

# Department of

# Folk Studies & Anthropology

## 2020 – 2021 Newsletter

From the Department Head and Anthropology  
Program Director

**Dr. Darlene Applegate**

Whew! Was *that* a year. A year of global health crises, political debates, and social justice movements. A year rife with uncertainty and unprecedented challenges. A year full of adapting and coping... and Zoom meetings. At the same time, 2020-2021 was a year during which our faculty, staff, and students mastered new technologies, incorporated current events into our instruction and research, and expanded collaborations with community partners. We supported each other through the rough times. We have much to be proud of, as outlined in these pages.

In the Anthropology Program, we welcomed the largest group of new and transfer students in recent years. We implemented a revised major curriculum with several new courses and a concentration in Applied Anthropology. The Kentucky Archaeological Survey was busy with projects ranging from geophysical surveys to site excavations, from educational resources to architectural surveys. Even a flood in the Anthropology Lab did not deter us from our mission of ethical student engagement, sound theoretical and applied research, and relevant public service.

From the Folk Studies Program Director

**Dr. Ann K. Ferrell**

Folk Studies students, alumni, and faculty have accomplished a lot this year! We added a new concentration in Museum Studies to our long-standing concentrations in Public Folklore, Historic Preservation, and a Research Thesis track. With the arrival of 2021, the *Journal of American Folklore* officially moved to a new editorial home. We are grateful for this rewarding opportunity and to the many authors, peer reviewers, and outstanding graduate student editorial assistants we worked with over our five-year tenure. Many congratulations are in order this year: to our graduating students and award winners; to our alumni on new projects, jobs, and awards; to our award-winning faculty; and to Dr. Kate Horigan and family, who welcomed Luke Henry into the world on April 19.



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# Student Profiles



**Georgia Ellie Dassler** is a graduate student in Folk Studies. She decided to pursue her master's degree because she has always been interested in arts, culture, and the ways humans make sense of the world. She wants to support people so they can keep doing those things that are most important to them and their cultures, and so other people can understand them a little better. Some of her greatest learning experiences while at WKU have been graduate assistantships with the *Journal of American Folklore* and the Kentucky Folklife Program. After graduation, Ellie is doing an internship with Long Island Traditions in New York as a next step in her career in public folklore.

**"I've always been interested in . . . the ways humans make sense of the world or make the world more beautiful and interesting."**

**Camille Acosta** hails from El Paso, TX, and was drawn to the graduate program in Folk Studies while still an undergraduate at WKU, taking Dr. Ferrell's Folklore and the Media class. Her interest in theater developed into a passion for storytelling, and her studies have fostered the desire to project the voices and stories of those who need to be heard. In a challenging year, she has been thankful to have such encouraging mentors and friends in the department who applaud the work she is doing, such as her MA thesis on *La Llorona, Picante pero Sabroso: The Mexican Horror Legend as a Story of Survival and a Reclamation of the Monster*. After graduation, Camille hopes to work with performance studies and storytelling, specifically highlighting Chicano and Chicana experiences.

**"Folk Studies is so important because it highlights the significance of stories and culture for so many communities."**



# Student Profiles



**Azadeh Najafian**, originally from Shiraz, Iran, completed her MA in Folk Studies in Spring 2021. Azadeh has a PhD in Persian Literature and has always had an interest in folklore. After moving to the United States, she decided to pursue Folk Studies in order to improve her knowledge of research methods. Azadeh's greatest learning experience in the WKU Folk Studies and Anthropology Department has been the ways in which Folk Studies has opened a new door for research and communication in her field. After graduation, Azadeh plans to continue working and researching as a folklorist and to one day return to Iran to do essential folkloristic research there as well.

**"Studying folklore is important for me because it reminds me of considering different perspectives when I study, research, and live my everyday life."**

In Spring '21 **Corbin Pike** completed a BA in Anthropology with a concentration in Cultural Anthropology and a minor in Folklore. Anthropology is important to her because it allows people to learn about other worldviews, and it forges a way for people to find deeper understanding of other cultures. Corbin's greatest learning experiences have come from the content in the classes she has taken. She remembers Dr. Hudepohl's classes were always entertaining, and Dr. Applegate's classes emphasized hands-on learning. A Woodburn, KY resident, Corbin has several post-graduation goals: working in a museum, helping out with projects at WKU, and continuing to work at Octagon Hall, a historic house museum in Franklin, KY.

**"I've always been super interested in other cultures and learning about them, even as a kid. I also attribute the spark of it being an idea to the Disney movie Atlantis: The Lost Empire."**



## Student Profiles



**James Skaggs**, from Mount Washington, KY, completed a double major in Anthropology and History in Fall '20. Anthropology is important to James because it gives him a better understanding of cultures, past and present. He uses what he has learned about different cultures to educate others as a living history presenter. His greatest learning experiences involved working at Mammoth Cave National Park, which was part of his concentration in Cultural Resource Management, and the archaeology lab methods course. These opportunities gave him hands-on experience. James hopes to get a job with Mammoth Cave National Park so that he can keep the park's rich history and culture alive.

**"I had a strong interest in archaeology specifically, and leading up to attending WKU, I enjoyed learning about other cultures, specifically Native American cultures."**

Hailing from Glasgow, KY, **Jordan Mansfield** graduated in Spring '21 with an Anthropology major, a Criminology minor, and a certificate in Geographic Information Systems. After several major changes, Jordan landed in the Anthropology Program based on her interest in the TV show *Bones* and the Introduction to Archaeology course with Dr. Applegate. Active in the Anthropology Club, she served as treasurer and president. Jordan's greatest learning experience was participating in the 2019 Vasagård Archaeological Project in Denmark. After graduation, Jordan intends to take a year off from school before applying to graduate programs in Anthropology, Geographic Information Science, or Archaeological GIS.

**"Anthropology is important to me because it gives me a new lens to see people of the present, past, and future."**



## Student Projects

Two Folk Studies graduate students completed MA theses this year, which are available on [TopScholar](#). **Camille Maria Acosta** wrote *La Llorona; Picante Pero Sabroso: The Mexican Horror Legend as a Story of Survival and a Reclamation of the "Monster"* and **Azadeh Najafian** authored *Ethnography of Reading Comic Books*. Camille placed third in the Graduate School's inaugural Three Minute Thesis competition.

As part of her Public Folklore concentration in the Folk Studies MA, **Georgia Ellie Dassler** completed a [capstone project](#) in which she documented how folklorists experienced and responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the pandemic, two graduate students completed engaging internships in public folklore. **Taylor Dooley Burden** interned with Local Learning, which is the National Network for Folk Arts in Education, and with the Smithsonian Center for Research and Cultural Heritage. **Georgia Ellie Dassler** worked with the North Carolina Arts Council.



*Ryann Gillespie (L) and Hannah Hudson (R) filming in eastern Kentucky.*

Several graduate students shared their research at the annual American Folklore Society meeting in October: **Camille Maria Acosta**, "They tried to bury us, they didn't know we were seeds': A Folk Art Response to Tragedy in Chuco Town"; **Taylor Dooley Burden**, "To Worship and Conserve: The Role of American Christian Churches in the Conservation of Deaf Culture"; **Georgia Ellie Dassler**, "Ballet Dancers' Personal Narratives of Pain and Injury"; **Azadeh Najafian**, "I had a normal life': The Effect of

War Trauma on the Lives of Bosnian Refugees"; and **Josh Niedwick**, "Marathon Running as a Form of Pilgrimage: The Manifestation of a Ritual Process." Folklore minor **Lamont Jack Pearley** chaired a session on African American traditional music practitioners.



*Ariana Pedigo screens soil at a site on the Mongolian steppe.*

During the fall semester, graduate students in Folklore Fieldwork (FLK 578) conducted ethnographic interviews via Zoom in partnership with Bowling Green's African American Museum. The transcribed interviews and historic photos collected are now archived at the museum and will be used to develop future exhibits and programming.

# Student Projects

During the spring semester, students in Museum Procedures and Preservation Techniques (FLK 470/470G) worked in partnership with the Kentucky Museum to create an exhibit on childhood toys for the museum's student gallery. *Remembering Childhood* is scheduled to open later in 2021.

Two graduate students in American Architectural History (FLK 445/445G), **Brooklyn Hagan** and **Ginny Willoughby**, are collaborating with the Kentucky Museum's research on the Felts House, a ca. 1810 log building undergoing restoration in spring-summer 2021.

Students in Folklore and Education (FLK 562) worked collaboratively with teachers in Warren County public schools, creating lesson plans to complement the Kentucky Museum/Kentucky Folklife Program's traveling "pop up" exhibit *A Culture Carried: Bosnians in Bowling Green*. The lesson plans apply to the curriculum for Middle School Language Arts and Social Studies and for High School Social Studies.

Folk Studies graduate students were out in force at the 51st Annual WKU Student Research Conference in April! Presenters were **Taylor Dooley Burden**, "To Worship and Conserve: The Role of American Christian Churches in the Conservation of Deaf Culture"; **Allison Cate**, "They say a Jewish demon has possessed the groom: Folklore and the Folkloresque in the Film *Demon*"; **Landyn Hatch**, "A labor of love: The Creation of Sperr Memorial Park"; **Ariana Pedigo**, "Bringing the Dancing Demons Back to Life: Tsam Dances in 21st Century Mongolia"; **Madison Rippey**, "Flirting Through the Ages: Changing Social Customs in the Victorian Era and Now"; and **Ginny Willoughby**, "Hanoks: Subsidization, Tourism, and Space."



*Summer Gary will study abroad with support of two competitive scholarships.*



**Ariana Pedigo** was awarded a Fulbright foreign scholarship to Mongolia for academic year 2021-2022. While in Mongolia, she will work on a GIS predictive modeling project to identify archaeological sites that are at risk of being looted.

Anthropology and Folklore students **Hannah Hudson** and **Ryann Gillespie** were hired by the Living Archaeology Weekend (LAW) Steering Committee to film and produce a 15-minute video about stewardship of archaeological sites and other cultural resources in the Red River Gorge area, where the LAW event is held each year.

*Brielle Freeman (L) and Carolyn Castellanos Reyes (R) analyze a skull cast in Forensic Anthropology.*

# Student Projects

Anthropology students worked as archaeology field technicians for the site stewardship program at Mammoth Cave National Park: **Ethan Belcher**, **Summer Gary**, **Ryann Gillespie**, **MaKalynn Green**, **Anna Hayes**, **Hannah Hudson**, **Jalissa Novotney**, **James Skaggs**, and **Tristan Szymanski**. Folk Studies MA student and recent Anthropology graduate **Ginny Willoughby** served as crew chief and assisted with transcription of previous Native American tribal consultations with park administrators.

**Summer Gary**, an Anthropology major with minors in Global Health Services and Creative Writing, was awarded the competitive Gilman International and the Fund for Education Abroad scholarships to support her study abroad program later this year.

*"My future career aspirations are to become a physician who focuses on women's health and sexual health. I hope to learn how to give better access and care to my future patients and help improve public health in America."*

Anthropology major **Mindy Donsbach** worked as a curatorial assistant in our Anthropology Lab. **Heather Hartlage** and **Alyssa Thomas** volunteered there to organize and curate the human osteological collections.

With funding from Potter College, Anthropology majors **Ryann Gillespie** and **Iyanla "Ali" Shackelford** conducted interviews with underrepresented minority (URM) students in our undergraduate programs in order to collect baseline data with which we can develop programmatic initiatives to improve URM student recruitment and retention.

**Zac Burns** applied his anthropology and art history training during an internship with the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science and The Center for Gifted Studies, cataloguing a collection of donated artworks and interviewing donors and artists.

**Amber Burdine** used her anthropology training in her work with refugees at the International Center of Kentucky in Bowling Green. ❖



*Folk Studies graduate students participate in a virtual professional development workshop with alumni Paul McCoy (Humanities Tennessee) and Larry Morrissey (Mississippi Arts Commission).*

# This Year's Graduates

## Three students graduated with Master of Arts degrees in Folk Studies this year:

- Camille Maria Acosta** (thesis concentration)
- Georgia Ellie Dassler** (public folklore concentration)
- Azadeh Najafian** (thesis concentration)

In addition, **Brooklyn Hagan** will earn the Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation after completing her internship at South Union Shaker Village this summer.

**Ellie Dassler** was named the Outstanding Folk Studies Graduate Student, and she received the Potter College Outstanding Graduate Student Award. Way to go, Ellie! Notably, a Folk Studies student has won the college award in three of the last four years.



*Folk Studies graduate students Azadeh Najafian, Ellie Dassler, Taylor Burden, and Camille Acosta (L-R).*

## Thirteen students completed the Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology:

- Amber N. Burdine** (Cultural Anthropology concentration)
- Zachary T. Burns** (Cultural Anthropology concentration)
- Mindy L. Donsbach** (Archaeology and Cultural Resource Management concentrations)
- Loren S. Gaskin** (Cultural Anthropology concentration)
- Heather A. Hartlage** (Biological Anthropology concentration)
- Tyler D. Heckman** (Biological Anthropology concentration)
- Jordan L. Mansfield** (Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, and CRM concentrations)
- Joana Y. Mejia Sosa** (Cultural Anthropology concentration)
- Jalissa Novotney** (Archaeology concentration)
- Corbin E. Pike** (Cultural Anthropology concentration, Folklore minor)
- James R. Skaggs** (Cultural Resource Management concentration)
- Savannah M. Smith** (Cultural Anthropology concentration)
- Tristan J. Szymanski** (Archaeology concentration)

# This Year's Graduates

## Five Anthropology students were recognized with annual awards:

- Jordan L. Mansfield**, Outstanding Senior Anthropology Student Award
- Mindy L. Donsbach**, Outstanding Anthropology Graduate in the Archaeology Concentration Award
- Heather A. Hartlage**, Outstanding Anthropology Graduate in the Biological Anthropology Concentration Award
- Joana Y. Mejia Sosa**, Outstanding Anthropology Graduate in the Cultural Anthropology Concentration Award
- James R. Skaggs**, Outstanding Anthropology Graduate in the Cultural Resource Management Concentration Award

## Five minors finished their degrees this year:

- David T. Creek** (Folklore)
- Emily T. Garnett** (Folklore)
- Michaela A. Moore** (Folklore)
- Eleanor "Ellie" R. Tolbert** (Folklore)
- Emma L. Ward** (Anthropology)

The recipient of the Cam Collins Outstanding Undergraduate Folklore Minor was **Hannah Hudson**.

**Congratulations and best of luck, graduates! ❖**



*Anthropology major Jalissa Novotney marks a foundation stone at a former house site in Mammoth Cave National Park.*

## Faculty/Staff News



**Dr. Tim Frandy** received the 2021 Potter College Faculty Award for Excellence in Research and Creative Activity, in recognition of his exceptional research accomplishments and the broader significance of his work. In the past five years, he authored a book-length researched translation (now available in paperback), co-edited a volume on public humanities, published twelve peer-reviewed essays, won several research grants, and contributed to three museum exhibits and three podcasts. Dr. Frandy not only generates knowledge but also elevates and assists the Sámi, Anishinaabe, and other communities with whom he collaborates. Well deserved, Dr. Frandy!

**Dr. Darlene Applegate** continued to direct the grant-funded archaeological site stewardship program at Mammoth Cave National Park. She presented a paper entitled “Historic Period Communities in Mason Counties: Stories from a Three-Mile Stretch of a Rural Roadway” at the Kentucky Heritage Council Archaeology Conference in March 2021. She resumed research on the pioneering Kuykendall family of Butler County through excavations at a former house site during a summer archaeology field school.

**Dr. Ann K. Ferrell** presented “Looking Back on the Tenn-Tom Waterway Project” at the 2020 American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, based on part of a chapter she is writing for an upcoming co-authored book. She also presented an overview of her oral history/archival project with members of the statewide organization Kentucky Women in Agriculture (KWIA) at the 2020 KWIA conference.

**Dr. Tim Frandy** had a productive year in spite of the pandemic. *Inari Sámi Folklore: Stories from Aanaar* appeared in paperback. A new 34-essay co-edited volume (with B. Marcus Cederström) on public folklore will appear in print in early 2022. Dr. Frandy was awarded the inaugural Folklore and Science Prize by the Folklore and Science Section of the American Folklore Society, won PCAL’s Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award for 2020-2021, and successfully nominated birchbark canoe builder Mino-Giizhig (Wayne Valliere) for a National Heritage Fellowship. He has been working with NYC drag artist Vivacious to moderate her digital show, and a musical collaboration between Sámi musician Sofia Jannok and Bon Iver he arranged resulted in the release of the EP *Vacker Dálvi*.



**Dr. Hudepohl guides students in fieldwork at Riverside Christian Church Cemetery, established 1872. Drone photo by Barry Kaufkins.**

## Faculty/Staff News



**Dr. Gwynn Henderson at a famous archaeological site in eastern Kentucky.**

During the pandemic, Kentucky Archaeological Survey’s (KAS) Education Director **Dr. Gwynn Henderson** reached out remotely to educators and interested laypeople through presentations and webinars to various organizations. The pandemic brought new outreach venues, too. As part of the *Skype a Scientist* program, she “visited” classrooms via Zoom. As part of the Florida Public Archaeology Network’s (FPAN) *Archaeologists Read Archaeology* YouTube initiative, she read a selection from the KAS booklet *Adena: Woodland Period Moundbuilders of the Bluegrass*, and she joined FPAN’s *Tea and Trowels* program – also available on YouTube – to discuss aspects of her career with host Emma Dietrich.

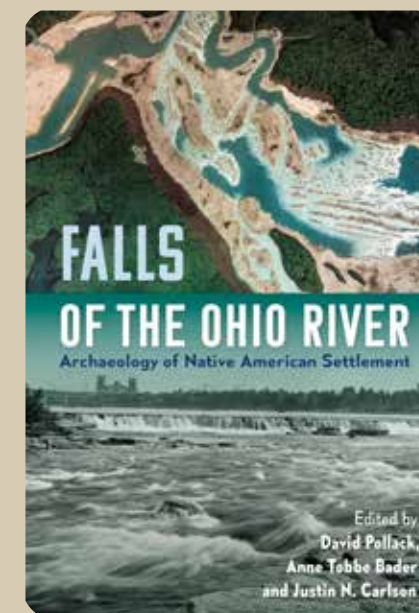
As members of the Living Archaeology Weekend Steering Committee, **Drs. Gwynn Henderson** and **Darlene Applegate** helped develop virtual programming in lieu of the canceled in-person event. *American Indian Textiles* and *Pioneer Textiles*, narrated by **Dr. Erika Brady**, are the first installments of a new video series. Taking the event to the classroom, virtual *Tech Talks!* feature expert demonstrators sharing pottery making, cane weaving, and gaming with elementary school classes.

**Dr. Jean-Luc Houle** is collaborating on a new five-year research project with the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History (MPI-SHH) in Germany and at the National Museum of Mongolia. The joint research project explores the genomics of initial dispersals of domesticated sheep, goats, and cattle across Central and Inner Asia and their subsequent genomic shifts, the genomics of zoonotic pathogens, metagenomics, and the radiocarbon chronologies of analyzed material.

**Dr. Kate Hudepohl** completed fieldwork at Pioneer Cemetery in downtown Bowling Green with assistance from students in the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 sections of Applied Anthropology. Double-checking grave marker forms and reconciling them with archival data continues. The final report for a similar project at Riverside Christian Church in Richardsville, also completed with student assistance, will be finalized in Summer 2021. Dr. Hudepohl enjoyed the opportunity to teach Foodways for the first time in Fall 2020. She also adopted a stray cat—Loup Bear (a.k.a. Mr. Louie).

**Drs. Kate Hudepohl** and **Darlene Applegate** completed six extensive reports for two grant-funded ethnographic assessments of Mammoth Cave National Park and Abraham Lincoln Birthplace and Boyhood Home National Historical Park.

**Drs. David Pollack** and **Justin Carlson** co-edited *Falls of the Ohio River: Archaeology of Native American Settlement*, a new book published by the University Press of Florida in May 2021. Using the perspective of historical ecology and by synthesizing data from recent excavations, KAS archaeologists and other volume contributors demonstrate how humans and the environment mutually affected each other in the Falls Area of Kentucky and Indiana for the past 12,000 years. ❖



**Book cover art.**

# Kentucky Folklife Program

## Connecting Across the Commonwealth in the Time of Coronavirus

In March 2020, the Kentucky Folklife Program (KFP) hustled to begin recording the stories of Kentuckians as they were experiencing the COVID-19 pandemic in real time. The centerpiece of the project is “virtual story circles” that provide opportunities for communities to connect and share their experiences in a time in which so many are isolated. *Connecting Across the Commonwealth in the Time of Coronavirus* is more than just a mad dash to document history. It strives to provide a space for Kentuckians to reflect and digest a particularly uncertain and traumatic time.

## Kentucky Folklife Digital Magazine

With funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, we launched [Kentucky Folklife](#), an online magazine that extends KFP’s mission to engage with practitioners documenting, presenting, and conserving folklife around the Commonwealth. KFP’s team of editors worked with local documentarians and community scholars to produce summer and winter editions of this digital publication. Additional issues are forthcoming in 2021, allowing Kentuckians to share their intimate stories validating community arts and cultural heritage with an ever-widening audience.



Cover art for the Summer 2020 issue of KFP's new digital magazine.

## Kentucky Folklife Gathering

Based on four regional “listening tours” across the state, we hosted a two-day virtual [Folklife Gathering](#) in March. Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Gathering brought together students, scholars, historians, documentarians, organizers, and folklorists to share ideas, resources, and skills that empower the documentation and celebration of Kentucky folklife.

## The Musical Legacy of South-Central Kentucky

Due to the pandemic, this project on the diverse musical legacy of southcentral Kentucky has shifted from a physical exhibit to a web-based version. With additional fieldwork documentation not an option for most of the year, we are using 24 existing interviews with local musicians to design this online exhibit, scheduled for launch in Summer 2021.

## Folkstreams Watch Parties

Although the pandemic limited in-person activities at our Pioneer Cabin campus home, KFP partnered with [Folkstreams](#) to virtually screen some of our favorite ethnographic films. KFP streamed four films via Facebook that featured discussion with the filmmakers and other scholars, moderated by KFP graduate assistant Georgia Ellie Dassler. ❖

# Kentucky Archaeological Survey

## Holt Site Investigations

Prior to a bridge replacement across Gasper River, the Kentucky Archaeological Survey (KAS) worked at a fourteenth-century Mississippian-era village in northwestern Warren County. The work focused on a house that had been rebuilt at least once. The first house measured 4.1 meters on a side. When the house was rebuilt, it was enlarged, measuring 5.3 meters on a side. Native house builders used hickory and white oak for posts and roof timbers, and they covered the walls with clay daub.

## Fort Hill Landscape Project

KAS returned to work at Fort Hill, a Civil War fortification that overlooks the City of Frankfort, where we had worked in 2013. As part of the 2020 study, KAS carried out a geophysical survey to search for below-surface features. This work identified Civil War-era archaeological deposits related to the construction and use of the fort.

## Educational Programming

During the pandemic, KAS staff gave presentations as part of the Kentucky Master Naturalist Program and gave lectures sponsored by Louisville’s Antebellum plantation sites. Drawing on information from KAS booklets, they prepared radio spots for *Think History*, a program of Kentucky Humanities/WEKU-FM, and launched [KAS RADIO](#), linked to those spots, on the [new KAS website](#).

## WKU Students Gain Experience with KAS

As the Survey began to initiate projects in late 2019, we hired several WKU alumni and former students for field and lab positions: Anthony (Mason) Arcane ('20), Heather Byerly ('16), Joshua Keown ('20), Natalia Meekins, and Deborah Parrish ('17). To earn field school credits, Josh joined KAS’s Holt Site excavations in Summer 2020. We soon will lose Josh, Anthony, and Natalia to graduate programs, but they will take with them diverse hands-on archaeology experiences that will serve them well in their future careers. Quincy Anderson, Kaitlyn Cook, Jayden Mason, and Tristan Szymanski are current students who volunteered on KAS projects this year. WKU students should [contact the Survey](#) about its many volunteer opportunities!

## Educational Materials for Creelsboro and the Cumberland – A Living History Documentary

KAS staff developed a set of [educational materials](#) to complement our hour-long documentary, *Creelsboro and the Cumberland – A Living History*, shining light on an often-overlooked part of Kentucky history: its rural areas. This integrated set of essays, short videos, activities, and resources was developed for middle and high school (grades 6-12) teachers and their students. All elements are designed to be used in visual arts or social studies classes. ❖



Heather Byerly (L) and Deborah Parrish (R) excavate the remains of a Mississippian-era house at the Holt Site. Circular holes represent postholes.

# Alumni Updates

## Folk Studies Alumni

**Chloe Brown** ('18) accepted a position to teach English at East Jessamine High School in Jessamine County, KY.

**Claire Casey** ('17) is now an Interpretive Park Ranger at Sainte Geneviève National Historical Park, a National Park Service (NPS) site that was established in Missouri in October 2020. She will develop public programming, educational materials, and outreach for the park, as well as work closely with partner organizations.

**Janice Crane** ('12) is now the Executive Director of the Friends of the Cascade Locks Historical Museum. She is the first-ever and only full-time employee at the museum and recently launched a \$2,000,000 capital campaign. She recently completed her MBA in nonprofit management from the University of Portland and was elected to the board of Oregon Museums.

**Hannah Davis** ('15) has secured multiyear funding from the New York State Council on the Arts to establish Flower City Folk, a new folklife organization that will serve the Rochester metropolitan area.

After six gratifying years with the Florida Folklife Program, **Amanda Hardeman Griffis** ('11) accepted a position with the NPS as Regional Cultural Anthropologist and Tribal Liaison. She manages the Cultural Anthropology and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Programs and advises parks in the Southeast on tribal relations, compliance, ethnographic research, and resource management.

**Nic Hartmann** ('09) started a new job as Director of Development for Family Promise of Linn County (Iowa) in October 2020.

**Tommy Hines** ('86) was awarded the 2000 Frank R. Levstik Award for Professional Service by the Kentucky Historical Society. Tommy is Executive Director of South Union Shaker Village in Logan County, where he has served since receiving his MA in Folk Studies.

**Jon Kay** ('97) was awarded a Bicentennial Medal by Indiana University, which honors "distinguished and distinctive service, broadly defined, in support of Indiana University's mission as a public university."

**Sarah McCartt-Jackson** ('12) will serve as artist-in-residence for both Homestead National Monument in Nebraska and Acadia National Park in Maine this summer, allowing her to explore the intersection of her interests in folklore, historic preservation, and poetry as she explores the parks' themes of ongoing relationships between people and places and deeper connection to the natural world.



Folk Studies alumnus Tommy Hines.

# Alumni Updates

**Andrea Kitta** ('03) is a 2020 recipient of the American Folklore Society's Chicago Folklore Prize for her 2019 book, *The Kiss of Death: Contamination, Contagion, and Folklore* (Utah State University Press).

**Kate McElroy** ('19) relocated to Seattle, where she served as a programming intern with Northwest Folklife before joining the Center for Washington Cultural Traditions (of Humanities Washington) as the Managing Editor for [Rites of Green](#), a new online journal featuring multimedia representations of Washington State folklife.

**Emily Hudson Mitchell** ('05) served as associate producer on the documentary *Hank Locklin: Country Music's Timeless Tenor*, which premiered on WRSE (a PBS member station) last October with broadcasts on stations covering nearly half of PBS's coverage area in the US.

**Anne Rappaport** ('18) recently accepted the position of Staff Folklorist at New York Folklore and will be involved in fieldwork, programming, and interpretation initiatives in New York's Mohawk Valley and Capital Region. She also will provide technical assistance to artists and implement artist shows in the New York Folklore Gallery of Folk Art in Schenectady.

**Sarah Shultz** ('17), PhD candidate in Folklore at Memorial University of Newfoundland, is working on her dissertation, which explores how spice/piquancy is used in the vernacular rhetoric of white culinary tourists. She is specifically looking at the discourses around curries in East London and hot chicken in Nashville as case studies.

## Anthropology Alumni

**Hannah (Rossi) Banks** ('19) is part of an AmeriCorps team researching how COVID has impacted the opioid epidemic in southern California.

**Ahleena Bell** ('18) works as an archaeology field technician with Wood Environment and Infrastructure in Louisville.

After working for the National Civilian Community Corps in Colorado, **Reilly Boone** ('19) will begin graduate studies in human osteoarchaeology this fall.

**Daniel (Shouse) Dillon** ('12) successfully defended his dissertation, [\(Re\)Making Community on Station Road](#), on rickshaw drivers in Sri Lanka and earned his PhD in South Asian Cultures and Languages at the University of Texas, Austin. Congrats, Dr. Dillon!

**Kelley Eads** ('18) will begin the Master of Social Work program at the University of Kentucky this fall.

**Brandon Jones** ('15) continues graduate studies in classical archaeology at the University of Athens in Greece.

**Alexander Patterson** ('18) completed his first year in the historical archaeology Master's program at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. ❖

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# Department Events and Activities

The pandemic may have slowed us down, but it did not totally eliminate our sponsored events this year! ! Folk Studies held monthly professional development sessions throughout the year via Zoom, and we gathered virtually and in person for these other activities.

Anthropology Program faculty hosted a virtual meet-and-greet to welcome returning and new students back to campus.

August 29

Anthropology Program faculty met with new students to discuss experiential learning opportunities and to do guided tours of departmental facilities, including the Ethnographic Visual Production Lab and the Anthropology Lab.

September 5

Folk Studies graduate students gave presentations about their summer internship projects.

September 11

The Kentucky Folklife Program kicked off its fall Watch Parties series of film screenings with *Bill Monroe*. Folk Studies professor Dr. Erika Brady was special guest.

October 8

Alumni gathered during the Folk Studies Alumni Virtual Happy Hour at the American Folklore Society Annual Meeting.

October 16

The KFP Watch Parties series featured *Talking Feet* with author Susan Spalding as special guest.

October 22

Anthropology Club members Carolyn Castellanos Reyes, Hannah Hudson, Jordan Mansfield, Jaylin Smith, and Alyssa Thomas staffed the departmental booth at the annual Potter College Fall Festival. Jaylin's pumpkin, decorated with anthropology imagery, won a prize!

November 4

Film director Stan Woodward and collaborator Jay Williams served as special guests for the screening of *Burgoo* as part of the KFP Watch Parties series.

November 5

The KFP Watch Parties series presented *Gee's Bend: The Most Famous Quilts in America* with film director Shelly Zegart as special guest.

November 19

Folk Studies MA alumni Paul McCoy (Humanities Tennessee) and Larry Morrisey (Mississippi Arts Commission) joined us for a professional development session on résumé writing and job search strategies.

February 5

The Kentucky Folklife Program hosted a virtual Kentucky Folklife Gathering with speakers and panel discussions by cultural workers in and outside Kentucky.

March 5-6

The annual Collins-Bramham Public Folklore Workshop featured Jon Kay, Director of Traditional Arts Indiana. He presented on products and programs in public folklore and held one-on-one mentoring sessions with graduate students.

March 25-26

Folk Studies MA alumnus Jon Kay ('97) presented "Making Resilience: The Power of Creative Practice in Later Life" for the Potter College Alumni Speaker Series.

April 8