

Our News

Issue 16

April 10, 2024

Next Network-wide Meeting

Thurs., May 23 at 4:00 p.m.
Eastern

Improving Career Readiness Visibility in the AAA

ACRN recently met with **Ady Arguelles-Santier** and **Laura Roznovsky**, AAA Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director, respectively.

The two Departmental Services Program events and the survey in Q1 were successful. We agreed to continue to explore opportunities where we might partner.

ACRN offered to provide a one-sentence update for Ady's News and Notes which is published at the start of each month. Now, AAA members will benefit from greater awareness of ACRN activities.



ANTHROPOLOGY CAREER READINESS NETWORK

Departments are reaching out!

Opportunities are emerging to talk with Department Chairs and instructors about improving student career preparation in anthropology programs. ACRN's robust **Departmental Advisory Initiative** (DAI) is designed to build capacity among instructors for teaching practice. The [Career Ready Curriculum](#) serves as a guide to integrate practice fundamentals throughout coursework and departmental programming.

The newest departments to participate include:



Missouri
State
UNIVERSITY



West Chester University applied through the Consortium for Practicing and Applied Anthropology Programs (COPAA); coincidentally, it was selected for COPAA's Departmental Advising on Anthropological Practice (DAAP) Award which helps defray ACRN travel costs to campuses. Missouri State, Texas A&M, and Indiana University had conversations with ACRN as part of the AAA Departmental Services Program event in February or the Society for Applied Anthropology Meetings in March.

We look forward to working with all of them.

To All ACRN Members



Class Project with Univ of North Texas

Members received a link to the membership survey in the email with this issue of the Newsletter.

Please respond promptly. Anthropology students taking Susan Squires Evaluation course will need your input for their analysis.

Ina Rosenthal-Urey Mentorship Awardees for 2024

The following college juniors are the recipients for this year's program:

- Shairai Richards (Trinity College, CT)
- Victoria Haddox (Texas State)
- Benjamin Knight (Christ's College, U of Cambridge)
- Austyn Moon (Oregon State)

They will be assigned two mentors—one in academia and the other in practice.

User Experience Study of Our Student/Job Seeker Resources

Elizabeth Weigler volunteered to conduct a UX study on how students would organize and categorize resources on the ACRN website, based on their own needs. Among the resources were the student/job seeker tools, workshops, presentations, and ACRN's Newsletter and Network-wide Meetings.

Five students participated, representing undergraduates, recent bachelor holders, and graduate students:

- **Kayli Mann**
- **Chloe Aitken**
- **Timothy Henderson**
- **Noah Davidson**
- **Grace Nnenna Fredrick**

Thank you all very much!



Using Figma, Elizabeth asked the study participants to 1) group the resources in as many categories as seemed appropriate, and 2) “think out loud” as they made their categories. The result was a progression of seven categories focused on preparing for, finding, and securing work in industry, nonprofits, and government:

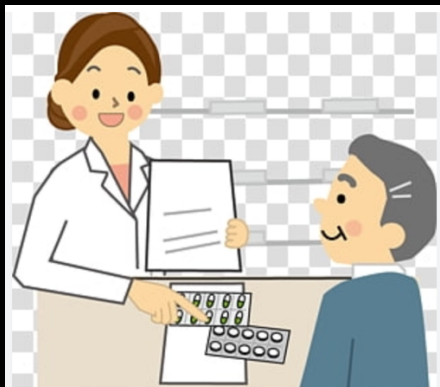
1. Getting Ready for Your Career
2. Developing Your Workplace Skills
3. Exploring Possible Careers
4. Learning to Network
5. Preparing Your Applications
6. Interviewing with Employers
7. Using Anthropology at Work

We will be updating the ACRN website soon with this new categorization.

New Link for Anthropologists on the Public Stage:

<https://anthrocurious.com/courses>

Understanding the Worklives of Ambulatory Pharmacists



Class Project with North Dakota State

- **Research Question:** To what extent is there evidence of burnout within this occupational group?
- **Data and Methods:** UG students conducted 18 interviews either solo or in pairs
- **Analysis:** Content analysis and selection of representative quotes are occurring in teams
- **Final Presentation:** Students will deliver class presentation to client and ACRN on May 2

SfAA in Santa Fe, NM was an Energizing Meeting

With three workshops and three panels, along with time speaking with meeting attendees, ACRN members were quite busy.

A session chaired by Charles Klein brought together one UG student, one faculty advisor, two professors, and three anthropologists with significant experience in both practice and academia: **Opening the Conversations between Students and Practitioners.** The discussion raised both solutions and questions.

Internships and Community Service Projects

- Hiring a department internship coordinator frees up instructor time
- Establishing a special internship fund enables departments to offer a small stipend for those doing unpaid internships
- How could a field school be funded that focuses on community service projects and is led by a practitioner?

Campus Career Centers

- Many departments have no relationship with staff in these centers
- Educating career center staff about anthropological practice is an important departmental priority for its students
- What can be done to assist those instructors who have little knowledge of practice?

Teaching Students to Network and Find Mentors

- Networking works best when it is student-driven—where they choose the anthropologist to contact
- Finding and working with multiple mentors makes sense

ACRN Resources

- While these resources are helpful to students, it is best to build them into courses and formal training
- “Grab-and-Go” teaching modules about practice are highly desirable
- There are new calls for resources for practitioners as they build their careers

Failure

- Learning about practitioner vulnerabilities and failures helps empower students

See you on
Thursday, May 23, 4:00 p.m. Eastern