



# Anthropology News

May 2021

## CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES!

We had so many departmental grants, awards, publications, and other accomplishments announced at the end of the fall semester that this edition of the Department News took a bit longer than expected to put together. The contents, however, are none the less celebratory! On May 14 the Department held a virtual ceremony to acknowledge 23 graduating seniors, 2 Masters students, and 4 PhDs. Graduates were honored individually by their professors with personal tributes to their hard work, dedication, and accomplishments.



***Congratulations Class of 2021!***

# UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

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## **Twenty-three Anthropology majors received their degrees:**

Amber Jahan Samia Beg

Kendall Patrick Castaneda

Mengzi Chen, *Summa Cum Laude*, College Prize for Excellence in Anthropology

Catherine Mirae Chun, *Cum Laude*

Bridget Lindsay Cohen (summer graduation)

Katherine Talia Draisen

Emily Katherine Fusco (summer graduation)

Wenxin Gao, *Cum Laude*

Hailey Hart-Thompson, *Magna Cum Laude in her independent concentration*

Rehnuma Kabir

Audrey Marie Kurtz, *Cum Laude*

Nichole Kyprianou, *Cum Laude*, Department Award for Research Excellence in Biological Anthropology

Jade Isabella Lau, *Magna Cum Laude*, Department Award for Scholarly Excellence in Sociocultural Anthropology

Devin Maxwell

Kathy Mo-Yan Mei, *Cum Laude*

Bailey Sinclair Newsome

Mylene Elizabeth Oyarzabal, *Magna Cum Laude*

Christian James Poole

Madeline B. Rogers, *Magna Cum Laude*

Angelo Joseph Schimmenti

Abigail Heather Schofield

Brianna N. Sison-Gilmore, *Cum Laude*, Department Award for  
Research Excellence in Sociocultural Anthropology

Gianna V. Somarriba, *Cum Laude*

Astrid Aisha Viola Sundberg

Ciela "C." Angel Alma Vega, *Summa Cum Laude*, Department Award for  
Research Excellence in Biological Anthropology

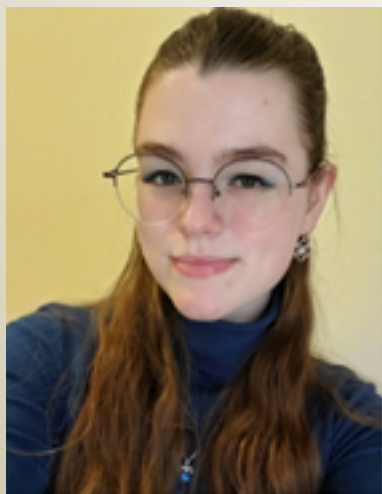
## UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS



**Anthropology undergraduate student Victoria Zdanowicz wins  
prestigious Buck Scholarship**

The department congratulates **Victoria Zdanowicz**, a rising senior majoring in Biological Anthropology with a minor in Biology, for being awarded the prestigious Augustus Howe Buck Scholarship. The Buck Scholarship fund has been in existence since 1917 and the scholarship is one of the highest honors bestowed on undergraduates at BU. Victoria is an executive board member of our Anthropology in the Works club and is in the Kilachand Honors College. She has been working in Prof Cheryl Knott's lab since her freshman year, and has completed two UROP projects studying orangutan ranging behavior and ecology. She will be carrying out a senior honor's thesis on orangutan nutritional and behavioral ecology. The scholarship will help Victoria pursue a career related to primatology, ecology and conservation. Congratulations Victoria!

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- Two Anthropology majors and rising seniors, **Rebecca (Rivkah) Furhmann** and **Emma Deegan**, have won the Alice M. Brennan Humanities Award through the Boston University Center for the Humanities for excellence in humanistic scholarship.





- Graduating senior **Ciela "C" Vega** won the Polytropos Award, given both in recognition of what a student has accomplished and in expectation of what they will accomplish, and in gratitude for their ongoing mindfulness of the Core community.
- Graduating seniors **Ciela "C" Vega** and **Bridget Cohen** were selected to become members of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.



- Three AN Seniors, **Kendall Castaneda**, **Brianna Nicole Gilmore** and **Hailey Hart-Thompson**, were recipients of the Scarlet Key Award. The award, one of BU's highest academic honors, acknowledges the curricular and extracurricular achievements of the students who are nominated.

# GRADUATE AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

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**Four Graduate students successfully defended PhD dissertations this year. Two completed requirements for the MA.**

**Andrea Blackburn**, PhD dissertation title: “Orangutan Seed Dispersal Effectiveness and Spatial Distribution Patterns”

**Mary Elizabeth Clarke**, PhD dissertation title: “Producing Stone and State: The Intersection of Domestic and Institutional Economies in Classic Maya Society”

**Samantha Fifield**, MA in Applied Anthropology thesis title: “Education in China: Why the System is Broken and the Possibility of Meaningful Reform”

**Noha Roushdy**, PhD dissertation title: “Between Class and Nation: International Education and the Dilemmas of Elite Belonging in Contemporary Egypt”

**Amy Scott**, PhD dissertation title: “Sexual Selection and Sexual Conflict in the Reproductive Strategies of Bornean Orangutans”

**Zeynep Senveli** has successfully completed all requirements for the MA in Anthropology

*The achievements of our graduating majors, PhD, and MA students were celebrated with a department zoom event on May 14. Check out the video of the event on our FB site Anthropology in the Works and Department website.*

# **GRADUATE STUDENT GRANTS & AWARDS**

- **Graham Albert** has been awarded an NSF DDRIG for dissertation research: “Doctoral dissertation Research in DRMS: Testing the Effects of Facial Sexual Dimorphism on Men’s Selective Attention, Implicit Association, and Decision Making.”
- **Laura Brubaker-Wittman** has been awarded a FLAS (Foreign Language & Area Studies) for Summer Intensive Indonesian language study and a Fulbright Scholarship to Indonesia for her dissertation research on “Interacting with Orangutans: A Multispecies Ethnography of Relationship Building in Borneo.”
- **Maria C. Codlin**’s paper “Hunting and Husbandry at the Ancient Mexican City of Teotihuacan,” was selected for the 2021 Society for American Archaeology student paper award. Maria has also received a Cora du Bois Fellowship for dissertation completion for the fall of 2021.
- **Amirah Fadhlin** & **Dylan Renca** have received tuition scholarships for Javanese language study at SEASSI (Southeast Asian Summer Studies Institute), University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- **Sumeyra Gunes** has been awarded an AES (American Ethnological Society) Summer Grant for her project “Can the Subaltern Joke? Identity Humor and Offense on Istanbul’s Stand-Up Stages.”
- **Faye Harwell** is the recipient of the Department’s 2021 Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award.
- **Peter Kovacik** received a BU Learn from Anywhere Creativity and Spirit Award for his efforts to “make creative use of the new constraints of online teaching and taking advantage of the new possibilities of remote and hybrid LfA teaching.”
- **Gana Ndayie** has been awarded a Charlotte W. Newcombe Fellowship by the Institute for Citizens and Scholars for the write up of his dissertation research in urban Brazil. His dissertation, “Plastic Migrants:” Race, Performance, and the Making of a Senegalese Muslim Community in Brazil,” examines the everyday lives of Senegalese Sufi migrants in Brazil as they strive to live an ethical life under capitalism.



- **Johnathan Norris** has been selected for the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) from the U.S. Department of State to study Arabic this summer; and a FLAS for Arabic Study. He has also been selected for a Boren Fellowship for intensive advance-level Arabic in Jordan and preliminary fieldwork on his dissertation project, "Politics of Place: Emotion, Religiopolitical Networks, and Place-Making Amongst Syrian Refugees" for the coming academic year (2021-22).
- **Emily Williamson** has been awarded a BU Center for the Humanities Graduate Dissertation Writing Fellowship for the 2021-22 academic year and a Cora du Bois Fellowship for dissertation completion.



**Three grads have received Initiative on Cities Early Stage Urban Research Awards** for pre-dissertation research projects. The IOC funds projects with the goal of catalyzing early stage research and projects that advance an understanding of complex urban challenges with an emphasis on sustainable, just, and inclusive urban transformation.

- **Kelley Gourley**, "Seeking Educational Spaces: Syrian Refugees and the Landscape of Amman, Jordan."
- **Emily Williamson**, "Folded Speech: An Ethics of Comings-and-Goings in an Accra Zongo."
- **Xuyi Zhao**, "Living in the Future City: Migration, Class, and Placemaking in a Chinese 'New Area.'"



# GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

- **Graham Albert**, Richardson, G., **Senveli, Z.**, Arnocky, S., **Hodges-Simeon, C.R.** 2020. "Development and Psychometric Evaluation of a New Mating Effort Scale." *Archives of Sexual Behavior*. 50, 511-530.
- **Graham Albert**, Wells, E., Arnocky, S., Liu, C., **Hodges-Simeon, C. R.** 2021. "Male Observers use Facial Sexual Dimorphism to make Physical Dominance Assessments Following 100-millisecond Exposure." *Aggressive Behavior*. 47, 226-235.
- **Cheryl Knott** and **Faye Harwell**. 2020. "Ecological risk aversion and the evolution of great ape life histories." In: L. Hopper, & S. Ross, (Eds.), *Chimpanzees in Context* (pp. 1-35). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- **Carolyn Hodges-Simeon, Graham Grail, Graham Albert**, Groll, M., Stepp, C., Carre, J., Arnocky, S., "Testosterone therapy masculinizes speech and gender presentation in transgender men." *Scientific Reports*.
- **Carolyn Hodges-Simeon, Graham Albert**, McHale, T., Richardson, G., Weinberg, S., Gurven, M., Gaulin, S. "Which if any facial width-to-height ratios were shaped by selection? An Ontogenetic approach." *PLoS One*.



- **Gana Ndiaye** has produced a documentary on his field research entitled: "Senegaleses no Brasil: para além da economia informal (Senegalese Immigrant Lives in Brazil: Beyond Street Vending)." It is now up on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/jZjiqkYA5Cw>.

# FACULTY AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

## FACULTY AWARDS, HONORS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Kimberly Arkin** was the recipient of a BU CAS Templeton Award for Excellence in Student Advising and Mentoring.
- Our colleagues **David Carballo and Shahla Haeri** have been promoted to the rank of full professor.
- **Robert Hefner** was elected the president of the American Institute for Indonesian Studies (AIFIS), for a 3 year term. AIFIS is the leading institute for research and collaboration between the US and Indonesia.



- **Cheryl Knott** was featured in the Atlantic <https://www.theatlantic.com/.../parachute-science.../618522/>: "The Pandemic is Undoing Researchers' Oldest Assumption." The article focuses on her efforts to include Indonesians in her research and how that has been so important for the continuation of her project during the pandemic.
- **Cheryl Knott** received a BU Learn from Anywhere Creativity and Spirit Award for her efforts to "make creative use of the new constraints of online teaching and taking advantage of the new possibilities of remote and hybrid *LfA* teaching." Cheryl was also the keynote speaker at the European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association Meeting, held virtually in Krakow, Poland. Her talk was entitled "Orangutan Socio-Sexual Behavior and Sexual Conflict: Insights for Human Evolution."

- **Laurie LaPorte** has been a major force in the establishment & accreditation of a new BU AAUP (American Association of University Professors) Advocacy Chapter.
- **Ayse Parla** has been awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor! Her recent book, *Precarious Hope: Migration and the Limits of Belonging in Turkey*, received honorable mention for the APLA Book award in Critical Anthropology.
- **Curtis Runnels** was awarded a Gennadius Prize (through the American School of Classical Studies at Athens), for his “outstanding contributions to the advancement of knowledge of post-antique Greece.”
- **Corky White** has been elected Secretary-Treasurer of BU’s newly accredited chapter of the AAUP.

## NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS

- **Kimberly Arkin.** 2020 “Making secular 'French' medical ethics: transcendent morality and patient subjectivities in southern French hospitals.” *JRA*26: 824-841.
- **Kimberly Arkin.** 2020 “What can words do? Debating a 'good' death in French palliative care.” *Anthropological Quarterly* 93 (2).
- **Thomas Barfield** and Neamatollah Nojumi. 2021. “Bringing multilateralism back in: ending the war in Afghanistan is not a one-nation job.” *USIP Afghan Peace Process Issues Paper*, April 2021.
- **Thomas Barfield.** 2020. “Supersize me: political aspects of monumental tomb building in early steppe empires.” In *Masters of the steppe: the impact of the Scythians and later nomad societies of Eurasia*, edited by Svetlana Pankova and SJ Simpson. Oxford: Archaeopress Archaeology, pp 30-42.
- **Thomas Barfield.** 2020. “Afghan political ecologies: templates past and present from the eastern Iranian world” In *The Limits of Empire in Ancient Afghanistan*, edited by Richard Payne and Rhyne King. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, pp. 1-20.



- **Carolyn R. Hodges-Simeon**, C.R., Weinberg, S., **Graham Albert**, Gurven, M., & Gaulin, S.J.C. 2021. "Is male facial width-to-height ratio (fWHR) a product of sexual selection? A life course approach." *PLoS ONE* 16(3): e0240284.
- **Carolyn R. Hodges-Simeon**, **Graham Grail**, **Graham Albert**, Groll, M.T., Stepp, C.E., Carré, J.M. & Arnocky, S. 2021. "Testosterone therapy masculinizes speech and gender presentation in transgender men. *Nature Scientific Reports*, 11(1), 1-10.
- **Cheryl D. Knott**, **Erin E. Kane**, **Andrea Blackburn**, **Laura Brubaker-Wittman**, **Andrea DiGiorgio**, **Faye Harwell**, **Caitlin O'Connell**, **Natalie Robinson**, **Amy Scott**, **Robert Suro Rodriguez**, et al. 2021. The Gunung Palung Orangutan Project: Twenty-five years at the intersection of research and conservation in a critical landscape in Indonesia. *Biological Conservation*, 255, 108856.
- R. Seidlera, **Cheryl Knott**, **Erin Kane**, et al. 2021. Confronting ethical challenges in long-term research programs in the tropics. *Biological Conservation*, 108933.
- **John M. Marston**. 2021. "Archaeological approaches to agricultural economies." *Journal of Archaeological Research* online before print. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10814-020-09150-0>
- **John M. Marston**, Çakırlar, Canan, Luke, Christina, **Peter Kováčik**, Slim, Francesca G., Shin, Nami. and Roosevelt, Christopher H. 2021. "Agropastoral economies and land use in Bronze Age western Anatolia." *Environmental Archaeology* online before print. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14614103.2021.1918485>.
- Shin, Nami, **John M. Marston**, Luke, Christina, Riehl, Simone, and Roosevelt, Christopher H. 2021. "Agricultural practices at Bronze Age Kaymakçı, western Anatolia." *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 36:102800. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jasrep.2021.102800>
- **Ayse Parla**. 2020. "Revisiting 'honor' through migrant vulnerabilities in Turkey." *History and Anthropology*.

- **Curtis Runnels.** 2020. "Is this Julia Ward Howe?" From the Archivist's Notebook, American School of Classical Studies at Athens.  
<https://nataliavogeikoff.com/2020/06/01/is-this-julia-ward-howe/>
- **Robert P. Weller.** 2020. "Voices from the Underworld: Chinese Hell Deity Worship in Contemporary Singapore and Malaysia." *Journal of Contemporary Religion* 35 (3), 575-576.

## BOOKS

- **Shahla Haeri.** 2020. *The Unforgettable Queens of Islam: Succession, Authority, Gender.* Cambridge University Press.
- **Caterina Scarmelli.** 2021. *How to Make a Wetland: Water and Moral Ecology in Turkey.* Stanford University Press.
- **Merav Shohet.** 2021. *Silence and Sacrifice: Family Stories of Care and the Limits of Love in Vietnam.* University of California Press.



# ALUMNI NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS

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## ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS

- **Andrea DiGiorgio** (GRS 2019), **Cheryl Knott**, Upton, Elizabeth, and Susanto, Tri Wahyu. 2020. "Wild Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus wurmbii*) Feeding Rates and the Marginal Value Theorem" in the *American Journal of Primatology*, 82, e23183.
- **Jacob Negrey** (GRS 2019) et al. 2020. "Dominance rank and the presence of sexually receptive females predict feces-measured body temperature in male chimpanzees" in *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*, 74, 5.
- **Jacob Negrey** et al. (GRS 2019) 2020. Demography, life-history trade-offs, and the gastrointestinal virome of wild chimpanzees. *Philosophical transactions of the Royal Society B*, 375.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

- **Becca DeCamp** (CAS 2020; Winner of Undergraduate Research Award in Biological Anthropology 2020) began her Ph.D. in Fall 2020 in the lab of Dr. Christina Bergey at the Department of Genetics at Rutgers University.
- **Wenxin Gao** (CAS 2021) was accepted by the University of Chicago MA in Middle Eastern Studies
- **Hongyu Lai** (CAS 2020) has been accepted by the University of Chicago MAPSS (MA Program in the Social Sciences)
- **Natalie Laudicina** (GRS 2019) has accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at Grand Valley State University in Michigan, where she is currently teaching.
- **Natalie Robinson** (CAS 2018; Winner of Undergraduate Research Award in Biological Anthropology 2018) began a position with the Gunung Palung Orangutan Project, run by **Prof. Cheryl Knott**, as the Project Coordinator for Research and Conservation.





**Prof. Chris Schmitt** (back row, second from left) with his South Africa research team. His former postdoctoral research associate, **Dr. Alicia Rich**, started a position as Assistant Professor of Zoo and Conservation Biology at Otterbien University in Fall 2020 (center right, in the sunglasses). **Stacy-Anne Parke** ( CAS 2019; Winner of Undergraduate Research Award in Biological Anthropology 2019; center left) began her Masters in Anthropology at Florida Atlantic University studying primate conservation and genomics, with Dr. Kate Detwiler. A paper based on Stacy's undergraduate research project, on which she is third author, is currently in review at the *International Journal of Primatology*. Former field assistant **Sasami Langford** (center front) has begun her college education at University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, tentatively majoring in Africology..



**Andrea DiGiorgio** (GRS 2019) was recently married. Congratulations Andrea!



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More news? Did we fail you include your achievements? Did we get something wrong? Please let me [smhefner@bu.edu](mailto:smhefner@bu.edu) or Veronica [vclittle@bu.edu](mailto:vclittle@bu.edu) and we will be happy to publish in a future newsletter!