



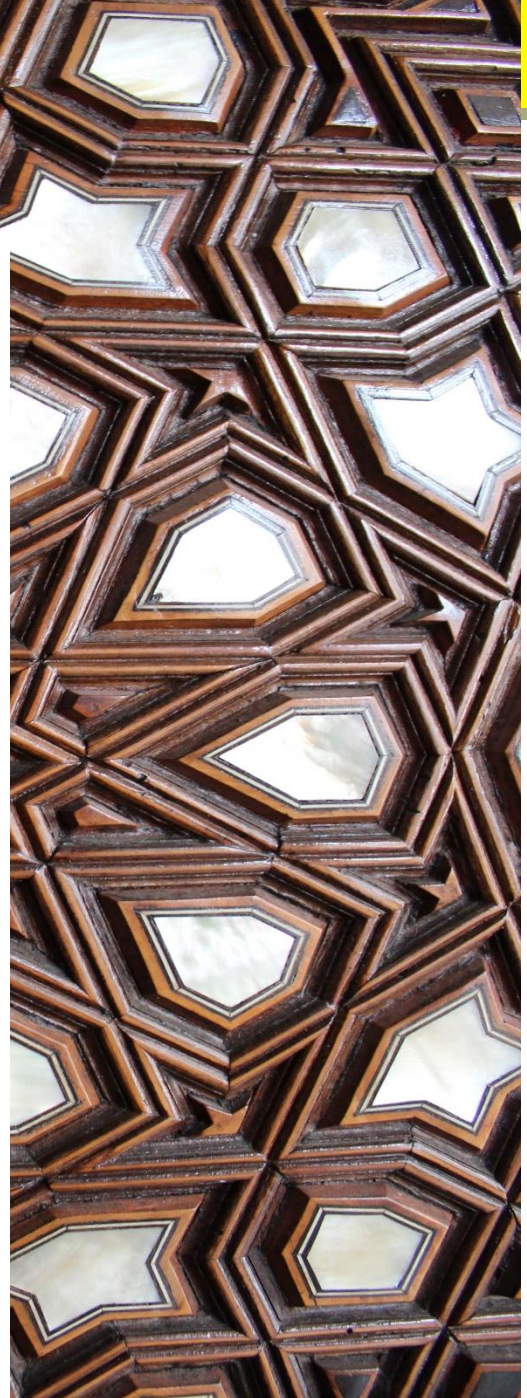
## **Anthropology Department**

### **Newsletter**

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SUMMER 2021

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# Some days are diamonds, some days are rocks

Dr. David Fazzino

I began with opening lines to Tom Petty's song "Walls" which allegedly Johnny Cash said to Tom Petty one day. Indeed, we've all likely had some of these days since March 2020. The pandemic has provided sharp relief to see what can await us each day. In these time of uncertainty we can also see hope. It has been over a year since our faculty have been able to teach anthropology students in face-to-face classes. During this time there has been a fair amount of change with more changes on the horizon (See, for example, <https://www.newswise.com/coronavirus/anthropologists-find-americans-sense-of-community-wanes-as-pandemic-goes-on-leading-to-increases-in-public-incidents-of-rage-and-racism>).

We are seeing during these trying times the continued need for our work as anthropologist to inform the present through careful studies of both the past and the present. This has taken a variety of forms, and while our research has potentially been stymied in some directions it has also created a greater space and hence opportunity to move in directions we might not otherwise pursue.

Anthropology is a discipline that holistically considers the current moment in the context of broad experiences of humanity across space and time. We, as a species, have been successful because of our ability to problem-solve, communicate, and work collectively to answer challenges. The recent and continuing COVID-19 pandemic has been one such call with resultant innovations in research, sharing of information, and new initiatives. In March 2021 I was published in NAPA Notes ([https://www.practicinganthropology.org/media/newsletter/NAPA\\_Notes\\_March\\_2021.pdf](https://www.practicinganthropology.org/media/newsletter/NAPA_Notes_March_2021.pdf)) reflecting on the value, or the silver-linings, that have been shown to us by the transformation of professional meetings to all online affairs. Many of the same benefits would also apply to the shifts that we have seen in taking a greater number of classes online and staying online in workplaces, post-pandemic. I reprint the material from NAPA Notes below:

1. Dramatically decreasing the carbon footprint: According to a couple of online carbon footprint calculators, my flight from Scranton-Wilke Barre to Honolulu, where the ASAO Annual Meeting is often held, would produce 2 tons of carbon dioxide. This number represents a large portion of the total ecological footprint of my attendance at the meeting that would also include ground transport, eating at restaurants, and an increase in the amount of trash I would produce.
2. An increase in field-based participation: Virtual conferences can act to level the playing field in allowing for participation from a wider variety of individuals and organizations including Indigenous Peoples and small NGOs as they remove many of the costs associated with conference attendance and participation. At the ASAO Annual Meeting I was able to co-present on issues surrounding the repatriation of Kosraean artifacts with Standon Andrew, long-time Kosrae Historic Preservation Officer, who has led a years-long effort to develop a museum for historic preservation on Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia. Standon was on Kosrae and was able to meet his many work and family responsibilities and commitments on the same day he was able to share his perspectives on what we were discussing at an

- academic conference about his work. This experience aligned well with ASAO's approach to meetings as "small, intimate, informal, and cooperative." (<https://www.asao.org/>)
3. An increase in scholarly participation: In much the same way that the virtual conference created the space for Standon to attend, it also did so for me by allowing me to attend university meetings in the morning and early afternoon and still attend the two ASAO sessions from late afternoon through the early evening. In the same manner, practicing Anthropologists could remain engaged in fieldwork while still participating in a meaningful manner.

These ideas I expressed are by no means unique with news articles such as, "Scientists want virtual meetings to stay after the COVID pandemic" in *Nature* <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-00513-1> reporting on shared sentiment amongst scientist. These are ideas I continue to develop and was able to present on these at the Northeastern Anthropological Association (NEAA) Annual Meeting <http://www.neaa.org/conference/home> in April 2021. At that presentation, I reflected further on my presentation at the *Food Security and Environmental Change: Linking Science, Technology and Policy for Adaptation* conference. This was a trip riddled with irony, 4 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> that I am personally responsible for, the beginning of a friendship, and participation in something that made me feel real important at the time, especially dining at a hall resembling Hogwarts, my gosh it was Oxford!

COVID-19 has shown me some dark places of professionalism that I was able to deny for some time, namely participation and engagement with and in the discipline of anthropology in this manner is marred with questions of justice along the lines of how said participation is a privilege that reinforces social inequality and contributes directly to climate change.

## BU University Foundation, Inc. hosts Anthropology Giving Page

We have worked with the Bloomsburg University Foundation, Inc. to develop a giving page which will support student success at Bloomsburg. The webpage gives you the ability to contribute to the BU Anthropology Department, contribute anonymously, or make a gift on behalf of an organization. Our Department's giving page is now live at <https://giving.bloomu.edu/donate/department-pages/anthropology/support-the-anthropology-department>. The text from the webpage is as follows: The Anthropology Department at Bloomsburg University teaches students to examine the full complexity of humankind through scientific and humanistic orientations in order to arrive at the fullest possible understanding of human diversity.

Students in the major develop skills in research, theory, writing, and application of anthropological knowledge to enhance academic excellence and professional development.

A gift to the Anthropology Department will help fund field trips for students, research opportunities, and travel expenses for professional experiences that will lead students to become responsible

practitioners who can identify, assess, and offer solutions to social problems in order to serve the changing needs of the Commonwealth and to maximize opportunities in our globalizing world.

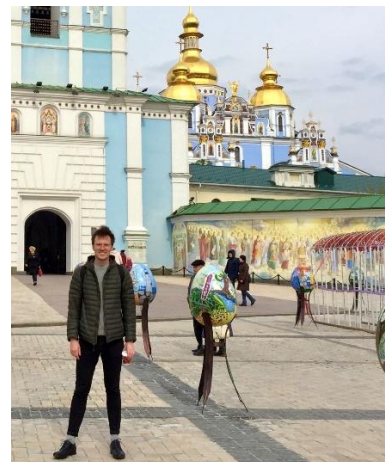
## Meet a BU Grad

Jacob Osborne, Junior Researcher at Nivel, Netherlands, by email, [josborne570@gmail.com](mailto:josborne570@gmail.com).

Each newsletter we will feature a recent graduate to give you an idea of where Anthropology can take you! Here's a note and some pictures from Jacob Osborne.

I graduated from Bloomsburg University in 2016, majoring in Anthropology with a minor in Ethnic Studies. After my time at BU I studied at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, where I completed a Master of Science in Global Health, with an emphasis on research. This Master's degree allowed me to apply my social science knowledge to a broader field. I carried out research on HIV testing policies among sex workers in Ukraine and LGBT mental health services in Amsterdam. My educational experience opened the door to exciting opportunities like working as a lecturer at my university in Amsterdam and assisting at a training seminar for European Union delegates in Brussels. I am currently working at a health services research institute in Utrecht, the Netherlands, where I am involved with a global social science research consortium investigating vulnerability and community engagement in the context of infectious diseases. My work in this project forms the study for my PhD.

Studying anthropology at Bloomsburg was absolutely an invaluable experience and contributes to my current work. Having a background in the social sciences was and continues to be a major benefit as I take part in various conversations that are typically dominated by knowledge from the biomedical sciences. At Bloomsburg, I was able to take a broad range of courses, conduct some of my own research, and focus more closely on topics that interested me with individualized instruction. Above all, the mentorship I received from my advisor, Dr. David Fazzino, was what drew me to challenge myself in my studies and realize the value and applications of anthropology. That kind of personal guidance is what I consider one of the biggest benefits of studying at Bloomsburg.





# Congratulations to the 2020-2021 Outstanding Students in Anthropology

Each year the Department of Anthropology faculty members vote on the outstanding students in anthropology. This year the honor was shared by Andrew Miller and Ashley Moreno. Andrew joined Dr. Marken in the field this summer and we hope to share his story in the next issue of the newsletter. Below, Ashley shares her reflection on her time at Bloomsburg University.

Hello! My name is Ashley Moreno, a recent graduate from Bloomsburg University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Bachelor of Arts with dual majors in Applied and Research Anthropology. I have known for a long time I wanted to be a labor & delivery nurse, expanding my practice to help lower infant mortality rates in rural and underdeveloped areas across the globe. After my first introduction to anthropology course in my freshman year, I knew that adding Anthropology as another major brought the added insight, knowledge, and cultural experiences that would help me practice as a nurse to save mothers and infants, while also understanding cultural and religious practices surrounding childbirth that are integral to the holistic healthcare in my future career. Through nursing, I had incredible clinical experiences at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, including a rotation on the labor & delivery floor, which was, of course, my favorite rotation! As an internship for applied anthropology, I traveled to Rwanda for a Global Health field course where I learned about the health care system of a small country in Africa and observed care in a health center, taking a closer look into infection control. I was also able to conduct further research through anthropology about maternal and infant care nurses and midwives in Rwanda and Tanzania, highlighting the challenges they face to provide adequate nursing care due to lack of supplies and training on top of patient overload and understaffing. After obtaining survey responses and analyzing data, I had the opportunity to disseminate my research as a poster at the 2021 Society for Applied Anthropology virtual conference, and as a paper at the 2021 Northeastern Anthropological Association virtual conference, as well as other more local conferences through Bloomsburg and neighboring universities. I am excited to announce I will be working as a Labor & Delivery RN at Geisinger Community Medical Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania, with goals to gain nursing experience then transition to working as a traveling nurse both nationally and internationally, incorporating traditional practices and cultural beliefs into the care of mothers and infants around the world.



# Center for Community Research and Consulting Opportunities

Dr. Susan Dauria

Students should be aware that positions are available at the Center for Community Research and Consulting for research collaboration and other community engagement projects this summer and fall. If any Anthropology major is interested in a position at the Center for Community Research and Consulting they should contact Dr. Dauria for information ([sdauria@bloomu.edu](mailto:sdauria@bloomu.edu)).

The Center has funds to support students in their efforts to collaborate with community partners for research and consulting. There are several students currently hard at work at the Bloomsburg Center for Community Research and Consulting this summer. These student workers are collecting and analyzing data for a Civic and Environmental Worldview and Engagement Survey (CEWE). The survey was created through a collaboration of faculty intended to gather information about students' beliefs about the environment, but it also includes data on food insecurity, housing, and views on political issues. If any student would like to participate in the survey the anonymous link is:

[https://bloomu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_br3ZHVMrT5JgyJD](https://bloomu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_br3ZHVMrT5JgyJD)

It should take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Participation is completely voluntary. You may decline to participate or start and then cease participation at any time without penalty.

All answers will be kept confidential. Please do not put any personally identifying information on the survey form.

## Enhancing Research Capacity at the Department Level

Over the summer our secretary and chair have been busy helping enhance our ability to do research by: 1. Creating a dedicated lab space for students and faculty to engage with research and coursework in each of the subfields we teach and 2. Procuring research equipment. The lab is located in the back of the department. We have worked to create a dynamic, open, and usable space to help students explore the human condition. We have also invested in equipment that students can use to do their coursework and research. The most recent of these investments was in 15 LiveScribe Symphony - digital pens with Bluetooth as well as notebooks. For more on these see <https://www.cdwg.com/product/livescribe-symphony-digital-pen-bluetooth/6169351?pfm=srh>.

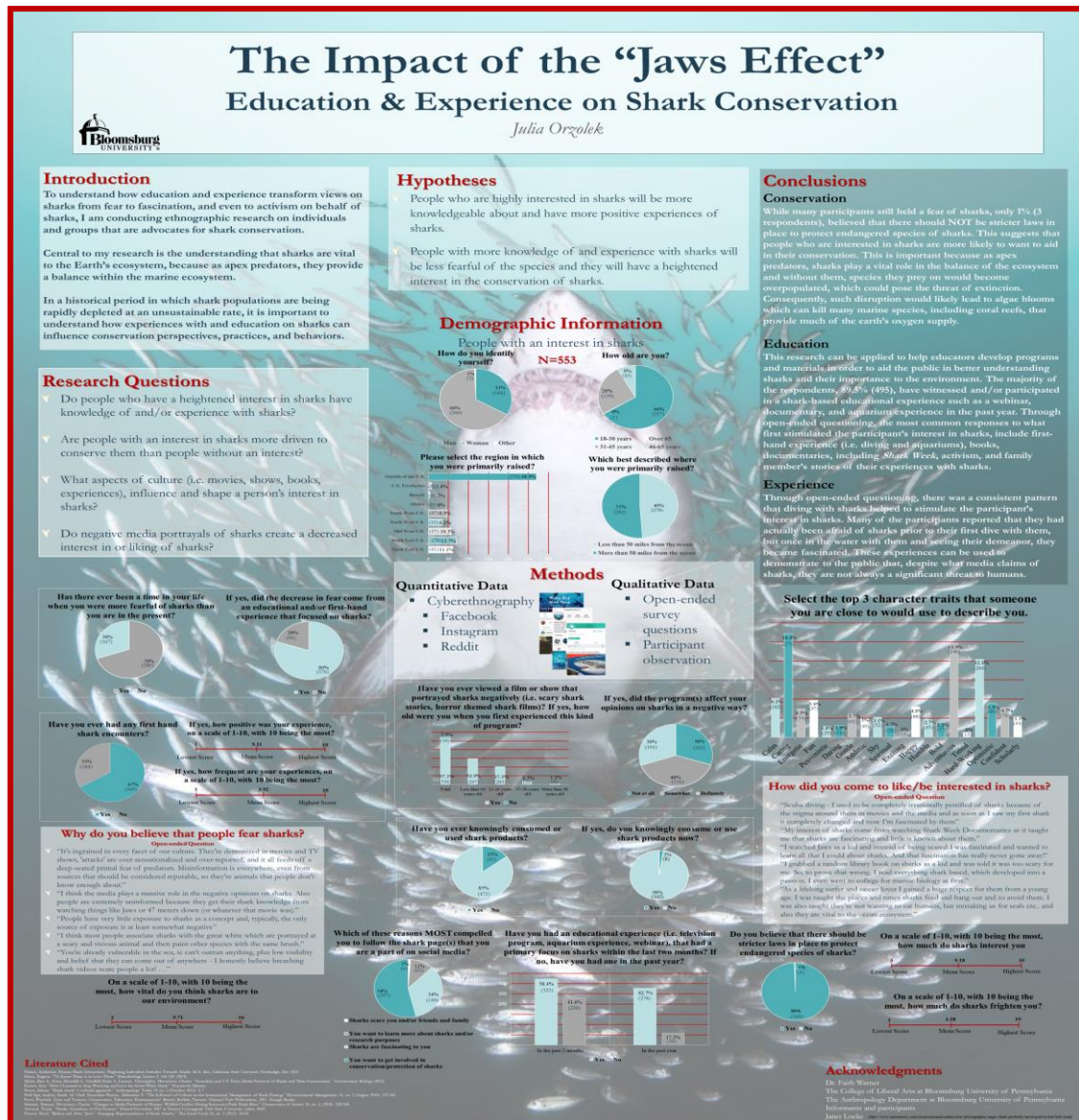
# Congratulations to Julia Orzolek

on being selected for two poster prize awards for her ethnographic research conducted in *Methods in Cultural Anthropology*.

## Honorable Mention Student Poster Prize Northeastern Anthropological Association Annual Meeting Anthropology in a Time of Transition and Crisis



## Valene Smith Poster Prize Honorable Mention 81st Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology Linking Social, Cultural and Physical Ecologies

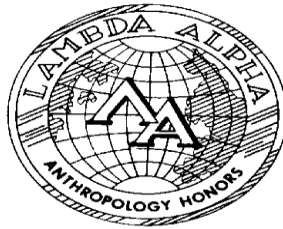




# *Congratulations*

## *to the 2021 Inductees into Lambda Alpha National Honor Society in Anthropology*

*Zeta Chapter of Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania*



Ashley Huff  
Julia Klein  
Lindsay Scerbo

Laura Edwards  
Julia Orzolek  
Corinne Thomas

Cameron Kilpatrick  
Meghan Reeder  
Emily Zerbe

### ***Why Join Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society?***

*Joining a college honor society is a way of acknowledging superior academic achievement. Some honor societies recognize overall student achievement based on cumulative GPA. Other honor societies recognize achievement in specific disciplines or majors, such as Lambda Alpha. Membership in an honor society is a way to emphasize your superior academic performance in your professional credentials. Membership in a college honor society is typically noted on your resume or curriculum vita to demonstrate that you achieved academic excellence while completing your college education. Many potential employers and graduate program admission committees understand and appreciate the distinction accorded by membership in honor societies.*

### **Lambda Alpha Merchandise**

#### **Lambda Alpha graduation regalia items**

We have a supply of satin Lambda Alpha honor stoles that may be worn on your graduation gown for \$25. In addition, we also have cloisonné tack bearing the emblem and colors of our organization for \$10.

