

AnthroScope

USF Department of Anthropology Newsletter Fall 2021

Faculty Spotlight

Christian Wells Elected President of FBA

Christian Wells was elected President of the Florida Brownfields Association, the state's largest nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to brownfields redevelopment and community revitalization. In his new role, Dr. Wells will work closely with U.S. EPA Region 4 and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on policymaking and rulemaking. He will also provide technical assistance and resources to communities throughout the state experiencing environmental justice challenges.



Antoinette Jackson and Team Launch BCN



Dr. Antoinette Jackson and a team consisting of USF anthropology graduate students, Kaleigh Hoyt, John Pandygraft, and Jessica Gantzert, launched the Black Cemetery Network (BCN) in June 2021 as a USF Heritage Research Lab and African American Burial Ground (AABG) project initiative. The BCN consists of a virtual archive/map—a grassroots based informational directory of Black cemeteries throughout the U.S., including those which have been neglected, displaced, erased or currently at-risk of erasure. The Black Cemetery Network is an informational portal for research and educational projects focused on African American cemeteries and sacred sites and serves as a news, outreach, and advocacy hub. “There are many individual projects and people who are already working as Black cemetery site advocates, and through the network they can help us visually represent the issue of Black cemetery erasure and show the scope of the problem in a national context,” said Kaleigh Hoyt, a USF anthropology doctoral student and creative director and research assistant for the Black Cemetery Network.

[Visit the BCN website](#)

Anthropologists in the News

Antoinette Jackson Quoted in *The New Yorker*

The *New Yorker* Magazine featured Dr. Antoinette Jackson in the October 4, 2021 issue for her leadership focused on African American Burial Grounds locally and nationally. The article, “When Black History Is Unearthed, Who Gets to Speak for the Dead?” written by Jill Lepore, is a thorough discussion of Black cemetery

[Read More](#)

Novel Program Identifies Food Insecure Residents With Help from USF Center for Advancement of Food Security & Healthy Communities

by Gabrielle Lehigh, Jacquelyn Heuer, Nancy Romero-Daza and David Himmelgreen
Originally published on the [USF College of Arts and Sciences News Page](#)

Food insecurity refers to the lack of access to nutritionally adequate food which can result in hunger as well as in an increased likelihood of chronic diet-related diseases (e.g., diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease). Risks associated with these chronic diseases can be lowered with a healthy lifestyle; by limiting access to resources, food insecurity reduces individuals' power to adopt lifestyle changes. Moreover, food insecure individuals often experience physical, psychological, and economic burdens that further exacerbate these health risks. While programs such as SNAP (more commonly known as food stamps) and food pantries may help decrease food insecurity, this is not enough to solve the problem.

Food insecurity has been a long-standing problem in the U.S. In 2019, 35.2 million (10.5%) people experienced food insecurity. The numbers were higher among lower-income households, African Americans, and Hispanics. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a 60% increase in food insecurity in the U.S.

To address food insecurity among Pinellas County residents, the Community Health Centers of Pinellas (CHCP) partnered with Feeding Tampa Bay (FTB), and the USF Center for Advancement of Food Security & Healthy Communities (CAFSHC) to develop the pilot Food Prescription (Rx) program. With funding from the Humana Foundation, this novel program identifies food insecure patients who are then enrolled in a program that provides them with food vouchers to redeem at the CHCP food pantry and the FTB mobile food pantry. These sites provide fresh produce, shelf-stable pantry goods, and frozen meals weekly.

As part of the pilot initiative, the role of CAFHSC is to evaluate the program and suggest improvements for future installments. If successful, the Food Rx program can be scaled up and delivered at other health clinics. The CAFSHC evaluation team collects longitudinal data, with participating patients being surveyed every three months to measure changes in their food security status, diet, stress, social support, and health indicators (e.g., Hemoglobin A1c). Further, patients are interviewed about their use of the Food Rx program and suggestions for improvements. In doing so, the evaluation aims to determine if patients show an improvement in their diets and the management of their diseases. The evaluation of the Food Rx program will be completed at the end of 2021 and the results will be shared with the CHCP and other health care providers in Tampa Bay, the research community, and the patients.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, programs like this pilot Food Rx project are crucial. As the programs provided by the CARES Act wane, vulnerable populations will continue to struggle with food insecurity. Given this, it is imperative for such programs to be studied to assess their efficacy and effectiveness so that additional programs may be funded, both at CHCP and other community providers.

Nancy White Explores Prehistoric Shell Midden

With Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) personnel, Nancy White and grad students Kerri Klein and Crystal Wright slogged into prehistoric shell middens deep in the northwest Florida swamps in August to monitor looting and other adverse impacts. The target area was around Lake Wimico, a tributary of the lower Apalachicola River. Sea-level rise has meant that many sites are being encroached by rising waters, but

this phenomenon may have deterred looting. One site visited was Depot Creek shell midden (8Gu56), a prehistoric shell mound occupied during the Late Archaic (4000-1000 B.C.) and Early Woodland (1000 B.C.-A.D.300) periods. As relatively high ground amid the wetlands, it was also cleared in the 1930s to be an apiary for producing tupelo honey and also a moonshine still. Klein is studying this site's prehistoric cultural deposits and food remains for her doctoral research. Another site was Lake Wimico Southeast shell midden (8Gu57), where a new prehistoric component was discovered when Swift Creek Complicated-Stamped pottery was found. The crew also met with avocational archaeologists to document materials from an early Spanish fort (1719-1723) and a lost antebellum town (1836-1844) in Gulf County.



Nancy White, doctoral student Kerri Klein, and M.A. student Crystal Wright at Depot Creek shell midden (8Gu56), near Lake Wimico, northwest Florida, August 2021, after traversing knee-high swampwater.

Obituary

Gone but not forgotten

The Department of Anthropology honors the life and contributions of Dr. Omotayo “Tayo” Jolaosho and shares in mourning their loss with colleagues throughout USF.

The School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies (SIGS) deeply mourns the loss of Dr. Omotayo “Tayo” Jolaosho (they, them, theirs) who passed away on October 22, 2021. Dr. Jolaosho joined the SIGS faculty in 2015 as a scholar of Africana Studies and taught courses on African culture, African American social movements, race and racism. As an active, energetic and engaged member of SIGS, Dr. Jolaosho was warm, friendly, generous with their time, and always interested in projects that would serve vulnerable populations and enrich USF’s diverse community.



Dr. Jolaosho was a vibrant contributor to several professional organizations, including the African Studies Association, the American Anthropological Association, the Association of Black Anthropologists, the Association for Feminist Anthropology, the Association for Queer Anthropology, and many others. At professional conferences they organized

panels, performed, presented scholarly papers, mentored students, and volunteered for many organizational initiatives.

In honor of Dr. Jolaosho, a passionate advocate and mentor for vulnerable students, the Omotayo Jolaosho Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established to provide scholarship support for vulnerable USF students. Contributions to the scholarship fund can be made [here](#).

Obituary prepared by faculty in the School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies.

[See obituary in full](#)

Super Students and Amazing Alumni!

USF Grad Pursues Degree in the UK



Rhianna “Annie” Sullivan, who graduated from USF in the summer of 2020 with a B.A. in Anthropology, is currently pursuing an M.Sc. in Human Osteology and Funerary Archaeology at the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom. She remembers her time at USF as both fun and educational, including her education abroad trip to Transylvania in the summer of 2019 for Dr. Jonathan Bethard’s Medieval Cemetery and Funerary Excavation field school. That’s where, she reports, she found her passion for archaeology, fieldwork, and human osteology. At the University of Sheffield, she spends most of her time in the osteology lab, just like she did at USF, and she has been learning even more about the human skeleton by taking a human dissection class focused on musculoskeletal anatomy – a rare opportunity for archaeology students. She says she even wears a lab coat. She says that the best part of her classes at Sheffield so far has been the progressive, inclusive, and interdisciplinary content. She says: “I’m so glad that my professors and friends at USF encouraged me to pursue graduate school, and I’m excited to see what the future holds.”

USF Alumna Continues on to Emory

When Alexandra Vanegas first started at USF in the fall of 2017, she was pursuing a degree in Social Work. However, after taking a Cultural Anthropology class in her first semester she fell in love. She immediately switched her major to Anthropology and, as she says, she “Never looked back.” She says: “When she I graduated in Fall 2020, I knew I wanted to apply the holistic nature of anthropology into the field of public health. Getting into the Hubert Department of Global Health at Emory University allows me to acquire a global perspective on the topic of public health. My concentration focuses on infectious diseases around the globe and how to address them appropriately and efficiently. I hope with the pursuit of my Masters of Public Health degree in Global Health this Fall 2021 I am able to apply the intersectionality of anthropology into the field of public health. I am very excited for this next chapter of my life at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.”

Our Students are Moving On

Three of Dr. Robert H. Tykot’s PhD students graduated in 2020 (Jose Pena, Kirsten Verostick, and Gianpiero Caso) and two MA students in spring 2021 (McKenna Douglass, Anastasia Temkina). Two PhD students currently are doing field research, in Romania (Aurelian Tafani) and in Mexico (Leslie Goldman).

Other graduates include:

Spring 2021				
Lucio	Reyes	MA	Biological	Madrigal
John	Blackburn	MA	Archaeology	White
Adam	Sax	MA	Archaeology	Pluckhahn
Caroline	MacLean	MA	Biological	Madrigal
Colette	Witcher	MA	Archaeology	Pluckhahn
Elizabeth	Southard	MA	Archaeology	Pluckhahn
Jaime	Zolik	MA	Archaeology	Stanish
Jordan	Wright	MA	Biological	Bethard
Timothy	Lomberg	MA	Cultural	Jackson
Theresa	Stoddard	MA	Medical	Romero-Daza
Michela	Inks	MA	Cultural	Mahoney
Sara	Arias-Steele	PHD	Biological	Himmelgreen
Jacqueline	Berger	PHD	Biological	Bethard
Sarah	Bradley	PHD	Medical	Zarger
Nicole	Falk Smith	PHD/MPH	Biological	Madrigal
Laura	Kihlstrom	PHD /MPH	Cultural	Himmelgreen
Lia	Berman	PHD	Cultural	Yelvington
Summer 2021				
Brandylyn	Arredondo	MA	Cultural	Deubel
Blair	Bordelon	MA	Cultural	Jackson
Heather	Draskovich	MA	Archaeology	Pluckhahn
Kayla	Jones	MA	Medical	Castañeda
Jelane	Wallace	MA	Archaeology	Pluckhahn
Michala	Head	MA	Cultural	Mahoney
Christopher	Turner	MA	Biological	Kimmerle
Bernice	McCoy	PHD	Medical	Romero-Daza
Ryan	Harke	PHD	Archaeology	White

Research Collaborations Between Faculty and Graduate Students

Lende, Casper, Hoyt and Collura Collaborate on Research

Daniel Lende, along with graduate students Breanne Casper, Kaleigh Hoyt, and Gino Collura published an open-access article in *Frontiers of Psychology* entitled "Elements of Neuroanthropology." Bree and Kaleigh are current PhD students and in Gino graduated a few years ago. This article describes nine elements that outline how to do neuroanthropology research.

[Read More](#)

Research

Robert Tykot and Chap Kusimba Conduct Laboratory Research

Dr. Tykot conducted significant labwork despite COVID, including isotopic analyses to study diet and mobility of people from northern Italy and northwest Florida, and ceramics trade in pre-contact Pinellas County, while initiating new laboratory research with Dr. Chap Kusimba on material from his excavations in Kenya (obsidian, metals, diet).



Conducting pXRF analysis on a ceramic vessel at the Ringling Museum in Sarasota.

Faculty Awards and Honors

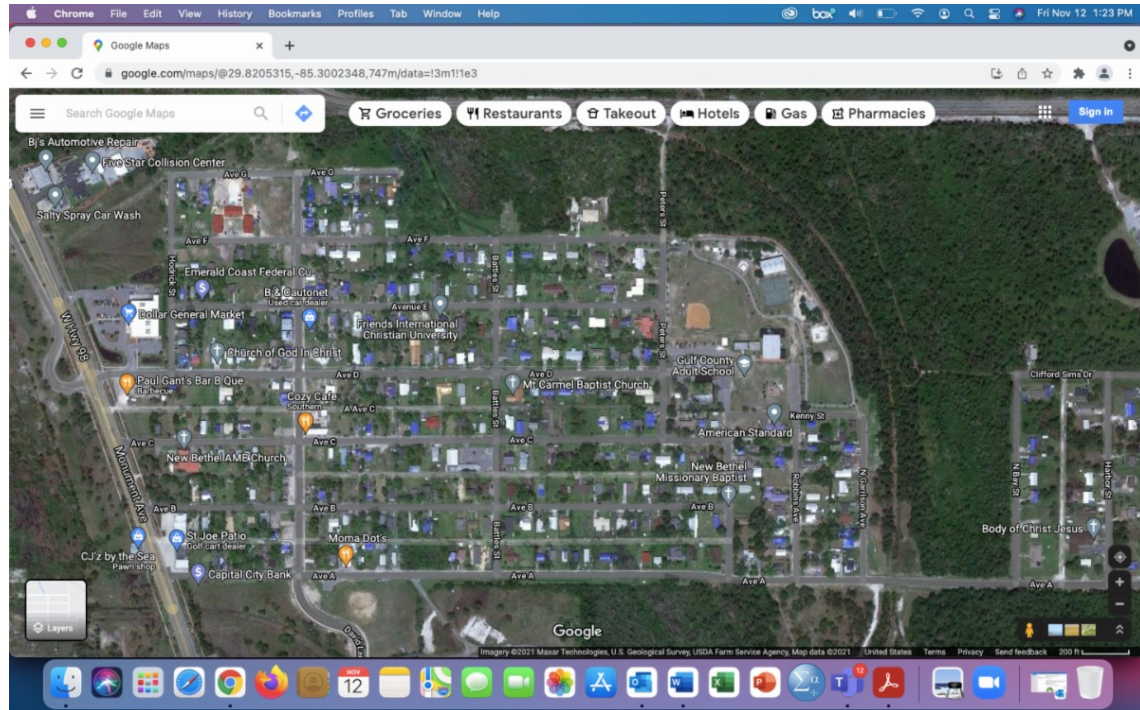
Robert Tykot Wins Award

Dr. Robert H. Tykot received the USF Outstanding Research Achievement Award for his accomplishments in 2020, including an article in *Open Archaeology* on prehistoric obsidian trade on the tiny island of Ustica, and one with USF PhD Hasan Ashkanani in *Arabian Archaeology and Epigraphy* on Ubaid period ceramics. He also published two articles on obsidian aimed at the broader science audience, one in *Applied Sciences* and one in the *Encyclopedia of Glass Science, Technology, History, and Culture*.

New Faculty Grants

Christian Wells and Colleagues Garner EPA Grant

Christian Wells and his colleagues at the Pioneer Bay Community Development Corporation and the University of West Florida have been awarded a 2021 Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The grant will allow the team to work with the residents of North Port St. Joe in northwest Florida, an historically segregated African American community with significant environmental justice challenges. The project will address community-identified challenges in local housing infrastructure—poor indoor air quality from mold and poor drinking water quality—resulting from the impacts of Hurricane Michael in 2018 on top of decades of environmental pollution from a local paper mill.



Aerial view of North Port St. Joe showing all the homes that still have blue tarps covering their roofs that blew off during Hurricane Michael (a category 5 storm) in 2018.

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