

ANTHRO-SPECTIVE

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ANTHROPOLOGY MAJORS

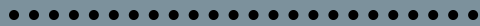


PHOTOS BY TAM DO OF MURALS IN FT. WORTH

WHAT'S INSIDE

Welcome Students!

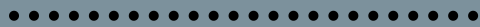
Coming Up



Ambassadors' Column



Liaison's Column



Staff Profile: Taylor Moore



Guest Columnist



Fem Flicks Announcement

BY TAM DO

As we begin falling into the seasons, we hope everyone is settling in well within these past couple of months. Whether you're adjusting to new changes on campus, attending early classes or staying up late studying for an upcoming test, the Anthropology Department wants you to know that we are here for you. You often hear that The Department of Anthropology is a special place, and it is! It's a space where you can get involved into UASA and Padawan, explore networks with the community, share ideas, knowledge and engage with other students at Lefty's Lounge. These unlimited opportunities allow us to provide a fun and memorable experience, where we can all pursue our dreams and reach our highest potential goals not only individually, but also together as a unit. As we continue to dive deeper into this semester we are super excited to have you all and look forward to help you succeed in every step of the way.

COMING UP

EVENTS

Fem Flicks

Date/Time: October 13th at 6:30pm

Location: via Zoom

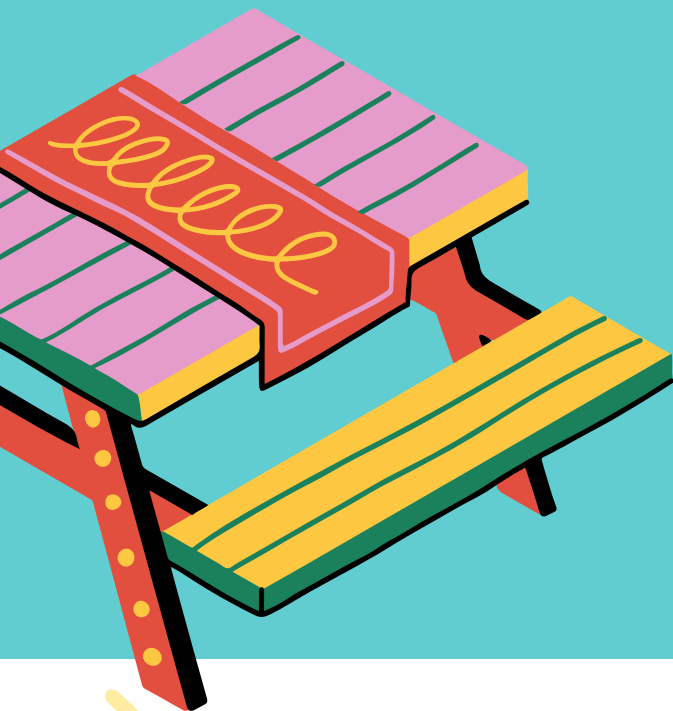
Student vs Faculty Kickball Game

Date/Time: October 18th at 5:00pm

Location: PEB Field



UASA CALENDAR



EVENTS

HALLOWEEN PARTY

DATE/TIME: OCTOBER 26TH

LOCATION: TBD

STUDY HALL

DATE/TIME: NOVEMBER 9TH

LOCATION: LEFTY'S LOUNGE

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!

AMBASSADORS' COLUMN

Looking Back & Looking Forward: Why We Still Need Queer Activism

By: Marel Smietana

As we celebrated National Coming Out Day this Monday, I thought back to where I was on this day, 2 years ago.

I was in Nashville with a few other members of the Tennessee SHINE team, a team of queer youth advocating for the rights and wellbeing of LGBTQ students in the state. We were participating in a panel about how educators can support queer kids in their schools. Specifically, I remember sharing a story about my high school. There was only one gender-neutral bathroom in the school, located in the basement, and many of us referred to it as “the cockroach bathroom” because, well, there were cockroaches spotted there on multiple occasions.



A mural in Fort Worth. Photo by Tam Do



In retrospect, this was part of the reason I didn't come out as nonbinary until college. The cockroach bathroom story shocked a few of the people in the audience when I brought it up that day. It was even more surprising given that I went to a high school that was known for being LGBTQ friendly- at least, more so than any other school in the county. I had friends who chose to attend our school specifically to avoid the bullying they would face at other schools. And yet, trans students were still being treated unfairly.

Since I have moved away from Tennessee, I've kept in contact with the SHINE team. I have fought and mourned with them as they faced several homophobic and transphobic bills passing through the state legislature. The most concerning bill is HB 0800 which, if passed, would prohibit any content in public schools that would “promote, normalize, support, or address” LGBTQ issues. As an anthropologist, the structural erasure of an entire group of people from the public education curriculum is concerning. As a young queer person, I am heartbroken.

Even so, there is hope. In my home county, a male student who was publicly harassed for wearing a dress to prom has received a great deal of support from the LGBTQ community at large. The county also recently had its first pride festival in June of this year. And, of course, there are lots of young people who are fighting back.

Top: Me and my friend, Dorian Marron (right), at a queer youth winter formal in 2019.

Middle: Dalton Stevens (left) and his boyfriend posing for a prom photo in 2020.

Bottom: Students at the Franklin Pride Festival in 2021.



LIAISON'S COLUMN

BY MIA ROGERS

Hello Everyone!

My name is Mia and I'm excited to experience this new school year alongside you. Like you, I am continuing my journey to becoming the anthropologist I aspire to be. I am many things- a bookworm, adamant dog lover and arguably a movie connoisseur, but most importantly I am your student liaison! My purpose is to be of assistance to you, including any concerns, opinions or questions you may have. This past year has brought its own series of challenges both individually and as a community. Readjusting to life on campus is no easy task, but I am here to help make that process easier and ensure your education experience fulfills your expectations. My focus lies within helping guide the necessary conversations and future plans of action within our department by facilitating communication between students and faculty. Please don't hesitate to reach out to talk about anything. Even if it is just to take a moment to say hello. My email is anth-liaison@unt.edu. I am interested in all that you have to say and am truly looking forward to getting to know you all!

Favorite Hobby: Puzzles, reading, and music!

Favorite Book: The Hate You Give

Words to live by: "People will forget what you say. They may even forget what you do, but they will never forget how you made them feel."



STAFF PROFILE: TAYLOR MOORE

WHAT DUTIES OR ROLES DO YOU PERFORM AS OUR SENIOR STUDENT AND PROGRAMS COORDINATOR?

I help with many of the administrative duties for the department such as organizing events (ex. College Day, Orientation and Graduation for the graduate student, the ANTH Expo, etc.), enrolling students into restricted ANTH courses, submitting curriculum changes, entering classes into the schedule each semester, and running the social media accounts! I also answer all of the emails that come to the anthropology@unt.edu account and field questions from prospective students about our graduate program in Applied Anthropology.

CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE BACKGROUND ABOUT YOURSELF?

I grew up in The Colony, TX (about 30 minutes from Denton), and I'm an only child. I attended Texas State University for my undergrad, where I studied Exercise and Sports Science and was a member of the Track and Field team (400m hurdles and javelin). I joined the Anthropology Department in May 2021, and before taking this position I worked for 5 years in the CLASS Advising Office. I just finished up my master's degree in Educational Psychology at UNT this summer, and now I'm working on my doctorate degree in Higher Education! On a more personal note, I have a 7-year-old boy named Henry, 5 small dogs, and a rabbit!

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR STUDENTS?

1. Be engaged in class! Ask questions, and make sure your instructor knows who you are (in a good way 😊).
2. Get advised often. Whether you are meeting with Professor Nelson and/or a CLASS Advisor, be sure to check in with someone frequently about your degree progress and what you have remaining to graduate. It's very easy to overlook requirements, especially when it comes to elective hours. Use your elective hours strategically to get more out of your degree through things like minors and academic certificates!
3. Ask for help when you need it. Whether it's clarification on a question you missed, a concept you don't quite understand, or a personal struggle that you need support for...reach out to your instructor or someone you trust. Everyone at UNT wants you to succeed and we are more than happy to do what we can to support you!
4. Learn how to engage professionally with faculty and staff on campus! When you send an email, be sure to write in a more formal way...you are not text messaging your friends 😊 Include a salutation, and be sure to always include your UNT ID# too!
5. Speaking of emails...CHECK YOUR UNT EMAIL DAILY! And make sure that important things aren't going into your spam folder...this happens to me often! This is the official way that UNT faculty and staff are required to communicate with you for FERPA reasons, and you definitely don't want to miss anything critically important.



WHAT ARE YOUR PRONOUNS? She/her/hers

FAVORITE QUOTES?

1. To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift. -Steve Prefontaine
2. Love many, trust few, always paddle your own canoe. (not sure who this quote is attributed to, but it's a family motto)
3. For what it's worth... it's never too late, or in my case too early, to be whoever you want to be. There's no time limit. Start whenever you want. You can change or stay the same. There are no rules to this thing. We can make the best or the worst of it. I hope you make the best of it. I hope you see things that startle you. I hope you feel things you've never felt before. I hope you meet people who have a different point of view. I hope you live a life you're proud of, and if you're not, I hope you have the courage to start over again. -F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Human Kaleidoscope: How We Speak And Think About Diversity

By: Katherine Spurger



There are two kinds of people in the world: White People and Everyone Else.

At least, that may be what we are implying when we use terms such as “people of color” when speaking about race and diversity. Who does that include? People who identify as Black, Hispanic, Native American, Asian, Middle Eastern, Pacific Islander... essentially everyone under the sun who doesn’t fall under the category of “White.” What this suggests is that people of any non-white race or ethnicity can be lumped into a single group, effectively generalizing the diverse histories, cultures and experiences “people of color,” especially in regards to their relationships with white oppressors, colonizers, and systemic racism. When we use terms like “minority” “people of color,” “non-white,” and even “diverse” we may just be reinforcing the social hierarchy that we’re trying to confront.

As always, there’s another side to this coin. Terms like “people of color” might be perpetuating the social hierarchy, but it also addresses a reality that we can’t afford to ignore. Yolanda Moses is a former president of the American Anthropological Association and was part of the working group who reviewed the current AAA statement on race. Moses reflects on the duality of such euphemisms for diversity in her 2016 article “Is the Term “People of Color” Acceptable in This Day and Age?” for Sapiens, an Anthropology Magazine in association with the University of Chicago Press:

[The] term “people of color” may have an important role precisely because it includes a vast array of different racial or ethnic groups. These groups have the potential to form solidarities with each other for collective political and social action on behalf of many disenfranchised or marginalized people. This terminology is useful in social justice, and in civil rights and human rights contexts.
(Moses)

How we use language both reflects and creates our reality. Racial hierarchy is real. Discrimination and systemic racism is real. Terms like “people of color” reflect the racial prejudices that plague our realities, both in the past and the present. It creates an “Us vs. Them” mentality. Moses concludes that “At this cultural moment in the U.S., we still live in a racialized social and cultural hierarchy, and our language continues to reflect our ongoing attempts to grapple with that reality.”

How do we navigate this linguistic paradox when talking about race and diversity? Can we change reality by changing how we use language to identify and describe diversity? Or do we first have to change the reality before language can accurately reflect it?

UPCOMING EVENT: FEM FLICKS

NARRATED BY
GEORGE TAKEI

WHO'S ON TOP?

LGBTQS SUMMIT MT. HOOD

October 13
6:30pm via Zoom

Join us for a discussion
of the film "Who's On
Top?" Narrated by
George Takei

"Who's on Top?"
(narrated by George Takei)
is the emotional story of
members of the LGBTQ
community who challenge
stereotypes about gender
and sexuality and demon-
strate their diverse journeys
in overcoming physical
and figurative mountains.

Be sure to watch the film
before the discussion at:
tinyurl.com/FF21WOT

Register in advance and
join the discussion at:
[tinyurl.com/
FF21WOTDiscussion](http://tinyurl.com/FF21WOTDiscussion)

femflicks
FILM SERIES PRESENTS

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Hurtvick Center & Pride Alliance

Please contact the Pride Alliance at pridealliance@unt.edu and/or 940.565.2589 if you need an accommodation to fully participate in an event because of a disability. For voice access, dial 1-800-RELAYTX (735-2989). Please make the request as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to arrange the accommodation.

UPCOMING EVENT: KICKBALL!!

STUDENT VS FACULTY



GET READY FOR

ANTHRO KICKBALL

10.18.2021

Catch us at 5:00 pm in PEB Field!

****PIZZA WILL BE PROVIDED****



Anthro-Spective
Staff

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