

Spring 2022
Issue 4

Mar 2
2022

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Department of Anthropology

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

Happy Women's History Month, Anthropologists!



Image Credit: UN Medium Blog

Anti-racism Community Workshop

Join the We CU Community Engaged Scholars Program to learn to be an upstander for anti-racism and social justice in community service! The workshop will include historical overviews and practical case studies from the perspective of Black liberation. Choose from virtual or in-person options. The Zoom workshop will be held Thursday, March 3, 9 a.m. to noon. In-person workshop will be held Friday, March 4, 2 - 5 p.m. CT at the Siebel Center for Design.

See registration for details: go.illinois.edu/upstander. Questions? Email [Karla Sanabria-Véaz](mailto:Karla.Sanabria-Véaz).

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Undergraduate Research Symposium

The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) is now accepting submissions for the 2022 Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS), scheduled for all day April 28, 2022. Current plans are to hold the Symposium in the Illini Union.

The URS is the signature event of Undergraduate Research Week (April 24 - 30), and brings together students, faculty, and staff from all disciplines on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus to learn more about undergraduate research and its potential to change the world. During the day, students will present their oral and poster presentations, including

creative performances and interact with members of the campus community.

All undergraduate students currently involved with research are eligible to present. For more information on URS, including answers to frequently asked questions, please visit the [Symposium website](#).

The deadline for applying to the URS is March 15, 2022, at 11:59 pm. No late submissions will be accepted.

Patricia O'Brien Award for Best Undergraduate Anthropology Paper

The Patricia O'Brien Award is given to the best undergraduate anthropology paper. Senior capstone projects, honors theses, course research papers, fieldwork analyses, and independent projects are all acceptable entries. The papers must be cleanly typed, and the format should be as appropriate for professional journals such as *American Anthropologist*, *American Antiquity*, or *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.

The papers will be judged on the basis of excellence as demonstrated by clear focus, development of ideas, synthesis of literature covered, writing style, originality, and contribution to the field.

Award Amount: \$1,000

Eligibility: all undergraduate anthropology majors and minors.

Papers must be submitted no later than 3:00 pm Monday, March 21st, 2022.

Papers must be submitted electronically to Karla Harmon at kharmon@illinois.edu.

Find more information [here](#).

VRchaeology is Hiring!

VRchaeology is a virtual reality (VR) experience designed to introduce students to archaeology through immersive technology. In the past, we've offered this experience through a UIUC course and are currently working to improve its accessibility for all students on campus.

Goals of this NSF-supported research include designing and evaluating VR experiences for teaching field sciences and creating hardware, software and instructional solutions to enable wheelchair users to fully participate in educational VR activities. We invite applications from students who are interested in virtual reality, gaming, and their use in education as well as students interested in usability testing and human-centered design.

We have multiple ongoing projects and are specifically interested in students for the following tasks:

- creating VR experiences
- Designing and testing user interface technologies
- Applying universal design for learning rubric to current VR experiences

REQUIREMENTS: experience with Unity Game Engine and/or Blender
Contact [Laura Shackelford](#)

MS Assistantship with NCZoo

North Carolina State University (NC State) is offering a 2-year, salaried graduate position to students interested in animal behavior research. The student will receive a Master of Science degree in Biology as they complete coursework at NC State-Raleigh and a research project in collaboration with the North Carolina Zoo. Tuition and health insurance is waived for eligible students, and the student will serve as a teaching assistant for each academic semester of the 2 years.

Students will work closely with PhD-level curatorial staff at the North Carolina Zoo as they design and conduct research, which may address a range of welfare-related topics, including but not limited to: enrichment, social behavior, space use, light cycles, diet, and seasonal or habitat changes. The opportunity to design, conduct,

analyze, and disseminate research projects will shape early careers and greatly improve chances moving towards a career in research, generally, and animal research, more specifically.

Learn more [here](#).

The Vekich Fellowship

The Vekich Fellowship awards \$1,000 to recipients who demonstrate an interest in studying about the former Yugoslav region. It is a simple essay competition and the winners will just need to take one course in the relevant subject area during the 2022-23 academic year.

The deadline for applications this year is March 18th.

Find more information [here](#).

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