



Department of Anthropology

30th Annual Colloquium

Friday, March 6th, 2020

9:00 am–3:30 pm

Special Events Room,
6137 McKeldin Library

Schedule

9:00-9:40

Meet and Greet Breakfast

9:40-10:00

Opening Remarks

Dr. Paul Shackel, Department Chair

Dr. Christina Getrich, Director of Graduate Studies

10:00-11:00

**Panel 1: Evaluating Vulnerability and
Increasing Resilience in Interdisciplinary Spaces**

Moderator: Dr. Joseph Richardson

Kaleigh Blair

Hian Yong Yeo

Yi-En Tzeng

Discussion

11:00-11:15

Break

11:15-12:15

**Panel 2: Cultural Information, Curation,
and Application**

Moderator: Dr. Yancey Orr

Madeline Laub

Sean Jones

Maeve Bassett

Discussion

12:15-1:15

Lunch and Talk

Guest Speaker: Kerry Hawk Lessard

1:15-2:15

**Panel 3: Narratives of Marginalization:
Hidden Histories and Frontline Activism**

Moderator: Dr. Marlaina Martin

Abigail Johnson

Julieta Ferrera

Elizabeth McCague

Discussion

2:15-2:30

Closing Remarks

Dr. Christina Getrich

2:30-3:30

Celebration

Panel 1: Evaluating Vulnerability and Increasing Resilience in Interdisciplinary Spaces

“Strengthening Ecological Research through Anthropology: Insights from my Time with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center”

By: Kaleigh Blair

My internship this summer at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) was ecologically focused and interdisciplinary by nature. Coming in as a student of environmental anthropology, my objective was to engage in participant observation with ecologists and evaluate the ways in which ecological research could be improved if it were to incorporate anthropological thinking and methods. This presentation will cover three of the research projects that I was involved in most heavily at SERC, as well as my suggestions for enriching them by utilizing anthropology. I will also discuss products of this internship, which took the form of three NSF-style project proposals to be considered for future social science interns through SERC’s internship program.

“International Students: Mental Health and Wellbeing in the Trump Era”

By: Hian Yong Yeo

During the summer of 2019, I conducted in-depth interviews with 20 international students at the University of Maryland for the purpose of examining their unique biopolitical perspective that is under-examined in the field of anthropology. I argue that international students are subject to particular processes that shape them as a structurally vulnerable population. My presentation will explore how the US immigration system serves as a tool to exert biopolitical power on international students, and how that impacts international students’ day to day decisions and their mental health. Ultimately, this project aims to better serve this population in the University.

“Navigating Oral Health Care Access: Dental Underinsurance at a Mobile Dental Clinic in Maryland”

By: Yi-En Tzeng

Examinations of constrained access to healthcare have predominantly focused on the fate of uninsured populations. Yet disparities in oral health are also pronounced for underinsured patients. In this project, I explore the trajectories of 15 individuals who attended the Mission of Mercy mobile dental clinic at the University of Maryland in September 2019. I delve into their pathways of

accessing dental care and factors at multiple levels that ultimately produce oral health disparities. I argue that structural factors existing in the healthcare system are of significance in creating the population who have insurance but does not fit their needs. The results of this project highlight the underinsurance gap that needs to be addressed in healthcare access.

Panel 2: Cultural Information, Curation, and Application

“Curation Conundrum- The Early Stages of the Archaeology in Annapolis Curation Project”

By: Madeline Laub

Throughout the Spring 2019 semester and the month of July, I completed my internship with the Archaeology in Annapolis (AiA) project. My internship largely focused on the curation of the AiA collection, which was amassed from thirty-eight years of excavations in the City of Annapolis and on Maryland’s Eastern Shore in both Queen Anne and Talbot counties. My internship also focused on the compilation of data for the new Archaeology in Annapolis website and database. This presentation will focus on the data compilation and management process that I created during my internship.

“Cultural Management, Public Outreach, and Research: The Enrichment of Germanna Archaeology”

By: Sean Jones

In the Summer of 2019, I completed my internship with The Germanna Foundation’s Archaeology Program to facilitate education, outreach, and cultural heritage management through the practical application of applied anthropology and public archaeology. Over the course of my internship, I developed a laboratory management plan, an artifact catalog, a collections management database, and an artifact exhibit. The culmination of my work resulted in contributions of an archaeological technical report for the site. In this presentation, I will explore how my work can facilitate education, outreach, and research for the purposes of The Germanna Foundation, as well as highlight possible discoveries related to the 18th century cultural landscape.

“Ethnobotany at the San Antonio Botanical Garden”

By: Maeve Bassett

For a three-month summer internship at the San Antonio Botanical Garden

in San Antonio, Texas, I determined a need for improved consolidation and stewardship of the garden and region's ethnobotanical knowledge. Using anthropological methodology and my own expertise, I approached increasing ethnobotanical education through four primary approaches: a database, signage, tours, and sustainability, which I adapted while working with the garden. This presentation will cover the importance of preserving ethnobotanical knowledge, the results of the internship, and how factors of this project are currently being applied.

Panel 3: Narratives of Marginalization: Hidden Histories and Frontline Activism

“The Collins Site: Ceramics Assemblage of Ireland’s Early Modern Period”

By: Abigail Johnson

This presentation deals with the ceramics assemblage of the 2019 field school excavations at the “Collins Site” in Skibbereen, Co. Mayo, Ireland. Within this ceramics assemblage, I focus on the variety of ware types and decorative techniques represented, following the transition from single-use, locally-made redwares, which are utilitarian in both function and “decoration” to English-imported porcelain imitations such as transfer-printed teawares. Aside from the archaeological significance of these ceramic ware types and decorative techniques in terms of their ability to provide relatively precise dates for their site of origin, I will look into the broader social implications of their presence and usage, particularly in an “impoverished” rural household, and create an interpretation of the emerging wave of global consumerism literally and symbolically represented in an object so extremely localized as a ceramic vessel used in a single household in early 20th century rural Ireland.

“Compounded Vulnerability of Latinx Who Use Drugs: Legal Violence and Frontline Provider’s Activism”

By: Julieta Ferrera

The hostile immigration climate against Latinx people in the United States results in reinforced delegitimization, rendering people “undeserving” of health and social services. I present findings from a sub-study of frontline providers in Maryland, from a larger ethnographic study of drug use and services. I argue that legal violence from law and policies coupled with immigration status

endangers health care access, resulting in compounded vulnerabilities such as stigma, trauma, and extreme hardship for Latinx people who use drugs. In this context, I demonstrate how frontline providers challenge legal violence through activism in their everyday work with Latinx people accessing care.

“‘The whole equestrian department, in a useful state, but by no means elegant’: An Exploration of the Equestrian Landscape at James Madison’s Montpelier”

By: Elizabeth McCague

Equestrian culture and the social, political, and economic networks that surround horse ownership have played a prominent role in the history of the Montpelier plantation from the 18th century to the present day. To better understand the impact of the property's equestrian industry, intensive archival research and landscape analysis were conducted in the research department of James Madison's Montpelier during the summer of 2019. The results of this research culminates in an equestrian walking tour of the landscape that will become part of the interpretative narrative for the museum. This presentation will showcase the results of this project.