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!
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
Abagail 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.
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”


**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


- **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 Fadhлина & 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**


- **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](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 “What can words do? Debating a 'good' death in French palliative care.” *Anthropological Quarterly* 93 (2).


• **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/](https://nataliavogeikoff.com/2020/06/01/is-this-julia-ward-howe/)


**BOOKS**

• **Shahla Haeri.** 2020. *The Unforgettable Queens of Islam: Succession, Authority, Gender*. Cambridge University Press.


ALUMNI NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS

ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS


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