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**Stony Brook
University**

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Anthropology Newsletter

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from the **Department of Anthropology!** I hope this finds you and yours well.

The start of the Fall always brings a renewed sense of energy to the campus. In Anthropology, we have been busy in the classroom, in the lab, and in the field. One of the great joys of starting as Interim Chair has been learning about the achievements and discoveries of our alumni, students, and faculty. It is my privilege to share these with you!

Our sincere thanks go to our outgoing Chair, Andreas Koenig, for his leadership for the past three years. We wish him well as he takes a well-deserved sabbatical.

With best wishes,

Surita Bhatia, Professor and Interim Chair

As always, please send us your updates so we can share them in an upcoming newsletter! We would love for you to connect and to tell your story!



Alumni Spotlight: Meet Three Recent Graduates

Victoria Greening '23

Meet Victoria Greening '23, one of our exceptional May 2023 graduates with Honors (advisor: Fred Grine). In addition to other awards, she received the Provost's Award for Academic Excellence. Victoria will be pursuing a MSc in Archaeological Science at the University of Oxford.

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Jiani Ren '23

Jiani Ren '23, another May 2023 graduate, was named an outstanding student in Human Evolutionary Biology and became a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society and the National Society of Leadership and Success.

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Nicholas Smith '23

Nicholas Smith '23, another May 2023 graduate, was a standout in his overall degree work and the Human Evolutionary Biology major graduating with University Honors. He also received the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa national honors society. Nicholas will take a gap year and later attend PA School.

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Alumni Spotlight: Doctoral Graduates

Marcy Ekanayake-Weber '23

Marcy Ekanayake-Weber '23 (advisor: Andreas Koenig), received the President's Award to Distinguished Doctoral Students and is now a postdoc at the Yale School of Public Health.

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Jacob Feder '23

Jacob Feder '23 (advisor: Amy Lu), received an NSF SBE fellowship to work at Arizona State University.

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David Vanier '23

David Vanier '23, one of our Winter 2023 graduates (advisor: Jeroen Smaers), is now a postdoc at Computational Neuroscience at the University of Calgary.

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Alumni Spotlight: Where They Are Today

Helen Malko '14

Helen Malko '14, alumna of the IDPAS and former student of our emerita Elizabeth Stone, has moved from the American Center of Research (ACOR) in Amman, Jordan to the Stanford Humanities Center as the new Associate Director. Good luck in Stanford!

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Erik Otárola-Castillo '16

Erik Otárola-Castillo, alumnus of the Anthropology BA '02 and the IDPAS '16 (advisor: John Shea) and our recent graduation speaker, has been tenured and promoted to associate professor in the Department of Anthropology at Perdue University. Congratulations and many thanks for an inspiring speech!

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Lauren Petruzzo '20

Lauren Petruzzo '20, alumna of the IDPAS and former student of Amy Lu, joined the Dantzer Lab at U Michigan with an NSF biology postdoctoral research fellowship right after graduation. This fall she started as assistant professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Arizona. Congratulations!

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Deming Yang '20

Deming Yang '20, alumnus of the IDPAS and former student of Fred Grine, was a postdoc at the Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Utah. He recently returned to New York, where he started as Kalbfleisch Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the American Museum of Natural History. Congratulations!

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Graduate Student Spotlight

Samuel Disotell

(advisor: Katheryn Twiss) was presented with a Teaching Assistant Award by CELT.

Daphne Hudson

(advisor: Gabrielle Russo) received the Dean's Choice Award for Leadership.

Katherine Kling

(advisors: Catherine Markham & Patricia Wright) awarded first place at the 2023 Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.

Nicolas Wiggerhauser

(advisor: Jeroen Smaers) received the **Stony Brook Foundation Board of Trustees Dissertation Completion Endowed Fellowship** and a **Hodges Doctoral dissertation fellowship**.



Faculty Spotlight:

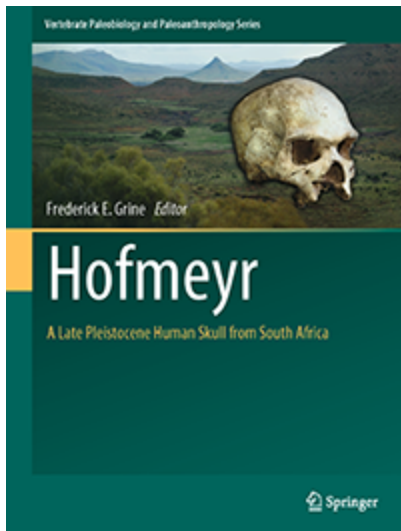
Three of our faculty members received **Chancellor's Awards for Excellence** in 2022-23. Recipients for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities are **Lisa Hildebrand** and our new interim chair, **Surita Bhatia**. Recipient for Excellence in Faculty Service is **Andreas Koenig**, who also received a CAS **Godfrey Award** for Excellence in Teaching.



Faculty Awards:

Katheryn Twiss, together with Geoscience and IDPAS faculty co-PI **Troy Rasbury** and co-PI IDPAS alumna **Kate Thompson**, were recently awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation for their research on "Project Safer: A Holistic Approach to Identifying and Mitigating Traumatic Incidents During Field Research."

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Faculty Spotlight: Frederick Grine

Just when the last newsletter was sent out, the latest book edited by **Fred Grine** was made available providing the historical and geological background as well as the morphology of the famous Hofmeyr skull.

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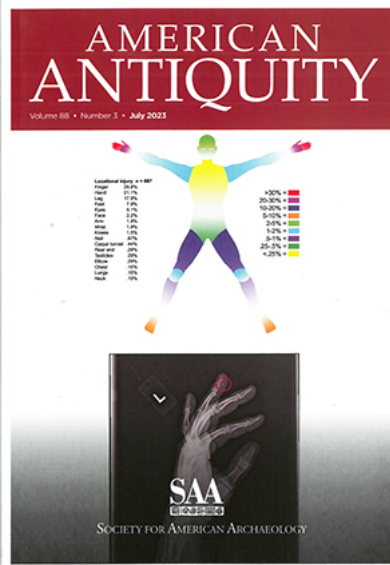


Faculty Spotlight: James Rossie

James Rossie is part of an international collaboration describing the morphology of *Morotopithecus* and its diet and habitat; the research appears in two papers in *Science*.

Laura M. MacLatchy et al. 2023. The evolution of hominoid locomotor versatility: Evidence from Moroto, a 21 Ma site in Uganda. *Science* 380, eabq2835.
DOI: [10.1126/science.abq2835](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abq2835)

Daniel J. Peppe et al. 2023. Oldest evidence of abundant C4 grasses and habitat heterogeneity in eastern Africa. *Science* 380, 173-177.
DOI: [10.1126/science.abq2834](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abq2834)



Faculty Spotlight: John Shea

You might not recognize him at first, but **John Shea** made it on the cover of the recent issue of *American Antiquity*. As you clearly can see in the picture – it's John's hand with a splinter he caught while making stone tools. Congratulations, John, for making the cover!

Resources for faculty and students support and strengthen the educational experience. The Department of Anthropology depends on our alumni and friends to expand field opportunities for our students and provide seed money for senior honors theses and summer research experiences.

Your generosity, whether it's the renewal of your support or the decision to give for the first time, allows us to do what we do best – innovative, creative research and teaching that's the hallmark of a great public research university. I hope you'll consider investing in our faculty and students by **making a gift today** or speaking with **Amanda Sabanos**, Assistant Vice President for Advancement, Schools and Colleges, amanda.sabanos@stonybrook.edu, or (631) 316-0371.

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