



San Francisco State University

Anthropology News

Spring 2018



SF STATE

Chair's Note

It's been a busy year since I began my term as chair in August 2017. My predecessor, Jim Quesada, oversaw the very complicated move from the Science building to our new home on the 5th floor of the Fine Arts building. The Treganza Collections have been transferred, along with other smaller, campus collections, to the Museum Studies Program. This transfer ensures that the legacy of the Anthropology Department is properly curated, restored, and available to the community. The Global Museum will be opening in late April on the 2nd floor of Fine Arts and will feature rotating exhibits for public exhibition. The Department looks forward to continued collaboration with Dr. Ed Luby of Museum Studies and the new Museum Director, Paige Bardolf.

We went through a very successful 7th cycle Program Review this Fall, and we had two recent faculty hires, Martha Lincoln (medical anthropology) and Meredith Reifschneider (archaeology) who are already an asset to the program. I am now turning to other matters that strengthen our program and community. Part of that effort will be to reconnect with our alumni, and I will be sending out periodic updates to advise you of events, student achievements and faculty research. We have an alumni Film event schedule for this Spring featured on the next page and I invite you to keep informed about other events in the Department.

Cynthia Wilczak, cwilczak@sfsu.edu

Right: Cynthia Wilczak, current chair giving a keynote address in Coimbra, Portugal; Below: Jim Quesada, forgoing chair with colleagues at a Structural Competencies conference in Berkeley.



Alumni Event

Student Film Festival

Join us at a screening of select films from this year's visual anthropology students.

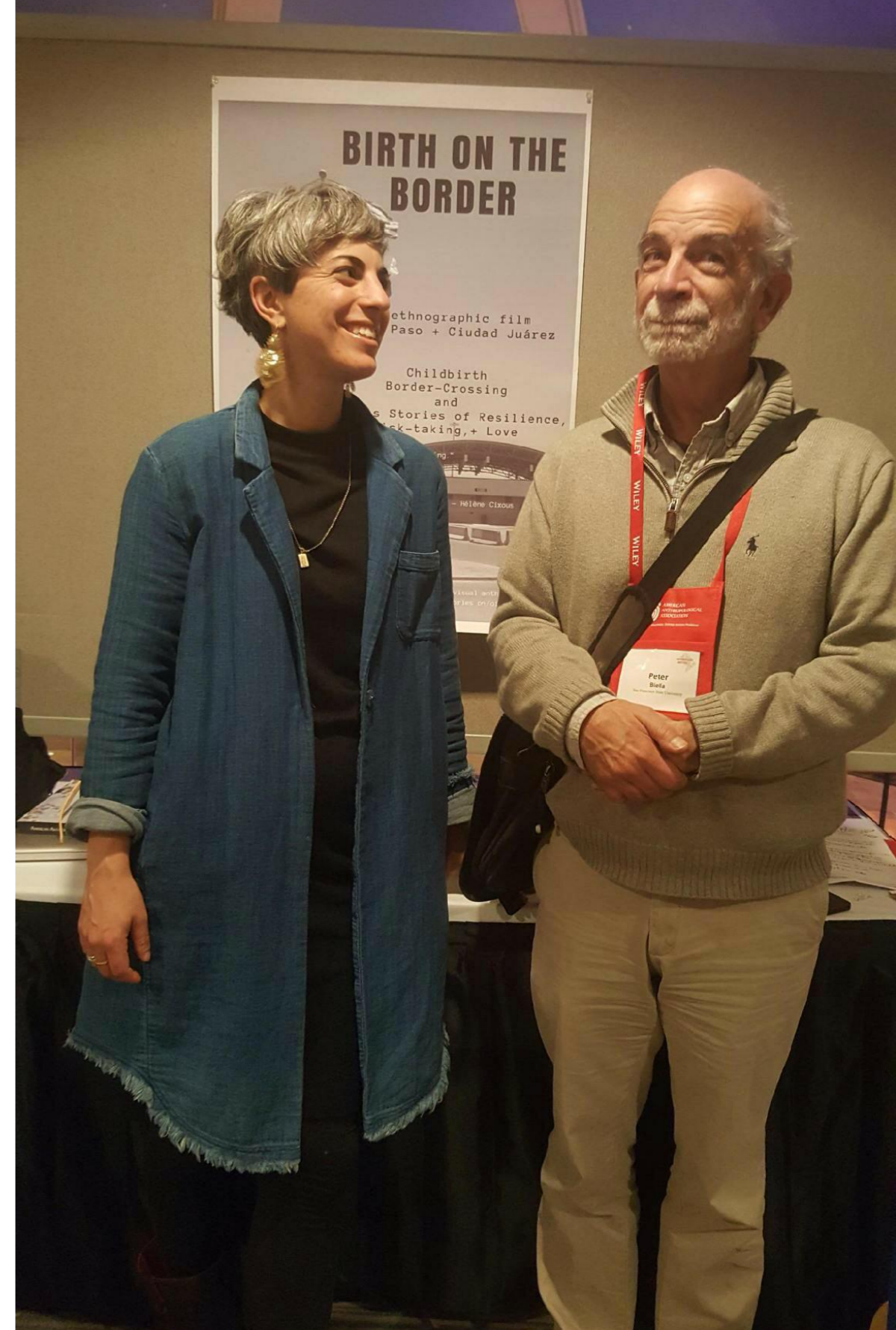
Coppola Theatre, 1st Floor Fine Arts Building
Saturday, May 12th, 2018
3:00 - 4:30 pm

Reception with light refreshment to follow

Limited Space available
RSVP to anthro@sfsu.edu, subject line "Film Fest"



Stella Dugall screening her film at the Prelinger Library, San Francisco.



Ellie Lobovits & Dr. Peter Biella at the American Anthropological Association presentation of Ellie's film, *Birth on the Border*. Link to view trailer: <http://ellielobovits.com>

Graduation Celebration

Congratulations to the class of 2018! We would like to extend special recognition to the following graduates:

Hamed Eghbal, Distinguished Undergraduate in Anthropology. Hamed completed two projects in the archaeology lab with Dr. Meredith Reifschneider, cataloging and inventory zooarchaeology specimens and analysis of ceramics from St. Croix. He started a campus Archaeology club and he is completing a film project on the archaeology of the Presidio.

Leah Wade, Summa Cum Laude, BA, Leah is one of our top students who is splitting her research time between Dr. Reifschneider's St. Croix ceramic analysis and a craniometric analysis to assess ancestry in an anatomical collection with Dr. Mark Griffin.

Ellie Lobovits, Distinguished Graduate Student in Anthropology, and **College of Liberal and Creative Arts Graduate Hood Recipient**. Ellie's stunning MA film, *Birth at the Border*, breaks stereotypes about Mexican women crossing from Ciudad Juárez to give birth at the Maternidad La Luz, El Paso. Her recent article, *Where a River of Life became a Border of Control* was published in the March 2018 on-line magazine *Sapiens* (<https://www.sapiens.org/culture/us-mexico-border-anthropology/>). Ellie's work is informed by her eight years of experience as a birth doula.

Read more about 2017 Graduate LCA Hood recipient, **Saliem Wakeem Shehadeh**

Anthropology students were honored with the LCA College Graduate Hood for two consecutive years!

Congrats to Ellie and Saliem!

*Right: Elaine Loarca, B.A. 2017
Below: Hamed Eghbal, Distinguished Undergraduate, 2018*



Department Awards

The department is pleased to announce this year's winners of our annual awards, which are made possible through the generosity of our supporters.

Jay P. Young Excellence in Anthropology Awards

Adreanna Rodriguez, MA student, Adreanna's film is a collaborative project with the non-profit OIKOS: East Africa. The subjects are six women, belonging to the Maasai, Mang'ati, or Muarusha tribe. Each participant was given a disposable film camera and asked to "document the impacts of climate change." The vagueness of the assignment allowed the women to create and define climate change in their own words and through their photographs. Personal interviews and cinéma-vérité footage of the women's everyday lives, as well as the film photographs taken by the women themselves, are used to explore their personal stories and perspectives on the impacts of climate change.

Dr. Martha Lincoln, Assistant Professor, Martha's study is situated in the national trend in which undesirable land uses are situated near communities of color, placing them at risk for serious health consequences. In collaboration with residents of Richmond, CA, this ethnographic work will examine how community groups understand and perceive the environmental risks they face; how they organize and share information about preparedness, risk prevention and mitigation as well as organizing more long-term political

organizing; and how communities with a long history of health disparities linked to environmental justice considerations mobilize resources to sustain individual and social health.

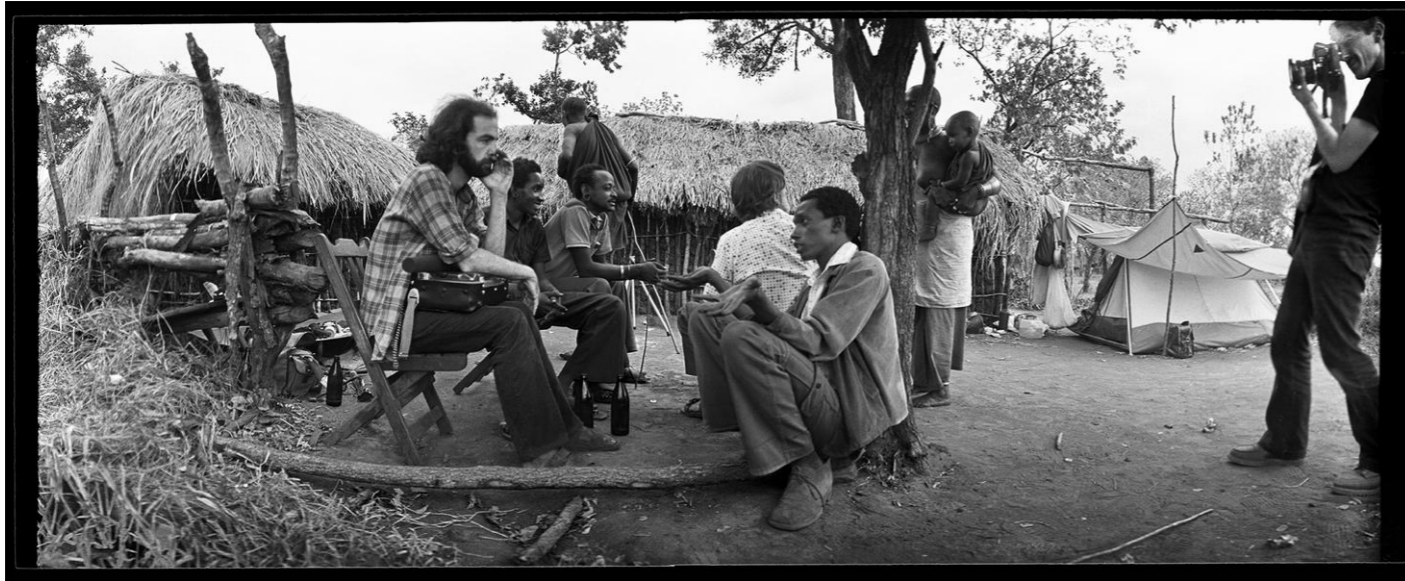
Jessica Daily, MA student, Jessica's study focuses on care modalities that fall outside of what is often considered the "norm" of obstetrically medicalized prenatal care and birth in a hospital. She will conduct ethnographic interviews of birth practitioners who offer alternative forms of prenatal care, and patients who choose them, in Sonoma County, California. The work will contribute to the discourse surrounding the interactions between individual and group care-seeking choices, and the authority of biomedical institutions, particularly in the context of pregnancy and birth.

Kiana Dressendorfer Scholarship in Archaeology

This memorial scholarship honors Kiana Dressendorfer, B.A. 1997 and was established by her family so that other students may follow the path that interested Kiana so deeply — Archaeology.

Alycia Davis, MA student, Alycia will be traveling to the Smithsonian Institution to study cranial lesions in a Chumash population from the Channel Islands, CA. Previous work reported high frequencies of cranial depressed lesions that were attributed to traumatic, blunt force injuries. Advances in paleopathology now recognize that healing cranial fractures can be difficult to visually distinguish from other lesions such as those produced by benign tumors or infectious disease. If the lesions are not traumatic injuries, theories attributing high levels of interpersonal violence among the Chumash to stresses induced by environmental degradation would need to be reexamined.

Faculty Research News



Peter Biella, Professor, gave a keynote lecture at the opening session of the World Film Festival in Tartu, Estonia. With co-director Leonard Kamerling, they screened their feature film, *Changa Revisited*, which depicts the changes in the life of a single Maasai family over a period of thirty years. In 2016, the film was awarded First Prize in Romania's Astra International Film Festival.



Doug Bailey, Professor, just **published an article** about art and archaeology in the *International Journal of Contemporary Archaeology*. The article is part of Doug's larger project on art/archaeology and new paths for practicing artists and archaeologists.



Meredith Reifscheider, Assistant Professor, will have her article, *Enslavement and institutionalized care: the politics of health in nineteenth century St Croix, Danish West Indies* published in an upcoming issue of the journal **World Archaeology**. The publication is based on her dissertation fieldwork for her Ph.D.

MA Student Spotlight



Laura Maldonado at the 2017 Graduate Showcase.

MA students will participate in the 2018 **Graduate Creative Works and Research Showcase** on April 19th, 3-5 pm. We will feature their presentations in our Fall newsletter.

The Department's Spring MA Expo on May 9th, 5-7pm will include presentations from:

- Sheyda Ashrafi, Nationalism, Politics and Development of Archaeology.
- Aycia Davis, Reanalysis of Channel Island Crania: What Makes a Cranial Depression?
- Jessica Dailey, Birth Care Modalities in Sonoma County, California
- Sophie Minnig, Choosing Alternative Entombment Changes in an Ancient Egyptian Skeletal Collection.



Devan Glensor talks about bioarchaeology and forensic anthropology in her **video interview** for the LCA student profile series.

70 POUND ROBE

installation by Karin Dahl



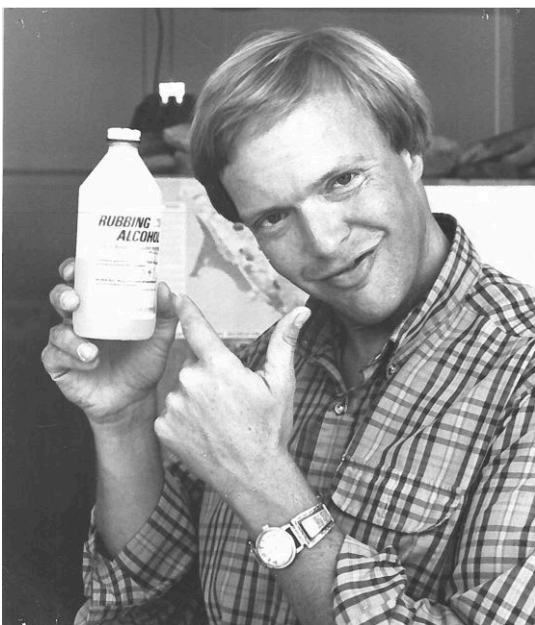
Dirty, doesn't fit, has a stain, started to pill, not flattering, an ugly gift from grandma, making space for spring...This familiar process—clothing, wearing clothing, staining and ripping, shrinking and laundering and over-laundering, throwing out used or unwanted clothes, buying more clothing, rinse, repeat—accumulates as an average of seventy pounds of clothing and textile discard per person in the United States annually.

70 Pound Robe is composed of approximately 150 discrete articles of discarded clothing from the Goodwill Outlet in Burlingame, reconfigured as entombed specimens or relics of the social lives they were once intimately entangled in. Try it on and experience the weight of collective consumption and individual compromise.

MAY
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IF/THEN Studio // 1102 Gillman St. Berkeley CA // 7 - 9 pm

Karin Dahl will have an installation based on her thesis work at the IF/THEN gallery.



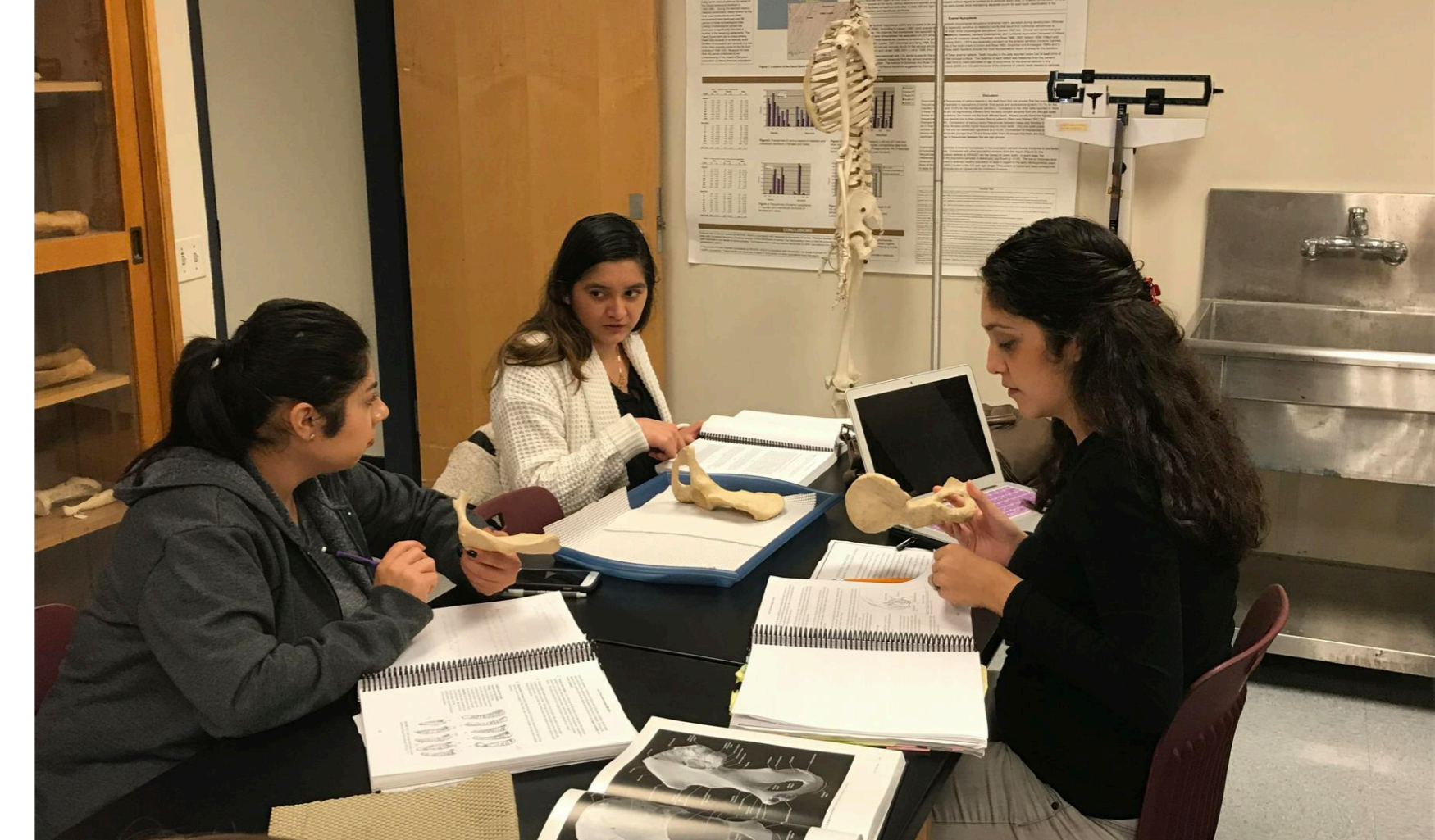
Memories

Who do you recognize? Visit our Facebook page where you can make comments to [our post](#) to add your memories. If you have any photos you would like us to share, send them to anthro@sfsu.edu with the subject line "Images". We will post them on our Facebook page and/or in our Fall edition of SFSU Anthropology News.

Facilities and Lab Upgrades

In January 2015, the Anthropology Department moved from our long-time home in the Science Building to the 5th floor of Fine Arts. Not only do we have the best view on campus, we now have a beautiful common area so our community of faculty, staff and students can gather formally and informally in comfort. We also have office space for our Graduate Students, and we have been upgrading our laboratory spaces.

In the Archaeology lab, our most recent tenure-track hire, Dr. Meredith Reifschneider, has been cataloguing, rehousing and adding to the extensive Zooarchaeology collections passed down from Dr. Gary Pahl after his retirement. Through a combination of college funds and support from our donors, we have been raising funds to install museum quality storage cabinets so Dr. Reifschneider will have the appropriate facilities to house artifact collections from her own projects as well



Undergraduate students working in the Osteology lab. Catalina Juarez (back left); Elizabeth Lemos (front left); and Sylvia Vasquez (right). Nov 2017.

as loaned collections. Access to such collections will enable both undergraduate and graduate students to participate in research projects.

In the bioarchaeology lab, new fossil and paleopathology teaching casts are a priority for this year. We still have some of our casts from the 1970s (!), and the decades of student use have taken their toll, especially for those made of plaster. Upgrades in the

bioarchaeology storage units in the last five years means we now have the space to properly house these valuable materials, and still have room for the planned expansions in our teaching collections.

In the upcoming year, we will be looking to upgrade our film equipment for Visual Anthropology Lab and update technology for our cultural anthropology student and faculty research projects.

Keep in Touch

We love to hear from our alumni, and we hope you will be able to attend one of our alumni events. You are always welcome at any of our public brown bag or guest speaker seminars. In addition to the announcements we will be sending out in a biannual newsletter, you can get information on these events in on our Facebook page or in the events feed of the Department's website.

If you want to let us know how you are doing or contribute photos or alumni updates to future newsletters, email us at: anthro@sfsu.edu.

In the Fall, we would like to invite alumni to campus who are willing to meet with our students as mentors to talk how a degree in anthropology can be applied across a range of careers. We will be sending out a formal call for participants in an early Fall newsletter but if you want to discuss participating now, email the chair: cwilczak@sfsu.edu.



[Anthropology Department, SFSU](#)



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Students from Peter Biella's ethnography class preparing an exhibit on homelessness and food insecurity among students at San Francisco State University for the Department Gallery on the 5th floor of the Fine Arts building.

Thank You

We would once again like to thank all of you who have recently given generously to support faculty and student research and our teaching facilities. For those of you considering a gift to the Department of Anthropology, you can visit our [donations page](#).