

THE ANTHROPOLOGIST

A newsletter for faculty, students, alumni, and friends of the Department of Anthropology
Case Western Reserve University College of Arts and Sciences

FALL 2017

2017 Kassen Lecture featured

Dr. Nicole Burt

Each year the Department of Anthropology presents the Kassen Lecture Series, generously supported by an annuity from the late Drs. Aileen and Julian Kassen. This year featured Nicole Burt, Curator of Human Health and Evolutionary Medicine at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The lecture was held on October 6th and entitled "Moving Beyond Paleofantasies: Reconstructing Unknown Diets."



Dr. Nicole Burt is a biological anthropologist with expertise in analyzing teeth and bone to reconstruct dietary patterns in children. Her work has yielded information about breastfeeding and weaning patterns in ancient and modern human populations. By using a microsampling method she developed as a graduate student called stable isotope analysis, she can reconstruct what a person ate by analyzing isotopes of carbon and nitrogen.

Dr. Burt's work at the Museum includes organizing a long-term research study examining the effects of maternal choice and shaping one of only three galleries in the world that will focus on how human health has been shaped by the influences of genetics, environment, and culture.



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DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS continued

New book co-edited by David Kaawa-Mafigiri now available

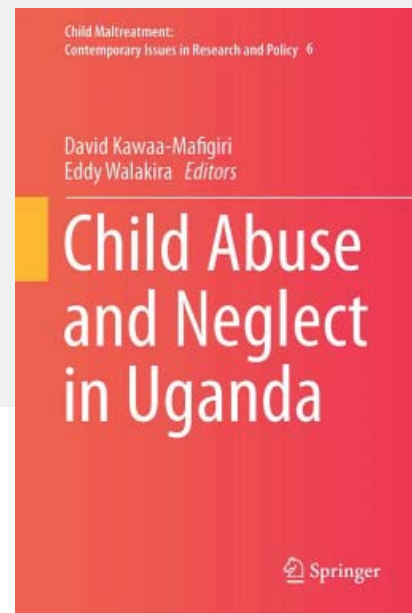
David Kaawa-Mafigiri (CWRU PhD 2007) co-edited *Child Abuse and Neglect in Uganda* (Springer, 2017). The book, co-edited with Eddy Walakira, is the first book written by Ugandan authors to explore the complex issues of child abuse and neglect in Uganda. The project received support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and was officially released on the 27th of October at a reception hosted by Makerere University.

Among those in attendance was Hon. Janat Mukwaya, Uganda Member of Parliament and the Uganda Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development. She praised the book, noting that the book's important findings would be used to develop policies to prevent and respond to child abuse in Uganda. Mukwaya expressed her congratulations to Drs. Kaawa-Mafigiri and Walakira on the publication of this important and timely book.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Eddy Walakira, Jill Korbin, David Kaawa-Mafigiri

Also attending were Dr. Jill Korbin, Professor of Anthropology, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Director of the Schubert Center for Childhood Studies. Korbin is co-editor of the Springer book series, *Child Maltreatment: Contemporary Issues in Research and Policy*, and Dr. Edward Kirumira, Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Makerere University.



Lee Hoffer and Linda Burnes Bolton on NASEM committee

Lee Hoffer and University Board of Trustee, Linda Burnes Bolton, were members of The Committee on Pain Management and Regulatory Strategies to Address Prescription Opioid Abuse convened by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) and funded by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The federal report that was released mid-July by this expert committee provided a snapshot of the epidemic with updates on pain treatment research and education, recommendations to health professionals, government agencies and others to help reduce the epidemic and ultimately save lives. For more information, visit <http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/reports/2017/pain-management-and-the-opioid-epidemic.aspx>

Welcome Sara Thiam, Visiting Assistant Professor

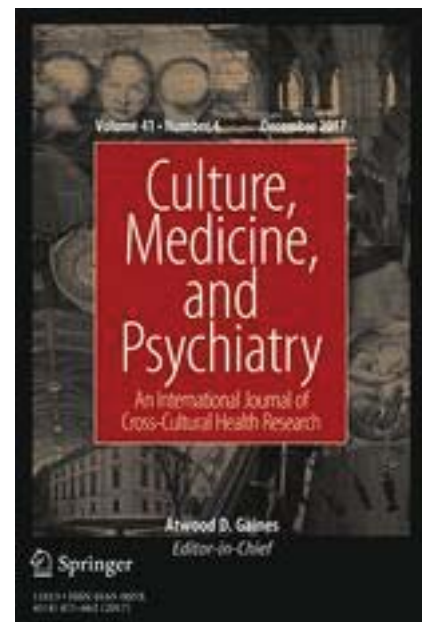
This fall the department welcomed **Dr. Sara Thiam**, a new visiting assistant professor to our medical anthropology and global health program. Dr. Thiam received her PhD from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, focusing on Medical Anthropology and the study of humanitarianism, human rights, and childhood. Her research is on the promotion of rights for migratory Qur'anic school students in Senegal and Mali. Dr. Thiam's interests include global children's rights promotion and children's rights in practice; the study of compassion, charity, and religion in relation to suffering; transnational aid, cross-cultural childhoods and discipline; and francophone West Africa.



Atwood Gaines

Dr. Gaines published "Sorcery and Science" in *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry*, an article that honors Professor Shirley Lindenbaum. Professor Lindenbaum, notable for her medical anthropological work on kuru in Papua New Guinea, was also honored at this year's American Anthropological Association (AAA) meeting with a two part symposium. *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry*, Dr. Gaines' journal, surpassed 100,000 downloads for 2016 and is expected to go still higher for 2017. Downloads stood at 8000 when Dr. Gaines took over the journal in 2007.

Dr. Gaines has also been asked by Dr. Paul Farmer, Co-founder of Partners in Health (PIH), to assist in editing/critiquing a book about Ebola on which Farmer has been working.



AAA ANNUAL MEETING

American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting

This year the 116th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) was held in Washington, DC. Faculty, students and alumni participated and the department also hosted an informal get-together for those who were attending. It was exciting to hear what our alumni are doing. Here is a glimpse:

Cosette Audi (BA, 2016) is now a qualitative research assistant at the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Katie Burke (BA 2015, MA 2015) was featured in the Spring 2017 "Conversations with CWRU Anthropology Alumni" column. Katie is continuing to work with Deloitte Consulting.

Jordan Genovese (BA, 2015) received her MPH from George Washington University School of Public Health in May 2017. She is now the research coordinator for the ACTG (AIDS Clinical Trials Network) in Washington D.C.

Shannon Groll (BA, 2014) is completing her MA in Anthropology at LSU. Prior to entering the MA program she taught 7th grade science.

Margaret Kuhl (BA, 2016) is a project coordinator for the Decision Resources Group.

Hannah Low (BA, 2016) is working for the Avodah Service Corps, serving as a patient advocate at the Community of Hope Conway Health and Resource Center in DC.

Larry Monticello (BA, 2015) is in the graduate program in Anthropology at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, where he is studying with CWRU PhD alum, Kathryn Oths (PhD 1991). He recently finished his MA thesis and will prepare to conduct dissertation research in South Korea.

Kathryn Oths (PhD 1991) was the featured speaker at the joint Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA) and Society for Psychological Anthropology (SPA) mentoring luncheon at the event (pictured below).



Kathryn also recently published an article with Hannah Smith, Max Stein, Rodrigo Lazo Landivar in the *American Journal of Human Biology* entitled "A Decade of Rapid Change: Biocultural Influences on Child Growth in Highland Peru."

Danielle Turner (BA, 2016) works with a non-partisan organization called the International Republican Institute. She is the Program Associate for Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Panama in the Latin America and Caribbean Division.

American Anthropological Association (AAA) Participation

"Limits to Hashtag Activism in Southern Racial Justice Organizing: Urban and Rural Community Responses to Police Brutality in Louisiana"
Shannon Groll (BA, 2014)

"Engaged Psychological Anthropology"
Participant: Jill Korbin

"On the Margins of Therapeutic Citizenship: Nationalism, NGO's, and Triage in Zimbabwe"
Jonathan Metcalfe

"Cultural Persistence and Traditional Medicine: Commodification and Economic Dependence as a Threat to Identity and Self-Determination on Rapa Nui" - **Sonya Petrakovitz**

"She must've had a reservation": Moral Citizenship and the Afterlife of Drug Overdose Death" - **Allison Schlosser**

"Contested Identities, Community Vulnerability: Masculinity, Sexual Behavior, and HIV/AIDS in a Sex Work Community in Kampala, Uganda"
Megan Schmidt-Sane

"Making decisions about abortion: Reproductive choice and conjugal dynamics in rural China"
Lihong Shi

"Reclaiming Rights to Shape Young Muslim Minds: National and Transnational Battles over Childhood Education Policy in the Senegalese Traditional Qur'anic School System"
Sara Thiam



Bridget Haas received Honorable Mention for the Sterling Prize from the Society for Psychological Anthropology (pictured above).



AAA INFORMAL DEPARTMENT GATHERING LEFT TO RIGHT: (Front) Jordan Genovese, Katie Burke; (Center) Vanessa Hildebrand, Hannah Low, Margaret Kuhl, Danielle Turner, Cosette Audi; (Back) Lee Hoffer

Dr. Korbin assumed the role of President for the Society for Psychological Anthropology (SPA) of the American Anthropological Association (AAA).

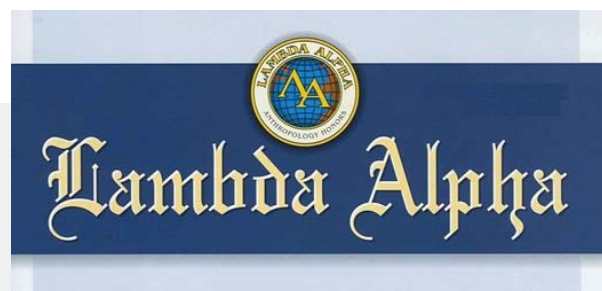
Julia Knopes

Julia Knopes presented her early dissertation findings at the Society for Social Studies of Science meeting in Boston this past September. Her paper was entitled “Knowing, Not Knowing, and Knowing In-Between: Responding to Epistemological Rifts at an American Medical School.” She also co-organized a panel with two medical sociologists at the same conference, entitled “STS and Health Professions Education.” She continues dissertation fieldwork on uncertainty in a pre-clinical problem-centered curriculum at an American medical school through spring 2018.

In October, Julia led a group of fifteen MA students in Bioethics to represent Case Western Reserve University at the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities conference in Kansas City. She is currently serving as the head teaching assistant in BETH210, a survey course of medical humanities and social sciences for undergraduates. She is the administrative chair of the CWRU Graduate Society of Medical Humanities this year. She is also co-organizing a medical humanities symposium with Dr. Jonathan Sadowsky of the CWRU Department of History to be hosted in conjunction with the 2018 Cleveland Humanities Festival on the theme of “Health.”

Aura Newlin

Aura Newlin was a plenary speaker for the 80th annual conference of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) in July 2017. The Session was entitled “Lessons of the Japanese American Confinement Experience: Historical Contexts, Present-Day Relevance, and the Impact on Families and Children.”



Congratulations NEW Lambda Alpha Members

The **Ohio Theta Chapter of Lambda Alpha** is the Anthropology National Honors Society and is available to students interested in anthropology who meet the standards of scholastic performance. This year's inductees were **Wilmel Cosme, Julia Gaspare-Pruchnicki, Daniel Hamilton, Brooke Jespersen, Jonathan Metcalfe, and Rejowana Rouf.**

Catherine Osborn

Catherine Osborn was co-author of a recently published commentary called "Query the merits of embryo editing for reproductive research now" in the November 2017 issue of *Nature Biotechnology*.

Megan Schmidt-Sane

Megan Schmidt-Sane was awarded a highly competitive **National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant** for her proposal entitled "Doctoral Dissertation Research: A mixed-method study of health vulnerability and social resilience in Kampala, Uganda." The NSF grant allows doctoral students to undertake significant data-gathering projects and to conduct field research in settings away from their campus that would not otherwise be possible. Megan plans to travel in June-July 2018 to begin fieldwork in urban Kampala, Uganda. Her project abstract is below:

Risk, vulnerability and resilience are major frameworks employed in social and biomedical sciences to explain persistent health inequalities. Risk often focuses on health outcomes, while vulnerability frameworks emphasize economic scarcity. Resilience, meanwhile, focuses on a community's strengths and opportunities in light of stress. Despite excellent work on risk, vulnerability, and resilience addressing a variety of health outcomes, scholars have not reconciled these concepts and have yet to fully address wider factors that influence patterning of health inequalities. This research will be conducted in urban Kampala, Uganda, where job availability is on the decline and the local government has instituted a number of policies to regulate the informal economy, where a majority of Ugandans are employed. These regulations, while beneficial in theory, are putting a large number of people out of work. Community mechanisms such as "bar groups" build on historical ways that people organize themselves in this context. These resilience mechanisms may protect against economic pressure while unintentionally facilitating unhealthy behavior in a context of a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. The researcher has conducted preliminary research in Kampala since 2016, which led to the study hypotheses.

This project focuses on men in two communities where job scarcity is the norm and "bar groups" are an important aspect of the social fabric. The researcher will assess individual patterning of key factors that encompass risk in the communities. Moreover, this dissertation will also assess pathways between men's risk, resilience and/or vulnerability and identify the social, political, economic, and legal structures that shape differential health outcomes. The study will take place over one year in Kampala, Uganda and consist of community census, surveys, in-depth interviews and participant observation in this ethnographically-grounded study. Findings from this research on health inequality will be disseminated widely in academic and public health settings, providing insight into the factors that are simultaneously resilient and vulnerable, and the potential pathways to resilience.

GRADUATE NEWS continued

Allison Schlosser

Allison Schlosser received the 2017 Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco Study Group (ADTSG) Graduate Student Paper Prize. The ADTSG is a Special Interest Group of the Society for Medical Anthropology that awards an annual prize recognizing the best graduate student paper in the anthropology of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, pharmaceuticals, or other psychoactive substance use.

Allison's paper, "Stay in Your Square": (Bounded) Intimacy and Moral Personhood in Addiction Treatment, examines how client subjectivities and socialities are shaped by material and interpersonal exchanges in the moral spaces of addiction treatment in the U.S.



Allison Schlosser (left) receiving award from Shana Harris, ADTSG Chair (right)

Sydney Stark

Sydney Stark (BA, 2017) was awarded the XLII National Lambda Alpha Scholarship. Lambda alpha is a national Anthropology honor society. The award comes with a check for \$5000. Sydney is currently working to complete an M.A. in medical anthropology and global health at CWRU and will also be applying to medical schools and plans to matriculate in fall 2018. She continues her work as a volunteer birth and postpartum doula as well as continuing her work at MetroHealth as a Research Assistant and Obstetric Simulation Coordinator. The hospital serves as the referral and care center for opioid addicted pregnant women and their children.

Her research focuses on the hospital's Mother and Child Dependency Program which provides inter-disciplinary, coordinated services for these patients. The objectives of her research include improving standards of care and determining the long-term impacts of opioid addiction on mother and baby. As the Obstetric Simulation Coordinator, I run the simulation training program for obstetrics residents. The goal of this program is to improve outcomes for mothers and babies in the event of rare but potentially morbid obstetric emergencies.



Sydney Stark (left) receiving award from Dr. Lawrence Greksa (right)

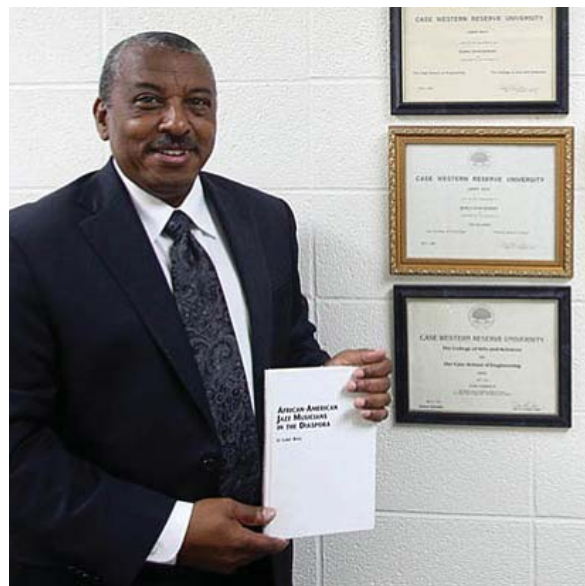
Shannon Ohlemacher

Shannon Ohlemacher (CWRU BA 2011) graduated with her PhD in Biochemistry from Washington University in St. Louis this year and is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Institute of Health working on antibiotic discovery.

Larry Ross

Larry Ross (CWRU BA 1993) has a contract for a new manuscript, *The Origins of Egypt and Nubia*, with The Edwin Mellen Press. The contract was received from Professor Herbert Richardson, Editor-in-Chief of The Edwin Mellen Press, an outstanding scholar who has traveled along the Nile River extensively and surveyed Egypt and Nubia; his understanding of this work's significance is unquestionable. The book will be published in hardcover, paperback, and E-book formats.

Dr. Ross accredits one of his earlier publications, *Nubia and Egypt 10,000 B.C. to 400 A.D.: From Prehistory to the Meroitic Period* to the outstanding training that he received at CWRU, from Dr. Jim G. Shaffer, on the Ancient Near East ("he does not know what a tremendous impact that he had on me").



Exciting opportunity to earn an **M.A. in Medical Anthropology & Global Health** in 1-Year, including a Certificate in Global Health!

The Anthropology Department at Case Western Reserve University offers an intensive 2 semester (1-year) M.A. program in Medical Anthropology and Global Health. The program provides conceptual, topical and research understanding of the biocultural basis of health and illness and the interface between disease/illness-culture-biology-society designed to serve the needs of students seeking to attend medical school, work professionally in the medical arena or allied health sciences or to go on to Ph.D. programs.

Charles B. Rwabukwali

Charles B. Rwabukwali (CWRU PhD 1997) was inducted as a Fellow of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences (UNAS) on October 27th in Kampala, Uganda. Rwabukwali is Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Makerere University. He received his PhD in Medical Anthropology in 1997.

The UNAS is an honorific organization which serves as an independent platform through which scientists exchange ideas, knowledge and experiences on topical issues that foster national development in Uganda. The UNAS has approximately 200 members. Dr. Rwabukwali is one of three UNAS members who are social scientists.



Colleen Walsh

Colleen Walsh (CWRU PhD 2011) and colleagues were awarded a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant to support a two-phase study to investigate American's perspectives on health equity. The first phase will engage Ohio's Greater Cleveland area residents using interviews and ethnographic methods and the second phase will test their qualitative findings in a national survey. The goal is to develop a better understanding of how people's moral values and personal experiences influence their views and their actions when it comes to asking the question of "who deserves what in the health domain, and why."

*Happy
Holidays*

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