

# Anthropology News

Spring  
2017

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Dreamers. Thinkers. Doers.



## Farewell and thank you to Dr. Christopher Barton

Chris joined our Department in fall 2015, offering popular courses on the culture history of toys and public archaeology in museums. His book, *Historical Racialized Toys in the United States* (with Kyle Somerville) was published in 2016. Chris has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Archaeology in the History Department at Francis Marion University, SC, and has won a Fulbright to conduct research in summer 2018 on Great Blasket Island, Ireland. He writes, "I am so very grateful for my time in the Anthropology Department here at the U of M. In the short time that I have been here I have grown both as an educator and as a person. From my colleagues, the staff, and students-- I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in Memphis. I am sad to leave, but I know that the connections I have made in Memphis will continue as I this enter a new chapter in my life. Thank you for everything." We will miss Chris, and wish him tremendous success!

## ANTHROPOLOGY CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY WITH CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN

This year our Department celebrates the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our applied MA program and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our BA program! A key to our success has been offering students real world professional development experience. This includes opportunities to present their work at national conferences and build networks that advance their careers.

This spring, more than a dozen of our graduate students will present their work at the Society for Applied Anthropology meetings in this year's host city of Santa Fe, NM. To support student travel we are launching a crowdfunding effort. Our goal is to raise \$5000 between March 13 and April 4.

### Will you make a tax deductible gift to our campaign by April 4?

Any amount helps us reach our goal. To donate online visit <https://momentum.memphis.edu/> and find the *Anthropology Graduate Students on a Professional Trail* campaign. If you prefer to donate by check, please make it payable to the University of Memphis Foundation and write "Anthropology Graduate Students on a Professional Trail" in the memo line. Mail your check to: ANTH Campaign, 316 Manning Hall, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 38152. We appreciate your commitment to our Department and the success of our students!

Dr. Keri Brondo is working on a new book based on her research in Honduras on conservation voluntourism, tentatively titled *Multi-species Entanglements in Honduras' Affect Economy*. She plans to return to the field over the next year. She also recently published a co-authored piece in *Annals of Anthropological Practice* on the inclusion of students in this project, which was supported by an Engaged Scholarship Research Grant. Her earlier book on Honduras, *Land Grab*, (AUP 2013) was just released in paperback this January. Dr. Brondo was also recently honored at the 2016 AAA Annual Meetings with the organization's President's Award for her leadership in the discipline.

Dr. Michael Duke received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor as of fall 2016. He continues his longitudinal research on alcohol use and historical trauma among Marshall Islanders living and working in the southeastern United States. Dr. Duke was also recently appointed as a Policy Fellow at the University of Memphis' Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change. In this capacity, he has initiated a writing project focusing on the economic and social contributions of immigrant populations to small cities in the US.



Dr. Keri Brondo receives award from AAA President Alisse Waterston



Dr. Ruthbeth Finerman is completing two research projects. A three-year collaboration with the UofM Center for Research on Women, A Step Ahead Foundation and Christ Community Health Services evaluates educational supports to improve contraception access among underserved women. A new partnership with Le Bonheur will create a question prompt tool that empowers parents to engage in more informed decisions about non-emergency surgery for children. Graduate students Nikole Gettings, Lyndsey Pender, and Megan Wilkinson are assisting with research.

A new ServiceMaster Design & Innovation Ethnography Fellowship will fund MA study in Anthropology! For details email [kbrondo@memphis.edu](mailto:kbrondo@memphis.edu).

# Faculty News, cont'd



**Dr. Kathryn Hicks** received a Marcus Orr Center for the Humanities Fellowship for spring 2017 for research on inequality, developmental plasticity and obesity. Her collaborative paper on Bolivian climate justice activism appeared in *Latin American Perspectives*, and another with Katherine Lambert-Pennington on race and class dynamics of local farmers markets is in *Culture, Agriculture, Food and Environment*. She is working with graduate student Evan Wilson and Sierra Club's Rita Harris to document the history of environmental

justice organizing in Memphis.

**Dr. Katherine Lambert Pennington** and colleagues from the Department of City and Regional Planning will co-lead an engaged learning Study Abroad trip to Sicily in the summer of 2017. The 11-day intensive program takes place in the shadow of Mount Etna along the Simeto River, an area known for being the breadbasket of Sicily. This will be the second year that anthropology students have joined in the Summer School's work with community groups and municipal leaders from the Simeto River Valley. Over the



course of the summer 2017 Sicily trip, students will exchange ideas with local experts and community groups, visit key sites and attend cultural events, and engage in a variety of data collection and analysis activities in an effort to address a local development question of the community's choosing.

**Dr. Micah Trapp** and graduate student Sara Tornabene are working with undergraduate students enrolled in a spring 2017 Ethnographic Methods course to conduct research on Shelby County school lunch programs. Students engage in hands-on learning with participant-observation in an elementary school cafeteria, interviewing, and data analysis. Micah will continue this research during the 2017-2018 academic year with the support of a Professional Development Award from the College of Arts and Sciences.

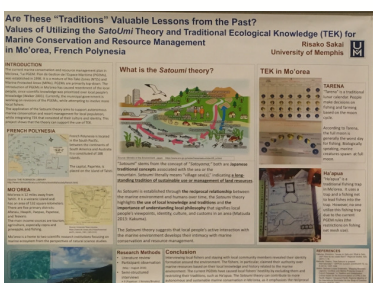


## Attending the spring 2017 SfAA Meetings in Santa Fe?

Please plan to join us for a massive University of Memphis Anthropology alumni-student-faculty reunion dinner on Thursday, March 30. We pay for dinner (you pay for your drinks). For details on the time and place, and to RSVP please email Dr. Finerman at [finerman@memphis.edu](mailto:finerman@memphis.edu).

# Anthropology Students & Alumni

**Congratulations Fall 2016 MA Graduates!** Caleb Klipowicz, Daryl Stevens, and Emily White completed their degrees in December.



**Congratulations to Risako Sakai**, who won the Student Research Poster Prize from the Anthropology and Environment Society at the 2016 AAA meetings! Risa also won a CAS Travel Award to attend the 2017 SfAA meetings. Her practicum advances marine conservation in French Polynesia. Risa's prize-winning poster is shown at left.

**Joyce Harris's** practicum evaluates a Plough Foundation-funded Aging Mastery Program through The Works, Inc.

**Hamda Khan** is evaluating the Life Story prenatal care education program for Christ Community Health Services as her practicum assignment.

**Elizabeth Manoah** is working with alum Jamie Russell (1999) at St. Jude to understand barriers to care for perinatally-infected HIV+ women.

**Lyndsey Pender's** practicum evaluates services for senior abuse victims with CREA (Coordinated Response to Elder Abuse) for Shelby County.

**Patricia Tobbe's** Alliance for Historic Wyoming practicum advanced inclusiveness among members, partners, and historic preservation projects.

**Kendra Vaughn's** practicum with the Shelby County Health Department examines barriers to pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention.

**Evan Wilson's** Sierra Club practicum creates a digital timeline and a documentary on Memphis' history of environmental justice activism.

**Nur Abdalla** (2016) is Collections and Special Projects Coordinator at the Morton Museum of Collierville, TN.

**Taylor Arnold** (2015) is Project Manager, Family & Community Medicine at Wake Forest School of Medicine, studying immigrant worker health.

**Beth DeBlanc** (2006) is an investigator with the Roderick and Solange MacArthur Justice Center in New Orleans., working with incarcerated individuals to advance criminal justice reform and address inhumane and unconstitutional conditions inside the prison system.

**Alicia Clark** (2015) works with the Homeless Alliance of WNY where she helps monitor program performance to improve homeless care services.

**Carole Glover Kuratnikova** (1989) has a new position at FEMA.

**Sarah Hoover** (2014) conducts research at the Interdisciplinary Sexuality Research Collaborative (ISRC) at Widener University.

**Kody Kirby** (2016) is a Conservation Organizer with the Alaska Center for the Environment.

**Colleen McCartney** (2016) works at the DeSoto County Museum in Hernando, MS

**Kevin Newton** (2015) conducts design ethnography for ServiceMaster.

**Chris Reeder** (2007) earned a grant from Habitat International focused on well-being. Recent projects include a Pay For Success project with Le Bonheur's Community Wellness to address chronic childhood asthma.

**Deanna Stark** (2016) is an instructional trainer at the Memphis VA, where she teaches courses on Self-Care for Caregivers.

**Rachel Wright** (2007) is employed by ThinkTennessee, which finds moderate, pragmatic solutions to public policy in Tennessee.