

Anthro News



College of Arts and Sciences

Fall/Winter 2019–2020

Dear Alumni & Friends,

Anthropology at WSU continues to develop and change, with active searches under way for two new archaeologists who will start work next year, a few faculty retirements, and the implementation of the BA in Anthropology through WSU's Global Campus.

In addition, Anthropology and the School of Biological Sciences are collaborating to offer a new BA degree in Human Biology. It is now in the final stages of accreditor approval and is part of our effort to grow our undergraduate programs and impact. We welcome you to see what our faculty and students are up to through Twitter (@wsuanthropology, twitter.com/wsuanthropology), Facebook (facebook.com/WSUAnthropology), and Instagram (instagram.com/wsuanthropology).

The generosity of our alumni and friends helps us to welcome the annual William D. Lipe Visiting Scholar in Archaeological Method and Theory. Donations to the Anthropology Excellence Fund support bringing scholars to campus to speak in our Colloquium Series and foster activities of our Undergraduate Anthropology Club, among many other benefits. If you are interested in supporting Anthropology, you can find a donation link at the bottom left of our webpage (anthro.wsu.edu), where there are several options to choose from. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with me (duff@wsu.edu).



Sincerely,
Andrew Duff, Chair
Department of Anthropology

WSU Anthropology–Ethiopia Partnerships

Southern Ethiopia is known for its cultural, linguistic, and human biological diversity; at least 52 ethnic groups live in the region and the Rift Valley was home to some of the earliest humans. WSU Anthropology is fortunate to have formal partnerships through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with each of two of the region's leading universities: Hawassa (HU) and Arba Minch (AMU). Both universities have about 32,000 students apiece and each has a school of medicine, law, and public health.

WSU Anthropology initiated scholarly relations with Ethiopia in 2010 when faculty members Barry and Bonnie Hewlett received Fulbright scholarships to teach and conduct research at HU. While there, Barry wrote and received a grant from the U.S. Department of State to provide seed money to start collaborations between WSU Anthropology and HU. The grant enabled fellow faculty member Rob Quinlan and graduate student Adam Boyette to travel to Hawassa where Rob presented lectures and Adam taught for a semester. The grant also enabled HU to purchase computers for an anthropology graduate student lab. In 2013, Barry started to teach an anthropology graduate course at Arba Minch University, and this led to the development of a MOU between WSU and AMU.

WSU Anthropology and the Ethiopian universities have benefited enormously from the collaborations.



Dr. Damtew Darza Sozo, president of Arba Minch University (right), exchanging a signed MOU renewal with Barry Hewlett for WSU Anthropology



Barry and Bonnie Hewlett (center) with Hawassa University anthropology majors at Lalibela monolithic churches

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More online at:
anthro.wsu.edu/newsletter

First, WSU Anthropology has contributed substantially to the growth and development of Ethiopian anthropology departments. Three HU faculty have completed their PhDs at WSU: Samuel Dira (cultural, 2016), Awoke Assoma (cultural, 2017), and Ashenafi Zena (archaeology, 2019). Four other Ethiopians are currently in the PhD program and should finish in a few years: Mulye Tadesse (cultural), Wolayte Gessamo (cultural), Mesganaw Mihiret (cultural), and Addisalem Sugamo (archaeology). WSU Anthropology is currently training more Ethiopian graduate students than any other U.S. university. Also, in part due to the WSU connections, HU offers the only 4-field BA degree in Ethiopia and it will start to offer its own PhD program in anthropology in 2020.



Cougar fans: Awoke Assoma (WSU PhD '17, cultural anthropology); Akmel Nur Negash (faculty research collaborator, biological anthropology); and Ato Amalo Sooge (faculty research collaborator, cultural anthropology)



Samuel Dira, his wife, Fasika, and son, Erko, in Hawassa. Later that year he started his doctoral studies in Pullman and welcomed two more children.

Second, the partnership has enhanced faculty and graduate student research opportunities. In addition to the Hewletts, Rob and Marsha Quinlan, Andrew Duff, and Courtney Meehan have also conducted research in southern Ethiopia. The universities facilitate the research authorization process and often help with logistical arrangements and identify local research assistants. In addition to the seven Ethiopian graduate students conducting research in country, more than 10 U.S.-based WSU anthropology graduate students have conducted field research in Ethiopia. WSU Anthropology has more anthropological research taking place in Ethiopia than any other U.S. university. Research topics range from social learning, ethnobotany, and responses to environmental shocks to leadership and evolution of megalith stele. Ethnic groups covered in the research include the Hamar, Sidama, Gedeo, and Chabu.

Finally, faculty and graduate students who have conducted research in Ethiopia have developed new and independent collaborations there. Former graduate student Zach Garfield is writing an NSF grant to conduct a multi-site evolutionary anthropology project in southern Ethiopia, and Barry Hewlett has worked with University of California, Davis to expand genetic studies in southern Ethiopia.

The research projects of faculty and graduate students have led to more than 10 peer-reviewed journal articles. A sampling of collaborative publications generated by the WSU–Ethiopia partnership can be found in our online newsletter at anthro.wsu.edu/newsletter.

Nancy McKee retires

Associate Professor Emeritus in Cultural Anthropology Nancy McKee, an anthropological linguist and cultural anthropologist with a specific interest in inequality and poverty, retired from WSU in May 2019. She taught for more than 30 years in the Department of Anthropology after earning her PhD at WSU. McKee was a pioneer in WSU's distance-learning program, offering classes through various digital media until her recent retirement. She also chaired and served on numerous MA and PhD committees in Anthropology.



Beatrice Caffé, Lori Phillips, Daphne Weber, and Caroline Smith

AGO Updates

The 2018-2019 academic year was productive and rewarding for the Anthropology Graduate Organization!

Thanks to the efforts of last year's leadership, it was a banner year for AGO! Much appreciation to the following for their efforts:

Emily Whistler – president
Sam Fulgham – vice president
Andrew Gillreath-Brown – treasurer

And a huge thank you to our stream representatives for attending faculty meetings and keeping AGO up to date with new information:

Caroline Smith – evolutionary anthropology
Daphne Weber – cultural anthropology
Katie Richards – archaeology

In 2018–19, AGO was active in engaging with the community through the facilitation of fundraisers. AGO organized a campus-wide food and coat drive for Alternatives to Violence on the Palouse. This event was so successful, we plan to do it again this year! Additionally, AGO hosted various movie nights to attract undergraduates potentially interested in becoming anthropology majors or minors. Finally, AGO planned breakfast events for prospective graduate students while they were visiting Pullman.



AGO was honored with the WSU Award of Excellence for outstanding performance as a Graduate and Professional Student Association in 2017-18.

If you would like AGO to participate in an event, please email us at ago.rso@wsu.edu.

Graduate Student Spotlight: Chancy J. Gatlin-Anderson

Doctoral student and instructor of General Anthropology and Global Cultural Diversity

Advisor: Dr. Clare Wilkinson

MA: anthropology, Georgia State University

Research project: *Tokyo's Potchhari Girls: Shifting Body Image within Japan's Plus-Sized Fashion Community*

I study Japanese plus-size women, body diversity, community organization, and plus-size fashion. I aim to learn about body-image related struggles that Japanese plus-size women face, how they work to overcome those struggles, how they form community, and the ways in which they turn to fashion to form that community.

I spent two months in Tokyo this summer, carrying out a four-phase pilot research study for my dissertation project. I also participated in an intensive Japanese language program with support from an International Education of Students Grant. In the first phase, I attended plus-size fashion events hosted by Japan's premier plus-size fashion magazine, *La farfa*, where I built rapport with plus-size models, designers, magazine editors, consumers, and fans. In phase



Chancy Gatlin-Anderson, center, poses with models (l-r) Enduusan, Uransan, Ohashi Michiko, and Yoshino Nao during La Farfa magazine signing event at the Horindo Bookstore in the Takadanobaba neighborhood of Tokyo, Japan.

two, I interviewed four *La farfa* models, *La farfa*'s chief editor, and numerous plus-size clothing store workers and consumers. In phase three, I went shopping! I aimed to document my personal experience as a plus-size clothing shopper in Japan. In phase four, I carried out a qualitative retail survey of the Shibuya 109 shopping mall. I surveyed each store and collected style information, recorded the presence or absence of free sizes (one-size-fits-all), and the availability of plus-sized clothing.

Based on my pilot data, I argue that (1) many Japanese plus-sized women have experienced body shaming, (2) Japanese women create community through mutual body-related struggle, (3) plus-size models are significant contributors to body acceptance, and (4) models influence plus-size Japanese women's attraction to plus-size fashion as a means to create community. My preliminary research suggests that Japanese women have created community through mutual struggles with body shaming and limited clothing access. My research illustrates this community's positioning at the forefront of the Japanese body positive movement through plus-sized fashion. I presented my pilot research data at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada, in November on a panel titled *The Climate of Commodity Discourses: Values We Produce, Market, and Consume*.

Moving forward, I plan to collect more interview data and to conduct an analysis of Japanese plus-size women, their social media discourse, and their online community organization. I plan to return to Japan in 2020 for further research.

Recent and forthcoming faculty publications

Medicalizing childbirth in Guatemala; tattooing in the Neolithic; choosing veterinary vaccines in Tanzania... WSU Anthropology faculty publish widely on a variety of important research topics. Find a sampling of recent and forthcoming publications in our online newsletter at anthro.wsu.edu/newsletter.

Array of research by recent MA and PhD grads

From mourning rituals in Iran to madness in Thailand, megaliths in Ethiopia to Pleistocene tools in Alaska... check out the wide array of research subjects of recent WSU Anthropology master's and doctoral graduates by visiting our online newsletter at anthro.wsu.edu/newsletter.

Alumni Profile: Rodrigo De los Santos

Since graduating from WSU in 2016 with an MA in Anthropology, I went back to Yucatan where I have been working as an adviser for EducationUSA, a U.S. Department of State network of international advising centers. I have been helping Mexican students apply to undergraduate and graduate programs in the U.S.

Through my work, I employ an anthropological perspective to guide students through the process of awareness about the cultural differences between our country and the U.S. This has been a challenging but fulfilling experience. Given the current geopolitical environment of U.S.–Mexico relations, cultural understanding is a crucial element in our societies. I try to share the great experiences I had in Pullman—on both an academic and a personal level—in order to clear up some of the common misconceptions regarding cultural and sociopolitical life in the U.S.



Additionally, I have participated as a consultant in a number of social impact assessment projects focused on Mayan communities. The economic growth in Yucatan has brought a series of problems related to land ownership and industrial development in rural areas. As an anthropologist, this represents an ample field of opportunities where one can put the biocultural perspective into action in order to acknowledge the voices of the local indigenous communities.

I am currently working on some articles related to political philosophy and the public engagement with science and technology in Mexico and Latin America.



In the News with Andrew Gillreath-Brown

In the summer of 2017, I worked for the WSU Museum of Anthropology to document a collection excavated in 1972 from Turkey Pen Ruin in southeastern Utah by professors Bill Lipe and R.G. Matson, who worked extensively in the area as part of the Cedar Mesa project. I discovered among the artifacts an 2,000-year-old tattoo tool, the oldest in western North America. The discovery led to wide-spread media attention and a journal publication. It was definitely an amazing experience and not one that I will ever forget.

Find out more at anthro.wsu.edu/newsletter





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Museum of Anthropology

Open Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.



Initial phase of diorama construction



An amazing transformation

Coming Soon!

A new exhibit will open at the Museum of Anthropology in 2020. Created by staff member Trent Raymer, it will complement the current *Archaeology vs. Paleontology* exhibit. Here are a couple of highlights of the dioramas in progress. Watch our Facebook page ([WSUAnthropology](#)) for the date of the unveiling.