

Our News

Issue 9

January 21, 2023

Next Commission-wide Meeting

Thurs., February 23 at 4:00 EST

A More Student-Friendly Website

Our planning continues around learning from students.

In February, we will bring anthropology students together to 1) gather insights into their career plans and concerns, and 2) feedback on a website concept.



If you are a student, we would appreciate your willingness to be part of a focus group. Please contact: elizabeth.briody@gmail.com



CAREER READINESS COMMISSION

A New Semester Means New Class Projects

Building capacity will be a key theme for the Commission in 2023.

Not only do we intend to increase career readiness for anthropology students, but we also continue to work directly with instructors to showcase what they are doing. Client-based class projects allow us to make headway on both aims. Here is our [one-page tool](#) that provides an overview of the rationale and process.



How do you set up a client-based class project?

Why do it?	Who participates?	How long is it?	How do you find a client?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students get "hands-on" experience working on a current problem for a "real" client, using their research, project management, communication, and collaboration skills. A creative-thinking learning experience is foundational as students transition to the workplace. To get hired, employers expect graduates to have some work experience which a class project offers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior level undergraduates Graduate students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One semester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit clients through anthropologists in industry, non-profits, and government Tap into your own network Use the Career Readiness Commission network

Ethnographic Research Example	Search and Summary Example	Blog Posts Example
<p>Best for Graduate Level Classes</p> <p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve students in a "real-world" problem through project-based learning Develop skills through the direct application of ethnographic methods Build and extend theory based on analysis Work as a team to write and get input on a proposal, secure IRB approval, plan and conduct the research, and develop and deliver a final presentation to the client <p>Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assigned to parallel each project phase Types include the anthropological perspective, culture concept, comparisons of theoretical models, practical articles on creating field guides and coding methods, and theories on team building <p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research skill development, including supporting findings with theory or generating new theory Experience in project planning and execution 	<p>Best for Undergraduate Level Classes</p> <p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile cases showing range of successful solutions anthropologists have developed in industry, non-profits, and government Provide short, bulleted case summaries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problem Approach Outcome/Practical Significance Suggest ways to organize summaries <p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic and library search skills Clear, concise written summaries Creative options for organizing summaries Acquisition of lessons in problem solving 	<p>Works with any level class</p> <p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the knowledge, skills, and experiences from anthropology that helped prepare you for your career Describe near-term or medium-term career goals Offer advice to anthropology programs to improve student career readiness <p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflection on anthropology's usefulness and relevance Written blog post to include in portfolio

Our experience to date indicates:

- Instructors report **high levels of student engagement** with the project, instructor, and course materials.
- Students recognize the **usefulness and relevance** of class projects for their learning, skill development, preparation for future careers, and interest in making a difference.
- We know that **student-to-student collaboration** has essential benefits: peer support during the project, early development of professional networks, and exposure to a common approach to work regardless of workplace.

Get ready for training modules #3 and #4 from Anthropologists on the Public Stage!

Go to:

<https://www.anthrocurious.com/pub>

to register, view the trainings, and work on the customized exercises!

#3 Tell a Great Story (13:52)

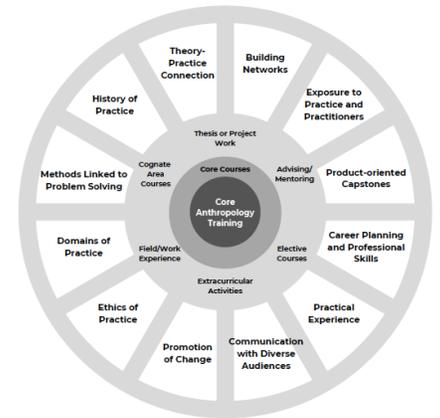
Learn to move back and forth between your data and insights to the art and practice of storytelling. Telling better stories is one way for anthropologists to have impact and communicate effectively.

#4 Influence Policy

Development (14:12) focuses on your research in relation to the phases of policy work: developing, implementing, and evaluating policy. It involves research and the media around it (e.g., op-ed pieces, broadcast interviews), crafting and implementing policy, and/or becoming an elected official.

Release date: Jan. 22, 2023

Class projects also align with our model of a Career Ready Curriculum (See Newsletter Issue 8). For example, students *and* instructors explore *methods linked to problem solving*, get *direct exposure to practice and practitioners*, obtain *practical experience*, and *engage in building networks*, all while they are learning about theory, a cognate area, etc. Based on the four prior class projects and the two now underway, we are discovering that class projects significantly enhance the course content and get students excited about *what* they are learning, *why* they are learning it, and *how* it is relevant to their future.



If you are an instructor or department chair, we would value the chance to work with you and your students. **Please contact** us at Elizabeth.briody@gmail.com and rwnolan@purdue.edu.

Examples: Spring Term 2023



Indiana University with Christina Collins, UG Course:

Focus groups with UG anthropology majors to 1) identify any concerns they have related to their future careers, 2) specify any differences in those concerns by college year, and 3) offer recommendations in the form of interventions to help alleviate their concerns. This project extends the work of **Daniel Ginsberg** and colleagues in a forthcoming issue in the *Annals of Anthropological Practice* on Anthropology Majors Prepare for Life after College.



UNIVERSITY
AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

UAlbany with Elise Andaya, UG and

Graduate Course: Compilation of both published cases from the literature and unpublished cases based on interviews in which anthropological perspectives and approaches have been applied successfully in industry, non-profits, and government. This project builds on the cases identified by **Andrew Walsh** with UG students at **Western University** in Fall 2022. Students can draw on these cases to emphasize the usefulness of anthropology with potential employers, peers, and future colleagues.

New One-Page Tools

The Tools Working Group has been working on new student tools. Two relate to developing compelling materials to share with hiring managers:

- **Resumes, CVs, Portfolios, and Bios** outlines alternative ways of introducing work experience and expertise.

The last two modules will be released February 5 and 19, respectively:

#5 Increase Public Awareness (22:36)

#6 Promote Yourself and Anthropology (14:03)

Undergraduate Mentorship Award

Spread the word to Juniors about the **Ina Rosenthal-Urey Award** which pairs anthropology majors with two mentors each—one from practice and one from academia. Offered by the American Anthropological Assoc., mentees receive a \$500 award and complimentary AAA membership. Read more about it and [apply here](#).

“... What I was hoping for from this program, and fortunately got, was seeing what cultural anthropologists could do apart from becoming a professor.”

—Awardee

Deadline: March 15, 2023.

- **Creating a Cover Letter** emphasizes why this job, why this organization, and why you.

These tools will be posted next week. Two others are under review:

- **Job Interview Strategies**
- **Conducting Focus Groups.**

Some others are still in the early concept stage:

- **Making Decisions about Graduate School**
- **Alumni's Hidden Value.**

World of Work Blog Refresh

Strategically Sourced Content

We have had a good run—asking anthropologists to write on any topic pertaining to careers and career preparation. It is now time to shift.

Beginning in February, we will post content on specific topics, the first topic of which will be **Translating Anthropology to Employers, Clients, and Hiring Managers.**



We are soliciting blog posts of your examples to help us learn from them. The blog post should

1. Introduce the reader to the situation (e.g., an interview discussion, a work conversation, a fieldwork experience)
2. Describe what occurred as you tried to "translate anthropology"
3. Incorporate (recollected) dialogue between you and the other person so that readers can see *how* you responded.

So many of our readers are looking for these kinds of insights—good ways to make a point about anthropology's usefulness and relevance. If appropriate, you could include what you *might have said* 1) to extend the conversation, or 2) if you could relive or re-envision the situation. The blogs are no more than 750 words. We will work with you to help edit them. Please contact Priscilla Linn at: prlinn3@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed

Contact us to get involved! We *need* you, but more importantly, anthropology *needs* you.