



Sociology

Anthropology

Philosophy

## Summer 2020 Newsletter

---

### From the Chair, Dr. Douglas Hume

There are so many amazing things that our faculty and students accomplished this year! Here are just a few highlights from our faculty:

- Dr. Sharyn Jones spent her fall sabbatical working on her next book, *An Archaeology of Food in Fiji and Oceania*, participated in an invited workshop and round-tables at the Renaissance Weekend in Chicago, and continued her research on the Parker Academy, working with faculty from other departments and involving students in work.
- Dr. Terry Pence presented "A Brief History of Bioethics" to the St. Elizabeth Healthcare Ethics Committee in the fall and continued to serve as both the Chair of the City of Highland Heights Ethics Commission and member of the St. Elizabeth Hospitals Ethics Committee.
- Dr. Michael Simonton presented at the Behringer-Crawford Museum on Celtic folklore and revised a book chapter, "Bretons of France", in *Native Nations: The Survival of Indigenous Peoples*, 3rd Edition.
- Dr. Boni Li submitted a manuscript, *Challenges of Aging on American Medical Care System*, to a peer-reviewed journal and is now working on two additional manuscripts, *The Young Generational Perceptions on Living Arrangements for their Elderly Parent* and *Impacts of the Internet on Online Health Care Information and Self-Diagnosis*.
- Dr. Monica Wakefield co-authored two published manuscripts (*New observations of meat eating and sharing in wild bonobos (Pan paniscus) at Iyema, Lomako*



*Forest Reserve, DRC and Stable isotope data from bonobo (Pan paniscus) fecal samples from the Lomako Forest Reserve, Democratic Republic of the Congo)* as well as being promoted to tenured associate professor.

- Dr. Zachary Hruby worked on the completion two edited volumes (*Stones of Fire and Sky: The Symbolism of Ceremonial Lithics in the Maya Area and Beyond* and *Crafting Celestial Fire in Classic Mesoamerica: The Technologies of Ceremonial Chipped-Stone Production*), within he is co-authoring several chapters.
- Lynnessa Hillman worked on revision of a manuscript, *Race Concordance and Patient Satisfaction in Reproduction* and has been working with Joan Ferrante on the Mourning the Creation of Racial Categories Project.
- Denise Knisely participated in co-leading two study abroad programs, one in Belize and another in Australia as well as starting the doctoral program in education at NKU.
- Dr. Nicole Grant served as the Kiksuya Student Organization faculty advisor and involved students in volunteer service with Native Americans in the summer of 2019.
- Dr. Judy Voelker submitted a collaborative grant to the American Institute of Archaeology/National Endowment for the Arts, co-authored a manuscript on the Thailand Archaeometallurgy Project (TAP) findings, and worked on developing an open source database of artifacts and site data from TAP research with NKU students.
- Dr. Joan Ferrante continued her work on documentary series, Mourning the Creation of Racial Categories (supported by a Collaborative Faculty-Student Project Award and Strategic Investment Proposal Award), in which both the first and second parts of this series were accepted and shown on Kentucky Educational Television and at NKU as well as being presented as a dance at the Aronoff Center.
- Dr. Robert Brice published a peer-reviewed article, *Wittgenstein and Merleau-Ponty On the Pre-Reflective Level*, in *Philosophy Today*, has a book under contract, *Student's Guidebook to Wittgenstein's On Certainty*, and had a successful run coaching our Ethics Bowl team, which did well at competition.
- David Bourne become a Master Advisor, was an active Advising Council member, and has been developing a Humanities Internship program with History/Geography, English, and World Literatures and Languages Departments.
- Dr. Gary Blahnik worked on two scholarly and creative projects, including: a book (*Democracy in Business: A Transdisciplinary Critique of Hierarchy, Volume 2: The Development of Hierarchy*) and web site on interdisciplinary programming in higher education.
- Dr. Eric Bates published a book chapter, "Piety in the American Plains: The Politics of Identity and Pentecostalism on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation," in *Indigenous People and the Christian Faith: A New Way Forward* and supported the Native American Student Association as a faculty sponsor.
- Kristie Vise served as the faculty advisor for Common Ground and attended a wide range of events supporting sociology students as well as LGBTQ students.
- Dr. Yaw Frimpong-Mansoh prepared for and was promoted to professor as well as having an abstract accepted for the meetings of the Association of Practical and Professional Ethics and continued his service as a member of the NKU's Quality Enhancement Project, Information Literacy Committee, Equity Academy, and A&S Senator at Large.

On a more personal note, I was fortunate to work with Professor Emeritus Sharlotte Neely on a co-edited volume, *Native Nations: The Survival of Indigenous Peoples - 3rd Edition*, publish a manuscript, *Transmission of Swidden Farming Ritual Knowledge among Households in Eastern Madagascar*, in the *Journal of Cultural Cognitive Science*, and host the summer 2019 field school in Belize!

## Welcoming Dr. Jessica Lott!



This year we welcomed a new anthropology faculty member, Dr. Jessica Lott. Jessica earned her PhD in Anthropology with specializations in Global Health and Women's and Gender Studies from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Her research uses intersectional approaches to gender and power to better understand issues around reproduction and family formation.

Dr. Lott continues her research begun during her dissertation and is now developing several projects locally in which she and her students can apply medical anthropology. She will also be joining Dr. Douglas Hume for the summer 2021 Ethnographic Field School in Belize.

In her free time, she likes to hang out with her two cats (Tugboat and Zelda), crochet, and go to the movies.

## New Assistant Chair: Yaw A. Frimpong-Mansoh

Dr. Yaw A. Frimpong-Mansoh is a Professor of Philosophy. He joined Northern Kentucky University as Assistant Professor of Philosophy in 2007. He was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in 2013; he was promoted to Professor in 2020. He served as the Coordinator of the Philosophy and Religious Studies programs in 2013-2016, and Director of the Philosophy program in 2017-2020; he will be serving as Assistant Chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Philosophy in the 2020-2021 academic year.

Born and raised in Ghana (in West Africa), he obtained his PhD. degree from University of Alberta (in Canada) in 2001. He relocated with his family to the United States of America in 2002 and has since become an American Citizen. Yaw previously taught at the University of Louisville (2002-2003) and California State University at Bakersfield (2003-2007).



Yaw's research is primarily in the areas of bioethics and healthcare ethics. He has co-authored a book, *Bioethics in Africa: Theories and Praxis*, published by Vernon Press,

2019. He has also published articles in distinguished international journals, such as a paper called "Culture and Voluntary Informed Consent in African Health Care Systems," *Developing World Bioethics*, 8(2):104-14. Yaw has a passion of mentoring students for academic and career success. He has a record of consistently mentoring students to pursue graduate degrees in multiple disciplines. One of his recent mentees is now a professor in the Education Department at Texas-AM University and another just finished a law degree at the top of his class from Chase Law School.

## **Student Department Awards 2019-2020**

Please join us in congratulating this past year's Sociology, Anthropology, and Philosophy Student Award winners:

- Outstanding Graduating Senior in Sociology - Siriruay (Ploy) Methakitwarun
- Outstanding Student in Applied Sociology - Benjamin Trumbo
- Outstanding Sociology Graduate in Community Outreach and Service - Olivia Knecht
- Award of Academic Excellence in Anthropology - Carly Schutte
- Outstanding Student in Anthropology Award - April Hester
- Outstanding Student in Ancient Civilizations - Seth Frost
- Outstanding Student in Evolutionary Studies - Carly Schutte
- Outstanding Student in Native American Studies - Karin Floyd
- Outstanding Senior in Philosophy Award - Mia Adamjee
- Outstanding Service in Philosophy Award - Dustin Courtney
- Outstanding Senior in Religious Studies Award - Nicholas Frey

## **SAP Sends Two Teams to Annual Ethics Bowl**

The Ethics Bowl is an intercollegiate competition where college students exercise their moral reasoning in a friendly and competitive atmosphere. Our department has sponsored teams to compete for several years, but this year was a little different.

We had so much interest that we sent two teams to the annual competition at Marian University.

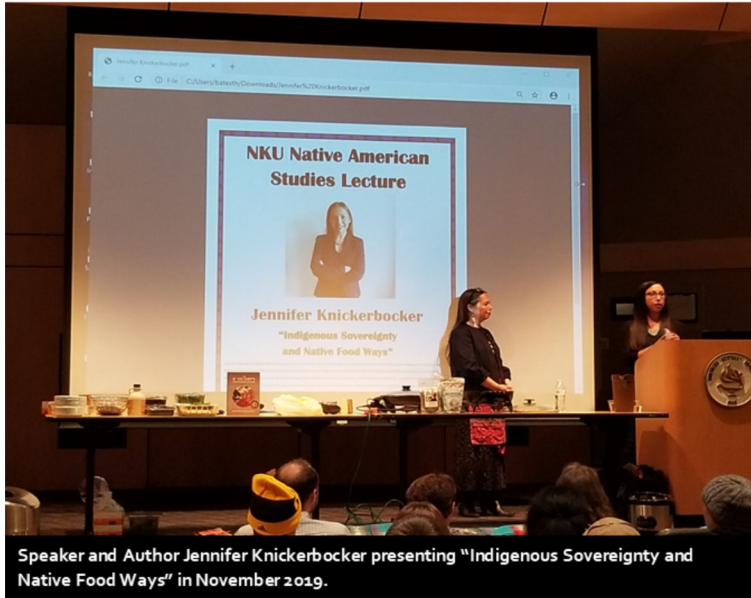


If you are interested in participating in future ethics bowls as mentors, participants, or sponsors, please contact Dr. Robert Brice ([bricer1@nku.edu](mailto:bricer1@nku.edu)) and Dr. Frimpong-Mansoh



([frimpongma1@nku.edu](mailto:frimpongma1@nku.edu)).

## NASA Sponsors Speaker



The Native American Student Association hosted Jennifer Knickerbocker in November 2019. Jennifer belongs to the Anishinaabeg people from White Earth Nation and an enrolled member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe from the Ottertail Pillager band. She is an environmentalist, activist, and indigifeminist working on culturally-based sustainable development issues and decolonization in her community in Yellow Springs, Ohio and her White Earth reservation through Honor the Earth.

Jennifer is the former chair of the Advisory Commission on Diversity for the most diverse city in the State of Washington. She is a published nonfiction writer and a radio host for the program, Women of All Red Nations on WCSU FM. Jennifer is the Director of Foundation & Corporate Relations at Antioch College.

## Alum Shares History with Public



Since graduating in 2016, Anthropology student Allison Parrot has experienced in her words, "a whirlwind of adventures and moving all of the country." She worked for three years at the Ojibwe cultural museum on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Her position allowed her to attend community ceremonies and learn historical Native American skills.

Last year she accepted a new position at the George Ranch Historical Park in Richmond, TX; just outside of Houston. In this position she is the site supervisor of two historical homes at this living history museum. One home is from the 1930s and programming includes cultural events that highlight life on the property during WWII. The second home was built in the 1890s and showcases life during the early settlement period of the area.

She hopes that her adventures and work with collections, archaeology, and historic

home management will provide a focus for her future goal of attaining a graduate degree.

## **Anthropology Grad Award Winner and Activist**

April Hester is a citizen of the Muscogee Creek Nation, born in Oklahoma and resident of Cincinnati, Ohio. She is the cofounder and Education Coordinator of the Greater Cincinnati Native American Coalition (GCNAC), a nonprofit organization working to preserve and advocate for Native American culture, Indigenous and human rights, and Indigenize our local community. April was a member of NKU's Inclusive Excellence Committee and the president of the Native American Student Association (NASA) which is active in bringing awareness to Native American culture and contemporary issues to NKU and throughout the Greater Cincinnati area.



For an independent study, April created a curriculum that gives background on Ohio's Native American history in affiliation with contemporary Native peoples and issues. It provides students with an understanding of Indigenous perspective in curriculum and the varied Indigenous cultures affiliated with Ohio that continue to thrive today. The lessons she created are intended to challenge Eurocentric narratives, reveal the diversity of Native Peoples, teach students to recognize stereotypes that reinforce harmful bias, and support the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples. This summer she will be presenting some of this information at the High AIMS summer institute. High AIMS is a professional learning opportunity for the more than 2000 educators from 30 public school districts in Ohio.

April is also the recipient of the Outstanding Student in Anthropology Award and a past recipient of the Outstanding Student in Native American Studies award.

## **Sociology Grad Wins Awards**

Recent sociology graduate Siriruay "Ploy" Methakitwarun has wowed everyone with her original research over throughout her undergraduate years. Her interests are on family and youth; immigration adaptation; and social demography. During her time at NKU, she has presented at both regional and state conferences. Her paper, Leaving the Nest: Does Parental Closeness Matter to Immigrant Generations?, was awarded 1st place in the undergraduate division of the 2020 Jules Delambre Student Paper Contest sponsored by the Anthropologists & Sociologists of Kentucky.

Ploy is a member of Alpha Kappa Delta, the Sociology Honor society and has served as the Sociology Club's president for the last two years. Her presentations include: "Immigrant generations in home leaving: Do parents and peers matter?" at NKU's Celebration of Undergraduate Research and Creativity; "Immigrant generations in

home leaving: Do parents and peers matter?" at the Southern Demographic Association [SDA] in New Orleans, LA; and "Leaving the Nest" Does parental closeness matter to immigrant generations?" at the Population Association of America [PAA] in Washington, DC.

Beyond earning the department's Outstanding Graduating Senior in Sociology award, Ploy has earned the Southern

Demographic Association's Outstanding Student Paper Award. She also spent the summer of 2019 participating in the Research Experience for Undergraduates [REU] in Race, Ethnicity and Family Demography at the Population Research Center of the University of Texas at Austin.



## **Brendan J. Sullivan: JD Candidate**



Since graduating as a Philosophy major, Brendan took a year to work at a state courthouse in Northern Kentucky before deciding to enter law school at NKU. Over the past two years in law school, he has kept his first place rank in his law school class and maintained a 4.0 cumulative GPA. Brendan served as a judicial extern in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky for The Honorable William O. Bertelsman.

Recently, Brendan was elected Editor-in-Chief of the Northern Kentucky Law Review—a scholarly journal focusing on new and important issues affecting the legal profession. This year, the Law Review will tackle decriminalization and drug policy in America, and Brendan is extremely excited to continue the same enthusiasm for knowledge and learning that he received in every single Philosophy lesson he ever had at NKU. And this summer, Brendan will work as a summer associate at Keating, Muething & Klekamp PLL, a large and respected law firm in Cincinnati.

## **Follow Us on Social Media!**

- Facebook - NKU.SAP, nkusociology, and NKU.Philosophy

- Twitter - @nkusocanthphil, @NKUAnthropology, and @NKUPhilosophy
- Instagram - nkusap, nkusociology, nkuanthropology, and nkuphilosophy