

Our News

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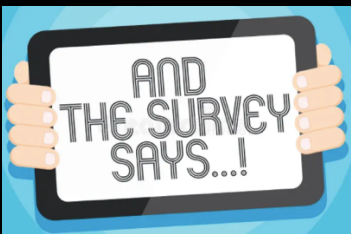
Next Network-wide Meeting

Thurs., Jan. 18 at 4:00 p.m.
Eastern

2024 Class Project with



Susan Squires' class on Evaluation will conduct a Network membership survey in the Spring.



Her Design Anthropology class worked with the Network in 2021. Here is a link so you can review the quality of their project: [incorporating practice into the curriculum.](#)



ANTHROPOLOGY CAREER READINESS NETWORK

Publicity about Anthropology?

A few recent articles in the media have captured ACRN's attention—and not in a good way. Among them are:

- Nov. 3: [Can Humanities Survive the Budget Cuts?](#)
- Nov. 24: [Powerful Forces Are Fracking Our Attention. We Can Fight Back](#)
- Dec. 2: [I Teach the Humanities, and I Still Don't Know What Their Value Is](#)

During our last Network-wide meeting on Nov. 9, we discussed key issues that the media has been bringing to the forefront including the **perception that anthropology offers little value** to society, to organizations, and/or to taxpayers, as well as a **general lack of understanding about anthropology**. We brainstormed how the Network might respond.

Some of us have already been prompted to take some action. Bob Morais has written a short op-ed “rebuttal” to this erroneous perspective and is hoping to publish it in a mass media outlet. Zahira Aragon has designed a flyer advertising two upcoming webinars called “Shaping the Future of Anthropology” on which the Network will partner with the American Anthropological Association (AAA); invitations will be extended to those academic departments that have a AAA institutional membership. Others are planning to create short teaching modules showcasing the work and relevance of practitioners in a variety of career settings; these modules would be perfect for an Anthropology 101 or Applied Anthropology course.

We welcome both your ideas and your efforts to help shift this negative media narrative in ways that are more accurate and complete. Part of our Jan. 18 meeting will continue this conversation so **come join us!**

Some Challenges in Building a Movement

The focus of ACRN's Town Hall at the AAA Meetings in Toronto was “Revitalizing Anthropology Programs in a Changing Landscape.” Those of us who

Instructor Tips: ACRN Town Hall

- 1) Enable Students to Gain Proficiency in these Basic Methods
 - Interviewing
 - Observation
 - Shadowing
 - Archival research
- 2) Teach Students to Explain How Anthropological Skills Are Applicable to Workplaces
- 3) Create an Alumni Advisory Council in your Program for Program Input, Mentoring, and as a Pipeline for Jobs and Internships
- 4) Emphasize the Value of Storytelling in Anthropology and Require Students to Achieve a Level of Competency in It
- 5) Require Students to Access LinkedIn, Explore It as an Ethnography, and Create their Profile

participated found attendance to be wanting. The room was large and the number of attendees few (about 15). As one person stated (and many of us thought), “This room should be full!”



Elizabeth Briody, Adrian Conway, Christina Collins, Andrew Walsh, Matt Artz, and Suanna Selby Crowley

Nevertheless, all the presenters seemed energized in delivering their brief remarks on ACRN’s initiatives, website, available resources, and communications and in responding to questions and comments. The remainder of the session was devoted to audience discussion of strategies for increasing anthropology’s usefulness and relevance, focusing especially on knowledge, skills, and practice experiences. Out of that discussion came useful tips, particularly for instructors. **(See side panel.)**

Based on the 1) recent negative publicity and lack of publicity on anthropology’s value, and 2) low Town Hall attendance, it seems both external and internal forces are in play and will have to be dealt with simultaneously.

Speakers Bureau Testimonials

Sergio López (SUNY Potsdam) taught “Professionalism in Anthropology,” this fall. He reviewed the information on the Network’s Speaker and invited **Emily Altimare** (Raytheon Technologies) to be a guest speaker.



meets



RTX

Emily was featured in the 2008 video “Anthropology, Real People, Real Careers.” Sergio wanted his students to see what Emily was doing then when she was at a similar stage in her life and compare it to what she is doing now. He hoped it might help his students “gain insights into what their future might hold” and asked her to talk about her work in consulting.



A **blockbuster** set of acceptances!

Plan to go to Santa Fe, NM March 26-30, 2024 and invite colleagues and students to come!

Our 2 SfAA sessions:

- *What Are Anthropology Students Learning? What Should They Be Learning?*
- *Opening the Conversation between Students and Practitioners*

Our 6 workshops:

- *Talking About Anthropology to Others*
- *Becoming a Practicing Anthropologist*
- *Got Those Anthro Skills Yet? Let's Create a Plan*
- *Anthropological Approaches to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Work in Organizations*
- *Crafting Compelling Narratives: Storytelling Anthropology for Mainstream Audiences*
- *Learning How to Build Your Network*

Emily's current title at RTX is Strategic Change Integration Leader. She prepared a slide deck covering her academic journey, her consulting clients, and a few "favorite assignments" where she said she "leveraged the anthropological toolkit." For example, she talked about how she communicates differently with "non-academic and non-anthropology audiences."

Then came the student questions. She described: "I was asked:

- if I ever doubted picking anthropology as a degree
- if I use AI and
- how I used my undergraduate minor (Women's Studies) in my current work."

Emily summarized the experience this way: "It had been a long time since I was in a classroom setting but the opportunity to share my work experience with undergraduates was so rewarding...I encourage others to participate in this speaker series. It's a win-win for practitioners and students alike. Likewise, Sergio commented: "Emily's engaging talk provided a glimpse into her role as an ethnographer in lean manufacturing, showcasing her significant contributions to diverse settings where the perspective of our discipline plays a fundamental role in value creation."

Consider someone from the [Speakers Bureau](#) for your upcoming event!

Departmental Advisory Initiative

The Department of Anthropology at the University of Delaware (UD) has been working with ACRN to create their implementation plan for introducing practice into their UG program. Hallmarks of strong, career ready programs emphasize problem solving and collaboration. Employers expect that new hires will have a "solutions mindset" and that they will be able to work well with their colleagues and supervisors.

One of UD's objectives involves designing a "visual roadmap that includes the content, skills, methods, and workplace experiences that students will acquire as majors." The roadmap will be a resource for

- **prospective students and their parents** to highlight what and how students will learn



Where Are They Now?



Mark Moritz recently put out a LinkedIn post seeking help from alumni of anthropology's graduate programs at Ohio State.

The goal is twofold: learn about the careers of their alums and connect their current graduate students with their alums.

Mark hopes to create alumni profiles like those developed at San Jose State University. Alums will fill out a form describing their

- Current position
- Focus of their graduate studies
- Skills acquired in their graduate studies that are useful in their current role.

Connecting with Alumni is the first strategy listed on our [Building Department-Alumni Connections Tool](#).

- **current students** as they select courses and other departmental programming
- **instructors** to compare knowledge and skill acquisition across the curriculum.

Departmental members are crafting the roadmap now, an effort requiring significant collaboration and knowledge of course specifics. Instructors **Carla Guerrón Montero** and **Jennifer Trivedi** are taking the lead on the roadmap and are drawing upon the expertise of UD's Career Center and the Student Success Office. The Department of Anthropology will continue to meet quarterly with the Network through Q3 2024 to report and measure progress.

Do you know of an Anthropology program that could benefit from ACRN's [Departmental Advisory Initiative](#)? If so, contact elizabeth.briody@gmail.com.

Terrific Class Project!

The Applied Anthropology course at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, under the leadership of **Amanda Poole**, worked with the PA Solar Center this fall.

Communities in Indiana County, Pennsylvania are facing rising utility costs and socio-economic challenges with the recent closure of a nearby coal-fired power plant. IUP Applied Anthropology students conducted research to help PA Solar Center expand a program into Indiana County that helps community organizations understand and navigate the process of adopting solar energy.



The students sought to understand perspectives in the community about solar energy. They interviewed “solar ambassadors”—individuals concerned about energy sustainability and the community’s future. They also spoke with three local nonprofits in various stages of interest in adopting solar energy.

On December 5, the class presented their findings in the form of a well-constructed PowerPoint presentation to two members of PA Solar Center and the Network. We learned that solar is a possibility in Indiana County but not necessarily a priority for area non-profits. Students identified ways to connect solar to the goals of non-profits by understanding concerns about cost and reliability. For example, a non-profit like the Humane Society was concerned about the reliability of solar as an energy source given the need to keep their animals safe. PA Solar will need to problem solve around these and other issues.

Latest Tool Hot Off the Press

A new addition to our set of student tools is one called [Anthropologists Meet DEI](#).

It provides definitions of

- Diversity
- Equity
- Inclusion

along with some background information on how DEI arose.

It offers examples of DEI organizational processes, strategies, and policies. The tool also suggests two outlets where one can obtain either a certificate or certification.

Anthropologists are well-suited for DEI work, although historically they have not been very engaged in it. Anthropological training teaches the value of cultural understanding and holism as well as awareness of bias, among other pertinent information useful for a DEI professional.



Students from IUP's Applied Anthropology Course

A key insight for the students was that education, especially of young people, is essential in any transition to solar energy. Beginning that education now—on solar's social, technical, and policy impact—has the potential to pay off in the future. The students were thrilled to present to the client and the Network. They spent the next class period talking about options for a follow-up study.

See you for our next Network-wide Meeting on
Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern

In the meantime, we suggest you take Oliver's advice and enjoy a restful holiday season.

