: 2PM". The banner features logos for the College of Arts and Sciences and the Institute for Black Studies, along with an illustration of a Black woman in traditional attire holding a large pot. The background is dark with a rainbow arc on the right side.

28TH ANNUAL BLACK WOMEN'S CONFERENCE  
EXCAVATING THE LIVES OF BLACK WOMEN  
MARCH 24, 2023 ♦ VIRTUAL WEBINAR  
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UK College of Arts and Sciences African American and African Studies  
The Commonwealth INSTITUTE FOR BLACK STUDIES

Anthropology Professor [Elena Sesma](#) organized the 28th annual **Black Women's Conference: Excavating the Lives of Black Women**, featuring virtual appearances by Dr. Whitney Battle-Baptiste, Dr. Ayana Omilade Flewellen,

and Dr. Afuah Cooper. [The Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies](#) sponsored the conference. [Read more.](#)

## Associate Professor Dr. Kristin V. Monroe Publishes in *Sapiens*

Associate Professor [Kristin V. Monroe](#) recently published an [article in \*Sapiens\*](#), a highly-regarded anthropology web magazine, on the appearance of solar panels in Lebanon. The solar panels tell a story of resilience and sustainability but are also the marker of a government that is failing the Lebanese people. [Read more.](#)



*Dr. Monroe's research focuses on experiences of mobility, political violence and citizenship in Beirut, Lebanon, in both historical and contemporary eras.*



Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, the Department of Anthropology is able to reward demonstrated excellence among its students by supporting their future scholarship in a variety of ways. [Making a gift to a departmental award](#) is one of the easiest ways to make a significant impact on our students' success.

[Read more about the Department of Anthropology Student Awards.](#)

### PLEASE SUPPORT THE ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT WITH A GIFT TODAY

The Department of Anthropology offers students opportunities to learn about the diverse people of today's world, as well as about their biological and cultural origins. We train students to become professional anthropologists who can engage in both

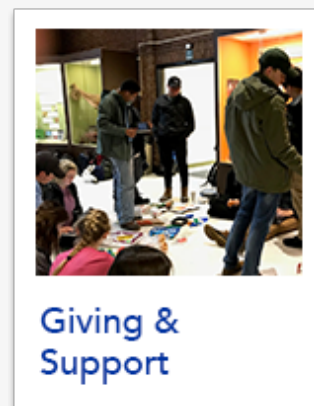
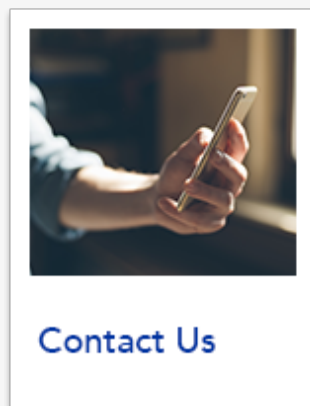
academic and non-academic settings, with strong foundations in theoretical and substantive areas. Your donation today is an investment in the future of the department and the next generation of scholars. You can also make your gift to honor or memorialize a friend, relative, or faculty member. Please designate your donation to an area of your choice, or you can direct your gift to the department's greatest needs:

- The **Adelski Endowed Fellowship in Anthropology** was established by the estate of Elizabeth Adelski (M.A. '80, Ph.D. '85) to support graduate students in this department. To make an online gift to this fund, please visit [www.as.uky.edu/givetoas](http://www.as.uky.edu/givetoas) and type "Adelski Fellowship" in the search box at the top of the screen.
- The **Anthropology Legacy Endowment Fund** was established by William Schweri (B.A. '69, M.A. '78) to offer students experiences in real-world settings that enrich what is learned in the classroom, such as student internships, travel to academic conferences, travel abroad, and research. To make an online gift to this fund, please [click here](#).
- The **Anthropology Development Fund** provides critical resources for responding to student needs, attracting world-class faculty, and supporting innovative research opportunities that enable our students to compete in the global marketplace. To make an online gift to this fund, please [click here](#).

By mail, please send your gift to:

UK Philanthropy  
PO Box 23552  
Lexington, Kentucky 40523

For questions, please contact Debra Gold at [debra.gold@uky.edu](mailto:debra.gold@uky.edu) or 859-257-8124.





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