



College of Arts and Sciences

Fall 2024 Department of Anthropology Newsletter

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from the **Department of Anthropology**! It's a pleasure to reach out to you again, sharing our news with you and – ideally – hearing from you in return.

It's been an exciting time for our Department! We've hired new faculty, further developed faculty-student research efforts, and applauded many of our members' progression from undergraduate and graduate students to alumni. This autumn we've been working on new course offerings, strengthening our connections with campus climate change research, and enhancing our alumni engagement.

As always, please send us your updates so we may include them on our forthcoming Alumni News page! We encourage you to connect and to tell your story. Our faculty and staff enjoy hearing what you've done since graduation (trust me, we remember you!) and current students appreciate seeing what previous Anthro, EBH, and IDPAS students have accomplished. Let us highlight you!

With best wishes,

Kathy Twiss
Professor and Chair
Department of Anthropology



Alumni Spotlight: Where they are or will be in 2024!

Dorien DeVries '20

An alumna of the IDPAS and former student of Erik Seiffert and John Fleagle, Dorien DeVries '20 will leave the University of Salford to begin a new postdoc position at the USC Keck School of Medicine.

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Durr-E-Ajam Riaz '20

Durr-E-Ajam (Durré) Riaz '20, Anthropology BA and Human Evolutionary Biology BS (with honors), recently completed her MSc in the Developmental, Neural, and Behavioral Biology Program at the Georg-August University, Goettingen, Germany. She was selected for a [Fulbright Award](#) in South Africa to work on "Human-Wildlife Coexistence: A Study of Urban Vervet Monkey Anti-Predator

Behavior." The work is part of the "Urban Vervet Project" by Sofia Forss from the University of Zurich.

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Sara Jaramillo '22

Sara Jaramillo '22, Anthropology BA (with honors), who, [after winning MANY awards](#) as an undergrad at SBU continued on to do a (funded) master's degree in historical archaeology at UMass Boston. This summer she was part of the excavations at El Rancho de las Golondrinas, New Mexico, where research is being done on Spanish Colonial deposits. Exploring the faunal assemblages, Sara will investigate the labor during different political regimes in the 18th and 19th centuries in New Mexico.

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Amanda Rowe '24

An alumna of the IDPAS, Amanda Rowe '24 just started as a postdoc in Boulder at the Museum of Natural History working with the museum's director, IDPAS alumna Nancy Stevens '03.

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Jack Winans '24

Jack Winans '24, alumnus of the IDPAS, just started as a postdoc in Konstanz, Germany, at the Max-Planck Institute of Animal Behavior and the University of Konstanz, working with Ariana Strandburg-Peshkin.

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Alumni Spotlight: Meet some of our May 2024 graduates

Mason Hintermeister '24

Mason Hintermeister '24 was featured on the CAS website in its [Graduate Spotlights](#). He was presented with the Outstanding Student Award in Human Evolutionary Biology conducting his honors thesis, "Morphological analysis of a galagid partial mandible from Napudot (Middle Miocene), Kenya" with Associate Professor Gabrielle Russo. Mason now pursues graduate studies at John Hopkins in the Center for Functional Anatomy & Evolution.

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Han Glavan '24

Han Glavan '24 was presented with the Outstanding Student Award for Service. In addition to being active in research working with Assistant Professor Carrie Mongle, they served for multiple years on the e-board of the Undergraduate Anthropology Society. Han now pursues graduate studies at John Hopkins in the Center for Functional Anatomy & Evolution.

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Megan McNamara '24

Megan McNamara '24 graduated with Honors in Human Evolutionary Biology conducting her honors thesis, "The watchful eye: Does researcher presence influence distance traveled and time spent resting in a habituated baboon population?" with Associate Professor Catherine Markham.



Chloe Wen '24

Chloe Wen '24 was featured on the CAS website in its [Graduate Spotlights](#). In addition to being active in research working with Associate Professor Jeroen Smaers, Chloe was presented with the Outstanding Student Award in Anthropology. Here, Chloe poses with Professor Surita Bhatia, former interim chair of the Department.

[Click here to read more about our departmental convocation](#)

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Alumni Spotlight: Meet some of our recent doctoral graduates

This year's doctoral hooding took place on May 14, 2024, and included the freshly minted PhDs **Sarah Mincer** (advisor: Gabrielle Russo), **Amanda Rowe** (advisors: Andreas Koenig and Pat Wright), **Katherine Kling** (advisors: Catherine Markham and Pat Wright), and **Jack Winans** (advisor: Catherine Markham).

Amanda Rowe, who received the [President's Award to Distinguished Doctoral Students](#) was selected to give the student address at the hooding ceremony.

[See a video of the hooding ceremony here](#)

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Graduate Student Spotlight

Ana Iorga

Congratulations to Anastasia Iorga, PhD candidate in the IDPAS! Anastasia was awarded an [AAUW American Fellowship](#) to write her dissertation on isotopic variation in wetland resources. Anastasia, who came to SBU after earning her MSc in Archaeological Science at the University of Oxford, is co-advised by Troy Rasbury (Geosciences) and Kathy Twiss and is also a recipient of the F. James Rohlf Fellowship and the [Mildred and Herbert Weisinger Dissertation Fellowship](#).

When not collecting samples in the marshes, analyzing data in both the FIRST and the Zooarchaeology labs, writing, or acting as a research mentor of younger students, Anastasia teaches ANT 260 (How We Eat) and attempts to convince people that her last name really does begin with an "I" as in "ice cream."

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Faculty Spotlight: Meet our new faculty

Joeva Rock

Welcome Assistant Professor Joeva Rock, a development anthropologist whose research focuses on the interplay of agriculture, politics, and development. Prior to joining us at SBU, she was assistant professor in Development Studies at the University of Cambridge;

she has also taught in the Global Poverty and Practice program at the University of California-Berkeley, and was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Nutrition and Food Studies at NYU and the Department of International Studies at Dalhousie University.

Joeva's book, *We Are Not Starving: The Struggle for Food Sovereignty in Ghana* reveals how global and local political forces both shape food production in contemporary Africa. She will be teaching courses on topics including development anthropology, medical anthropology, and food. We are honored to have Joeva join our faculty!

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Faculty Spotlight: Promotions

Lawrence Martin
Chris Percival
Kathy Twiss

Congratulations to three of our faculty members! With the start of the Fall 2024 semester, [Chris Percival](#) was promoted to Associate Professor with continuing appointment (aka tenure). At the same time, [Kathy Twiss](#) was promoted to Full Professor and [Lawrence Martin](#) was named a SUNY Distinguished Service Professor.

Here is a photo from SBU's recent Promoted Faculty Reception.
Credit [Isabel Epstein](#).

Congratulations to four of our faculty members:

Catherine Markham, Carrie Mongle, Chris Percival, James Rossie

[Catherine Markham](#) was awarded a FAHSS grant (Faculty in the Arts, Humanities and lettered Social Sciences) and was selected for the FITA (Faculty as Inclusive Teaching Ambassadors) initiative.

[Carrie Mongle](#) received the Trustee's Award from the Office of the Provost, in support of promising early-career faculty.

[Chris Percival](#) was awarded an OVPR seed grant collaborating with Ken-Ichi Takemaru (Pharmacology), Michael Airola (Biochemistry and Cell Biology), and Natalia Peunova (Anesthesiology).

[James Rossie](#) was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation together with Susanne Cote (U Calgary).



Faculty Spotlight: Notable Research

Dominic Stratford

Congratulations to [Dominic Stratford](#), a lecturer in our Department, for conducting a 100-mile archaeological survey across the Namib Sand Sea. This is truly

remarkable! This amazing photograph was taken by [Ramy Fouda](#).



Faculty Spotlight: Policy and Practice

Pat Wright

Pat Wright will be active in promoting biodiversity and on-the-ground conservation. As part of **COP-16** she will be a panelist at the event, "From Policy to Practice: The Role of Field Station Networks in Implementing Science-Based, Inclusive Conservation." In October, a documentary titled "Ivohiboro, the Forgotten Forest" was released and broadcast in France. It will premiere in the USA and be shown on PBS in 2025 (late spring or summer).

This film will highlight an almost intact tropical forest located in the southeast of Madagascar. This recently discovered protected area is home to exceptional biodiversity in an arid and isolated region.

Thank you for your support!

The Department of Anthropology depends on our alumni and friends to expand field opportunities for our students and provide seed money for senior honors theses and summer research experiences.



Please consider investing in our faculty and students by [making a gift today](#) or speaking with [Brianna Goodfellow](#), director of development, at (631) 632-4012.

Stay Connected



P.S. Save the date for SBU's "Fuel the Momentum: 5 days, 5 ways to give" initiative coming up November 18-22, 2024! Your support will help unlock powerful opportunities for our students, researchers and faculty members as well as future generations. [Read more here](#). Thank you!

P.P.S. Learn how you can take advantage of possible tax benefits from your contributions, while simultaneously maximizing your philanthropic impact! [Click here for more information](#).



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