The Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Philosophy at NKU is composed of three programs that examine the human condition. Each program offers a bachelor’s degree and faculty in the Department direct a range of minors and foci, including: Religious Studies; Applied Philosophy; Native American Studies; Archaeology; Ancient Civilizations; Celtic Studies; Criminology; Society, Environment, and Technology; and Aging and Society. Below, Bob Lilly, Augustine Frimpong-Mansoh, and Boni Li talk at the annual SAP Retreat. SAP faculty and staff, pictured on the left.
Travel with SAP
Faculty and Students

The summer 2014 faculty-led programs include a Study Away in Greece, an Ethnographic Field School in Belize, Kiksuya—a service-learning program in South Dakota, and a National Science Foundation supported Fellowship program in Fiji.

Greece. You are invited to visit the birthplace of Western Philosophy with Drs. Hancock and Garns. This program will run from May 14-27, 2014. Participants will tour the Acropolis, the Parthenon, the agora where Socrates faced trial and was executed, the temple of Apollo, ancient cities of Mycenae and Corinth, and much more. Contact Dr. Hancock (hancockn@nku.edu) or the NKU Office of Education Abroad at 859-572-6194.

Belize. The Center for Applied Anthropology organizes an annual ethnographic field school in Belize directed by Dr. Doug Hume. This year the trip will run from June 3, 2014-June 26. The course will immerse students in the culture and train them in contemporary anthropological research methods and skills. This is a community-based research project and the trip will also include excursions. For information contact Dr. Hume (humed1@nku.edu).

Kiksuya. This program is now accepting volunteers for the May 18, 2014 trip. Dr. Nicole Grant directs this 15-day trip to the Cheyenne River Reservation in Eagle Butte, South Dakota. Students will live and work with the reservation residents and repair homes, do construction projects, work in organic gardening, and work at youth centers. Students engage in hands-on applied social science that will provide understanding of real world problems through community interactions. "$2500 in Legacy fund have been awarded to Kiksuya. The group is now working to raise additional support through an art auction at Sidewinders Cafe in Northside in January. Contact Dr. Grant at grante@nku.edu. Kiksuya meets Mondays, 1 pm (LA 400).

Fiji. This competitive program provides research fellowships for undergraduates to conduct ethnoarchaeological work in remote islands in Fiji. More information TBA. Contact Dr. Jones (joness33@nku.edu).

New courses for 2014

Greek Philosophy--Study Abroad (PHI 394), Spring 2014. Contact Dr. Hancock and Dr. Garns.

Primate Behavior and Ecology (ANT 394), Spring 2014. Contact Dr. Wakefield.

Sociology of Surveillance (SOC 370), Summer and Fall 2014. Contact Dr. Lilly.

Faculty Retirement

In the summer of 2013 Professor Robert Trundle retired from his post in Philosophy. Dr. Trundle began his career first as a high school teacher in Math and English, and began teaching philosophy at the University of Colorado in 1983. He came to NKU in 1987 and published 8 books and many journal articles. His areas of specialization include history of philosophy, phenomenology, and philosophy of science and metaphysics.

Passing of Dr. Thiel

It is with deep sadness that the passing of Dr. Barbara Thiel is reported. Dr. Thiel, Associate Professor of Anthropology, earned the Ph.D. in 1980 from the University of Illinois and began her career at NKU in 1979. Her specializations in anthropology included Southeast Asian archaeology, agricultural origins, human ecology, early hominid evolution and Ohio Valley archaeology. Dr. Thiel played a key role in establishing the vibrant anthropology program at NKU – this program has more undergraduate anthropology majors than any other public or private college or university in Kentucky and the entire tri-state metropolitan area. In 2001 she received the Strongest Influence Award by the NKU Alumni Association. She continued to work with students even after graduation to support them as they searched for positions and responded to requests for assistance related to their work. Dr. Thiel taught large numbers of students in a broad range of courses crucial to the program and was active in the development of the major and the multidisciplinary Evolutionary Studies minor. Dr. Thiel will be greatly missed by her students, colleagues, and friends. --- Provost Wells

Minor in Aging and Society

In 2011, the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Philosophy developed a new minor in Aging and Society. This minor is designed for students who are interested in learning about the elderly population and for those who seek employment and career opportunities serving this important and expanding demographic group. Currently the American elderly makes up 13% of the population. When 10% of a nation’s population is elderly the society is classified as aging. By the year of 2030, the percentage of American elderly is expected to reach 20%. This means that for every five people in the U.S., there will be one elderly person. There is no doubt that gerontology has become a growth area for research and economic development. Therefore this minor should appeal to students.

Aging in society is an urgent global issue. According to the U.S. National Institute on Aging, the elderly population 65 years and older in the world will reach 14% in the next 30 years. This means that the elderly population will be 1.4 billion by 2040. When a nation evolves into an aging society, it needs to establish specific public policies in order to meet the needs of the elderly population. These changes may not have been a critical issue in the past, but they are now.

The minor in aging and society will help students understand theories of adult development, social gerontology life course, intergenerational relationships and the needs of an aging population. Other topics include medical and health issues specific to aging. The curriculum emphasizes sociological perspectives to help frame problems specific to the elderly population, their families and to societies adjusting to new aging dynamics. With this minor, students become prepared to continue on to graduate school and to seek careers as gerontologists. Students can also find a range of other opportunities for employment in the field where many careers are available. If you are interested in this minor, please contact Professor Boni Li at liyu@nku.edu or 859-572-5259.

---Boni Li

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Faculty & Student News & Events

Dr. Bob Lilly quoted in the New York Times
This summer Dr. Bob Lilly was quoted in the New York Times by reporter Jennifer Schuessler in an article entitled, “The Dark Side of Liberation,” Lilly’s groundbreaking research investigates the controversial topic of sexual assaults by American soldiers in World War II and the disproportionate prosecution of African American G.I.s for these crimes.

SAP Welcomes New Faculty in the Fall of 2013
Dr. Monica Wakefield, Dr. Zachary Hruby, and Dr. Sharyn Jones.

Dr. Judy Voelker is featured in the October 10th edition of the Northerner
Check out the October edition of the NKU Northerner online. The article describes Dr. Voelker’s career experience on Wall Street and how her travels influenced her decision to change career paths and become an anthropologist.

Kristie Vise Wins Prestigious Award
Kristie Vise is a Lecturer in Sociology and she is much loved by her sociology students. Kristie won the prestigious Adams Award for the Most Outstanding Non-Tenure Track Faculty Member at NKU for 2012-2013. Faculty from SAP were delighted to participate in convocation on Friday, August 16th where Kristie was recognized by the President, Provost, and the Dean of Arts and Sciences. Below, Kristie is in pictured in the center.

Student Exhibit at the Behringer-Crawford Museum
On September 26, Dr. Voelker’s Museum Studies students created an exhibit, the Ceramic Traditions of Southeast Asia: People, Community, and Pottery. The Behringer-Crawford Museum, Covington, hosted the exhibit for several weeks and it opened with a talk by Dr. Voelker as part of the Six @ Six lecture series, supported by NKU’s Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement.

Mark Your Calendar: Upcoming Events

Sociology Club meets Thursdays, 1:30pm, LA 2nd floor by elevators.

Philosophy Club and Film events- every other Friday: October 25, November 8, Nov. 22.

Ethics Bowl at Marian University, November 9.

Celtic Studies- meetings, October 30, Nov. 13, Dec. 4. Contact simontonn@nku.edu

Kristie Vise will be honored at NKU’s Celebration of Faculty Excellence on October 28 and at the Annual Celebration of Teaching at Xavier University on November 9.

Anthro Club and Kiksuya bakesale October 30, 9am-1pm, Landrum 2nd Floor.

Kiksuya is running a dress and toy drive for children at the Cheyenne River Reservation. Drop off items at LA 217L, before December 2.

Todd Young will make fire and throw atlatls in Dr. Neeley’s classes, Nov. 19 (10:50 and 3:05)

The next Faculty and Student Gathering will be held at Anita’s Mexican Restaurant in Fort Thomas on Friday November 1 at 5:30 pm. Anita’s is located at 1506 Alexandria Pike.

A Memorial on the NKU campus for Dr. Barbara Thiel will be held on November 19, 4:30pm

More News:

Dr. Charlotte Schaengold will speak on Navajo, Nov. 21 4:30 pm (MP 304)

Dr. Jaime McCauley was awarded funding from the Ecological Stewardship Institute for research assistants and equipment ($3000) in connection with the project, “Troubled Waters: Using Citizen Science to Create Sustainable Urban Water Systems.”

Dr. Boni Li’s book, Global Aging Issues and Policies, was published in June 2013 by Charles Thomas Publisher LTD. This book is a compilation of articles from 33 scholars in 18 regions/countries.

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