e-Newsletter January 2017

ANTHROPOLOGY

Western Washington University, Bellingham Washington Vol. 2 Issue 1

Letter From the Chair

The 2016 academic year has been an exciting year with lots of changes to the department. Dr. Robert Marshall's retirement was complete, and we were able to interview and hire Dr. Yeon Yu in a tenure track position. Dr. Yu works in China, focusing on analyzing networks involving women's health and roles in rural to urban transitions. She is a relatively new Ph.D. and is developing new courses along the lines of her interests and expertise. This is effectively a new direction for the department, although well situated in the broader subfields of Medical and Applied Anthropology, where we have started to develop a substantial concentration.

We were also able, through a Dual Career Assist program, to hire Dr. Joshua Fisher in a tenure track line. Dr. Fisher works in Latin America on applied and economic patterns and political ecology in rural communities. He brings substantial teaching experience and an NSF grant for research in Nicaragua.

Dr. MJ Mosher was granted tenure, as we all expected, and acted as co-chair of the hiring committee this last year. Drs. Campbell, Hammond, and Pine received leaves this year to work on research projects, and Dr. Pine is creating a field experience class in conjunction with the Village Studies Institute, as is one of our lecturers: Paul James. These courses provide excellent opportunities for our students to gain valuable field

experience and contribute to local communities. Dr. Boxberger has applied for a Fullbright scholarship in Canada working with First Nations groups. Dr. Bruna is working steadily towards tenure, and has developed an undergraduate and graduate student mentoring group focused on academic and grant writing.

We are looking forward to Scholar's week this year, and expect a variety of student papers and participation in both the Northwest Anthropological meetings, in Spokane this spring, and the Society for American Archaeology meetings, in Vancouver.

There have been a variety of administrative changes that affect the department as well. LeaAnn Martin, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Science decided to resign after two years since stepping in when the previous Dean moved up to Provost. Dr. Brent Mallinckrodt, from the University of Tennessee Knoxville was hired as the new Dean. And, of course, Dr. Shepard decided to retire as University President, and he was replaced by Dr. Sabah Randhawa, formerly at Oregon State.

Lastly, I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to the Department and University this year. Your help has allowed us to continue with our student prizes and awards, as well as expanding our fossil cast and teaching collections.

Sincerely, Todd Koetje

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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Anthropology Department

516 High Street, AH315

Bellingham, WA 98225-9083

Phone 360-650-3620

www.wwu.edu/anthropology

Department Chair

Todd Koetje

360.650.4791

todd.koetje@wwu.edu

Administrative Services Mgr

Viva Barnes

360-650-5228

viva.barnes@wwu.edu

Program Assistant

Lauren Townshend

360-650-3620

lauren.townshend@wwu.edu

Faculty

Daniel Boxberger, Professor

Sean Bruna, Asst. Professor

Sarah Campbell, Professor

Josh Fisher, Asst. Professor

Joyce D. Hammond, Professor

Todd Koetje, Assoc. Professor

James Loucky, Professor

M. J. Mosher, Assoc. Professor

Judith Pine, Assoc. Professor

Joan Stevenson, Professor

.....

Kathleen Young, Assoc. Professor

Yeon Jung Yu, Asst. Professor

Non-tenure Track Faculty

Maria Chavez, Sr. Instructor

Phil Everson, Instructor

Jerry Ek, Instructor

Paul James, Sr. Instructor

Alyson Rollins, Instructor

Kathleen Saunders, Sr. Instructor

Dominique Coulet du Gard, Sr. Inst.

Research Associates

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Nancy Van Drusen

Thank You to our 2016 Donors

We would like to thank the following generous contributors

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Faculty News

Yeon Jung Yu

I am thrilled to join the faculty at Western Washington University this year. Before coming to Bellingham, I attended graduate school at Stanford University where I received my PhD in Anthropology in 2014. I went on to pursue postdoctoral research at Wayne State University School of Medicine and the University of South Carolina School of Public Health. My work can be characterized by its interdisciplinary approach to socio-cultural and medical anthropology, Women's Studies, and East Asian studies.

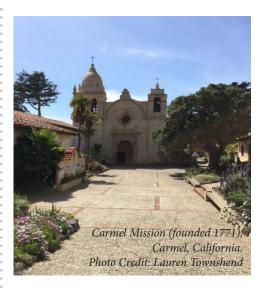
My most recent research brings together my scholarly investments in social networks, labor migration, illegal activities, social stigma, and HIV/STIs. It draws on the work of my dissertation, which closely mapped the social networks of female sex workers in contemporary China, and also builds on my work as a postdoctoral fellow, where I collaborated with an interdisciplinary team supported by the National Institute of Health (NIH) that focused on people living with HIV (PLWH) and women in the sex trade.





This year I published three articles in peer-reviewed journals in public health and applied anthropology. I also contributed an essay, "My Place in 'Society," to a new collection of stories by anthropologists about fieldwork. In addition to dedicating myself to teaching here at Western, I will continue to analyze my data, develop new ideas, publish and present my work at conferences.

Another goal I have while here is to reach a wider audience by expanding my readership to include the general public. And, perhaps most of all, I look forward to collaborative opportunities with colleagues and students, to the lively curious engaged dialogue I've found both encouraged and supported here at Western.



The Anthropology Club

The Anthropology Club welcomes anyone who is interested, to join them at their weekly meetings, special events, or field trips held throughout the year.

Meetings: Mondays @ 5pm in AH319

Website:

https://chss.wwu.edu/anthropology/anthropology-club

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/ WwuAnthropologyClub



Josh Fisher

It's probably safe to say that nobody saw it coming. And yet here we are. That sentiment could apply to many things that happened in 2016 ... some good, some not so good ... For me, however, there is a silver lining amid all the looming darkness. That is, while we have many challenges in front of us—as anthropolo-

gists, professors, and citizens— I will meet them alongside my excellent new colleagues at Western Washington University.

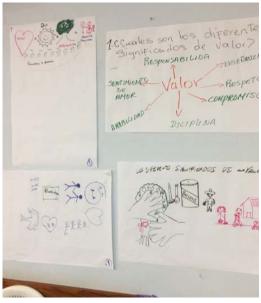
I really didn't think I would even be so lucky. For the last five years, I was working at a small liberal arts school called High Point University, located just outside of Greensboro, North Carolina. I had been hired to start the anthropology program years ago, and eventually transitioned to a split position that involved coordinating anthropology while also directing the Environmental Studies program. Meanwhile, as I was expecting to go up for tenure, my partner was beginning her career at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. Such is an important lesson for those seeking the academic life: Your idealism will often lead you in unexpected directions, both academically and geographically. Sometimes it will even involve a thousand mile commute.

To Western, I'm hoping to bring to the department several new teaching areas, including Environmental Anthropology, the Anthropology of Development, as well as a threepart course series (developed in

collaboration with James Loucky!) that will explore anthropological conceptions of "Empire," "Solidarity," and "Eco-Cultural Wellbeing" (his term). I'm also bringing with me several areas of research expertise. First, I'm finishing up a book project, based on more than 10 years of fieldwork in Nicaragua, that tracks

the rise and fall of the world's first fair trade-certified garment production chain. In exploring the internal conflicts that led to the project's unraveling, I'm hoping to push the obvious tensions concerning money—who gets what and why—and to think about how fair trade, or economic justice more broadly, is conceptualized in sometimes dramatically different ways around the





 $Recruitment\ workshop\ using\ elicitation\ techniques$

world. I'm also happy to bring with me a research project entitled "A Political Ecology of Value," funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation (#1648667) for a total of \$226,526 over three years. Along with my co-researcher, Alex Nading (University of Edinburgh), we are exploring new methodologies for cohort based research that draw on our pedagogical expertise to re-conceptualize urban environments. In December, we held our first workshop on that topic, which brought together more than 50 teachers, food producers, and health and environmental experts alongside garbage pickers and local politicians, to discuss such things as the diverse meanings of "value" (economic, environmental, social, and other), what it means to be an environmentalist, and what it means to have dignified work. As that project unfolds, I'm sure I'll have more to share. For now, however, I'd only like to highlight some of the unique opportunities made available to Western students. For instance,

I am currently hiring an Undergraduate Research Assistant for the summer of 2017, who will travel with me to Nicaragua for two months. She or he will gain valuable research experience working alongside my ethnographic team, as well as valuable life experience in a home stay setting.

Josh Fisher, cont...

I'm sure I've taken up more than my allotted share of space in this newsletter, but allow me to close by saying that I'm immensely thankful to the Anthropology department, to its faculty and staff, and to Western Washington University, for giving my partner and I both the opportunity to pursue our careers and to perfect our craft in such an ideal setting. We started this journey at the University of Oregon in Eugene, where we both earned our Ph.Ds, and to be honest we had all but given up hope that we might eventually make it "home."



Photo Credit: Lauren Townshend Wildflowers near Wild Horse Monument on the Columbia River

Sean Bruna

This is a productive year for the WWU Medical Anthropology Lab, with students celebrating graduation, grants, and research projects in full swing.

Megan Stephenson (MA 2016) successfully defended her thesis, "Video education for nutritional management of type 2 diabetes in rural, multi-ethnic community in Molokai, Hawaii," received departmental distinction, a grant from the WWU Fund for the Enhancement of Graduate Research, and a WWU Outstanding Gradu-

ate Student Award. Isabella Ramos Miller (BA 2016) successfully defended her honors thesis titled, "Simplifying Care: A Pilot Study; Reworking the Structure of Sexual Health Education Sessions at Western Washington University." Tawny Mayer (BA 2016) received a research Grant for Undergraduate Students for her project, "The Digitized Indian: Representation and Reclamation in Video Games," and successfully graduated. Brooke Jespersen (BA 2015) enrolled in the medical anthropology program at Case Western Reserve University and is revising a manuscript on her WWU-based research on cultural competency.

Current graduate students are working diligently on their research. Matia Jones, Peter Miterko and Kayla Soucy each were awarded field research grants from the WWU Fund for the Enhancement of Graduate



Left to right: Yomalli, Giselle, Bryn, Galen, Matia, Sean, Peter

Research to complement Cecilia Martin and Megan Stephenson's awards from the previous two years. All MA students are focused on data analysis and thesis writing, but still find time to support each other in the lab. Way to go!

Galen Herz (senior) and I received a grant from the WWU Thaddeus Spratlen and Lois Price-Spratlen Inclusion and Diversity Grants Program to examine undergraduate mentoring networks at WWU. As part of the grant, Galen and I attended a social networking analysis workshop at the 2016 Society for Applied Anthropology meetings in Vancouver, Washington. We expect to complete this project in the spring with two new research assistants, Bryn Knapp (senior) and Yomalli Contreras-Ortiz (senior).

Sean Bruna, cont...

Yomalli Contreras-Ortiz has been assisting me with preliminary data collection on a project titled, "Surviving Fieldwork: Mixed Methods Evaluation of Fieldwork Safety Issues Among Anthropology and Biology Field Scientists" and we are planning on submitting a large grant this winter to support the full project.

Giselle Kiralay completed data collection on a project that is examining the gender composition of anthropology journals over the last forty years. We anticipate presenting preliminary findings with our collaborators, Heather Fullerton (Visiting Professor, Pacific Lutheran University) and Emilio Bruna (Professor, U of Florida), at the 2017 Society for Applied Anthropology meetings this spring.

In relation to Ms. Kiralay's gender project, I launched the Gatekeepers Project in collaboration with Emilio Bruna. In this crowd-sourced project we seek to understand how and why Editorial Board composition varies within and across disciplines and then use these data to help scholars, academic societies, editors, and publishers in their efforts to make the Editorial Boards

of our journals more inclusive and diverse.

I also recently presented at the American Anthropology Association Annual meeting in the panel titled "ORGANIZE THIS! Data management for anthropology in the digital age, preserving our evidence for future discovery." I presented on a project I am developing with a tribal partner and expect to share a video of the talk and chapter in an edited volume in the next year.

As part of the Sustainable Cities Partnership, this spring my capstone class will participate in partnered research with the City of Edmonds, WA. Working in partnership with several city departments, we will assess the walkability within a region adjacent to downtown, while also examining local walking practices and perceptions of the place.

The next year looks like an exciting time for the lab with several expected graduations, presentations, and new publications. We are always are looking for a few good anthropologists, so if you are interested in joining us be sure to check out our web page or just stop in to say hello!

Kathleen Z. Young

After two years of meetings, collective diligence, and the unfettered and unanimous support of the anthropology department, Western Washington University is now home to the Ray Wolpow Institute for the study of the Holocaust, genocide, and crimes against humanity. Some of you out there may remember the first times the incomparable Noemi Ban, Holocaust survivor, spoke on campus to the Anthropology of War and Human Rights class, back in the 1990s. For years since then, Ray Wolpow, Professor Emeritus, has been escorting Noemi to campus so that the entire campus and wider community could hear her. The auditorium fills when Noemi, now 94 years old, shares her inspirational narrative.





Noemi Ban and Ray Wolpow

Michael Berenbaum, winner of an Oscar and an Emmy, an organizer and leader at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C., and author of more than 20 books gave the Wolpow Institute's inaugural lecture to a packed house. This February 2017, the Wolpow Institute is sponsoring a lecture on historical trauma by Brian Cladoosby, President of National Congress of American In-

dians and chairperson of the Swinomish Nation. He will be addressing my Trauma & Recovery class in February and you are invited. Check the Wolpow Institute website in February for details: https://wp.wwu.edu/raywolpowinstitute/

The new director of the Wolpow Institute, Professor Sandra Alfers, has this quote by Holocaust Survivor and Nobel Prize Laureate Eli Wiesel on the Institute's web page,

Kathleen Z. Young, cont...

"We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented" — words that are as important today as anytime in our history."

I am also pleased that an article I wrote, "Workplace Bullying in Higher Education" will be published by the journal, *Practicing Anthropology*, Issue 39, in April 2017.

The damage caused by bullying is life diminishing, wherever it occurs, and the structure of higher education makes it especially vulnerable to the toxic effects of this kind of psychological violence that can result in emotional and physical disease. We must change the habitus so that the gamut that runs from micro-aggressions to outright bullying is supplanted by what Paul Farmer has called the "hermeneutic of generosity."

I remain as engaged in the subjects I study and teach as the first day I stood before a class back in the 1980's; this is in large measure because the students in this corner of the northwest are so terrific. Thank you for your continual support of our students!

Joyce Hammond

In March, 2016, I traveled to Aotearoa (New Zealand), for a Pacific Arts Association conference in Auckland on the North Island. I had not been there since the early 1970s when I spent almost a year on a Fulbright Scholarship at the University of Auckland taking Māori Studies (language/culture of the indigenous islanders) and doing my first stint of fieldwork. A visit to Ōrākei Marae--ancestral land with a meeting house (right)—was bittersweet since most of the people that I had known there in my early 20s have since passed on. The PAA Conference was wonderful with lots of Pacific Islanders presenting all kinds of art—theatrical performances, music, sculpture, weavings, and paintings. One of the most moving pieces was a performance about the changes that contact with Westerners brought (below left). There were scholars from around the world with interests in Pacific expressive forms who presented papers and posters. The



Auckland Museum hosted much of the conference and gave participants some behind the scenes tours of collections, informing us of recent developments in museum collaboration between Māori and others. After the conference, I indulged my tourist side (after all, I teach a class on the Anthropology of Tourism), and went



to Rotorua where I learned about Māori women who were the original tour guides (*below right*) of the thermal area with its geysers and hot pools. Later, I visited the recreated Hobbiton with a zillion other tourists and the Bay of Plenty where a brand new museum had just opened with exhibits about the Treaty of Waitangi and

Māori interactions with Pākehā (outsiders) who came to live in Aotearoa. It was a whirlwind two weeks in balmy summer weather. I came back to the states reinvigorated and refreshed.



Daniel Boxberger

Greetings from the land down under! If it is January when you are reading this Cheryl and I are on our month-long trip exploring Australia. We will also spend a week trekking around Bali before returning to our winter home in Tucson. This past July I did the first leg of my BC2BC walk (British Columbia to Baja California), by completing the Washington portion, Peace Arch Park to the Astoria bridge. July 2017 will find me walking the coast of Oregon to, hopefully, northern California. In August Cheryl and I did a National Park tour through North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah and Nevada. In the photo I am pointing at a buffalo sunning himself on the trail we were hiking in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

My advocacy work for NW tribes has slowed down a bit, but I am



still working with the Quinault, Hoh, Samish and shíshálh (Sechelt) on some long term projects. I am putting some of the research conducted for the tribes into print, with an upcoming chapter on western Oregon treaties for a collection of works on the Kalapuya, and a chapter on indigenous people for a general reader on the Salish Sea.

Joan Stevenson

I am teaching the same classes as always but will be replacing Quantitative Methods with Ecology of Human Variation because demand for biocultural anthropology is strong; and there does not seem to be immediate support for a faculty appointment.

Graduates are getting into a variety of applied health programs. Anth 215 filled this quarter with juniors and seniors (and longish wait lists) and that is after an extra fall section. I am working closely with many students on research. Last spring three undergraduates spent additional time on papers begun in either Medical Anthropology or Human Evolution and won the three undergraduate research awards. Nambi Gamet, a graduate student, just heard that our abstract was accepted for the AAPAHBA/AAAG etc. conventions in April in New Orleans. I read three theses drafts from two

graduate students over Christmas break who expect to defend this coming quarter.

I serve on Faculty Senate, the Internal Review Board of WWU, and as Senate representative to the Library Committee (in charge of overseeing massive cuts to the library journal holdings (just not enough money). I attend two graduation ceremonies three quarters a year because bio-anth majors graduate from two colleges.

I still love my job. Phil teaches mostly on-line quantitative methods. Our oldest son is working in Bellingham while his wife finishes her Psychology Degree (with a possible Anthropology minor) at Western. Our youngest son commutes to Boeing facility in Everett to work as computer support for a contractor to Dell. Life is good.

James Loucky

Humane migration, climate responsibility, and the promise of inter cultural education remain my primary teaching and research concerns. In recent weeks, the double danger of both a planet and a democracy in peril has occupied much of my time. Many of our students, colleagues, and friends fall into categories that authoritarian mis-leaders have vilified, so generating discourse about civility and civic activism have never been more crucial.

Locally I work with environmental groups around divestment and active hope, as well as with Lummi Nation, celebrating with them the victories that come with solidarity - including a halt to coal exports by tankers that were slated for Whatcom County, and the halt to the pipeline at Standing Rock. We also know that extraction and plunder remain powerful forces, for which anthropological perspective and praxis is essential.

Further from home, I enjoyed taking a fourth group of students to the high Himalaya region of Ladakh, during summer 2016. Over five years, through my involvement with the Institute for Village Studies, we have developed a remarkable partnership with villagers in the Zanskar Valley, where barley and peas are cultivated at 12,000 ft. We have been involved in helping them build stone walls behind which streams can form ice in winter, providing more water for spring planting. Glacial melt is fast occurring, so these "artificial glaciers" represent temporary food security, though migration will likely be inevitable in years ahead as this region is experiencing some of the fastest glacier retreat in the world. We have also been working with the Snow Leopard Institute on predator proofing livestock pens. These are very worthy projects deserving our support, in part because the impacts of climate change are real and current, and the causes not of their own making.



Photo Credit: Lauren Townshend Former Site of the Elwha River Dam

In 2015, our Department and the Anthropology Club co-hosted a visit by Lisbeth Chuy Chalí, a young Maya woman from Guatemala. So it's exciting to hear that she just graduated as a medical doctor and has returned to practice in her poor rural community, as we learn through the title photo of her family in the latest newsletter of the Maya Educational Foundation, which provides scholarships for indigenous youth. *Follow this link to the newsletter and see page 5.*

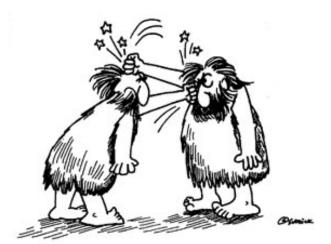


James Loucky with members of the roundtable on "Ecocultural Wellbeing" that he co-organized for the annual meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology in Vancouver, BC, March/April 2016. From left to right: James, Harsha Wallia (co-founder of No One is Illegal-Vancouver), Silky Shaw (Co-Direction of Detention Watch Network), and Christine Ho (Friends of Broward County Detainee, co-organizer of the roundtable, and co-author with James of "Humane Migration," 2012, Lynne Reiner Press).



MJ Mosher

Human adaptation and evolution rely on human diversity among populations. We are now developing our anthropological genetics lab with an emphasis on identifying human variation in epigenetic mechanisms, which includes patterns of DNA methylation. Epigenetic mechanisms serve as an archive of nutrient information acquired from the maternal environment on the fetal genome in utero and the neonatal period. These mechanisms affect gene expression, influence the trajectory of fetal development and affect the phenotypic adaptive capacity during the lifespan. While much research is directed at understanding abnormal patterns, little is known about the normal patterns of DNA methylation and their effects on human variation. Inquiring anthropologists want to know the answers to those questions.



Homo Sapiens, Celebrating Their Diversity

Our lab is examining the relationship of dietary variation and DNA methylation on gene associated with metabolism. We have published two pilot studies and built a data set to examine environmental effects on variation in leptin promoter methylation patterns. We are also building an updated nutritional data set to use with a Genome – Wide study just completed on the Kansas Mennonite population.

We have three poster presentations accepted for the AAPA and HBA meetings in April 2017 on this data. These projects could not have completed without the generosity of students, both undergraduate and graduate, willing to volunteer their time slaving over the computers. Their commitment will be rewarded in New Orleans presenting their work at the professional conferences in April.

Student & Alumni News



Tony Holm I am working as an Upward Bound Specialist at Centralia College. Upward Bound is a federally funded TRIO program that serves high school students who either come from a low-income background or seek to be a first-generation college student. Most of our students fit both criteria.

Our students come from four local communities: Centralia, Chehalis, Rochester, and Toledo. Each summer we hold a 6-week program intended to simulate a college atmosphere. Students take non-credit bearing classes on campus, participate in community service projects, visit other college campuses, and attend Nature Bridge in the

Olympic National Park. During the academic year we monitor student progress at their high schools, offer a variety of academic/career/social workshops, and attend various college/cultural events.

My role as a specialist includes planning and implementing academic and cultural events throughout the school year and summer. I also work directly with students on a weekly basis during the school year and on a daily basis during the summer. That includes everything from identification/recruitment to helping recent graduates transition to college and all the steps in between.

Student | Alumni News



Barbara Jean Task-Mueller published an article in *NEXUS*, *The Canadian Student Journal of Anthropology*; "A Case for Reversing Language Shift On the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua." You can find it here: https://journals.mcmaster.ca/nexus/article/view/1097

Barbara Jean Task-Mueller

Nathan Richards was accepted at University of Texas El Paso and began his studies there in fall of 2016.



Samantha Weiss "I love being a funeral director. I can weave my love for anthropology in with the services and cultural practices as well. I actually work a lot with Native Americans, particularly the Ho-Chunk, who have interesting rituals to learn from."



Photo Credit: Upkar S. Dhaliwal

Upkar S. Dhaliwal is currently working in the optometry field and has been accepted to Midwestern University College of Optometry in Chicago. Upkar's family immigrated from India with nothing but a strong determination to build a solid foundation and a good life in the United States.

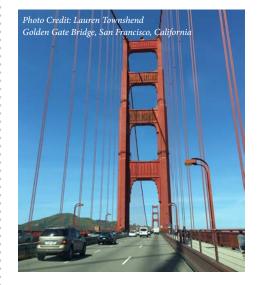
Upkar plans on giving free exams, to those who can't afford eye health care, through the Lions Club. When not studying, he likes to hang out with his friends and family. He enjoyed his time at Western and went on some cool hikes while he was here in Bellingham.

Letter from an alumna...

Meredith McKay

"I just felt like giving the WWU Anthropology Department a quick hello, an update, and a large THANK YOU!.

I am currently in my second year of graduate school and starting to work on my research proposal for my applied work. I am working with Oregon Health and Science University on a medical anthropology project that involves evaluation of breastfeeding classes and the workplace. I am learning so much here and everything that I learned as an undergraduate has informed my focus here.



Also, due to the experience I gained at Western, I was able to get a job with University of California, San Francisco as a qualitative researcher. While it is only part time, it is giving me valuable on the job training.

I just wanted to thank everybody for the education I received there and I hope I can keep in contact, if you all wish.

- Meredith McKay

P.S. My son, William, is doing great. He is now three and is active and happy. I will always appreciate the support I received from everybody in the Department."

Outstanding Graduating Senior Award

Erin Benson

Gradutating Senior in Anthropology

This year's Outstanding Graduating Senior is Erin Benson. Erin is an Archaeology & Geology major and has maintained a 4.0 in both majors. As a freshman, Erin was awarded a work study scholarship based on her academic merit in her preferred major. Erin chose archaeology so she has been with our department for 4 years working diligently. Sarah also has a list of Erin's accomplishments and her resume does not do justice to what she has accomplished.



Photo Credit: Lauren Townshend Lake Crescent, Washington Peninsula



Taylor-Anastasio Awards

The Taylor-Anastasio Awards for Outstanding Undergraduate Research are in honor of retired professors Herbert Taylor and Angelo Anastasio in recognition of excellent undergraduate research. Faculty nominated papers, poster presentations or other scholarly endeavors completed the prior spring quarter through the winter quarter of the current year are eligible. Three selected awardees present their research papers during Scholars Week each year. We are proud to announce this year's recipients.

Hayley Nichols

Review and Analysis of Picky Eating Research

In the cross-cultural literature, picky eating is prevalent in about fifty percent of children at some point in their lives. This study evaluated the effectiveness of the current literature in identifying picky eating and evaluating health effects. The current study analyzed thirty-one articles by comparing informants, definitions of picky eating, contributing factors, methods, prevalence estimates, and sampling style for meta-analysis, focusing on the differences between qualitative and mixed studies. This study found that the literature was inconclusive and not easily cross referenced. To improve understanding of picky eating, national standards

should be implemented for more concise definitions of picky eating.

Nathan Richards

Necessity of Sensory Processing Disorder: U.S. Occupational Therapist Perspective

Nathan provides a sophisticated anthropological perspective on the dilemma of whether this condition exists or not for occupational therapists.

Chelsea Sonnenberg

Dismantling Mind-Body Dualism Through a Case of Stress-Related Language Impairment in College Students: Implications for Future Diagnostic Practices and Attitudes

While the public is beginning to understand the impacts of stress on cognition, less is known of its effects on other neurological functions. At least one case has surfaced in which excess social and academic stress was highly correlated with impaired language ability. With no other apparent etiology, it's reasonable to suspect stress as a major factor in the development of this impairment. Current literature reveals that some speech-language pathologists feel unprepared to treat language impairment, and mental health issues continue to rise among young adults. Further investigation is needed to establish a relationship and reassess diagnostic and treatment criteria.