

AnthroScope

Department of Anthropology Newsletter

Fall 2023

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Nancy White on the move with *Emerita* professors Linda Whiteford and Robbie Baer plus Wins Award



Emerita professors Linda Whiteford and Robbie Baer and Professor Nancy White attending the Mexican festival at the San Francisco opera, June 2023.

Professor Nancy White met retired professors Robbie Baer and Linda Whiteford, who also have research interests in Mexico and are fellow opera lovers, in San Francisco in June to attend the premier of a new opera, *El Último Sueño de Frida y Diego*, about famous artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. The historic opera house plaza celebration included many interestingly-costumed people (it was also Gay Pride weekend!) and a bright flowered Day-of-the-Dead shrine with Native American Otomi musicians and dancers.

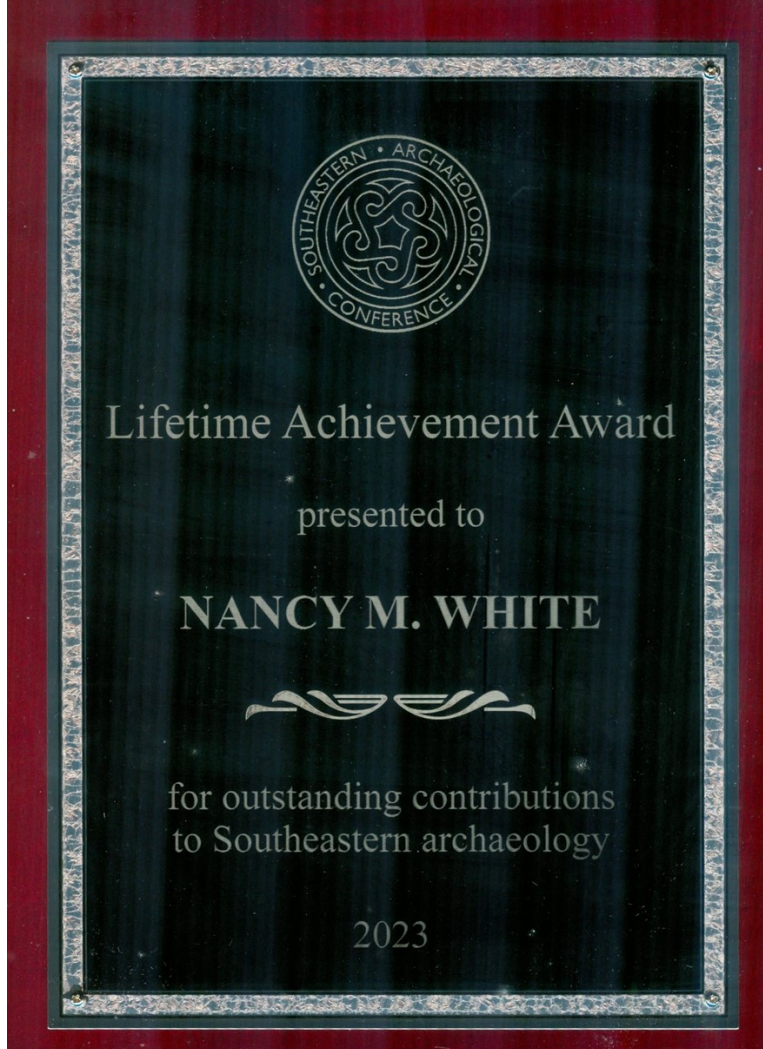


Archaeology grad students Hui Xiao and Victoria Freitas at shell midden site 8Fr360 on St. Vincent Island, northwest Florida, observing eroding archaeological deposits (shell and 1000-year-old pottery in roots of downed tree).

In August, Dr. White took graduate students on a field expedition to northwest Florida to solidify their thesis topics and inspect famous and little-known archaeological locations and environmental damages to coastal sites.

In October, the Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) presented Dr. White with its Lifetime Achievement Award during the annual meeting, this year in Chattanooga. The award was a total surprise (somehow!); the nominators had kept it secret for over a year. Sixteen support letters for the nomination had come from colleagues, former students, and even avocational archaeologists in northwest Florida and south Alabama, making it a rather overwhelming experience! A dinner party at a local brewery was held in White's honor, after which people reconvened at the SEAC dance to continue the celebration. The University Press of Florida will celebrate 25 years since the publication of the book *Grit-Tempered, Early Women Archaeologists in the Southeastern United States*, edited by White and co-editors Lynne Sullivan and Rochelle Marrinan, by issuing a new edition (with a new preface) in January.

. . . We think Professor White 'buried the lede' in her synopsis of her travels and other doings. Nonetheless, Professor White requested that we print her update as is. However, please join us in congratulating Professor Nancy White for her Lifetime Achievement Award!



The Southeastern Archaeological Conference Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Yelvington Presents Paper Abroad



In November, Professor Kevin Yelvington did archival research at the Biblioteca Nacional Cubana José Martí, and then presented a paper based on his research at the XV International Conference at the Instituto Cubano de Antropología. His paper was from his ongoing research in the history of anthropology and connections between North American anthropologists and those in Latin America and the Caribbean: “La correspondencia entre Melville J. Herskovits y Fernando Ortiz: Desde ‘mi profundo agradecimiento y de mi gran admiración’ a ‘el ñeque.’”



Professor Madrigal Visits Costa Rica to Develop Research

During October, Professor Madrigal travelled to the Indigenous territories of the Bribri people in Southern Costa Rica to ask permission from the community to do a project with and for them next summer, and in association with hematologists and geneticists at the University of Costa Rica. The project will be the basis of Professor Madrigal's student Caroline Maclean's PhD dissertation. It focuses on the evolutionary reasons why this population has extremely high frequencies of a gene variant which results in pregnancy losses and birth defects. The community is very interested in the project because it is experiencing a high frequency of births of disabled children.



Professor Madrigal spent a night at a homestead of a Bribri family, where Bribri was spoken. Caroline Maclean and Professor Madrigal have already secured funding from the Creative Scholarship funds from CAS, and Caroline is also applying to the Wenner Green and NSF.

Women Produce Sustainable Argan Oil in Morocco



USF students (Natasha Sutton, Zach Whiteman, and Shaye Soifoine) with Dr. Tara Deubel and students from UC-Merced and Moroccan partners from Dar Si Hmad by an argan tree.

In summer 2023, three USF students from Anthropology and Engineering (Shaye Soifoine, PhD student in Applied Anthropology, Natasha Sutton, MS student in Engineering, and Zach Whiteman, undergraduate major in Anthropology), participated in a successful four-week field school in Morocco, led by Professor Tara Deubel (<https://www.sustainableargan.org>). The project is funded by a three-year grant funded from the National Science Foundation International Research for Students (IRES) program and led by Dr. Tara Deubel (USF Dept. of Anthropology) and Dr. Colleen Naughton from (University of California-Merced College of Engineering and USF alumna) in partnership with Foundation Dar Si Hmad in Agadir, Morocco.



Field school students producing Argan Oil

In southwestern Morocco, women produce edible and cosmetic oil from the fruit of the argan tree (*argania spinosa*) in a labor-intensive process. The tree species is indigenous in the region and protected in a UNESCO biosphere zone and helps to protect the area from soil erosion and desertification. Field school participants used an interdisciplinary perspective to investigate the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of small-scale argan oil production through a variety of hands-on methods from anthropology, engineering, and geographic information systems (GIS). They learned about the challenges and benefits of this industry for the women producers, households, and cooperatives involved at the local level and developed cross-cultural skills working with Moroccan research assistants and study participants. The final year of the program will take place in July 2024.



Students from USF and UC-Merced participated in the Argan project. Here, they stand with an argan tree

A video of the project can be found here:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/jkax3wrxzulg46aagb9pt/NSF_Argan_23_1116i.mp4?rlkey=lvp19x1h5g4d2o864v82pdfv3&dl=0

Anthropologists in the News

Podcast Features Dr. Castañeda

Professor Heide Castañeda spoke as guest expert alongside Nanci Palacios, Deputy Director of Faith in Florida, in the [new podcast series "Im/migrant Lives."](#) They discussed the Spring 2023 session of the Florida Legislature and the passage of SB 1718 – a law that criminalizes many aspects of immigrant lives in the name of curbing undocumented migration.

Professor Tykot's Research Covered Internationally

Following a conference in Venice, which was organized by Dr. Andrea Vianello, Professor Robert Tykot and his associates were in the news in Italy and here at USF and elsewhere. Professor Tykot's research is about the significance of centuries-old teeth in pandemic quarantines. An example of the coverage from a local outlet can be found here: <https://www.fox13news.com/news/usf-researchers-study-effectiveness-of-quarantines-using-remains-from-black-death-plague>

Professor Tykot on The UnXplained

"Mysterious Monoliths," an episode of the History Channel TV show, The UnXplained (Season 4, Episode 22) will feature Professor Robert Tykot in a small role in a segment about a nine foot tall skeleton found in Sardinia. The episode, which will air on December 16 of this year. You can find a link to the segment here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMGCiuUABUY>

Grants and Awards

Professor Tykot Receives Award From The Rust Family Foundation

Professor Robert Tykot received a grant from the Rust Family Foundation, for research led by doctoral student Aurelien Tafani, who is graduating in December. The research was discussed in a dissertation authored by Tafani entitled "Understanding Diet and Mobility in the Lower Danube Valley during the Fifth Millennium BC through Morphometric and Chemical Analyses."

Graduate Students take the lead!

Serena Echols Publishes Book

Serena Echols is a first-year MA student in applied anthropology and a Spelman College alumna. Her passion for environmental justice and storytelling inspired her to write a book called *Msitu: The Old-Growth Forest* (<https://www.amazon.com/Msitu-Old-Growth-Forest-Serena-Echols/dp/1737800470>). This children's book is based on three years of undergraduate research she led that included invasive species removal and vegetation studies to restore an Urban Old-Growth Forest. During October 2023, she presented her work and hosted book signings at various events in Atlanta, Georgia including the Metro Atlanta Urban Water Symposium. *Msitu: The Old-Growth Forest* is a step towards Serena's ultimate career goal of becoming an environmental intermediary to bridge the gap between community, academia, and policy providing equity for all.



Echols, shown here with her new book

Faulty Awards and Honors

Professor Christian Wells Honored with Environmental Justice Award

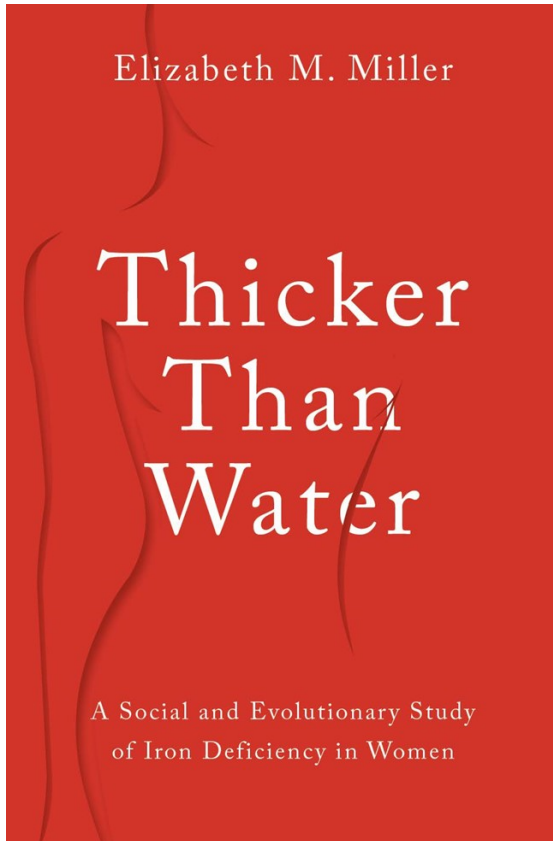
Dr. Wells was recently presented with the 2023 Environmental Justice Spirit of Excellence Award from the Florida Brownfields Association, the state's oldest and largest nonpartisan advocacy organization dedicated to community revitalization through brownfields redevelopment. Dr. Wells served as President of the association from 2021-2022, during which time he reshaped the organization's commitment to environmental justice and health equity.



Dr. Wells' receiving the award

The Latest Reads

Professor Elizabeth Miller Publishes New Book



Professor Elizabeth Miller's new book, *Thicker than Water: A Social and Evolutionary Study of Iron Deficiency in Women* has been published by Oxford University Press.

This book examines women's iron deficiency from an anthropological perspective. It explores how sexism, racism, and poverty intersect with women's evolved bodies to create a global health crisis that impacts millions of women.

It is, in the publisher's words, an "accessible text interspersed with narratives about the practice of science, past and present," making it an excellent choice for interested readers at the college level or above.

University Recognition

College of Arts and Sciences Recognizes Anthropology Department's Accomplishments

The Anthropology Department had several articles based on faculty and student work in the CAS newsletter—**CAS Chronicles 2023** and we applaud those as well!

- Paying tribute to Black history within Tampa's historical Memorial Park Cemetery: <https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/hub/2023/paying-tribute-to-black-history-within-tampas-historical-memorial-park-cemetery.aspx>
- 'What Lies Beneath' exhibit showcases investigation of unmarked burial grounds in Hillsborough County: <https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/hub/2023/what-lies-beneath-exhibit-showcases-investigation-of-unmarked-burial-grounds-in-hillsborough-county.aspx>
- **Anthropology's Dr. Diane Wallman earns Faculty Scholar Fulbright:** <https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/hub/2023/anthropologys-dr-diane-wallman-earns-faculty-scholar-fulbright.aspx>
- **CAS teams join forces to digitally preserve a historically Black cemetery in Pasco County:** <https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/hub/2023/cas-teams-join-forces-to-digitally-preserve-a-historically-black-cemetery-in-pasco-county.aspx>
- Five USF College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) faculty members are being recognized next month with Faculty Outstanding Research Achievement Awards: DAVID HIMMELGREEN, PROFESSOR ANTHROPOLOGY--For distinguished contributions in research relating to food security, hunger, nutrition and human health--<https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/hub/2023/five-cas-faculty-members-recognized-with-outstanding-research-achievement-awards.aspx>

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