

ANTHRO-SPECTIVE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ANTHROPOLOGY MAJORS



PHOTO CREDIT: DR. ELISHA OLIVER, ANTHROPOLOGIST

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Welcome!

BY MIA ROGERS & HEATHER CULLEN

Hello all aspiring and current anthropologists! Welcome to our second edition of the Anthro-spective newsletter. This issue we are talking about elections, politics during Thanksgiving, upcoming events, more faculty introductions, and a few other topics and people of interest currently within our department. However, with most of our attention focused on the current political climate and keeping up productivity until Thanksgiving break, we wanted to briefly discuss another thing that November is all about, and that is **Native American Heritage Month**. With Indigenous People's Day in our recent memories, it is vital to celebrate this community and bring to light issues that are actively shaping the lives of Native Americans. Land rights, blood quantum practices, political representation, religious freedoms, tribal nation sovereignty, and federal relationships are all topics that have been on the forefront of Indigenous activism, and the historical origins and depth of these issues is crucial to expose yourself to. Please take the time to visit ncai.org for current policy issues and more resources.

COMING UP

EVENTS

- 11/5 - Carers Meet-Up/"Anthro Moms" ZOOM Meeting
- 11/5 - UASA Study Hall
- 11/12 - UASA Townhall
- 11/16 - Department of Anthropology: Undergraduate Town Hall

DEADLINES

- 11/5 - Registration begins for Sophomores
- 11/12 - Registration begins for Freshmen
- 11/13 - Last day to drop a class with a "W"
[If you drop after today, it will show up as an "F"]
- 11/16 - First day to request an Incomplete
- 11/26-11/27 - UNT Campus Closed
- 11/30 - Naylor Memorial Scholarship Application Deadline



KUDOS CORNER

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of Fall 2020!

- Andrew Edwards
- Dania Lazalde
- Lindsay Musil
- Alejandra Aguilar
- Daniel Scivetti
- Maya Joseph
- Hannah Westover
- Tristan Strickland
- Laura Cohen
- Robert Hoch
- Madeline Greene
- Elise Ford
- Emily Marlow
- Jordan Rivera

Congratulations to the newly elected UASA Officers!

- Elise Ford (Co-President)
- Lindsay Musil (Co-President)
- Brennan Moore (Treasurer)
- Alicia Espinosa (Secretary)
- Mia Rogers (Outreach Coordinator)

Are you an Anthropology Major with a story or idea?

Would you like to be a guest columnist?

Would you like your artwork to be featured in the newsletter?

Email ANTH-Ambassador@unt.edu with suggestions and contributions for future content!



BY MIA ROGERS &
HEATHER CULLEN



The big day is just around the corner. Tomorrow, history will be made in arguably one of the most anticipated elections in the last four years. While political participation is still severely lacking in America, presidential elections bring more attention than any other voting endeavors combined.

In the midst of a pandemic, an increasing focus on racial inequities and the recently concluded search for a new Supreme Court Justice, we are forced to take a look at how history impacted the present, bringing to attention the increasing role technology plays in how we approach politics and policy today.

As technology becomes a major component to everyday life, it has changed the way people rebel, unite and communicate. In fact, quarantine has increased our reliance on technology from attending school to discussing politics. Just within the past six months, social media has been utilized as a tool to bring to light social injustice, unite social movements such as Black Lives Matter (BLM) on an international scale, as well as inform on issues of public health and politics.

With people establishing major changes in society through digital platforms, it brings to question how social media regulates people. Who decides what posts or tweets get removed? Who is responsible for filtering what appears on your "for you" page? If these platforms are regulated by people, one has to acknowledge the potential biases that determine what information the people of a society absorb, contributing to the already complex social hierarchy in America.

As the election comes to a close and Thanksgiving approaches where the unspoken rule of no politics at the dinner table is consistently broken, you might be able to catch a glimpse of the role social media plays in how you perceive and interact with the world.

L I A I S O N ' S C O L U M N

BY ANTHONY DEFREECE

Survey Announcement

Hi everyone! I am Anthony DeFreece, your student liaison this year! I have an announcement to make, but first I want to introduce myself. For those of you who do not know me, I am a senior Anthropology major focusing in Archaeology and minoring in Geography and History. My job, as student liaison, is to be the link between undergraduates and faculty. What this means, in the age of Covid, is that I will be creating and sending out surveys throughout the school year. I will present this information to the anthropology faculty, who will use the information to improve our learning experience as Anthropology students at UNT.



That is a little about me, so now on to my announcement. I am releasing a survey with this newsletter to see how everyone is feeling about their Anthropology classes this semester. These are challenging times for students and faculty, and everyone has had to adjust to a new learning environment. My goal with this survey is to help improve online and remote classes. With this survey, alongside the course evaluations at the end of the semester, I want to give the professors the information they need to tweak their courses and make next semester as engaging and educational as possible. I believe it is important for us as students to take ownership of our learning and voice our opinions when given the opportunity, so please take the time to fill out this survey and the course evaluations at the end of the semester.

Take the Survey Here:

https://unt.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7WE7FaObtqVEMqp

MUMMIES:

Do they have rights?

BY MARTINA SPANGRUD, *GUEST COLUMNIST*

In recent archaeological news, 59 Egyptian sarcophagi were unearthed from the deserts of the Saqqara necropolis, containing the well-preserved remains of what are presumed to be notable figures, such as priests and statesmen. There was an unwrapping of one of the mummies during a press conference, however, which has raised a lot of controversy among professionals and spectators on social media. Video footage shows the mummy being touched without gloved hands, the remains being exposed to the open air, which could lead to potential and rapid deterioration.

This recent account of Egyptomania can be compared to the unwrapping parties experienced in Victorian England, where mummies were imported and unwrapped for the entertainment of the upper class. There's a lot of layers in this situation that need to be unwrapped. For one, there's a social capital attached to Egyptian remains, in which being able to see a mummy in-person gives a person "bragging rights." There's also orientalism, which paints Egyptian mummies and artifacts as exotic and mystifying, differentiating them from other preserved remains around the world such as those found in Peru and China.

It's interesting to think about the other issues outside of unwrapping mummies. At what expense do experts have the right to exhume, keep and analyze remains? In the same context, what role does the consideration of detrimental impact on how we perceive a group of people play in uncovering and sharing information? In a field focused on rejecting ethnocentrism, to respect the dead as well as the living within their cultural right is necessary to establish a balance between scientific motivation and human decency. Whether it is the discovery of remains from an average Joe or finding out that a prominent figure such as King Tut were born as a product of an incestuous relationship, consideration of cultural group these remains belong to should help determine the boundaries of the researcher-what they are able to publish and put on display for the public.



Professor Profile:

Dr. Jara Carrington

Hello Anthro Undergrads!

I am the new **Director of Undergraduate Programs**, and I am excited to get to work with you not only inside, but outside the classroom as well. As Director, I will be collaborating with undergraduate students on a variety of projects including the *Annual Faculty-Student Kickball Game*, a new anthropology-based *podcast program*, semesterly *townhalls*, and more.



Here is a little background information about me:

This is my fourth year serving as Lecturer in the *Department of Anthropology*, and I am also affiliated faculty with the *Women's and Gender Studies Program*. I am also a UNT alum; prior to earning my PhD in Anthropology at the University of New Mexico, I completed my undergraduate education and M.A. in Applied Anthropology here at UNT. Although it was some time ago, I have a unique perspective on your experiences as a student, because I have literally sat in your seats!

My research program analyzes the ways that intersecting hierarchies of sexuality, gender, race, and class shape both the structural conditions and lived experiences of citizenship and belonging in the United States. This is the background that I bring to undergrad courses that I commonly teach, such as:

- *Culture & Society*
- *Culture and Human Sexuality*
- *Race, Ethnicity and Identity*
- *Sex, Gender, and Culture*

In addition to these, this spring I am excited to be offering a new course called *Rethinking Borders and Belonging: Migration and Citizenship in the United States*.

Please know that my door/Zoom window is always open. Feel free to come to me if you have ideas for student-focused programming, questions about the department or career path options, and/or if you just generally want to chat. I am here for you!

NAYLOR SCHOLARSHIP

BY DR. JAMIE JOHNSON

The purpose of the **Larry Lee Naylor Memorial Scholarship** is to honor Dr. Naylor's legacy as the founding Chairperson of the Anthropology Department at the University of North Texas. Dr. Naylor founded the fledgling department in 1978 and served as Professor until he retired in May of 2004. He went beyond the call of duty by serving as Chair for an astonishing 14 years! As such, it seeks to award academic achievement, personal accomplishment, and most of all, leadership. The awardee will receive a **\$1,000 scholarship** and will be recognized for their accomplishments. The selection criteria include but are not limited to, full-time enrollment, with the exception of graduating seniors, and a 3.0 GPA or better.



Here are a few tips as you gather your application materials:

- **An up-to-date resume or Curriculum Vitae:** Your recommender is a great resource for help with your resume or CV; if that feels awkward, reach out to Dr. Johnson and she can point you in the right direction.
- **A Personal Statement:** Think of the Personal Statement as a “Statement of Achievement” – while it should certainly highlight significant academic achievements, research projects, and awards, it should really hone-in on personal, community, or academic leadership. The Committee is looking for that student who has made a significant contribution to others while also demonstrating their commitment to their own education. These are not mutually exclusive goals – involvement in Campus organizations totally counts as leadership! Special consideration will be given to students who can describe a significant obstacle that they have overcome on their way to academic and personal achievement.
- **A Recommendation Letter from a faculty person, supervisor/mentor, or community member:** Identify potential recommenders EARLY and give them as much information about your achievements as possible. This will help them craft a sincere testament to your academic and civic contributions. It is also a great way to strengthen relationships and networks.
- **A copy of your unofficial transcript, with anthropological courses highlighted for visibility:** This is available through the my.unt.edu tab – it does not have to be mailed from the Registrar’s office.

Email your completed application & supporting materials to
Dr. Johnson: jamie.johnson@unt.edu

CREEHS

BY DR. LISA HENRY

Led by Chandra Carey and Tony Carey, the **Center for Racial and Ethnic Equity in Health and Society (CREEHS)** is an interdisciplinary effort to redress racial and ethnic health disparities by examining socio-economic, geographic and other social determinants of health across the state of Texas. Health care is a national issue that deeply affects Texas, both economically and socially. CREEHS will focus on examining the causes of healthcare gaps, uncovering their statewide impact, and providing a research infrastructure that will facilitate the development of best practices and policy prescriptions for remedying these issues.

The mission is to increase the quality of life for Texas. We will create research opportunities for exploration of racial and ethnic equity, examining the causes of these healthcare gaps, evaluating social determinants of health, uncovering their broader economic and social consequences across the state of Texas, and providing research to uncover best practices and policy prescriptions for remedying these issues. Our four core research areas are:

- Healthcare Access and Utilization
- Innovative Educational Equity and Career Pathways
- Economic Stability and Development
- Public Policy Initiatives

Check out our Youtube video for more information:

[youtube.com/watch?v=D6krLGzigHs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6krLGzigHs)

Lisa.Henry@unt.edu

Professor of Anthropology, Department Chair

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