

AnthroScope

USF Department of Anthropology Newsletter Fall 2020

Faculty Spotlight

Antoinette Jackson Assumes Role as Department Chair

This summer, Dr. Antoinette Jackson assumed the role of chair of the Anthropology Department, following the end of Dr. David Himmelgreen's tenure in that office. Reached for comment, Dr. Jackson said: "As anthropologists today, our goal is to recognize that our mission is tied up in what Dr. King describes as an 'inescapable network of mutuality' and a social justice approach allows us to showcase the holistic focus we bring to problem solving and community engagement in order to make a difference in people's lives in local, national and global ways. Let's meet people where they are in order to solve the critical problems before us with compassion, humor, and grace."

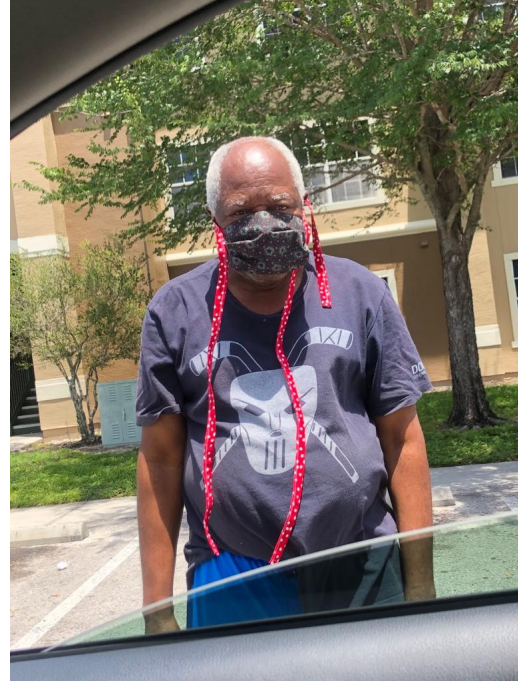


In addition to her role as chair, Dr. Jackson was awarded one of the 23 USF Understanding and Addressing Blackness and Anti-Black Racism in Local, National, and International Communities Research Grants. Her project is entitled: African American Burial Grounds & Remembering Project-Living Communities Challenging Silenced Histories in Florida. Antoinette Jackson is the principle investigator. Her Co-PIs include Dr. Julie Armstrong; Khalia Jenkins; Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez; Dr. Kathryn Weedman Arthur. The award for her research project amounted to \$30,000.

Further, Dr. Jackson is Co-PI on another grant award in the Understanding and Addressing Blackness and Anti-Black Racism in Local, National, and International Communities Research Grant series. This additional project is entitled: ***Still Here: The Griffith J. Davis Photographs and Archives in Context***. The principle investigator on this project is Noel Smith and, in addition to Dr. Jackson, the co-PIs include Ms. Dorothy Davis, The Griffith J. Davis Photographs and Archives.

As a final thought for this article, Dr. Jackson wanted to share an inspirational quote: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." — Martin Luther King Jr., [Letter from the Birmingham Jail](#)

Impact of Pandemic Policies on Tampa Bay Refugees



Since April 2020, a team of graduate students and multilingual community partners including Dr. Dillon Mahoney, Dr. Roberta Baer, Dr. Krista Billingsley, Renice Obure, and Michaela Inks has assessed the impacts of pandemic policies on refugees in Hillsborough County. We started with 21 interviews with Congolese household heads and have since completed similar evaluations with Arabic and Spanish-speakers. We addressed issues including: understandings of COVID-19 and how it is spread, ability to practice social/physical distancing, access to food assistance, helping children learn via online classes, and workplace disruptions, including the need to file for unemployment. With their recent grant, *Pandemic Fallout for Black Refugee Youth: Issues of Health, Education, Race, and Identity*, Lisa Armstrong and Mathews Wakhungu have also joined the team as we focus on youth in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties.

Their initial findings are accepted for publication in the journal *Human Organization* (Dec. 2020) and were shared via report with local physicians, resettlement staff, politicians, and state organizations such as the Department of Health. The complete report (<https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/anthropology/documents/rfcw-covid19-report.pdf>) addresses underlying inequities for resettling refugees that the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed: language barriers and access to public health information, food, healthcare, housing, and employment.

Their project illustrates the applied role anthropologists can play during a disease outbreak. Anthropologists have the linguistic and cultural knowledge to engage in “immediate anthropology,” brokering relationships between community members and physicians and public health officials. Anthropologists with experience with refugees can fill immediate gaps left by budget cuts to agencies that would otherwise be working directly with the neediest families.

Robbie Baer and Jason Wilson study COVID-19 Mask Use

In June 2020, Jason Wilson and Robbie Baer worked with the Tampa General Hospital epidemiologist on a study of relationships between face mask use and a positive COVID-19 diagnosis. They designed a patient survey to look at the impact of masks on decreasing viral transmission. The results of this survey were overwhelmingly supportive of the concept that mask use decreases viral transmission. Those data were presented by Wilson and the TGH hospital epidemiologist to the Hillsborough County Emergency Policy Group. The data was cited as key in the decision to implement a Hillsborough County mask mandate.

Christian Wells Elected President of Florida Brownfields Association

Christian Wells was recently elected President-elect of the Florida Brownfields Association, the state's largest nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to brownfields redevelopment, environmental justice, and community revitalization.

Heather O'Leary Spoke at the AAA Raising our Voices 2020 Virtual Conference

Heather O'Leary's talk highlighted the need to reframe women in developing nations as active agents rather than victims, who through their day-to-day activities produce economic and environmental resilience for their communities. O'Leary, who had been scheduled to address the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, which was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns, was able to present her work at the AAA virtual conference, Raising our Voices 2020.

Lorena Madrigal Presents Work at Brazilian Conference

Lorena Madrigal was a participant in a conference in Brazil, where she presented her work on sickle cell trait among College football players. Her presentation was: Por qué ver la drepanocitosis como un fenotipo cuantitativo puede salvar vidas. Paper presented during the III Seminario de Bioantropologia do GEB-UEPA 2020. Internacional Online 'Bioantropologia: do trabalho de campo ao Mundo Virtual. Presentation transmitted virtually and promoted by the University of the State of Para, Brazil. October 2020.

Anthropologists in the News

Chapurukha Kusimba Profiled in Kenyan National News Outlet

USF's Chapurukha Kusimba was profiled in The Star, a Kenyan news outlet. The profile covered his prolific writing career (over 100 publication credits!) as well as his work at the Field Museum. A full link to the story can be found [here](#).

Heather O'Leary and Others at USF Work with Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital

Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital and the University of South Florida are launching a new project to figure out exactly why some people are so hesitant about getting a COVID-19 vaccine and create tailored messages to different vulnerable populations. The story, which appeared on WFTS ABC Action News can be found [here](#).

Heather O'Leary Also Part of Interdisciplinary Research Team Looking at Air Quality Issues

Heather O'Leary is part of a team working with high-school students to review air quality issues associated with COVID-19. You can find the complete story [here](#).

Christian Wells and the USF Center for Brownfields Research & Redevelopment Launch New Program

The USF Center for Brownfields Research & Redevelopment is launching a program designed to clean up contaminated neighborhoods while creating jobs for residents. In collaboration with the Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa, the Environmental

Workforce Development and Job Training program will provide comprehensive training to East Tampa residents for full-time careers in environmental and brownfields remediation. [Read more.](#)

Anthropology St. Petersburg Campus

Beginning this Fall, the Anthropology program at USFSP program became part of the USF Tampa Anthropology department. We are excited about the opportunities that consolidation will open for students and faculty. In particular, we are grateful to Chair Antoinette Jackson, the faculty, and staff for their hard work and welcoming spirit integrating us into the department. With pride, we anticipate working together to build an even stronger nationally recognized department whose hearts and minds are dedicated to educating our students and communities science that supports inclusion and diversity.

On the St. Petersburg campus, the anthropology faculty are looking forward to the completion of the renovations to the second floor of Davis Hall. We hope to be moving into our new offices in December! Students will be excited to learn that we will now have an Anthropology Teaching classroom, where we can store materials for class projects and hands-on-learning.

It is our hope to be able to continue to offer all the courses required for anthropology majors at the St. Petersburg campus, as well as maintain a local anthropology club, Lambda Alpha chapter, and internships. Toward that effort under consolidation, Dr. Heather O'Leary is now designated as part of the Anthropology department and will be teaching more courses for us in cultural, environmental, and gender studies. We are also happy to have Dr. Chap Kusimba join our campus and look forward to the new course offerings concerning museum studies, histories of global commerce and urbanism that he will bring to our program.

Dr. Chap Kusimba

Dr. Chap Kusimba is a Professor of archaeology and museum studies. Dr. Kusimba and colleagues recently received a National Geographic grant to study the Gede pre-colonial city-state in Kenya, which was recently reported on in [The Star](#) (Kenya). Dr. Kusimba teaches Archaeology, Museum studies, and African archaeology courses and will be teaching one course a year on the St. Petersburg campus.

Dr. Heather O'Leary

Dr. Heather O'Leary is the current internship coordinator at the St. Pete campus. Dr. Heather O'Leary continues her vibrant transdisciplinary research. This semester she is joined in the EcoFem Lab by several students from Tampa and St. Petersburg campuses majoring in Anthropology and beyond. The EcoFem Lab Student Researchers are building their credentials in social science research methods in projects about: COVID-19 and air quality, Red Tide, and gender discrimination in environmental literature and climate change. As projects come to completion, EcoFem Lab Student Researchers will graduate as co-authors on publications. Dr. O'Leary also was featured in newspapers and on the morning news for her work on COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy. Click on the image below to learn more.

About the Lab

The EcoFem Lab is an interdisciplinary think-tank at the USF St. Petersburg campus that explores the hidden connections between environmentalist and feminist ways of understanding the world's most pressing problems. Researchers document cultural evidence of our assumptions about nature and gender to analyze how these assumptions undermine, reinforce, and reshape environmental justice and gender equity. The EcoFem Lab's research argues that these cultural insights can be applied to increase representational justice in everyday life, in activism, and in the academy.

Core Research Themes

- Epistemic violence (limiting the ways people know and understand gendered and environmental issues)
- Gendered and Environmental labor, extractivist economics
- Global climate and development hotspots: political ecologies of coasts, cities, and global south contexts
- Representational justice in the academy, activism, popular culture, and social media
- Feminist Co-Mentoring

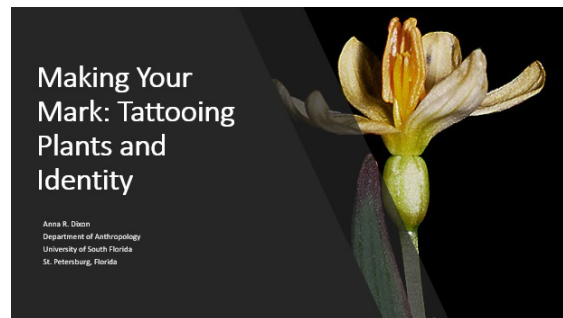


Heather O'Leary, Director

Assistant Professor
Interdisciplinary Social Sciences | Anthropology
[Faculty Profile](#)

Dr. Anna Dixon

Dr. Anna Dixon will be giving a talk on 19 November to the Port Charlotte Archaeological Society her research on plants used in traditional tattooing. This is an outgrowth of ethnobotanical research in Hawaii, with additional research that I and some of the students in my Ethnobotany class are doing on tattooing plants in North America and other parts of the world. I presented an earlier version of this paper at the Society for Ethnobiology at the University of Wisconsin.



Dr. John Arthur

Dr. John Arthur is the current St. Pete Anthropology Club Faculty sponsor. Arthur has been selected to receive the next Frank E. Duckwall Professorship in Florida Studies (2020-2022). Dr. Arthur will teach *Coastal Archaeology* in the Spring 2021 semester and *Florida Archaeology 2022* and organize a series of public events and presentations on topics ranging from coastal archaeology to the archaeology of ancient beer.



Professor John Arthur is the recipient of the Frank E. Duckwall Professorship in Florida Studies for 2020-2022.



USF St. Petersburg Excavations Uncover Daily Life at the Weeden Island Site

From January to February, you could hear the chatter and laughter as USF students strolled down the sandy trails to the famous site of Weeden Island. Fifteen students and three volunteer graduate students, worked with Dr. John Arthur from USF St. Petersburg to continue their excavation of households dating from AD 900 to 1450. Dr. John W. Arthur, began this project in 2007, to give undergraduate students the opportunity to actually experience doing archaeology outside of the classroom and to learn archaeological techniques.

Over the last two field seasons, excavations have uncovered a house floor. All the artifacts are found within a 7 cm or less horizontal strata located beneath the shell midden. Two remarkable finds that we uncovered this field season is a hearth and a possible bone hairpin that may have had feathers attached to the end. The hearth area is void of artifacts with large pieces of charcoal that we hope to be able to identify the types of wood people were using to fuel their house fires as well as how people were spending their time around the hearth. The bone pin was found next to the hearth and more research needs to be conducted.

Dr. Kathy Weedman Arthur

Dr. Kathy Weedman Arthur is the current program coordinator at the St. Petersburg campus and serves as the faculty mentor for the Lambda Alpha Honor Society. This year Dr. Arthur became co-editor of *Archaeologies*, Journal of the World Archaeological Congress. She published articles in *APAAA* (2020) and the *African Archaeological Review* (2020). Dr. Arthur was awarded a USFSP Seed research grant to professionally print 500 copies of a book she co-authored with Yohannes Tocha and illustrator Tsega Zabe (Photo) titled *Ancestral Land: Boreda Heritage and History*. Elders and school officials in the Boreda community of southern Ethiopian highlands requested that she write a book for school aged children and for use in the local cultural office. The book provides oral histories and traditions in the local language Gamocalay, the national language Amharic, and English accompanied by illustrations created by a Boreda artist. Dr. Arthur hopes to return to Ethiopia with NSF funding after the pandemic to distribute the book.



Super Students and Amazing Alumni!

Graduate and Undergraduate Students Help Implement Forensic Anthropology Human Donation Program



The FL Institute of Forensic Anthropology and Applied Science directed by Dr. Erin Kimmerle would like to extend our sincerest gratitude and thanks to all of the undergraduate and graduate students who volunteer through the Forensic Anthropology Human Donation Program. In 2019 and early 2020, we had 36 undergraduate volunteers involved with various aspects of the program, including skeletal processing, curation, and data collection at the Facility for Outdoor Research and Training (USF-FORT). Most of our volunteers come from anthropology, and we also have visiting students from biomedical sciences. Currently, volunteer positions are limited due to COVID-19 precautions, but we hope that we can open more availability in the future. Special thank you to anthropology graduate students Gennifer Goad, Liotta Noche-Dowdy, Tuesday Frazier, Chris Turner, Kelsee Hentschel-Fey, Barbara Arriaga-Espinoza, Kara DiComo, Leslie Goldmann, and Anastasia Temkina.

Due to the hard work of these dedicated volunteers, the Human Donation Program has continued to grow. Since 2017, our program has accepted 87 donors into the program and 255 individuals have signed up as pre-donors. Approximately 30 of our donors are available for research in the USF Donated Skeletal Collection. This collection offers an opportunity to develop and validate methods of human identification and provides essential training and education to students, medicolegal professionals, and researchers. We are incredibly thankful for the support of our donors and their families. Please contact

the Donation Coordinator Gennifer Goad (gmgoad@usf.edu) if you have any questions about volunteer or research applications.



Maisha Standifer (PhD 2016) Named New Director

Maisha Standifer (Ph.D. '16) is the new director of Health Policy in the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta. In her new role, Standifer, who has a Master's degree in Public Health from Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, will advise, administer, and conduct studies and evidence-based prevention initiatives that employ targeted strategies in high-risk populations to reduce negative health outcomes, especially during the current COVID-19 pandemic.



Delaney Johnson Named the 2020 William H. and Anna K. Eigenbrod Anthropology Scholarship Winner

Undergraduate Anthropology major Delaney Johnson has been named the 2020 William H. and Anna K. Eigenbrod Anthropology Scholarship winner. Johnson, a junior from Riverview, Florida, who has an interest in cultural anthropology with a regional focus on Asia, will use the scholarship to travel to Tottori, Japan where she will visit museums, and archaeological, historical, religious, and nature sites in preparation for future ethnographic research. The scholarship was established for USF Tampa campus undergraduate anthropology majors with experience in the study of an Asian language to travel to Asia to pursue further

educational training.



Joy Sawangkum is the 2020 Winner of the Department of Anthropology's Patricia P. Waterman Award

Joy Sawangkum is the 2020 winner of the Department of Anthropology's Patricia P. Waterman Award. The Waterman Award, which is awarded to an anthropology major for outstanding academic achievement, is named in honor of the late Associate Professor Pat Waterman, whose teaching ability was an inspiration to her students and colleagues. Sawangkum had a distinguished career at USF, graduating in May with a B.A. in Anthropology and a B.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology. Within anthropology, her research interests include biological and critical medical anthropology. In the department she completed a service learning course with Prof. Roberta Baer where she worked with Syrian refugees. She was part of a team that conducted life history interviews and helped write a Syrian cookbook for the refugees to sell as part of their catering business. She did another course with Prof. Baer where she worked on a study on patient perceptions of gun violence at the Tampa General Hospital Emergency Room. For this project she interviewed gunshot wound patients and other patients. Outside of the anthropology department she presented a poster at the USF Health Research Day this semester titled "A Longitudinal Case-Control Study of Gut Microbiome in Anemic Preterm Infants." She has been accepted to the USF College of Medicine and will be starting her medical degree this fall.



Graduate Students moving forward!

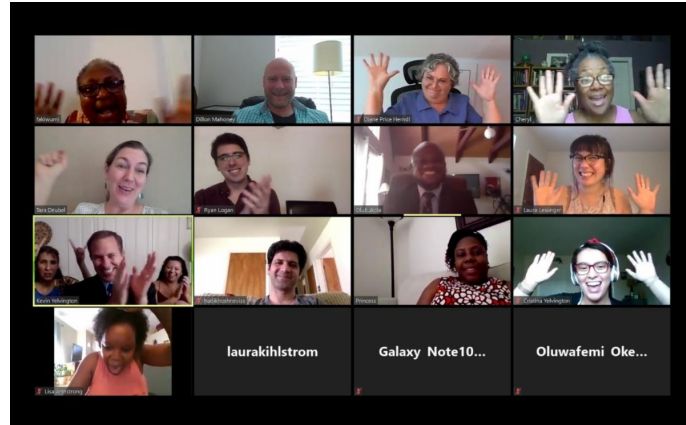
USF Graduate Students Help Build Needle Exchange Program

USF Public Health and Applied Anthropology students including Heather Henderson (pictured above, second from left) and Bernice McCoy assisted with the development of a needle exchange program in the Tampa Bay Area. Full story [here](#).



Olubukola Olayiwola Defends Dissertation Before International Audience

Olubukola Olayiwola defended on May 6. His dissertation title: "Placing our breasts on a hot kerosene lantern": A Critical Study of Microfinancialization in the Lives of Women Entrepreneurs in the Informal Economic Sector in Ibadan, Nigeria. Above, a picture of his virtual defense.



Laura Leisinger Awarded Dissertation Completion Fellowship



PhD student Laura Leisinger has been awarded the Dissertation Completion Fellowship from the USF Office of Graduate Studies for the Fall semester 2020. This will enable her to write up her dissertation research on Haitian immigrants and immigration policy in Miami.

Breanne Casper Receives \$5,790 Award

Breanne Casper, a PhD student, received a Robert Lemelson/Society for Psychological Anthropology Student Fellowship for \$5,970. This fellowship is for PhD student specifically doing preliminary research for their dissertation. Her project is entitled: Cues, Cognition, and Culture: Examining Contexts of Substance Use Cessation.



Faculty Awards and Honors

Robert Tykot Receives Second University of South Florida Outstanding Research Achievement Award

In 2020, Prof. Robert Tykot received, for the second time, the University of South Florida Outstanding Research Achievement Award, based in part on the publication of his geological study of volcanic obsidian sources on the Italian island of Lipari and their use for prehistoric stone tools distributed up to a thousand kilometers away. He has followed this up with a major study on the remote island of Ustica which obsidian reached for 3000 years. Both articles published in the open access journal *Open Archaeology*.

New Faculty Grants

Heather O'Leary Recipient of GCOOS, NCCOS Grant for New Studies to Uncover the Costs of Florida's Red Tide

The Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System and the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science awarded a research grant to USF researchers including Heather O'Leary for studying the effects of harmful algae blooms (HABs). The awards for the program total approximately \$556,000.

Notable Reads

Lorena Madrigal

Lorena Madrigal and her Brazilian colleagues published a paper about Quilombos. Quilombos are settlements which descend from enslaved people of African descent. Sabrina Guimarães Paiva, Carolina Carvalho Gontijo, Raquel Carvalho Gontijo, Lorena Madrigal, Maria de Nazaré Klautau-Guimarães, Silviene Fabiana de Oliveira. 2020. Migration in Brazilian Afro-descendants' communities: a new approach to illustrate the meaning of contemporary Quilombo. *Revista da Associação Brasileira de Pesquisadores/as Negros/as (ABPN)*. Vo. 12 (32):188-208.

Robert Tykot

Former PhD student Hasan Ashkanani (2014) and Prof. Tykot published an important article on their continuing work on ceramic production and distribution in Kuwait in the journal *Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy*.

With Dr. Davide Tanasi from the History Department, and former PhD student Fred Pirone (2017), Prof. Tykot published their work on pottery from Malta in the edited volume *The Maltese Archipelago at the Dawn of History*. He also was coauthor for two articles published by Dr. Tanasi, one on early copper use on Malta with Dr. Andrea Vianello also a coauthor, and one on pottery in Sicily with PhD student Gianpiero Caso also a coauthor.

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