

Our News

Issue 7

September 14, 2022

Next Commission-wide Meeting

Thurs., October 20 at 4:00 EDT

Register now for TAAS 2022!

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Texas Applied Anthropology Summit is fully online

<https://txappliedanth.com/taas-2022>

Wed. evening, Sept. 28

Thurs. evening, Sept. 29

Sat. all day, Oct. 1

Led by **Emily Brunson** at TX State, learn about careers, sharpen your research skills, and network with others interested in applying anthropology in their future work.



CAREER READINESS COMMISSION

Amazing productivity!

We recently compiled a spreadsheet of Commission work “products” and activities since our launch in May 2021. Although this list is not complete, it will give you an idea of the power of volunteers dedicated to a vision of career readiness for graduating anthropology students.

16 recorded workshops	7 Commission-wide newsletters
10 tools	7 Commission-wide meetings
1 in-person conference hosted	1 recorded podcast
12 blog posts: World of Work Blog	342 existing resources compiled
6 reports	1 upcoming AAA Executive Session
1 website: anthrocareerready.net	7+ workstreams
8 conference presentations	20+ supportive anthropology associations
1 internship project	340+ Commission members
4 class projects	

The quality and quantity of this output is unbelievable! Most of this work can be found on **anthrocareerready.net**, with new materials added at least monthly.

Groups are expanding!

Resources

Zahira Aragon and **Erica Dzedzic** and other volunteers are in the process of developing a plan to test the usability and usefulness of the resources page. A confluence of factors led to this plan: 1) the tagging feature was finalized, 2) **Cody Skahan**'s UX study of our website revealed that students were skipping over the resources page, and 3) our compiled resources have had a lower-than-expected number of hits.

Publicity

Suanna Selby Crowley and **Jennifer Studebaker** are continuing their work on a media strategy to assist with increasing awareness of the Commission's work (e.g., resource materials, new initiatives, World of Work Blog). For example, a media kit will provide guidance for contributors and their employers in amplifying the Commission's work with their networks. They are working to develop pitches for select publications about the importance of career readiness for the workplace and the most recent activities in which the Commission is engaged. Crowley and Studebaker are planning to expand our social media

The First Commission Tool to hit Tik Tok

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Are there NO JOBS for Anthropology majors?

[https://www.tiktok.com/@anthropology4u/video/7136348017510157614?is from webapp=v1&item_id=7136348017510157614&web_id=7135922869193033258](https://www.tiktok.com/@anthropology4u/video/7136348017510157614?is_from_webapp=v1&item_id=7136348017510157614&web_id=7135922869193033258)

Let's thank
Keirsten Snover at
anthropology4u.

She made the tool
"Job Titles to Explore"
into a short 2:55 video
complete with
wonderful content,
narration, and music,
plus fabulous graphics
and animation.

Check it out! We think
you will agree!

presence. They also have ideas for Op-Ed articles that would have a broad academic readership. They could use your help. Please contact: suanna@myheadfort.com.

One-Page Tools

We are looking for **practitioners, advanced undergraduates, and graduate students** to help create some new one-page tools for those hoping to use their anthropological training in the workplace. This activity is fun, interesting, and rewarding. It is a great way for students to help their peers and demonstrate competency (i.e., **can be listed on a resume**). It is also suitable for a short-term assignment or extra credit opportunity. While we have a running list of possible topics for these tools, we are open to cool ideas.

Lesson Plans

Another group will help create simple 20-30 minute lesson plans that incorporate the one-page tools designed for students. This group would be perfect for three sets of people: 1) those who took/are taking **any education coursework**, 2) those who had/have a **major or minor in education**, and 3) anyone who is familiar with writing course/training **objectives and outcomes**.

We would like to get these two groups running by early October. To be successful, we **really need your help!** Please contact elizabeth.briody@gmail.com ASAP and thank you, in advance.

In the Near Term

Website Messaging

We learned from the UX study of our website that the time is ripe to rework and clarify some of the messaging. While the structure will remain largely intact, look for changes in the text that will enhance understanding and improve user reactions—particularly among students.

Executive Session, AAA Meetings

The Commission was fortunate to be allocated "Executive Session" status, one of 16 such sessions at these hybrid meetings in Seattle, WA. The session will take the form of a townhall, with most of the session devoted to audience discussion. The session's title is a play on words: **Unsettling Anthropology to Prepare Students: Career Readiness Commission Results, Recommendations, Implementation**.

We start by making the case that anthropology is facing several crises, including a 20% decline in BA anthropology programs between 2011-2021

World of Work Blog:

Upcoming Posts

- How Can We as Anthropologists Be the Change We Wish to See in the World?
- Are All Capstones Created Equal?
- How Do You Find Work You Truly Love?

AAA Practice Day

Sat. Nov. 12 in Seattle. A day dedicated to practice with workshops, keynote, and networking thanks in large part to **Daniel Ginsberg** and **Caitlyn Kolhoff**. Plan to attend!

Getting Recharged

The “Etc.” Group is getting reconstituted and focusing on 1) what sorts of broad global challenges will attract practitioners in the future and 2) what sorts of perspectives, skills, & theory, will prepare them to grapple with these challenges?

For more info, contact: rwnolan@purdue.edu

(<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2022/09/02/college-major-regrets/>). However, we point out that solutions exist! Not only are certain program changes relatively painless to make, but the Career Readiness Commission is willing consult with interested instructors who want to introduce some aspects of career readiness into their existing courses.

Commission reports and one-page tools will be highlighted by **Jennifer Studebaker**. The resources repository will be introduced by **Gina Nuñez-Mchiri**. Class projects and role plays will be discussed by **Nazia Hussain**. The overview and next steps will be laid out by **Elizabeth Briody**. If you plan to be in Seattle for the AAA Meetings, please attend our early morning session (#2-115) on **Thurs., Nov. 10, 8:00-9:45**.

Anthropologists on the Public Stage

Anthropologists have a lot to say but their public visibility has been low relative to many other disciplines. For the last 2.5 years, a team of anthropologists has been working diligently to produce video-based training modules. Funded by Wenner-Gren, the goal is to encourage anthropologists and anthropology students to enter the public sphere to share their research, insights, and ideas. The trainings will be released and available this fall.



Anthropologist and podcast host Adam Gamwell narrates the training modules

The team interviewed 28 professionals who share their perspectives and tips on issues such as connecting with the media or influencing policy development. **Adam Gamwell** is a master at tying these perspectives together in a simple, straightforward fashion. The modules are a great length for class periods given that they average 14 minutes. And each module is accompanied by an exercise offering viewers practice in developing their ideas and executing them.

For more information on any of these and other Commission matters, contact: elizabeth.briody@gmail.com or rwnolan@purdue.edu