Chair’s Welcome

Greetings and best wishes to all the friends and alumni of the Department of Anthropology at Northwestern. As we come to the end of another academic year, it is time to reflect on the tremendous accomplishments of our faculty, students, and staff.

During a time when many Anthropology programs are experiencing retrenchment and declining enrollments, our Department continues to grow and thrive. Indeed, the size and strength of our Department have increased dramatically, in terms of faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, research activity and extramural funding. As one of the leading Anthropology programs in the country, our goal is to extend our position as the nation’s signature four-field program, elaborating the Department’s distinctive vision for research and education.

Below is a small sampling of the impressive achievements over the last year:

Faculty hiring. We have been successful in recruiting an extraordinary group of new faculty to our program over the last year. Last fall, we welcomed Dr. Katie Amato to the Department as an Assistant Professor in biological anthropology. Katie’s work on comparative and evolutionary perspectives on the gut microbiome is on the cutting edge of science in bioanthropology and will expand the focus of our human biology program.

In September, three new tenure-line Assistant Professors will be joining us: Drs. Adia Benton, Sera Young, and Emrah Yildiz. Adia Benton is a medical anthropologist who has done groundbreaking work on HIV/AIDS and the uneven distribution of health care delivery in Africa. Adia will play an active role in strengthening the Department’s medical anthropology focus, while also contributing to the Global Health and African Studies programs.

(continued on page 2)
Chair’s Welcome, continued

Sera Young is a nutritional anthropologist with an impressive research program that is examining issues of food security and maternal-child health in East Africa. Sera’s research and teaching will expand the Department’s strengths in the areas of nutritional anthropology and global health. Emrah Yıldız is a cultural anthropologist whose research is at the cutting edge of scholarship in both anthropology and Middle East and North African (MENA) studies. Emrah’s work examines the mobility of people in the Middle East, Islamic ritual, and commerce across borders and states. He will be jointly appointed with the MENA Program, further enriching the Department’s engagement with this important region.

Faculty Achievements in Research & Teaching. This year’s program review provided us with an opportunity to directly assess how dramatically the scope and impact of the Department’s research and teaching have expanded. Over the last decade the Department has averaged almost a million dollars in external grant funding per year, more than four times the funding level in the early 2000’s. During this period, our faculty have produced more than 700 publications, including refereed papers in the highest impact journals of anthropology and general science and 21 field-defining books with top university presses.

In light of these contributions, our faculty have been recognized with prestigious distinctions within the university and across our discipline. Just in the last year some of the most notable achievements have been: Thom McDade being endowed as the Carlos Montezuma Professor of Anthropology and elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS; Section H), Jessica Winegar being appointed as the Harold H. and Virginia Anderson Chair, Cynthia Robin and Mark Hauser being elected as fellows of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Rebecca Seligman being tenured and promoted to Associate Professor, and Shalini Shankar being promoted to full Professor.

Our faculty also continue to be among the best teachers and mentors in the College. Over the last year, several of our faculty have been honored with prestigious teaching awards -- Helen Schwartzman received the Weinberg Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research, Cynthia Robin was recognized with the Karl Rosengren Undergraduate Mentoring Award, and Noelle Sullivan was selected for the Associate Student Government Faculty Honor Roll.

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Graduate Program. Our graduate students continue to do us proud, as our program is now among the strongest in the country. Particularly notable is our students’ success with external grants and fellowships. Over the last decade our students have received an impressive 23 NSF Graduate Research Fellowships, 26 NSF Dissertation Improvement Grants and 29 Wenner-Gren Dissertation Research Awards. Our students also have had great success in job placement, securing post-doctoral fellowships and tenure-line positions in academia as well as prominent research positions in the non-profit and policy worlds.

Undergraduate Program. The Department’s undergraduate program continues to flourish, attracting strong students to all the core subfields of our major. The current size of our undergraduate program is double what is was 10 years ago. The growth of our major is attributable to the excellent teaching and mentoring of our faculty, and our Department’s strong commitment to undergraduate research and training. Each year, all of our seniors carry out original research which is often funded by undergraduate research grants. These projects regularly garner awards and recognition within the University and at national conferences. Moreover, we find that this training in research and scholarly writing contributes to the success of our majors in a variety of different career tracks (e.g., medicine and the health sciences, law, business, graduate school/academia).

Your support has been critical to our success. Each year, generous contributions from the friends and alumni of the Department allow us to support summer research projects, field school participation, language training, and conference travel for both our graduate and undergraduate students. In addition, this year a new endowment created by Tim and Eliza Earle is allowing the Department to provide full funding for two outstanding doctoral dissertation projects. The inaugural recipients of the Earle Dissertation Awards are: Vanessa Waters (“Prosperity on the Periphery: Christian Social Welfare in Coastal West Africa”) and Bilal Nasir (“Secular Power in the Counterterror State: Social Science, Islamic Ethics, and Racial Solidarity in the War on Terror”).

I sincerely thank all of our donors for their generosity and commitment to the Department. Your contributions are making a tremendous difference in supporting the transformative work of our faculty and students.

With my warmest regards,

William R. Leonard
Abraham Harris Professor and Chair of Anthropology
Faculty Awards and Honors

**Amanda Logan**’s article “Why Can’t People Feed Themselves?”: Archaeology as Alternative Archive of Food Security in Banda, Ghana, was selected by the American Anthropological Association for the 2017 Gordon R. Willey Prize which “recognizes the best archaeology paper published in the American Anthropologist over a period of three years.”

**Shalini Shankar** was given the tremendous honor of being named as 2017 Guggenheim Fellow.

**Cynthia Robin** was awarded an NSF Senior Archaeology grant, for research at Aventura.

**Erin Waxenbaum** was appointed McCormick Distinguished Lecturer.

**Sera Young**, Assistant Professor, spoke on a panel on “Women - Food Security - End Hunger - Political Will & Public Will” as part of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Read More

**Mary Weismantel** was elected as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. Mary was awarded a Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). This highly prestigious and competitive award is for her project *An Archaeology of Sex: The Moche Sex Pots.*

**Mark Hauser**, was recently elected Docent for Global Historical Archaeology at the University of Oulu in Finland. Read More

**Katie Amato**, was named to the Humans & Microbiome program of the inaugural cohort of the Canadian Institute For Advanced Research Azrieli Global Scholars program. Read More

**Jessica Winegar**, **Erin Waxenbaum** and **Peter Locke**, were selected for the 2016-17 Associated Student Government Faculty Honor Roll.

**Kathryn Catlin** excavating a test unit on Hegranes, Iceland

Message from Cynthia Robin, Director of Undergraduate Studies

Our undergraduate majors and minors are rising anthropologists who have set course across the globe to study world cultures and human biology past and present. This year we are congratulating our 32 graduates with majors and minors in Anthropology! Our graduates now go forth into a wide range of careers from local and global non-profits, to medicine, law, business, and graduate work in anthropology, bringing to the world the importance of an anthropological perspective.

Today’s world is changing and shrinking and anthropology provides for a cross cultural comparative analysis of diversities and inequalities worldwide. Understanding cultural, biological, and linguistic differences and similarities is central to everything we do. Graduates, we applaud you! We are eager to see what you will do!

As anthropology majors, many of our graduates wrote theses, received grants, and won awards:

De’Sean Weber undertook research in Chicago to examine how understanding trauma as a systemic experience for Black Americans could help improve mental health care for Black patients. His senior thesis entitled “Trauma-Informed Care: Re-contextualizing, Politicizing and De-pathologizing the Traumatic Black Experience” was funded by an Undergraduate Research grant. De’Sean graduates with honors in Anthropology and is the winner of the Oswald Werner Prize for Distinguished Honors Thesis in Anthropology. He was named one of Northwestern’s top 10 students to watch. Read More.

Miriam Perez examined the importance of understanding the social determinates of health for Latinx communities in Chicago in her senior thesis entitled “The Value of Stories: Understanding the Social Determinates of Health for the Latinx Community of Pilsen.” Miriam graduates with honors in Anthropology and is the winner of the Friends of Anthropology Award for Distinguished Honors Thesis in Public Anthropology.

Odette Zero conducted research in Guatemala to examine cultural perceptions of diabetes and provide culturally relevant recommendations for diabetes management. Her senior thesis entitled “Diabetic Illness Narratives in Rural Guatemala: Emotional Distress as an Explanatory Model of Illness Causation and Control” was funded by a grant from the Roberta Buffet Institute of Global Studies. Odette graduates with honors in Anthropology. Read More.

Jeffrey Frankel studied the gut microbiota of nonhuman primates at the Lincoln Park Zoo. His senior thesis entitled “Going With Your Gut: How a Study in Wild and Captive Nonhuman Primates Elucidates Evolution of the Human Gut Microbiome” was funded by an Undergraduate Research grant. Jeffrey graduates with honors in Anthropology.

Willow Pastard interviewed and undertook participant observation with Black female activists to examine the effect being a Black female activist has on individual approaches to health. Her senior thesis is entitled “Black does Crack: Vulnerability and Self-Care in Black Femme Activism.”

Janay Terry received a Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences grant to study donated toys for child patients at La Rabida hospital for her senior capstone project.

Makeda Springette received an Undergraduate Research grant to study implicit social attitudes.

Paavani Reddy was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa society, the nation’s oldest academic honors society.
Senior Capstone Papers

- The Commodification of Fit(bit)ness: Revaluing & Fetishizing the Step through Activity Tracking Technology—Harmony Arcilla
- Social Justice Education in Higher Education: What are safe spaces, how are they created, and what are the implications for Universities?—Delaney Buenzli
- What’s Contemporary about a Museum Guard: An Ethnographic Study of Workers in a Leisure Environment—Jane Castro
- The Societal Factors that Contribute to the Low Birthweight of African American Infants—Jematia Chepyator
- Vestal virgins – the power of identity ambiguity in ancient Rome—Cat Dai
- Going With Your Gut: Microbial Ecology as Evidence for Primatology’s Place in Biomedical Anthropology—Jeffrey Frankel
- The Paradigms of Hip-Hop: Performance and Affectation of Race and Gender—Dominique French
- Advantages of Trust: How Village Healthcare Teams (VHT’s) bridge the gap between community members and government perceptions, resulting in potential for a stronger Ugandan healthcare system—Marilyn Janisch
- From Fragments to Food: How osteological analysis speaks to maternal health and food security throughout the Székelyföld in 17th Century Transylvania, Romania—Jordan E. Lee
- Pregnancy and Food Accessibility: Examining Neighborhood Demographics Impact on Premature Births—Melissa Mason
- The Black House: A Safe Space Worth Protecting—Cheron Zivial Mims
- Elite Universities and their Surrounding Areas—John Nogafka
- Bicultural Health: How cultural connections impact children’s health outcomes—Faith T. Ogungbe
- Black Does Crack: The Mental Vulnerabilities of Black Femmes in Activism—Willow Pastard
- Nothing about us without us: The social determinants of health for the Latinx population of Pilsen—Miriam Perez
- Understanding the “Dual Citizenship” of Village Health Teams (VHTs) in Uganda—Udita Persaud
- Altruistic Intentions: Authenticity and Volunteer Tourism in the Chiang Mai, Thailand—Kathryn Pillischafske
- Examining Gender Dynamics in the Physician-Patient Relationship—Ankitha Radakrishnan
- Learned Bias: Gender Bias in Medical Education Today—Paavani Reddy
- Seeking Inclusivity in an Exclusive Spaces: A Look the Perceived Role of Diversity and Inclusion Chair in the Panhellenic Association at Northwestern University—Elleana Shepperd
- Gun Violence’s Silver Bullet Solution: An Analysis of a Public Health Framework Toward Gun Violence—Margaret Smith
- Got Bush Tea?: Barriers to Diabetes Mellitus Biomedical Treatment and The Agency of the Eastern Caribbean People—Makeda Springette
- Childhood Under Duress: Practices of the Child-Life Department at La Rabida Children’s Hospital in Conceptualizing the Pediatric Patient—Janay A. A. Terry
- [title]—Stephany Valladares
- Varying Perspectives on Combating Gun Violence and Mental Health Challenges: A Comparison of Epidemic and Trauma-Informed Models of Care—De’Sean Weber
- Experiencing Chronic Illness in San Miguel Dueñas, Guatemala “¿Qué podemos hacer con esta enfermedad, si ya no se cura?” (What can we do about this sickness, if there is no cure anymore?)—Odette Zero
Message from Jessica Winegar, Director of Graduate Studies

Our graduate program continues to impress with the quality and breadth of student research, grants and fellowships, and commitment to critiquing inequality. This year we are conferring doctoral degrees on eight fabulous scholars! That’s 8 new Northwestern anthropology PhDs going out into the world as postdoctoral fellows, tenure track professors, and social science researchers in the non-profit and policy worlds. Congrats to everyone!

Just as we found out that we rank 5th in the National Research Council’s assessment of graduate programs in anthropology, we also welcomed six new scholars into our program. Along with their colleagues, they are conducting research around the world on topics as diverse as ethnic, racial, and religious minorities, social movements, health disparities, environment, food and nutrition, and arts and media. For this research, our students received over one dozen prestigious grants, fellowships, and awards from various foundations and academic associations this year, a few of which are featured in this newsletter. Once again, our graduate students made Anthropology one of the top departments within Weinberg College in terms of external recognition. Our students have garnered 87 major fellowships and grants in the past 10 years alone!

And our graduate students are sharing their research in high profile venues. At a department symposium in November, a number of our students practiced presenting papers in advance of the American Anthropological Association meeting. In all, over twenty of our students had papers accepted for presentation at a range of national conferences, including the AAA, the Society for American Archaeology, and the American Association of Physical Anthropologists.

This year students took a panoply of exciting courses in the department such as “Materialities,” “Archaeologies, Communities, and Publics,” “Social Movements,” “Mind, Body, and Health,” “Society, Biology, and Health,” “Law and Human Rights,” “Anthropology of the State,” and “Advanced Topics in Linguistic Anthropology.” They were also able to meet with all of our visiting colloquium speakers, all NU alumni, over a group lunch to talk about research histories and trends. A new professionalization workshop series was a highlight of the year. In various workshops with different anthropology faculty and staff from The Graduate School, students learned valuable skills such as composing academic job market materials, writing grants, transferring skills for non-academic jobs, preparing to write the dissertation, and preparing to go off to the field.

Last but not least, our graduate students spearheaded the Green Office Certification of the Department of Anthropology at Northwestern University. In honor of this renewed commitment to the environment, the students led the Department in a tree planting ceremony in front of the department.

We look forward to welcoming a new cohort of excellent young scholars in the fall, and to celebrating more PhD recipients next year.
Graduate Student Awards and other Honors

**Christopher Hernandez** was awarded a **University Fellowship in Leadership** for 2017-2018. According to the NU Center for Leadership, “this program provides Ph.D. students with the opportunity to develop their leadership as well as leadership in others.” Chris was also awarded an NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellowship for two years. Chris will be working at UIC with Joel Palka.

**V Chaudhry** was awarded a Wenner Gren grant for a project titled "The Price of Transgender Justice: Funding, Advocacy, and Racial Politics in Philadelphia, PA."

**Bilal Nasir** received a Wenner Gren grant for his doctoral research project, "Policing Los Angeles Muslims in the National Security State: Counterterror, Science, and the Secular in the War on Terror."

**Karima Bom**i was awarded, and has accepted, a three-year position at Middlebury College, as Scholar in Residence.

**Zach Nissen** was awarded an SSRC Dissertation Development Award.

**Almita Miranda** was offered a two-year postdoctoral position at Brown University.

**Ryan Lash** was selected to be a Franke Graduate Fellow at the Kapan Institute for the academic year 2017-18.

**Ruby Fried** won the Phyllis Eveleth award for outstanding paper at the Annual Meeting of the Human Biology Association.

**Elizabeth (Harrington) Derderian** received a Doctoral Research Grant from the Shaikh Saud bin Saqr al Qasimi Foundation.

**Livia Garofalo** was selected as alternate for the Fulbright US Student Program.

Morgan Hoke (Anthropology PhD, MPH ’17) demonstrates how a finger stick can be used to measure hemoglobin to a group of Quechua women and children at a health post in the southern highlands of Peru.

Doctoral candidate Almita Miranda is featured in *Northwestern* magazine for her study of the effects of immigration policies of the U.S. and Mexico on mixed-status families.
2017 Dissertations & Placements

Karima Borni

*Embodied Authenticity in Moroccan Contemporary Dance*

PhD August 2016
Advisor: Katherine Hoffman
Committee: Jessica Winegar, Robert Launay, Susan Manning
Scholar in Residence, Dance Program, Middlebury College

Kimberly Seibel

*Unsettling Age: Constructions of Later Life and Support in US Resettlement Bureaucracy*

PhD December 2016
Advisor: Helen Schwartzman
Committee: Robert Launay, Galya B. Ruffer, Madelyn Iris
Postdoctoral fellowship with the Institute of Gerontology and the Department of Anthropology at Wayne State University

Nurhaizatul Jamil

*Marketing Manners Makeover: Self-help and Women’s Islamic Education in Contemporary Singapore*

PhD August 2016
Advisor: Robert Launay
Committee: Jessica Winegar, Micaela di Leonardo
Postdoctoral fellowship at the College of the Holy Cross.

Morgan Hoke

*Growing Babies, Growing Inequalities: A Biocultural Examination of the Influences of Infant Growth in Nuñoa, Peru*

PhD June 2017
Advisors: William Leonard/Thomas McDade
Committee: Christopher Kuzawa, Thomas Leatherman, Crystal Patil
*Por su propio bien: A case study and needs assessment of pre-, peri-, and postnatal care in Nuñoa, Peru*
MPH June 2017
Advisor: William Funk
Second Reader: Teresa Horton
Assistant Professor, University of Pennsylvania

Chelsie Yount-André

*Giving, Taking, and Sharing: Reproducing Economic Moralities and Social Hierarchies in Transnational Senegal*

PhD June 2017
Advisors: Caroline Bledsøe/Claude Fischler
Committee: Launay, Shalini Shankar, Helen B. Schwartzman, Papa sow, Ismaël Moya
Postdoctoral fellowship on the anthropology of food at the University of Montpellier
Anthropology in the Public Square

**Amanda Logan**’s research is featured on NPR piece named *An Archaeological Mystery In Ghana: Why Didn’t Past Droughts Spell Famine?*

**Noelle Sullivan** has two new op-eds out, on health care costs entitled *Why Market Logic Can’t Solve the US Health Care Crisis* and *Telling the Anti-Vaccine Community They’re Wrong Has Been Tried for Years Now, and It Doesn’t Work—Here’s Another Approach*. Noelle also posted a piece in *US News & World Report* on the importance of thinking critically before assisting charitable and humanitarian organizations, and was recently interviewed on the US Healthcare system in the German newspaper *Die Zeit*.

**Robert Launay**’s letter to the editor appears in the *New York Times*.

**Jim Brown** is interviewed in an article from *The Guardian*.

**Matilda Stubbs** appears in the *Chicago Tribune*.
Undergraduate Honors Theses

◊ Diabetic Illness Narratives in Rural Guatemala: Emotional Distress as an Explanatory Model of Illness Causation and Control—Odette Zero

◊ The Value of Stories: Understanding the Social Determinates of Health or the Latinx Community of Pilsen—Miriam Perez


◊ Athletes, Not Superheroes: An Investigation Identifying Stressors, Impacts of Stress, and Support System Needs of Northwestern University Female Student-Athletes—Rachel Bergman

◊ Trauma-Informed Care: Recontextualizing, Politicizing and Depathologizing the Traumatic Black Experience—De'Sean Anthony Weber

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Colloquium Speakers—All Northwestern Alumni

**Josh Snodgrass**, professor at the University of Oregon, researches the demographic trends over the past few decades, driven by shifts in lifestyles and urbanization, highlighting the prominence of chronic conditions at older ages. His talk, “Health and Aging Among Older Adults in Middle Income Countries” was held in February.

**Rob Beck**’s talk “The Iron in the Posthole: Witchcraft, Women’s Labor, and Spanish Folk Ritual at the Berry Site” examined apotropaic devices—folk ritual objects and deposits used as supernatural protections—at the Berry site. Rob is an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology and associate curator of Eastern North American Archaeology in the Museum of Anthropological Archaeology. His research interests include the archaeology and ethnohistory of complex societies in eastern North America and the Andes of Bolivia and Peru, early colonial encounters in what is now the southern United States, and the broader issues related to social organization and change.

**Susan Carol Rogers** is Associate Professor of Anthropology at NYU. She is co-editor with Anne Raulin of Parallaxes Transatlantiques: Vers une anthropologie réciproque (CNRS, 2012), and is finishing an English version of the volume (Berghahn, 2015). Her long term research in rural France has resulted in co-authorship of Paysans, Femmes et Citoyens: Luttes pour le pouvoir dans un village lorrain (Actes Sud, 1980) and authorship of Shaping Modern Times in Rural France: Transformation and reproduction of an Aveyronnais community (Princeton, 1992), as well as of numerous articles in American and French journals. Co-founder of the Society for the Anthropology of Europe, she also teaches in the areas of food, family and kinship, and history of anthropology. Her October talk was entitled “Dazzle and Dismay: An Experiment in Reciprocal Anthropology.”

**Jean Ensminger**, in her talk “Case Studies in Village Corruption” discussed the failure in delivering aid to poor communities in the developing world through one of the most broadly employed mechanism design, community driven development. She investigates how community driven development really works in the field; following the money, access to information, and incentives of participants in a number of micro-projects in Kenya. Jean is Edie and Lew Wasserman professor of Social Science at Caltech.

**Heidi Swank** gave a talk in February entitled “Policy and Anthropology or Making the Most of the Great Recession”. She is an American politician and Democratic Member of the Nevada State Assembly since February 2013.

**Victoria Bernal**’s talk “National Symbols, Virtual Power, and Eritrean Politics Online” was held in March. Victoria is Professor at UC—Irvine and is a cultural anthropologist whose scholarship in political anthropology contributes to media and IT studies, gender studies, and African studies. Her work addresses questions relating to politics, gender, migration and diaspora, war, globalization, transnationalism, civil society and activism, development, digital media, and Islam. Dr. Bernal’s research is particularly concerned with relations of power and inequality and the dynamic struggles of ordinary people as they confront the cruel and absurd contradictions arising from the concentration of wealth and political power locally and globally.
Colloquium Speakers, continued

Peter Schmidt, professor at the University of Florida, explored changes in archaeological practice in northwest Tanzania in his talk entitled “Archaeologies of Listening: Community-Based and Participatory Heritage Research in Tanzania” in May.

Dolores Koenig gave a talk in May entitled “The Paradox of Struggle: Political Action After Forced Resettlement at Manantali, Mali”. Dolores is a specialist in international development, interested in both its challenges and successes. She is especially interested in finding new ways of talking about development and social change that value the experiences of local people while still taking into account the international context of global inequality. She is currently Buffett Institute Visiting Scholar and professor of Anthropology at American University in Washington, D.C.

Mark Flinn, in his talk “Hormones in the Wild: Physiological Adaptations for the Human Social Relationships”, discussed his field study of child stress and family environment in a rural community in Dominica, where he documented the hormonal responses of children to everyday interactions with their parents and other care providers, concomitant with longitudinal assessment of developmental and health outcomes. Mark is professor of Anthropology at University of Missouri.

The Northwestern University Anthropology Department Colloquium Series is centered around a theme each year; this year, the theme was “Northwestern Alumni”.

Farewell to Chair Bill Leonard

On August 31, 2016, Prof Bill Leonard steps down as Chair of the Department of Anthropology. Bill has served the Department in this role since 2003. During this time Anthropology has gone from success to success. We have grown dramatically in size and risen in national rankings to become one of the top Departments of its kind in North America and indeed across the world. This success has been due in no small part to the dedication, professional skill, political acumen and human decency of Prof Leonard. Faculty, students and staff all owe Bill a huge debt and we are planning a formal event in the fall to express our very deep appreciation of everything that he has done.—Matthew Johnson
Faculty Books—Shalini Shankar

Shalini Shankar’s book *Advertising Diversity: Ad Agencies and the Creation of Asian American Advertising* (2015) is based on ethnographic fieldwork funded by the National Science Foundation (BCS 0924472) in Asian American and general market agencies in New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The book considers how, in a "post-racial" era, race has taken center stage in advertising, especially in response to the diversity reported in the 2010 census. It considers the process of advertising development and production from political economic as well as semiotic perspectives to investigate how ethnoracial difference is negotiated in corporate America, among ad executives, and represented in ads.

Welcome New Faculty

Assistant Professor **Katie Amato** is a biological anthropologist studying the gut microbiota in the broad context of host ecology and evolution. Her current research focuses on microbial contributions to host nutrition during periods of reduced food availability or increased nutritional demands, as well as microbial influences on brain growth. She has worked in the field extensively with black howler monkeys in southeastern Mexico, and is establishing projects with both humans and non-human primates in other parts of the world. Dr. Amato’s work is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society. She was recently invited to speak at TEDx Jackson Hole and the Early Career Scientists Symposium at the University of Michigan.

**Adia Benton** is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and African studies. She has written a highly regarded book on **HIV**

*Exceptionalism: Development through Disease in Sierra Leone.* She is conducting research related to Ebola and is involved in consolidating global surgery as a new field in the social sciences. She is also developing two new books: *The Ebola Fieldnotes: Remote Anthropology in a Time of Crisis,* and *Citizen Surgeon: Global Surgery and Ideologies of Global Health.*

**Sera Young** joins Northwestern as Assistant Professor of Anthropology. The focus of Professor Young’s work is on the reduction maternal and child undernutrition in sub-Saharan Africa. Methodologically, she draws on her training in medical anthropology (MA, University of Amsterdam) and international nutrition (PhD, Cornell) to take a biocultural approach to improving maternal and child nutrition and health. Her specific areas of interest include the impacts of food insecurity on maternal and child health, especially infant and young child feeding, animal source foods, the prevention of maternal-to-child transmission of HIV, evaluative ethnography, and pica, or non-food cravings. Currently, she has ongoing studies in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. She is the author of over 40 publications, and the book, *Craving Earth* for which she received the Margaret Mead Award.

Assistant Professor **Emrah Yıldız** is a cultural anthropologist whose research is at the cutting edge of scholarship in both anthropology and Middle East and North African (MENA) studies. Emrah’s work examines the mobility of people in the Middle East, Islamic ritual, and commerce across borders and states. He will be jointly appointed with the MENA Program, further enriching the Department’s engagement with this important region.
Faculty Books—Jessica Winegar

Jessica Winegar published a book in 2015 called *Anthropology’s Politics: Disciplining the Middle East* (Stanford University Press). Written with Lara Deeb (Scripps College), it is the first academic study to shed critical light on the political and economic pressures that shape how U.S. scholars research and teach about the Middle East. The book shows how Middle East politics and U.S. gender and race hierarchies affect scholars across their careers—from the first decisions to conduct research in the tumultuous region, to ongoing politicized pressures from colleagues, students, and outside groups, to hurdles in sharing expertise with the public. *Anthropology’s Politics* offers a complex portrait of how academic politics ultimately hinders the education of U.S. students and potentially limits the public's access to critical knowledge about the Middle East.

Faculty Books—Cynthia Robin

*Everyday Life Matters: Maya Farmers at Chan* by Cynthia Robin. While the study of ancient civilizations most often focuses on temples and royal tombs, a substantial part of the archaeological record remains hidden in the understudied day-to-day lives of artisans, farmers, hunters, and other ordinary people of the ancient world. Various chores completed during the course of a person’s daily life, though at first glance trivial, have a powerful impact on society as a whole. *Everyday Life Matters* develops general methods and theories for studying the applications of everyday life in archaeology, anthropology, and a wide range of related disciplines.

Examining the two-thousand-year history (800 B.C.-A.D. 1200) of the ancient farming community of Chan in Belize, Cynthia Robin’s ground-breaking work explains why the average person should matter to archaeologists studying larger societal patterns. Robin argues that the impact of the mundane can be substantial, so much so that the study of a polity without regard to its citizenry is incomplete. Refocusing attention away from the Maya elite and offering critical analysis of daily life elucidated by anthropological theory, Robin engages us to consider the larger implications of the commonplace and to rethink the constitution of human societies by ordinary people living routine lives.

Faculty Books—Rebecca Seligman

Rebecca Seligman published a book in 2014, entitled *Possessing Spirits and Healing Selves: Embodiment and Transformation in an Afro-Brazilian Religion* (Palgrave Macmillan). In the book Seligman takes an intimate look at the experiences of spirit possession mediums in Brazil. The book uses in-depth analysis of mediums’ narratives as the basis for an exploration of the cognitive and discursive aspects of becoming a medium, integrating these analyses with a theoretically rich and empirically grounded investigation of the bodily and experiential dimensions of religious self-transformation. Through these analyses, Seligman demonstrates how recursive interactions between self-understandings and bodily states of mediums transform their experiences and contribute to healing. The book works to advance our understanding of both selfhood and embodiment, demonstrating how they emerge through complex looping effects among shared and individual meanings, intersubjective and bodily processes – including material processes of human physiology.