



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Department of Anthropology

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

ANTHROPOLOGY NEWSLETTER

NIU Department of Anthropology 2023

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Front cover: NIU students Milsy Westendorff (left), Abby Deeward (center) and Aidan Morello (right) helping Professor Dana Bardolph with excavations at an archaeological site in central Illinois.



Greetings from the Chair



» Dear alumni:
I hope you enjoy this third alumni newsletter. Our students and faculty have been excited to resume field work and attend in-person conferences and events since pandemic restrictions were lifted. We also continue to take advantage of the skills we learned during the pandemic, leading and attending online events, as these have allowed

us to easily connect with people from around the globe.

Since our last newsletter, our faculty have won three major university awards, and our students have completed a variety of interesting research projects, so we hope you enjoy reading about their accomplishments. We also had our first alumni event last fall in conjunction with the Pick Museum of Anthropology and the Center for Southeast Asia Studies. It was great to see alumni and their families. We enjoyed giving tours of the department and museum, and discussing a documentary film on Cambodian rock 'n' roll with the film's associate producer.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our department's foundation account. Your generosity enabled us to fund field research for seven graduate students

who traveled to Belize, Bolivia, Mexico, Thailand and Madagascar, and two students working in the Midwest. In addition, we supported travel for students to present their work at conferences hosted by the American Society of Primatology, American Society of Archaeology and American Society of Biological Anthropology. If you are interested in helping to support our new cohort of graduate students, please find information later in this newsletter on how you can donate.

Finally, I want to thank our alumni serving on our [Alumni Advisory Board](#). The board has helped to plan biannual events for our department, and we are beginning to plan for this next academic year. If you would like to join the board, please let me know, as we would love to have you join our quarterly Zoom meetings.

Hope you all have a very happy fall season.

Leila Porter,
Chair

World Anthropology Day

» To celebrate [World Anthropology Day](#) in 2022, we had an evening of Thai music, food and dancing. Thanks to our NIU Thai Music Ensemble for their performance. In 2023, our alumna, Sintia Febrina, cooked us an Indonesian feast, and our students discussed the difficulties and joys of field work.



The NIU Thai Music ensemble leads guests in a procession around the Stevens Building lobby in honor of World Anthropology Day.

Anthropology Alumni Day — Oct. 29, 2022

» The Department of Anthropology, the Pick Museum of Anthropology and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies invited alumni to campus Oct. 29, 2022. We offered department and museum tours, and viewed the documentary “Don’t Think I’ve Forgotten: Cambodia’s Lost Rock ‘n’ Roll” with the film’s associate producer, Professor Linda Saphan.



Album covers of Cambodian rock 'n' roll stars from the 1950s and '60s.



Lisa Brown's (M.A., 2011) family, along with friends Adalynn Law (center) and Logan Tumminello (right), looking at objects in storage at the Pick Museum of Anthropology with Director Christy DeLair (center back).

Welcome to Our New Curator



» The Pick Museum of Anthropology is delighted to welcome our new curator, **Jessica Cima**, who started her position with the museum Feb. 16. Cima holds an M.A. in museology and a graduate certificate in feminist studies from the University of Washington, and a B.A. in anthropology from Ohio University. Her archaeological

fieldwork is based on historic and prehistoric sites along

the Ohio River Valley, while her museum work focuses on community engagement and diverse representations of cultural history. She has worked at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, Carnegie Institution for Science, The National Theatre, and as a field and laboratory archaeologist for various projects. Most recently, Cima has worked at the NIU Foundation, and as the assistant to the vice president for Research and Innovation Partnerships. In her first few months, Cima has already made some exciting plans for increasing faculty and student use of collections and improving community engagement. We cannot wait to share further updates on her plans for future exhibits, community programs and collections projects.

Faculty Award Winners



Excellence in Online Teaching

Professor **Dana Bardolph** won the university's Excellence in Online Teaching Award in 2022. This award recognizes NIU faculty whose performance exemplifies a commitment to excellence in online teaching, course development and student engagement. Her students have expressed their gratitude

at how well she has connected with them during virtual classes. In addition, Professor Bardolph has given her students numerous opportunities to meet scholars at other institutions through virtual guest lectures.

Presidential Engagement and Partnerships Professor

Professor **Mitch Irwin** was named as a Presidential Engagement and Partnerships Professor, which recognizes outstanding faculty members who foster reciprocal partnerships, undertake socially responsive research, engage external communities to jointly tackle problems, and supervise and mentor students at NIU and other institutions. Professor Irwin has published 27 articles with Malagasy colleagues and students, and helped them secure grants for their research. He has led five NIU Study Abroad programs to Madagascar, and he has taken graduate students to the field to conduct their own thesis projects. He is a cofounder of the NGO SADABE that has helped to Malagasy communities build an elementary school and establish a 65,000-acre protected area for lemurs and other wildlife.



Presidential Research and Artistry Professor

Professor **Mark Schuller** was named a Presidential Research and Artistry Professor, NIU's top recognition for outstanding research. He is widely published in top peer-reviewed journals and he has published eight books, including his latest, "Humanity's Last Stand: Confronting Global Catastrophe" (Rutgers University Press). He is often quoted in the news media and has over 50 blogs in public venues. He also has served as president of the Haitian Studies Association. Professor Schuller's work has attracted more than a dozen external grants, including the highly competitive National Science Foundation CAREER award.



Mark Schuller (center) receives his award with President Lisa Freeman (left) and Provost Beth Ingram (right).

Mitch Irwin (center) receives his award with President Lisa Freeman (left) and Provost Beth Ingram (right).

Student Award Winners

Outstanding Undergraduate

Amanda Rivera was the 2021-2022 Outstanding Undergraduate. She was an anthropology major with a sociology minor, who finished with a 3.97 GPA in anthropology. In addition, she volunteered many hours of work to help inventory the department's Human Skeleton Collection and Archaeology Teaching collections. Thanks to her help the inventories are finished, no small feat given that they are over 50,000 objects.

Madeline Grobe and Grace Mirotznik were the co-award winners for the 2022-2023 Outstanding Undergraduate Award. Both students had nearly perfect GPAs and were exemplary students during their time at NIU.

Dean's Award

This annual award is given to a graduating senior majoring in anthropology who has achieved both a strong record of scholarship and made outstanding contributions to the university community.

The 2021-2022 Dean's Award went to Holly Young, who graduated with 4.0 GPA in anthropology and a minor in Southeast Asian Studies. As part of her studies, she took several years of Thai language and a variety of classes in art history and anthropology focused on Southeast Asia. Young helped research textiles from Indonesia and Malaysia for the Pick Museum's textile exhibit. She also helped inventory of the department's osteological collection. Young will be starting a graduate program in museum studies at the University of Washington in fall 2023. We wish her luck.

Abigail Deewaard was the 2022-2023 Dean's Award recipient. She completed a double major in anthropology and sociology, a double minor in environmental studies and history, she was part of the University Honors Program, and she earned a certificate in nonprofit and NGO studies. In addition to all this academic work, she found time to be part of the NIU marching band. She also served on the college's Student Advisory Committee and was been president of the Anthropology Club for two years.



From left to right: Professor Leila Porter, congratulating Amanda Rivera (Outstanding Undergraduate 2021-2022), Holly Young (Dean's Award 2021-2022) and Outstanding Graduate Student (2021-2022) Saidouri Zomaya at the May 2022, Department Honors Ceremony.

Outstanding Graduate Students

Just as we do for the undergraduates, we also select one master's student to be our annual Outstanding Graduate Student for the academic year. However, in 2022 we had two exceptional master's students, and so we named them co-winners. Jessie Birckelbaw graduated in December 2021 with a 4.0 GPA. She served as the head teaching assistant in the fall of 2021, and completed her thesis on a study of female dominance in ruffed lemurs at the Duke Lemur Center. Saidouri Zomaya graduated in May 2022. She also has a 4.0 GPA. For her thesis, Zomaya studied Assyrian communities in the Albany Park neighborhood in, Chicago, investigating movements of peoples from the city to the suburbs.

The 2022-2023 Outstanding Graduate Student was Marin Wadsworth. She worked as teaching assistant for several semesters and was a research assistant for Professors Murphy and Bennardo. She is assisting Professor Bennardo with the publication of a book resulting from the Wenner-Gren Sponsored International Workshop he ran last spring at NIU campus.

Graduate Research Fund Recipients

Thanks to generous donations from alumni, faculty and friends, we were able to fund travel for nine graduate students.

Thesis Research

Brianna Abba traveled to Bolivia to collect observational data of insect foraging and habitat use by saddleback tamarins.

Luis Chavez investigated how the long history of colonialism and trade policies have changed job distribution and wealth inequality in communities in central Mexico.

Hannah Decker gathered data from the William Bass Skeletal Collection at the University of Tennessee for a forensic anthropology project that examines how to determine the sex of an individual from measurements of the femur.

Maire O'Malley conducted fieldwork in Madagascar to examine the nutrition of three sympatric lemurs; the sifaka, the bamboo lemur and the brown lemur.

Mitchell Rigert traveled to Thailand to conduct interviews for his research on one Karen community's efforts to preserve its swidden agricultural system.

Linna Sophea received funds to help her examine Buddhism and its role in Chicagoland Cambodian communities.

Conference, Workshop and Field Schools

Casey Farmer attended the American Society of Primatology meetings in the fall of 2021. She presented a poster on an innovative, noninvasive method for accurately quantifying a thyroid hormone in sifaka lemurs.

Maire O'Malley presented a poster at the American Association of Biological Anthropology meetings in spring 2023, called, "Status of African authorship among conservation research output from sub-Saharan Africa: an African perspective."

Syliva Scoggin attended two museum workshops in June 2023 at Beloit College; one on storage solutions and one on rare books care.

Milsy Westendorff attended a field school at the Ka'Kabish Archaeological Research Project in Belize in June 2022.



NIU graduate students attend the spring conference of the American Association of Biological Anthropology in Reno, Nevada, from left to right: Brianna Abba, Maire O'Malley, Chloé Gheradi and Edgar Villeda.

Three students presented their work at the Society for American Archaeology meetings in spring 2023. Bailey Raab's presented work on her project, "Women Bleed Red: Rendering Women's Spaces Visible in the Archaeological Record." Anna Chitwood presented a poster entitled, "Paleoethnobotanical Analysis of Classic Taíno sites on St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands." Milsy Westendorff's also presented a poster entitled, "Nuestras Voces: Representation and Visibility of Latinx Women Archaeologists in the U.S."



Brianna Abba in the Bolivian rainforest with a saddleback tamarin (it is clinging to a tree trunk in the upper right corner of the photo).



Degrees Conferred 2022-2023

Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science

Spring 2022

Bugs Craig
Alec Loges
Kathleen Porth
Amanda Rivera
Holly Young

Fall 2022

Clara Barbier
Jeanette Brann
Alexander Delatorre
Madaleine Grobe
Sierra Grogg
Grace Mirotnik
Zachery Sperry

Spring 2023

Delaney Buisker
Abigail DeeWaard
Dallas Douglass
Ian Findley
Charles Nellinger

Summer 2023

Jackson Rich

Graduate Students

Spring 2022

Rachel Davis
Saidouri Zomaya

Summer 2022

Hope MacDonald

Spring 2023

Hannah Decker
Nane Sarkisian
Marin Wadsworth

Summer 2023

Luis Chavez
Sylvia Scoggin
Lorraine Smith



Graduate Hannah Decker celebrates with Leila Porter.



Madaleine Grobe receiving her diploma at the NIU December 2022 Commencement Ceremony.



Dallas Douglass receiving his diploma at the May 2023 Commencement Ceremony.



Alumni Spotlights



Saidouri Zomaya

(M.A., 2022)

Before coming to NIU, Zomaya was a volunteer mentor at World Relief, a resettlement agency in Albany Park, Chicago. The Albany Park neighborhood was also where she conducted her first case report titled, "Multicultural Waves of Migration Shaping the Identity of a Midwest

Neighborhood with Refugees in Towns Project." The case report was her introduction to ethnographic research, which solidified her decision to pursue a master's degree in anthropology at NIU under the supervision of Professor Mark Schuller. While at NIU, she worked as a graduate assistant for the Center for Nonprofit and NGO Studies, allowing her to be a part of the research and nonprofit worlds. Today, Zomaya works at Loyola University Chicago as an assistant director of mentorship and engagement. She oversees LoyolaLinked, a mentorship and networking platform for Loyola alumni and students where she primarily serves the Health Sciences Campus.



Susan Kwosek (M.A. 2006, Ph.D., History, 2019)

Susan Kwosek is currently an assistant professor at South Carolina State University. She earned her M.A. from NIU in 2006 followed by a Ph.D. in history in 2019. Her primary area of study is Atlantic world history 1492-1875, with subfields in African diaspora, African American

studies, Latin America and the Caribbean, and religious studies (primarily African-derived religions in the Americas and Caribbean). Her research participants for the past 15 years are Haitian Vodou practitioners. She also teaches courses in U.S. history, African American history, and world civilizations. When not working, Professor Kwosek is usually scuba diving or reading a book. Sometimes you might find her crocheting or reproducing oil paintings by the great masters in cross stitch. She collects skulls, and in her home and office there is Halloween decor every day.

2023 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Distinguished Alumni Award

Martha Ann Terry (B.A. 1983; M.A. 1985)

Professor Terry earned her B.A. and M.A. at NIU before completing her Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) in 1994. On Aug. 31, 2022, she retired and is currently associate professor emerita, Department of Behavioral and Community Health Sciences (BCHS), School of Public Health.

At NIU, she was introduced to the four subdisciplines of anthropology by very talented educators, including Professors Susan Montague, Michael Salovesh and Pierre Gravel. She particularly enjoyed her physical anthropology classes, taught by Professor Frank Orlosky, and to this day reads and watches forensic anthropology books and shows.

Her dissertation work in Belén, Tlaxcala, Mexico, focused on women's decisions around using family planning. After completing fieldwork, she returned to Pittsburgh and was hired as an urban ethnographer for a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funded HIV prevention project focusing on women in low-income communities. That position, then housed in the Graduate School of Public Health at Pitt, eventually led her to become faculty and director of the BCHS Master of Public Health Program. As director, she led efforts to increase enrollment, update core curricula and required courses, and highlight the importance of social and behavioral sciences in public health.

Though she did not have her own research agenda, she contributed her focus group and qualitative expertise to other research projects. These include self-management of diabetes, use of a graphical user interface in hospital step-down units and emergency rooms, and evaluation of a program aimed at increasing medical setting self-advocacy among women with breast and cervical cancer. One project she is particularly proud of is an educational brochure/video package designed specifically to prevent gestational diabetes among Native American and Alaska Native/Hawaiian Native teen girls.

Professor Terry strove to convey the importance of applied anthropology, listening to community members about their assets, expertise, and their vision for their community. She lives and thrives in Pittsburgh's Friendship neighborhood, where she shares a 152-year-old farmhouse with her dog, Breksta, and three cats.

We are pleased to announce that Martha Ann Terry has been awarded the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award for 2023.

We wish to congratulate Professor Terry on her outstanding career at the University of Pittsburgh, her NIU Alumni Award, and wish her a very happy retirement.



Graduate Student Spotlights

Casey Farmer and Maire O'Malley

(M.A. Anthropology, 2023)

Casey Farmer came to the NIU Department of Anthropology seeking the primate nutritional ecology mentorship of Professor Irwin with the long-awaited opportunity to work with wild sifaka in Madagascar. Up until this-past summer's work in Madagascar at the field site of Tsinjoarivo, she had been studying passionately and waiting to travel there for about five years. Farmer's thesis examines how noninvasive (fecal) measures of thyroid hormone T3 — an energetic biomarker — in wild diademed sifaka correlate with energetic intake (as estimated through macronutrient components of energy of top foods) and the changes



Casey Farmer playing a memory card game with local school children: The cards illustrate lemurs of Madagascar including species present at Tsinjoarivo.

of season. Madagascar presents unique, highly seasonal environments, the perfect “lab” for investigating how its lemurs are adapted to the seasonally changing resources. She worked with one Malagasy student from University of Antananarivo, and three research technicians conducting full-day focal follows of adult individuals in sifaka groups, running up and down the mountains to get behavioral and feeding data, as well as a daily fecal sample.

Maire O'Malley is also a biological anthropology graduate student who is studying lemur nutritional ecology and conservation. O'Malley's research analyzes the influence that micronutrients have on resource consumption and the individual's physiological health in different habitat types. She focused her research on the grey bamboo lemur whose diet is made up primarily of bamboo. This diet puzzles researchers since bamboo contains cyanide, and

researchers have yet to determine how and why these small primates can consume and detoxify the lethal substance. She hypothesizes that bamboo lemurs select foods to help them detoxify cyanide they ingest from bamboo. With the help of a Malagasy research team, O'Malley collected samples of plants the bamboo lemurs ate over the summer at Tsinjoarivo, and will be analyzing their nutritional content in Professor Irwin's lab on NIU's campus to test her hypothesis.

A special part of their time in Madagascar was spent working with the local community. Their research guides and technicians were local Malagasy people, whose help was critical to the success of their research projects. In addition, Farmer, O'Malley, NIU biology Ph.D. student, and Chloé Gherardi, along with staff members at the Malagasy NGO, Sadabe, set up educational days for children and their families in the Tsinjoarivo region. They took about 500 village children to the forest to see sifaka and woolly lemurs, showed them movies about sustainable agriculture and lemurs, taught (and learned) and played many games and dances, and gave a hot lunch to all attendees. Many of the children who attended community day had never seen a lemur before and they were ecstatic to watch the lemurs' natural behaviors. Farmer writes, “My work with Sadabe drives home a principle I've held dear for many years, which is that primatologists cannot simply study animals and their habitats, but they must also engage in work that benefits communities living near primate habitats who are an essential part of ecosystems”. And O'Malley writes that, “working and connecting with the local community was the highlight of my trip.”



Casey Farmer and the Sadabe Research Team stopping for a lunch break in the forest.



A bamboo lemur feeding in the tree tops
(photo credit: Chloé Gherardi).



A juvenile diademed sifaka curiously watches over the
research team (photo credit: Chloé Gherardi).



Graduate Student Spotlights



Bennet Driver (M.A. Anthropology, 2023), Pick Museum of Anthropology graduate research assistant
Driver has worked at the Pick Museum of Anthropology since January 2022. During his time there, he has mostly worked cataloging and digitizing accessions, but recently he has focused his time helping to prepare the fall 2023 exhibit

on food and social issues. One of his favorite memories at the museum occurred while he was working on an older collection that had not been completely catalogued. First, he had to track down all the objects in the collection which were dispersed throughout the museum storage. Driver had trouble finding several objects, and when he located the last object of the collection, it was a smiling ceramic turtle. At that moment, he and the turtle had matching smiles. His time working at the Pick Museum is helping him to fulfill his dream of working in a museum. He is very excited for the fall exhibit and hopes that all alumni in the region will come to see it.



Bennet Driver at work in the collections area of the Pick Museum of Anthropology.

Faculty Spotlight on Dana Bardolph

» Do you know that the largest pre-Columbian city center north of Mexico is located in our backyard in southern Illinois; that Chicagoland is home to the third-largest urban Indian population in the United States, with more than 65,000 Native Americans in the greater metropolitan area and some 175 different tribes represented; and that NIU sits on the traditional homelands of Anishinaabe peoples, also known as the Council of the Three Fires? As an archaeologist and assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at NIU, Dana Bardolph's research and teaching goals include bringing the rich Indigenous history of Illinois to life for students, scholars and members of the public.



Assistant Professor Dana Bardolph directing field work at a Peoria Lake region archaeological site in Illinois.

She currently directs the Illinois Valley Mississippian Origins Project, which focuses on how and why local Indigenous people in the Peoria Lake region of central Illinois began engaging in Mississippian lifeways ca. 1000 A.D. In Summer 2022, her team, which included NIU anthropology M.A. students Annalisa Amber and Anna Chitwood, excavated portions of multiple special-purpose buildings at Fandel Mounds, the first mound center in the region that predates the 11th century urban expansion of Cahokia. The team has also been investigating the ways in which the people coped with environmental change and the onset of regional violence beginning in the 13th century and lasting until the region's settlements were depopulated by the 15th century. Along with NIU anthropology M.A. student Bailey Raab and undergraduate anthropology major Abby Deeward, the team conducted a magnetic gradiometer survey (in 20

degree weather) of the 14th century Mississippian Ten Mile Creek site, revealing a walled town with rows of houses around a mound and plaza. In summer 2023, Professor Bardolph excavated one of the houses documented in the survey with anthropology M.A. students Annalisa Amber, Rebekah Eaton, Bailey Raab, and Milsy Westendorff, and anthropology majors Abby Deeward, Jennifer McPeak, and Aidan Morello.

Professor Bardolph is also initiating a project directed toward documenting the Native-French colonial history of the Peoria Lake region. According to historical records,



NIU students Aidan Morello (left) and Abby Deeward (right) helping with excavations in central Illinois.

numerous Illinois tribes called the location Pimiteoui, which became the site of the first French military occupation of the Illinois country in the 17th century. Between 1691 and 1819, there were at least two forts, a Jesuit mission, trading posts and two Native villages. She plans to conduct remote sensing surveys in the downtown Peoria riverfront area to build high-resolution maps of historic structures and activity areas that can be used to pinpoint future places to excavate. This work will be conducted in partnerships with the Peoria Riverfront Museum and the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma.

In fall 2022, she co-founded a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Friends of Peoria Heritage and Archaeology, to engage the local community in the rich Indigenous history of the area. If you would like to learn more about that organization, her work, or participate in future volunteer archaeology days, please contact her at dbardolph@niu.edu.

Faculty Highlights



Dana Bardolph was awarded a Citation for Distinguished Service from the Institute of Andean Studies for her efforts to chair a working group on ethical conduct in Andean archaeology. She published an article in *Latin American Antiquity* on ancient cultural interactions between highland and coastal Indigenous peoples during

the Early Intermediate Period (400 BC to 800 AD) in the Moche Valley of northern Peru, and she also returned to the field in central Illinois in summer 2022 and 2023.



Giovanni Bennardo received a Wenner-Gren Grant and organized a workshop titled “Cultural Model Theory: Shaping a New Anthropology” with participants including NIU graduate students and U.S. and international scholars. The proceedings of the workshop will be published in 2023 in a book under contract with Palgrave-McMillan. He

published an article in the “Proceedings of the International Conference on Oceanic Languages” and was invited to read a paper at the Anthropological Colloquium of the University of Hamburg, Germany. He also organized and participated in two conference panels one at the AAA meetings and one in Vilnius, Lithuania. As a board of trustees professor, he was invited to deliver a campus lecture “Climate Change and Cultural Models: Primary Food Producers and Local Knowledge” last spring.



Mitch Irwin continues to study lemur health and conservation. Three graduate students completed their fieldwork in Madagascar last summer, examining the ecology and nutrition of lemurs in forest fragments. A fourth student has joined Irwin in Madagascar this summer.

Over the last year, his lab has focused its analysis on the

foods lemurs eat in a very different setting — the wild plants in North Carolina consumed by the free-ranging lemurs at the Duke Lemur Center. This work is part of a collaboration

between NIU and Duke aimed at understanding nutritional similarities and differences between the diets of lemurs in the wild and at the center.



Judy Ledgerwood is serving as the director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. She is currently working on a book manuscript tentatively titled, “Cambodian Mosaic: Suffering and Resilience” which is a 60-year historical and ethnographic study of one Cambodian community. In May 2022, she had a fellowship from the Center for Khmer Studies to

conduct research in Cambodia.



Emily McKee published an essay, “Toward a Political Ecology of Water Solutions” for a special issue in “*Journal of Palestine Studies*” focused on infrastructure and environmental health, and she authored the chapter “The Power of Water in Palestinian-Israeli Relations” for a comprehensive Routledge handbook on the

Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In the spring, she was on the organizing committee for NIU’s first year participating in the Worldwide Teach-in for Climate Justice.



Micah F. Morton’s research was featured on NIU’s CSEAS Southeast Asia Crossroads Podcast Series in February 2022. The title of the podcast is “Crypto-Nationalism in the Akha World of the Upper Mekong Region with Micah Morton .” In October 2022, he organized a roundtable entitled “Looking Back, Moving Forward: 50 Years of COTS”

for the Council on Thai Studies (COTS) annual meeting at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Professor Morton has a forthcoming article in the “*Journal of Anthropological Research*” entitled, “Multiculturalism from below: Indigeneity and the struggle for recognition in Thailand.”





John Murphy, a joint appointee with Argonne National Laboratory, mentored two NIU students in complex systems visualization, and a third in a capstone project on gambling addiction of video games. He led a team of international co-authors who published a [book](#) on drawing lessons for a sustainable future from the archaeology of past

cities and regions, and also participated in an NSF project on possible transitions to a circular economy in the Chicago region. His ongoing research examines resilience, justice and commodification in rural-urban interactions.



Professor **Lelia Porter** took a two-month leave of absence from her chair duties to conduct fieldwork in Bolivia on a new project examining insectivory in saddleback tamarins. She was granted a Student Engagement Fund Grant that allowed an NIU undergraduate to work as her field assistant. She participated in the “First scientific conference

of the parasitology, tropical medicine and environment,” at the Health and Development Research Institute of the Universidad Mayor San Andres, La Paz, Bolivia.



Kerry Sagebiel was inducted into the Zeta Gamma Chapter of Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars at Northern Illinois University. She has a chapter in press called “Pre-Mamom Pottery Variation and the Preclassic Origins of the Ancient Maya” with the University of Colorado Press, and two articles under review for the journals “Mexicon” and “Ancient Mesoamerica”.



Mark Schuller is completing a five-year NSF CAREER Grant, publishing “Community Guides to Humanitarian Aid” in six communities across Haiti’s southern peninsula, and he has begun work with Cuba organizations to foster international exchange with Haitian organizations to encourage resilience. In 2022 he was on a keynote panel

at an international conference, published a book chapter and two essays in public scholarship. He also received the University of California Santa Barbara Department of Anthropology’s Distinguished Alumni Award at their inaugural Anthropology Day.



Pick Museum of Anthropology



Performing Southeast Asia Sept. 8, 2022 through May 13, 2023

As the name suggested, “Performing Southeast Asia” included traditional performing arts such as wayang kulit (shadow puppets) from Indonesia and Khon masks from Thailand, but the exhibit also explored popular music, circus performance, Quranic recitation and children’s games. The exhibit was divided into ten sections that responded to the question, “What does performance do?”

This exhibit was made possible through collaboration with the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, the School of Music, the Center for Burma Studies and many individuals. Each display was curated by the following faculty and students based on their research interests — Judy Ledgerwood (professor of anthropology and director of CSEAS), Eric Jones (associate professor of history), Catherine Raymond (professor of art history and director of the Center for Burma Studies), Chamni Sripraram (instructor of world music, Thai Music Ensemble), Jui-Ching Wang (professor of world music and music education), Matthew Trew (honorary fellow, Department of Anthropology at University of Wisconsin-Madison), Mitchell Rigert (M.A. anthropology, 2023), Matthew Werstler (M.M., 2021), and Holly Young (B.A. anthropology, 2022). We’re especially proud of Young, who not only curated the section on Thai rap, but after graduating in the spring then went to coordinate the completion of all the other sections including acquiring videos, editing text and even hunting down screens for the media-rich displays.

This past academic year, we were very grateful to be able to extend the museum gallery hours to include Saturdays which led to an increase in visitation from off-campus community members — the hopscotch and interactive shadow puppet theater were especially inviting for our smallest visitors.



Coming in Fall 2023 Good Food, Sept. 21, 2023 through May 11, 2024

This exhibit highlights food issues in northern Illinois and outlines what organizations and individuals are doing to make food good — accessible, sustainable, equitable and healthy — for everyone in our community. While “good food” is defined differently by everyone, we all deserve access to food that is good for us, our communities and our environment.

Good Food was developed and curated with students enrolled in a spring 2023 independent study on “Exhibitions and Interpretation” led by Professor DeLair. Student curators Debbie Allen (B.A. political science, 2023), Annalisa Amber (M.A. anthropology 2024), Atlas Babcock (B.A. art history 2023), Ben Driver (M.A. anthropology 2024), and Sylvia Scoggin (M.A. anthropology 2023) selected and researched food topics, contacted potential collaborators, created display layouts, wrote and edited text, and prototyped interactives. Students are continuing to work with museum staff over the summer to follow up with collaborators, refine content and fabricate displays.

Join us to celebrate the opening of the exhibit from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21. There will also be plenty of food-related programming to enjoy all year, so make sure to follow the museum on Facebook or Instagram (@pickmuseumniu) or subscribe to the museum’s email listserv to stay informed. For information on upcoming programs.

www.niu.edu/pick-museum

  @pickmuseumniu

Support Graduate Education and Research

We have a long, rich history of training the next generation of anthropologists. Our graduate students are a large part of that success, in addition to supporting our research mission.

It has been challenging to be a student during the past couple of years, especially for graduate students conducting and presenting research. You can support graduate education and research by making a gift to our department. Gifts to our department support our

greatest areas of need, including being able to award students small grants to assist them in completing their thesis research, and presenting their results at regional and national conferences.

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