

**Anthropology and Sociology  
Department Newsletter  
Spring 2021**



**Western Carolina  
University  
Anthropology and  
Sociology**



SPRING 2021

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear alumni and friends of WCU's Department of Anthropology and Sociology,

Welcome to the Spring 2021 edition of our department newsletter. In the pages that follow you will find highlights of department activities, honors, and awards, along with news and interviews with alumni, students, and faculty. This semester's newsletter was written and edited with the help of four excellent student editors, Malaika Newsome, Jordan Lindsey, Matthew Lehman, and D Germain.

In addition to following reading this newsletter, a great way to stay up to date with our department and the related disciplines of Anthropology and Sociology is to like and follow our Facebook page, WCU Anth and Soc, at:

<https://www.facebook.com/WCUAnthropologyandSociology>

Finally, if you would like to make suggestions for future newsletters, please contact faculty editor Dr. Ben Steere ([basteere@wcu.edu](mailto:basteere@wcu.edu)).



# Department mourns the passing of Danielle Haney

*"Danielle Haney was the heart and soul of the department. " - Peter Nieckarz*

Danielle pictured with Penny Passalacqua



In January of 2021, Danielle Haney, the Department of Anthropology and Sociology's longtime Administrative Support Associate, passed away after a battle with an autoimmune disorder. Danielle was a mentor to students and a treasured colleague. Asked about Danielle, Department Head Dr. Peter Nieckarz stated, "Danielle Haney was the heart and soul of the department. She was competent, calm, and friendly. She took care of a great many things that made the job of the department head and faculty a lot easier. Aside from that, Danielle was our friend. She knew all the children of departmental faculty and loved them like they were her own."

Other faculty continue to mourn Danielle's passing. Dr. Katie Zejdlik writes that "Danielle was the heart of this department in the sense that she kept everything going. She had been a part of this department for a long time and had a deep, irreplaceable knowledge of the culture, the history, and what it meant to be a Catamount. She was also the heart in her genuine care for us and in the case of many of us, our children." Dr. Nick Passalacqua noted, "Danielle was the brains and heart of this Department. With her passing, we lost not just institutional knowledge of how to do pretty much everything, but we lost a colleague and friend who cared about the faculty, students, and university. Danielle will be fondly remembered for being such a tremendous person, and I miss her presence dearly."

The Department has arranged to plant a tree and install a memorial plaque on campus in honor of Danielle.

# An Interview with Sociology Club President Sierra Moses

For the Spring 2021 semester, we took some time to interview Sierra Moses, the current President of the Sociology Club. Sierra is a double major in Political Science and Sociology with a minor in Psychology. Graduating in Spring 2022, she plans to attend a dual Ph.D. program to get a doctorate in her two undergraduate majors with hopes of working in government. In the interview, we asked Sierra about Sociology as it relates to her life and what the Sociology Club is up to.

For Sierra, Sociology is all about the society and the social behaviors, patterns, and interactions within it. As a discipline, the field offers a unique way for scientists to study topics like religion, gender, crime, institutional structures, and understanding how they interact within a particular culture. On a personal level, Sierra says Sociology has had a profound impact on her. As a result of her studies, she strongly advocates a revolutionary and anti-capitalist mindset and credits Sociology with making her more empathetic as a person. Sierra believes that critically examining society and its flaws will enable future generations of sociologists to correct current inequalities.



Moving to her role as President of the Sociology Club, Sierra first joined the club back in 2019. The main motivation for the club is to foster a community connection within the major so that students could discuss Sociology without a formal structure. Another motivating factor was a desire to connect with passionate like-minded individuals in the program.

Currently, the Sociology Club is looking into potential community service opportunities alongside the lovely discussions the group has over zoom on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. If anyone is interested in joining the club, Sierra stresses that the group is a great way to meet new people and can help with resume-building in regard to volunteer opportunities and officer positions. The Sociology Club highlights inclusivity and open-mindedness while offering a wealth of knowledge for students to learn about instructors and classes offered within the program.

We would like to thank Sierra for taking the time to interview with us and wish her and the Sociology Club a great rest of the year. If a person is interested in joining Sociology Club they can get in contact with any of the officers listed on the club's [WCU ENGAGE](#) page.



# Reflecting on the Anthropology Club at WCU, with Club President D Holden Germain

This past year the Anthropology Club at WCU has adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic by hosting a socially distanced in-person club meet and greet, a Disaster Lecture Series, an Anthro-Day club sale, an Anthropology subfield roundtable series, and a number of guest lectures delivered by WCU faculty and staff.

The Disaster Lecture Series sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and Sociology and co-hosted by DegreePlus and the Criminal Justice Club at WCU included lectures on the “Challenges of Mass Fatality Incidents,” by Dr. Giovanna Vidoli, “COVID-19, Racism, & the Disasters of State Violence,” by Dr. Vivian Choi, and “Forensic Anthropology and Forensic Odontology Applied to Disaster Victim Identification,” by Dr. Joe Adserias-Garriga.

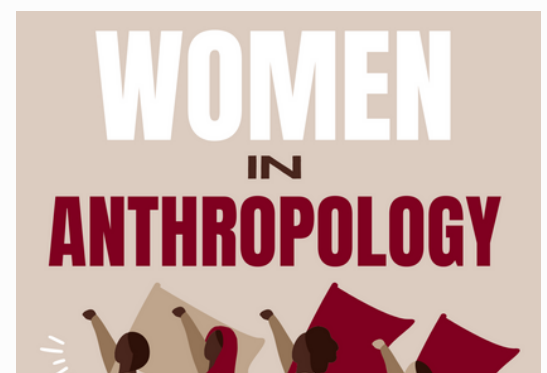
The Anthropology Subfield Roundtable Series focused on sharing information on short course opportunities, field school sessions, summer school sessions, graduate school, job opportunities, and career paths in linguistic anthropology, cultural anthropology, and archaeology. The Anthropology Club at WCU also focused on a number of topic areas that combine diversity, inclusion, and equity with anthropology such as “Women in Anthropology,” “Let's talk about Whiteness,” “Judaculla Rock Carvings,” “An Anatomical Approach to Skeletal Trauma,” and “Anthropology and the Intersection of Race and Biology.”

I also wanted to give a shout out to my executive board team this year which included WCU alumni Abigail Robertson, WCU alumni Austin Peters, graduating senior Hannah Rooth, Wesley Parrish, Malaika Newsome, Lance Nathaniel, Leanna Sanford, and Sean Gallenger, as this year would not have been a success without all of your dedication and efforts throughout this entire year. On behalf of the Anthropology Club I would like to give a special thank you to the faculty and staff of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology for all the support this year by joining our roundtables, giving a number of influential guest lectures, and sponsoring our organization. We are looking forward to the upcoming academic year as well as more in-person events to where the anthropology club can flourish and shine better than ever before.



*Left: D Germain*

*Bottom: Flier for the Women in Anthropology event by held by the Anthropology Club*



One influential event that occurred this year featured three student leaders that are part of the anthropology club's executive board was the Say Their Names March & Vigil that was correlated by the Student Government Association of WCU. Club president D Holden Germain, cultural representative Lance Nathaniel, and secretary Malaika Newsome would be three of the influential members on campus lead advocacy team of student leaders which included BSU President Brittney Windham, SGA's director of diversity & inclusion Aniyah Henderson, SGA's director of internal operations & upcoming SGA president Rebecca Hart, and SGA's senators Elsie Rea and Rae Suber. See below pictures from the event as well as quotes from our empowered student leaders of our department and anthropology club.



"Be the change you want to see is always told to us. Being able to execute this and having people support you in order to bring the change is powerful in itself. You have a voice and the power to change. Even if it starts small, it can turn into something huge. Using your voice is one of the best things you can do." - Malaika Newsome

Malaika Newsome at the microphone

"REMEMBER WHO YOU WANTED TO BE." - D Holden Germain



"I only wish it was enough to get true justice. Our demonstration had a decent turn out, but the people who needed to be here the most, the faces of privilege in this society, were lacking immensely in the crowd." - Lance Nathaniel



Left- Lance Nathaniel  
Right- D Holden Germain





## Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Preethi Krishnan



In this faculty spotlight, the newsletter would like to extend a gracious welcome to Dr. Preethi Krishnan, who joined the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at Western Carolina University as an Assistant Professor of Sociology in 2019. Dr. Krishnan received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Purdue University in 2019 and has a wealth of experience to offer students enrolled in her courses.

When not teaching, Dr. Krishnan enjoys her leisure time by reading, catching up on the latest Netflix series, or practicing knitting and crocheting. In 2020, her favorite book was *The Wretched of the Earth* by Frantz Fanon because it gave her new perspectives on colonialism. She also makes time to engage with social movements on campus through her faculty advisor position in one such group called ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism), which is dedicated to social justice.

In the classroom, Dr. Krishnan finds the most satisfaction when she can have great discussions with students. She prefers to help students think critically about issues by drawing on their own experiences. In upper-level classes, a research element is usually added to incentivize students to engage with material that interests them. Dr. Krishnan finds it especially rewarding to assist students with their research in developing interesting research questions, collect data and systematically analyze the data.

In the field of Sociology, Dr. Krishnan's major interests reside in social movements and inequality, sociology of development, and globalization. In her dissertation, Dr. Krishnan examined how women in India negotiate inequality as they make demands for food and childcare from the state. Thus far, her research has shown that in making decisions in domestic violence cases, judges demonstrate sympathy when the woman is deceased and skepticism when a living woman approaches the court for justice.

When looking at her academic career so far, Dr. Krishnan feels her greatest accomplishments have been completing her dissertation and her most recent publication in *Mobilization* that focused on intersectional grievances around childcare workers and how movements can be inclusive towards these grievances.

Dr. Krishnan arrived at sociology as a career later in life through jobs in engineering and human resource management. She believes that each of these careers has helped her develop varied perspectives. For example, she believes that both human resource training and qualitative research training have encouraged her to be more emotionally aware, a life skill that she thinks also helps her in teaching and helping students struggling through the pandemic. Additionally, as a relative newcomer to US academia, Dr. Krishnan describes how she relates to the sense of foreignness that first-generation students may feel as they navigate the US academic system.

For one of our last questions, we asked if there was an issue in her estimation that was not being discussed enough. Dr. Krishnan pointed out the interconnected nature of racism, patriarchy, police brutality, and poverty. She also expressed concerns over the inadequate attention given to the military-industrial complex and contemporary wars that are often rendered invisible through technologies such as drones.

Finally, we asked her if she had any advice for students in Sociology looking to pursue a career in the field. In response, Dr. Krishnan stressed the importance of theory and methods to examine the world that they occupy. For students who are concerned about injustice, sociology offers an empowering perspective by which we can both analyze the problem and use that knowledge to foster social change. In terms of careers, she hopes students realize that they are developing important skills such as writing literature reviews, developing research questions, collecting data, and analyzing data.



## Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Katie Zejdlik

Dr. Zejdlik is a professor of Anthropology here in the ANSO department. She initially received her B.A. in Anthropology from the University of North Dakota, a M.S. in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Indiana. Her doctoral dissertation is titled “An Investigation of Late Woodland and Mississippian Biological Relationships Using Odontometric and Dental Non-Metric Trait Analysis.” Dr. Zejdlik also has a graduate certificate in museum studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. At first, she wanted to be an archaeologist but fell in love with anthropology after she started to learn more about it and how it combines both science and humanities.

In her courses, Dr. Zejdlik challenges students to think about how Biological Anthropology is associated with racism in science. She considers how practices of eugenics and other racist enterprises were done in the name of science. She wants to make sure this history is taught in modern day anthropology, as this wasn't taught to her when she was an anthropology student. She also directs a long-term research project in Transylvania, Romania working with a local museum to excavate graves found inside the church and to help preserve and understand them.

Among Dr. Zejdlik's favorite anthropologists are Sherwood Washburn, C. Loring Brace, and Ashley Montague. Sherwood Washburn is a favorite of hers because he revolutionized the way that Biological Anthropologists conducted their research as well as interpreted their data. She enjoys the work of C. Loring Brace because he was an influential figure in showing that race does not have a biological basis, and lauds Ashley Montague for being ahead of his time in the field of Anthropology.

Dr. Zejdlik has advice for future anthropologists. She argues that learning about five aspects of anthropology is essential to being successful in this field. Those five aspects are: applied anthropology, archeology, biological anthropology, cultural anthropology, and linguistics. She stresses that learning about just one is not productive when wanting to have a future in anthropology. All aspects are equally important. Some other important skills she believes are essential to being an anthropologist are both critical thinking and having a strong foundation in research methodology.



Outside of academia, Dr. Zejdlik has many hobbies. She enjoys reading, especially satirical fantasy and British murder mysteries. A series that she enjoys a lot is “Chronicles of Amber” by Roger Zelazny. A great academic book she recommends is *Race is a Four-Letter Word*, by C. Loring Brace. She enjoys quilting, hiking, playing the piano, and spending time with her two children.

When asked if she had the opportunity to go back in time and meet any historical figure, she stated that would enjoy meeting Marie Curie. Her reason was that she wants to know how she felt being looked down on in a career field that, at the time, was not a career field for women at all.

In closing, here is a favorite quote that Dr. Zejdlik has from Longfellow's Psalm of Life: “Let us then be up and doing, with a heart for any fate. Still achieving, still pursuing; learn to labor and to wait.”



## Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Min Li

Dr. Min Li is a quantitative sociologist conducting interdisciplinary research revolving around health, environment, and social inequality. She earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Florida. She also has a minor in statistics, which comes of great use as she is primarily focused on analyzing and interpreting quantitative data.

What encouraged her to become a sociologist is that the field can help to give a voice to people who don't have one. She states that the voiceless population is the vulnerable population. As sociologists, she says that we have the power to help give a voice to those who aren't heard. She mentioned that on her own she cannot accomplish this task, but with the help of other Sociologists and Sociology students, it will make this task something we can accomplish together.



Dr. Li's research interests crosscut a range of areas in Medical Sociology and Social Inequality, tracking discourses that naturalize and normalize inequality in the United States and around the world. As part of her recent studies, she is seeking to understand residential segregation, historic housing policies, and health inequality in COVID-19. The COVID-19 virus has been reported to disproportionately impact racial minorities in the United States, both in terms of infections and deaths. She used New York city as a case study and tested that the unequal distribution of COVID-related fatalities along racial lines may have resulted from the segregation of the minorities in neighborhoods afflicted with poverty and all accompanying health-compromising conditions.

Dr. Li mentions some important qualities and skills that undergraduate students might benefit from. One of the most important skills to develop is to be able to ask timely and valuable questions to further society. Having a valuable question that you are passionate about could guide students to pick where they want to go to graduate school and give them the passion and perseverance to go through the ups and downs in the process of searching the answer. Another important quality, according to Dr. Li, is the ability to analyze and interpret data, both qualitative and quantitative. It is not only the tool that students will rely on to answer their questions, but also the stepping stone to jobs once students are in the job market.

A book that Dr. Li recommends for students to read is *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, by Matthew Desmond. This book follows eight families in Milwaukee, Wisconsin as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads during the years 2007-2008 when a big financial crisis was going on. Dr. Li recommends it because the book combines the vividness of a novel and the rigor of an empirical work. It, as Dr. Li said, will refresh your perception of poverty and transform your understanding of economic exploitation.

Outside of the classroom, Dr. Li enjoys photography, calligraphy and has recently taken up playing the piano. One of Dr. Li's favorite quotes is from *The Great Gatsby*, "Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone, just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantage that you've had".

# Revitalizing Cherokee Language: an interview with Rainy Brake

For ten years, Cherokee Language Instructor Rainy Brake worked at New Kituwah Academy, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians’ Cherokee language immersion preschool, where she worked with curriculum developers and teachers. Two, Ms. Brake applied for an opening to teach at Western, where she had earned a graduate certificate in Cherokee Studies and taken Cherokee language courses with Tom Belt. She knew how valuable her WCU education was in her teaching and she hopes to create courses that will “teach interested students conversational and academic Cherokee as well as classroom-proven immersion pedagogy techniques.” Ms. Brake still currently works with New Kituwah Academy by offering free classes for immersion parents who are using the material and curriculum that are being developed at WCU.

During the pandemic, Ms. Brake has found a plethora of ways to adapt and keep her students involved. She teaches alongside Louise Brown, a fluent speaker of the Cherokee language. The Qualla Boundary was shut down during the height of the pandemic, so they set up an online class through Blackboard and this class involves “pre-recorded sound files, pronunciation guides, web links to videos and virtual tours, digital games, and so much more.” These different aspects allow students to interact in different ways within these classes. One of her favorite assignments is called the game project. This project allows students to “put themselves in the driver’s seat of language revitalization put themselves in the driver’s seat of language revitalization.” A lot of the projects are introduced to the immersion classrooms on the Qualla Boundary.



Brake believes in creating a place where this teaching and learning the Cherokee language can flourish. WCU sits on traditional Cherokee land known as Tali Tsisgwayahi (Two Sparrows Town). The campus and community is surrounded by many Cherokee sites such as Kituwah Mound and Judaculla Rock. She stated, “though we can’t turn back time to Removal and choose a better path, we can create a space on campus for the Cherokee language to be heard and the Cherokee culture to be honored and experienced.” She aims to create a place where EBCI students can develop skills as a way to enhance their community and a place where programs such as Digali’i, the Native American student organization, can continue to grow. WCU is assisting this language revitalization progress.

Ms. Brake aids her students in growing along with teaching them aspects as a way to grow Cherokee culture. Her advice that she gives to students who are interested in aiding with language revitalization or Cherokee language is to start with language courses. She also recommends growing connections through meeting people involved with revitalizing the language as well as developing a relationship with the community. She continued by recommending to take the Cherokee Studies courses provided at Western and to visit their website for more information. She has a hope “to reach a new generation of Catamounts who can help in language revitalization efforts, not only for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, but also for so many tribes around the United States facing the same predicament.”

Three books that Ms. Brake recommends are *Under the Rattlesnake: Cherokee Health and Resiliency* by Lisa Lefler et al., *Kynship Chronicles* by Daniel Heath Justice, and *The Know Your Bill of Rights Book: Don’t Lose Your Constitutional Rights—Learn Them!* by Sean Patrick.



# Lambda Alpha Honors Society



*Left: Kelly Hoover  
Middle: Dr. Ted Coyle  
Right: D Holden Germain*

Dr. Ted Coyle, the advisor for the Lambda Alpha Honors Society for Anthropology Students at Western Carolina University, has recently adopted a plot in the Cullowhee Community Garden and sees this as a contribution to the many social-justice and environmental sustainability projects that are connected to the WCU's Anthropology and Sociology Department. He mentioned particularly the work of Dr. Veteto on conserving native seeds, the Rooted in the Mountains symposium organized by Dr. Lefler, and all the work connected to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and WCU's Cherokee Studies Program, directed by Dr. Steere. He also thinks that community gardening is a positive way to deal with the ongoing stresses of life in a global pandemic. "We're out in the fresh air and enjoying each other's company from our different garden plots. Plus, I love the fresh food," he said. He was also inspired by Brett and Pan Riggs, who already have a plot in the Cullowhee Community Garden. "I've known Garden Manager Adam Bigelow since we gardened together in the Sylva Community Garden several years ago, so it seemed like a good time to get back into it."

Above is a picture of anthropology student Kelly Hoover, Lambda Alpha advisor and anthropology professor Ted Coyle, and anthropology club president D Holden Germain.

# New Research in the Sociology: Why is There a Distrust in Scientists Concerning COVID-19?

The following is a review of an article currently featured on the American Sociological Association (ASA) website: Who Doesn't Trust Fauci: Belief in the Expertise and Shared Values of Scientists in the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Socius* Volume 6.

This article examines what factors may contribute to people having a distrust in modern science. The research conducted by John H. Evans and Eszter Hargittai is primarily examining two different tests in this study. The first measure is to figure out which groups in the social world agree that scientists can and do have a good enough understanding of the coronavirus to inform the general public about it. The second measure was to show which social groups believe that the scientists who are studying COVID-19 share their values. In this study a survey was used as the primary means of collecting data. Ultimately, they had 1,593 adult respondents that they concluded were valid responses. The survey asked various questions about the religious beliefs, political party affiliation, age, gender, education level, and questions concerning the topics mentioned above. A few of the key findings are as follows: The study did find that Republicans, people who identify politically as Independents, and African Americans scored lower on both of the measures. They examined the assumption that former President Trump's rhetoric has been causing distrust in science in his main group of followers, but they find there is very little supporting evidence of this claim. They concluded that it is most likely the feeling that scientists do not represent the values they represent and that is causing the distrust in science. Among some African Americans, they attribute the distrust in both scientific knowledge and shared values to the historical mistreatment of the African American community by scientists. They also find that despite previous literature on the topic that stated that religion should not affect people's belief that scientist can generate data that is true, the opposite was found in this study as people that were either Catholic or conservative Protestants were less likely to trust scientists.

[Evans, J. H., & Hargittai, E. \(2020\). Who Doesn't Trust Fauci? The Public's Belief in the Expertise and Shared Values of Scientists in the COVID-19 Pandemic. \*Socius\*, 6.](#)

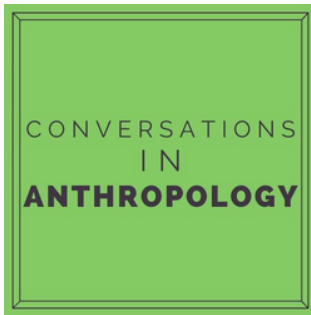




# Anthropological Media

## Podcast: Conversations in Anthropology

Conversations in Anthropology is a podcast about life, the universe, and anthropology produced by David Boarder Giles, Timothy Neale, Cameo Dalley, Mythily Meher, and Matt Barlow. Each episode features an anthropologist or two in conversation, discussing anthropology and what it has to tell us in the twenty-first century.

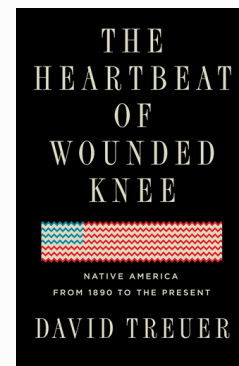


## Magazine: Anthropology News



## Book: The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present

*The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present.* A sweeping history—and counter-narrative—of Native American life from the Wounded Knee massacre to the present.



Produced by the American Anthropological Association, Anthropology News provides news covering all the subfields in anthropology. They provide news, opinionated articles, and book reviews keeping you in the loop with all things Anthropology.

## Journal: Journal of Anthropological Research



The Journal of Anthropological Research publishes diverse, high-quality, peer-reviewed articles on anthropological research of substance and broad significance, as well as about 100 timely book reviews annually.

# Volunteer & Service Opportunities

FOREST (Forensic Osteology Research Facility) & WCHIL (Western Carolina Human Identification Laboratory)

Community Service Link

<https://www.wcu.edu/learn/academic-enrichment/center-for-service-learning/index.aspx>

Community Garden

Lambda Alpha Honor Society for anthropology maintains a plot at the community garden located at 65 S Painter Rd, Cullowhee, NC 28723

Engage Link

<https://wcu.campuslabs.com/engage>

Submit Service Hours under engage and look see community service opportunities under events



## Additional News & Updates

Sociology major Torrion Stevenson's award winning photograph, "Power, 2020," is currently on display in the Bardo Arts Center for the 53rd Annual Juried Student Exhibition. Congrats, Torrion!

### ALUMNI: PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH!

Don't hesitate to contact us with your questions, comments, and suggestions. We want to include more alumni news and updates in future newsletters, and we need your help. Please click this link to update your contact information and provide comments, suggestions, or information that we should include in future newsletters: [WCU ANSO alumni survey](#). We want to tell you stories! You can also contact our newsletter editor, Dr. Ben Steere, at [basteere@wcu.edu](mailto:basteere@wcu.edu), if you would prefer to relay updates and stories via email.



*Sociology major Torrion Stevenson's photograph, "Power 2020" on display at the Bardo Fine Arts Museum.*

# 2020-2021 Anthropology, Sociology, and Cherokee Studies Student Award Winners

The Dean's office has selected the **Meltzer Scholar** winners for this year. They are **Mackenzie Gascon** and **Olivia Morrison**. Both are Anthropology majors. The Meltzer Scholarship is for rising juniors. It is \$2,000 and is renewable for a second year. Congrats to them!

This year's College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Scholars are:

Outstanding Cherokee Studies Scholar: **Aaliyah Swimmer**

Outstanding ANTH Scholar: **Colton Anderson**

Outstanding FANT Scholar: **Amelia Konda**

Outstanding SOC Scholar: **Sarah DeArmon**

Department of Anthropology and Sociology Outstanding Senior Awards:

Outstanding Senior in Anthropology: **Maggie Klemm**

Outstanding SOC Senior: **Kayleigh Hand**

Department of Anthropology and Sociology Endowed Scholarship Recipient:

**Matthew Lehman**

**Congratulations to all of our award winners!**





## Anthropology and Sociology Faculty Shine at 2020-2021 WCU Annual Faculty and Staff Awards

The department of Anthropology and Sociology was in the spotlight on April 23 at WCU's 2021 Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards. **Dr. Jane Eastman** was the recipient of the Paul A. Reid Distinguished Service Award for Faculty and was acknowledged for her many years of dedicated service to WCU's archaeology program and the curation of the archaeological collections in the Tali Tsisgwayahi (Two Sparrows Town) archives.

**Dr. Katie Zejdlik** was acknowledged as the winner of the College of Arts and Sciences teaching award, and **Dr. Preethi Krishnan** was a finalist for the Excellence in Liberal Studies Teaching Award. Congratulations to our faculty!

Dr. Jane Eastman in the field, photo courtesy WCU



SPRING 2021

# YOUR WCU ANTHROPOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY LEGACY

Here in the Anthropology and Sociology Department, we're adapting to the new realities of university life in the time of COVID-19. Whether we're meeting remotely, sitting far apart and wearing masks in McKee 110, or carefully rotating our students a few at a time through our forensic anthropology lab spaces, we're continuing the important work of teaching, learning, and carrying out research about human cultures and societies. Now more than ever, the world needs the unique perspective that our majors can bring to bear on social issues such as racism, social inequality, and public health.

On behalf of the departmental fundraising committee, Dr. Yiqing Yang, Dr. Jim Veteto, Dr. Sara Snyder-Hopkins, Dr. Ben Steere, and Dr. Katie Zejdlik, we are reaching out to ask for support for our department's Cornerstone Scholarship Fund. The Cornerstone Scholarship is an annual scholarship given to a major or minor in Anthropology, Sociology, or Cherokee Studies with a strong record of academic achievement and demonstrated financial need. Your donation to the scholarship fund directly benefits our students. It relieves them of some of the burdens of student loans and allows them to focus more of their energies on scholarship and community engagement.

Any gift will be deeply appreciated, but please consider a donation of \$50 or more. Click [this link](#) to navigate to the Make a Gift page, choose "Your Gift, Your Choice," and select "Anthropology and Sociology." For more information, or to get helping making a donation, contact: Dr. Ben Steere, Chair of the Fund Raising Committee at: [basteere@wcu.edu](mailto:basteere@wcu.edu).



THANK YOU!