

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY NEWSLETTER



Fall 2026



Greetings from the Department Head of Anthropology!

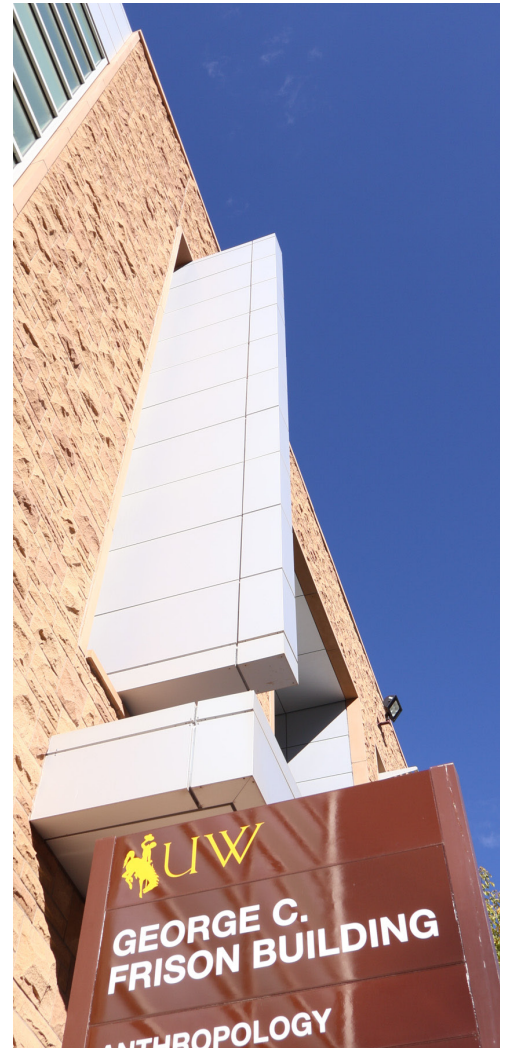
It has taken me over four years, but I have finally assembled a newsletter to the friends, colleagues, and alumni of Anthropology! My apologies for the delay. I have described the DH job as trying to drink through a fire hose. I never imagined I would end up in middle management when I graduated as a PhD in 2004, but here I am. In my time as DH the job has gotten easier because some aspects of it are the same year to year, even if there is a lot to address. I am also so fortunate to have a terrific group of department faculty and staff who have supported me and shown me patience and grace as I learned the job. I could not do this job without them.

To those who have supported and donated to the Anthropology Department directly or to those scholarships and awards that support the department faculty, students, and affiliates, thank you so much! We have awarded undergraduate students with financial need over \$5000 in the last four years through the Keith Kanbe Memorial Scholarship! Master's students have received research support from the Charles A. and Jason C. Reher Memorial awards and four Master's students received a semester of

funding covering their tuition, fees, health insurance, and a monthly stipend while they completed their Master's theses. I leave those awards associated with the George C. Frison Institute to the newsletter published by Todd Surovell, but thank you also to those donors to the Frison Institute.

One of the biggest news items of the past year is the election of UW emeritus professor of Anthropology, Dr. Robert Kelly into the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). Sometime in the late spring of 2027 the Department hopes to host a celebration of Dr. Kelly and his election into NAS. Stay tuned for details!

The University of Wyoming Archaeological Repository underwent a \$2M+ renovation that involved the installation of movable shelving units and a laboratory space. We will be moving things from off-site storage in the next several months. I invite you to stop by the new space the next time you are in the Department



We have hired seven new faculty in the Anthropology Department, including our two most recent hires, Dr. Kelton Meyer and Dr. Allison Mann.



Dr. Kelton Meyer specializes in the archaeology of the earliest hunter-gatherers in North America as well as Formative era societies throughout the Intermountain West and Great Plains. Kelton's active field projects focus on Folsom campsites and bison kills in the San Luis Valley of southern Colorado, Fremont corn storage (granaries) and defensive architecture in the Uintah Basin, stone driveline hunting sites in the alpine of Colorado and

Wyoming, and lithic quarries found throughout the Rocky Mountains and Central High Plains. Kelton led the Wyoming Archaeological Field School this past summer with 10 day sessions at Willow Springs, Carbon City, and San Luis Valley of southern Colorado. He received his B.A. in Anthropology from University of Northern Colorado and his MA and PhD from Colorado State University and started at UW in fall of 2025.



Biface fragment from the Cumbres Pass lithic source, southern Colorado.

More New Faculty:



Dr. Allison Mann is a biological anthropologist who specializes in molecular anthropology and the human oral microbiome. She has established the Microbiome, Anthropology, Genomics, and Evolution (MAGE) lab in the Anthropology Department and is the only person at UW studying the human microbiome. Allie's most recent research is studying the relationship between salivary flow rates, pH, immunity, and the oral microbiome in Wyoming adults. She recently co-authored an article on the oral microbiome

of King Richard III of England. She was awarded one of the 2026 Presidential Scholarly Awards for Early Career Faculty in the summer of 2026. Allie received her BA, BS, and MA from the University of Louisville and her doctorate from the University of Oklahoma. She completed postdoctoral research at University of British Columbia, University of North Texas Health Science Center, and Clemson University before she started at UW in the fall of 2024.



UW Anthropology alumni DJ Lueloff and Sophia Eberts test different decontamination protocols to efficiently extract DNA from cycloid fish scales in Dr. Allie Mann's MAGE lab.

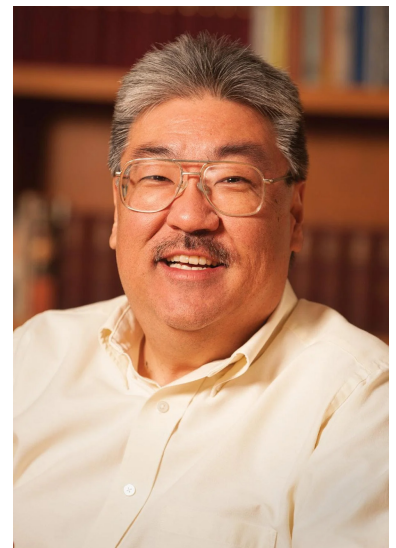
GIVING DAY

Giving Day is October 21- October 22, 2026 from 12n to 12n. This Giving Day the Anthropology Department is focusing on raising money to get the Keith Kanbe Memorial Scholarship endowed to over \$25,000. Beloved Senior Office Associate for Anthropology, Keith Kanbe, passed away Oct. 19, 2021, in Laramie, Wyoming after suffering from a brief illness, surrounded by his close friends and family. Keith Kanbe received a scholarship while he was a student and never forgot the difference it made in helping him to earn his degree at UW. His family created this scholarship to help those Anthropology students complete their degrees. Atira Buck, Emma Qualset, Ethan Hodgson, DJ Lueloff, and Aris Shanks are the Anthropology students who received this award in the last couple of years. I hope you consider donating to this [scholarship fund](#); it is one small way we hope to honor our beloved University of Wyoming staff member, Keith Kanbe.

10/21-22/26
SAVE THE DATE
UNIVERSITY of WYOMING GIVING DAY



October 21- October 22
12 noon - 12 noon



Postdoctoral researcher Gomathi Sankaranarayanan samples lichen at Lake Marie.



UW students pose in front of the ancient "horned" fortress of Wakrapukara, a pre-Inca site in the heart of the Andes. They participated in the Nature and Culture in Peru Study Abroad Honors course this past summer taught by Dr. Nikolas Sweet and Dr. Allison Caine.



Biface fragment from the Cumbres Pass lithic source, southern Colorado discovered by Kelton and the UW archaeological field school students.



Kelton M., Natalie B. (Field School TA), and Isabella F. Investigating a cache of ground stone.

Look for another edition in early April!