ANTHROPOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2020

Celebrating Student Achievements

What’s Inside

GRADUATING SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

MESSAGES FROM ANTHROPOLOGY FACULTY FOR GRADUATING SENIORS

ADVICE FROM GRADUATES FOR INCOMING ANTHROPOLOGY STUDENTS

SPRING 2020 AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS
We asked our graduates to tell us about their best memories from their time in the Department of Anthropology and their plans for the future. Check out their answers below!
FRANCESCA OLIVERIO

“Anthropology makes me see that, to understand others, you need to understand how they view the world because even though we are a part of the human race, people are influenced by different factors such as the physical, social and political environments.”

After graduation, Francesca plans to take a year off and work.

KAITLYN BLACK

“I loved my field school experience and undergraduate research in Guatemala! I believe anthropology has taught me to understand multiple perspectives and has helped me step out of my comfort zone in order to gain experience in the world around me.”

Kaitlyn plans on working in the non-profit sector and attending graduate school for non-profit administration.
VICTORIA EARLEY

"There was so much about UWG Anthropology that I enjoyed but the things that made their mark on me were Field Methods in Physical Anthropology, the Survivalist Toolkit class, and being a part of the Biological and Forensic Anthropology Lab!"

Victoria plans to find a job in the field of Forensic Anthropology

KAYLEIGH KEIM

"Anthropology helps me look at another person's perspective before judgement. One highlight of my experience was the chance to travel outside the university to learn and bring that back to help with future projects."

Kayleigh plans to continue her education at Emory to specialize in nuclear medicine.

TAYLOR WILLIAMS

"Anthropology allows me to think in a way many couldn't and I love it because it makes for more intellectual conversations."

After graduation, Taylor will be moving to North Carolina to begin work at a coroner's office. She plans to pursue a Masters in Criminology.
KAYELAH DAVIS

"Anthropology makes me more open to differences that once made me uncomfortable."

After graduation Kayelah plans to move to Texas with her children. Her favorite memory of her time at UWG Anthropology was doing the Pig Dig with Dr. Corey Maggiano.

RYAN BENNETT

"Anthropology has given me a more open-minded outlook on the whole of humanity."

Ryan plans to enter the field of Cultural Resource Management and will apply for graduate school.
"One of the highlights of my experience in the Anthropology Department at UWG would be the in-depth mentoring that I have received from my mentors, Dr. Marjorie Snipes and Dr. Lisa Gezon. They have both been very helpful in making me realize the importance of Anthropology in our world as well as in my personal life."

Jawonna is interested in pursuing a Masters in Educational Anthropology and has some job prospects lined up related to teaching K-6th grade students from disadvantaged communities.

This year's Waring Service Award goes to Jawonna Coleman for her amazing work as an Anthropology Ambassador. Jawonna has been engaged in the development of presentations and other promotional material for our department and has worked many hours in reaching out to our alumni to build a catalogue for the department with contacts and career paths. Her efforts were supervised by both, Dr. Lisa Gezon and Dr. Corey Maggiano. We are proud of her outstanding engagement for our department and have, as a department, nominated Jawonna Coleman for this award.

Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors!
"Great job! You made it! You are officially beginning a new you! You are stronger now than you ever were before, and we are proud of all your hard work. Don't forget that Anthropology is a theoretical and methodological space that you can exist within, no matter where you are. Practice knowing the benefits of our way of thinking in each situation; celebrate your adaptability, your connectability, and your problem solving ability. There aren't troubles these traits won't help you solve! We helped you understand our human world as it was and is. Now, you get to go make it better."

- Dr. Corey Maggiano

"Never before was Anthropology more important in the world. I can't wait for you to take what you learned, get out there, and show everyone why. It's going to be fabulous! Congratulations!"

- Dr. Isabel Maggiano

"Congratulations! As fledgling anthropologists you are leaving UWG with a truly unique worldview. Your anthropological lens will help you see the world in ways that others cannot. You will be able to notice details without missing the big picture. You'll be able to see connections where others only see divisions. And you will find solutions in places others forget to look."

- Dr. Vivian Gornik
NOTES FROM FACULTY TO OUR SENIORS

The current time we are living through reminds me of my own senior year of college which was in 2001, in New York during and following the 9/11 attacks. Everyday life shut down temporarily and people were afraid to leave home, afraid of what might come next. We are all faced with a very different kind of suspension of the everyday right now, amid a prolonged crisis that has pitted our collective economic concerns against our concerns for the physical well being of our families and communities. This time is scary, and confusing, and so very hard for us all. That being said we will get through it!! And as graduating anthropology majors you are well equipped to observe, analyze, and reflect on the complex social, physiological, cultural, and global processes that are shaping this pandemic and its effects on human populations around the world. You are able to look back at historical phenomena and consider them in relation to what is happening now, and you are able to look at complex human problems holistically, and bring innovative perspectives to bear on these emergent social issues. Your training in Anthropology will stay with you and serve you on whatever path your life follows. We are so proud of you and your accomplishments as part of our Anthropology community, and would love for you to keep us posted on what you choose to do in the years to come! Stay safe, be well, and most of all, congratulations!!

- Dr. Elizabeth Falconi

Congratulations to each of you in making it to this important rite of passage! You are now officially degree-holding anthropologists, prepared to meet the challenges our world is facing head on. Remember that the work you do is ever so important, especially in today's globalized world. Ruth Benedict's famous quote, "The purpose of anthropology is to make the world safe for human differences," is ever becoming more important to remember, and as anthropologists we all have a duty to teach the world the importance and sanctity of that variability. I look forward to hearing about all the great work you continue to do in making the world a safer place for everyone!

- Dr. Nathan Lawres
MESSAGES FROM DR. MARJORIE SNIPES

Ryan Bennett: Congratulations, Ryan! I’ll always think about you when I teach theory and I look forward to reading your own research as you advance in your anthropology studies. Thank you for helping me with Lab tours and for encouraging our new students. Well done, Ryan.

Kaitlyn Black: Congratulations, Kaitlyn! I hope you will continue in your animal research and I look forward to continuing contributions from you after this big step. Well done, Kaitlyn.

Jawonna Coleman: Congratulations, Jawonna! I enjoyed working with you on your religion project and hope your energetic energy for scholarship continues. We need more scholars with your drive. Well done, Jawonna.

Kayelah Davis: Congratulations Kayelah! Your tenacity and unending optimism inspire me and I know that your academic journey is not over yet. I look forward to reading your own contributions to scholarship over the years to come. Well done, Kayelah.

Victoria Earley: Congratulations, Victoria! I’ll always remember you in theory class, trying new ways of thinking and rising up to challenges. I admire you for your energy and devotion. Use those same traits in your next opportunities and all will be well. Well done, Victoria.

Kayleigh Keim: Congratulations, Kayleigh! I remember you best in Ethnographic Field Methods, where you worked so creatively and efficiently. I look forward to cheering you on in the future and know those same skills will continue to serve you well. Well done, Kayleigh.

Amber Kelly: Congratulations, Amber! I remember you most in theory class where your probing questions helped to teach us all. You bring such professionalism to your tasks and I look forward to hearing about your future accomplishments as well. Well done, Amber.

Francesca Oliverio: Congratulations, Francesca! Your quiet presence in class belies such a serious approach to learning. It is a joy to have learned with you and I look forward to hearing more about your next where-to. Well done, Francesca.

Taylor Williams: Congratulations, Taylor! I remember you as sunshine in my classes. You bring light and laughter into all of your spaces and make those of us around you gravitate to your positive energy. I can’t wait to cheer you on as you move into the next challenges. Well done, Taylor.
MESSAGES FROM DR. LISA GEZON

Ryan Bennett: I remember first meeting you as a brand new freshman, when you attended our Meet and Greet for incoming students. You have made a mark on the department with your tenacity in finding opportunities to study abroad, do research and present it, and lead the Anthropological Society. I know you will continue to make great contributions at the Waring Lab, and I have no doubt you have a brilliant career in from of you! You have really made the best of all UWG has to offer. Best wishes as you carry on!

Kaitlyn Black: I loved working with you not only as a student in my class, but also as a young researcher. You stand out as someone willing to take risks and try new things. After doing a field methods study abroad in Guatemala, you went back two times on your own to do research and then presented at conferences. Your persistence in working through multiple IRBs is one of the things I will never forget! You took charge and got it done. Good work, Katie!

Jawonna Coleman: You have come a long way since you applied to be a research assistant on the GreenBelt project! You are a young scholar with so much promise. You received the Waring Research Scholarship twice, for very different projects, with different faculty mentors. The work you are doing will take you far and is worthy of publication. You are a shining star, Jawonna!

Kayelah Davis: You are hard-working and determined. You are someone who will meet goals, no matter how difficult it is. I would count on you to get any job done. While I haven’t known you as well as some others, I have thoroughly enjoyed having you in class and seeing you in the hallways!

Kayleigh Keim: I am so proud to have seen you grow from a freshman in my Honors Introduction to Anthropology class to the mature senior you are now. I have loved the conversations we have had in my office – about class, big ideas, or anything at all. Your candor and curiosity are endearing and I will miss that. I know you’ll make a big mark on the world with your compassion and capabilities.

Amber Kelly: You’ve been a steady presence in my classes and I always knew I could count on you to be present and contribute insightfully. Your passion for the medical field is obvious and will take you far!

Francesca Oliverio: Your warm friendliness is infectious! I have deeply enjoyed having you in my classes for the fresh perspectives you bring. Congratulations on graduating!

Taylor Williams: You have been a bright star in my life during your time here at UWG. Your passion for everything you do is unstoppable. Your curiosity, combined with critical thinking and desire for justice, will take you far and to interesting places in life.

Victoria Earley: I have enjoyed having you in class. Your participation is always sincere and thoughtful. Keep following your dreams!
Advice from graduates for incoming Anthropology Students

"The best advice I can offer incoming students is to do your best and really take advantage of any opportunity that their professors offer them. By being active in the department, I have been able to gain skills and professional/life experience that I would have never gained if I did not get involved."
- Jawonna Coleman

"Focus and take notes on what the professor is saying more than the PowerPoint. Also, try and get involved as much as possible."
- Kayleigh Keim

"Everyone should take advantage of Study Abroad, there are plenty of scholarships to help students pay for it."
- Kaitlyn Black

"Discover your passion in the field. When you do everything will be a bit more enjoyable."
- Ryan Bennett

"Don't be afraid of hard work or getting down and dirty in field schools!"
- Victoria Earley

"Go through your due dates and deadlines DAILY to minimize missing assignments!"
- Kayelah Davis

"Never be afraid to ask any professor for help. Whether it is for a class or just questions about anthropology out in the real world. They all kind and very knowledgeable and love to help you."
- Francesca Oliverio

"Always stay focused, and create great relationships with your teachers."
- Taylor Williams
AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Normally we would recognize all of these students at the Department of Anthropology Spring Awards Ceremony. Since we cannot celebrate in person, we wanted to share the information here. Congratulations to all those who were recognized!

Waring Merit Scholarship Recipients
Fall 2019/Spring 2020
Ryan Bennett
Michaiah Bolar
Kayleigh Keim
Ashton Long
Syenne Melton
Bailey Oliveria
Shay Perry
Robert Scarborough
Jessica Sission
William Smock
Haleigh Villalba
Michaela Whitley
Taylor Williams

Anthropology Engagement Award
Robert Scarborough

Waring Outstanding Service Award
Jawonna Coleman

Ray Cook Award
Megan Ware

Karl Steinen Award
Angela Pashia
Associate Professor & Head of Learning & Research Support
Ingram Library

Summer 2020 Field School Scholarships

Archaeology
Jordan Norbraten
Mary Poncela

Physical Anthropology
Coleman Harrelson
Syenne Melton
Dejuan Perdue
Sarah Rogers
Elayna Roper
Jessica Sisson
William Smock
Rodney Thomas
Nylah William
Megan Ware

Waring Research Scholarship Recipients
Sarah Rogers
Jawonna Coleman

Waring Distinguished Scholar Award
Jawonna Coleman

John W. Whatley Award
Jacob (Tate) Mikels

Thelma B. Larson Award
Sarah Rogers

Carole E. Hill Award
Ryan Bennett

Associate Professor & Head of Learning & Research Support
Ingram Library