

## Spring 2025 Department of Anthropology Newsletter

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from the [Department of Anthropology](#) in the College of Arts and Sciences at Stony Brook University!

Much has been going on since the autumn, and we're glad to be able to update you. Faculty and student research has hit the news and has earned prestigious awards (see below). We've got a new functional morphology lab arrangement: Welcome to our Studies in Human and Primate Evolution lab! The SHaPE lab features spaces for discussion, curation, and hands-on research and is designed to enhance collaborative opportunities for both faculty and students. Brand-new courses such as Anthropology of Global Inequality and Greek and Roman Myth through Art and Technology have been approved for debut in the coming academic year.

We are already missing our 2025 bachelor's, master's and PhD graduates — Commencement is coming up shockingly soon — but we are also happy for them, and grateful to have our alumni community expanding.

Speaking of alumni: Please do send us your updates! We encourage you to connect and to tell your story. Our faculty and staff enjoy hearing from you, and current students appreciate seeing what previous Anthro, EBH and IDPAS students have accomplished. In addition, our Alumni Spotlights can help your former classmates find you — or simply give them a fun moment, remembering good times that you had together. Let us highlight you!

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Kathy Twiss,  
Professor and Chair



## Alumni News

Amanda Rowe '24, alumna of the Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences (IDPAS) and former student of Andreas Koenig and Pat Wright, has been honored as a finalist for the [SUNY Chancellor's Distinguished Dissertation Award](#).

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### Kayleigh Smith '23

Kayleigh Smith '23, Anthropology BA alumna, was featured in *TBR Newsmedia* last December as the Bryant/Troffa Research Fellow of the Three Village Historical Society (TVHS).

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### Dorien DeVries '20

Dorien DeVries '20, alumna of the IDPAS and former student of Erik Seiffert and John Fleagle, was awarded a three-year Veni Fellowship from the [Dutch Research Council \(NWO\)](#) and has begun looking at millions of years of hyracoid and notoungulate evolution across major global climate change at the [Naturalis Biodiversity Center](#) in Leiden, The Netherlands.

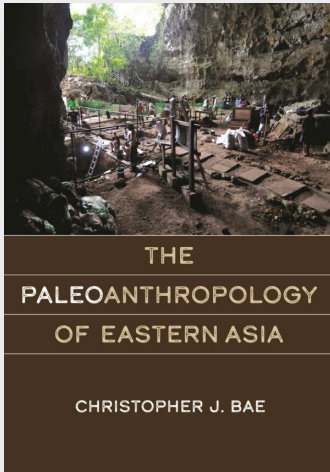
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### Wendy Erb '12

Wendy Erb '12, alumna of the IDPAS and former student of Carola Borries, was interviewed by the [BBC World News](#) about her work on orangutan long calls.

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### Christopher Bae '94

Chris Bae '94, Anthropology BA alumnus and professor of anthropology at the University of Hawaii Manoa, published the book, *The Paleanthropology of Eastern Asia*, which is the first major synthesis of the Pleistocene prehistory and paleoanthropology of Eastern Asia since the 1940s.

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## Graduate Student Spotlight

### Florence Aghomo, Natalia Camargo, Daphne Hudson

[Florence Aghomo](#) won the Young Women in Conservation Biology Award from the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) Africa Region.  
(Advisor: Patricia Wright)



[Natalia Camargo](#) received a Baldwin Fellowship from The Leakey Foundation.  
(Advisor: Amy Lu)

**Daphne Hudson** was awarded the 2024 Norman Creel Prize for Outstanding Student Research in Anatomical Sciences.  
(Advisor: Gabrielle Russo)



## Faculty Spotlight Awards

### Joeva Rock

Congratulations to Joeva Rock, whose 2022 book, *We Are Not Starving: The Struggle for Food Sovereignty in Ghana*, was honored with the 2024 Margaret Mead Award.

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### Chris Percival

Congratulations to Chris Percival, who was awarded summer research funding from the National Institute of Health (NIH) to investigate the role of dTDP-D-Glucose 4,6-dehydratase (TGDS)-encoding gene during early facial outgrowth and palatal development. The research is part of a multi-university collaborative NIH project titled "Development and molecular basis for a craniofacial metabolic syndrome."

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### Dominic Stratford

Congratulations to Dominic Stratford, co-PI of a National Science Foundation grant together with John Faith (University of Utah; PI) and IDPAS alumnus Justin Pargeter (NYU, Co-PI). The research is titled "Field and radiometric assessments of unexamined fossiliferous caves."





## Faculty Spotlight: Notable Contributions

### Lawrence Martin, Patricia Wright

SBU's Provost's Lecture Series featured Lawrence Martin and Patricia Wright, two SUNY Distinguished Service Professors, discussing their work in Kenya and Madagascar.

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### Carrie Mongle

Carrie Mongle was interviewed for CNN's article about the position of *Homo juluensis*, whose proponent is none other than Christopher Bae, Anthropology BA alumnus (see above).

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### John Shea

In a recent CNN article, John Shea made a very needed point about the claim that 50,000 to 60,000 year-old stone tools unearthed in southwestern China were made by Neanderthals: "Stone tools are not ID cards." The article wraps up with a quote from Anthropology alumnus Ben Utting '16, who's now a postdoc at the Smithsonian.

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### **Dominic Stratford**

Dominic Stratford co-authored a Science paper, which (finally) was able to test carbon and nitrogen isotopes from tooth enamel of species older than 200,000 years, showing that these hominins did not consume significant amounts of meat.

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**Your support helps us expand field opportunities for our students and provides seed money for senior honors theses and summer research experiences. Invest in our students by [making a gift today](#) or speaking with [Brianna Goodfellow](#), director of development, at (631) 632-4012.**

### **Stay Connected**



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