The IU South Bend Anthropology Club hosted a table at the Saint Joseph County Public Library “Science Alive” event this past February.

The club presented human evolution and archaeological science using skeletal remains from the department’s material culture lab and slide shows on laptops. Every family received a handout on evolution and learned about the scientific role of an anthropologist.

Also on display were student posters from the Midwest Archaeology Conference that presented findings from the IU South Bend archaeological field school.

Science Alive is a multi-organizational event hosted by community groups including IU School of Medicine, Ivy Tech, and Notre Dame. The club hopes to see other IU South Bend clubs and departments at the event in 2014.

Once again the Sociology Club has supported a group of IU South Bend student presenters at this year’s North Central Sociological Association’s annual conference (NCSSC).

Among the papers presented were, The Paranormal: Beliefs about UFOs and Aliens in the United States by Megan Albaugh Bonham and Societal Implications of Health by Erica Overton.

Through fundraising and grant proposals, the Sociology Club alleviated some of the cost for student presenters.
A group of IU South Bend students participated in the annual Point-in-Time Count to help provide the Michiana community with a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons.

Students in Professor Gail McGuire’s qualitative methods course conducted interviews at the Broadway Christian Parish in South Bend. Participants were given toiletry items for participating in the interviews.

The data that the students collected will be used to determine the financial need in the area for sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons.

Student researcher Robyn Black says of the experience, "Participating in the St. Joseph County Homeless Count was rewarding on many levels. I always appreciate opportunities to put my classroom training into real life practice. I am also a proponent of Public Sociology and this was an excellent way to engage the community and reach out to those most in need."

The students applied skills from the classroom to a meaningful experience that they thoroughly enjoyed. This year’s coordinator of the Michiana Point-in-Time Count, Beth Morlock adds that the experience may inspire these students to participate in future outreach work with local organizations.
Amanda Cameron was enrolled in this year’s internship program and worked with the South Bend Police Department Metro Homicide Unit. Cameron is interested in forensic anthropology and is considering both attending the police academy and a graduate program in human biology. In her internship, Cameron worked closely with technicians tasked with collecting evidence and presenting data during court hearings. Although Cameron already knew crime scene investigation was more complex than what appears on crime series television, she was surprised at the striking differences. Cameron states, “The T.V. makes it seems really glamorous. In real life there are more legalities and more paperwork than they can fit into an hour long show.” According to Cameron, the technicians wait days or even weeks to get lab results while television stars identify victims and perpetrators in less than an hour.

Libbyrae Troyer was also enrolled in the internship program. She continues to work on the Grow Downtown project for Downtown South Bend (DTSB). “Grow Downtown” is a fundraising opportunity that allows community members to get involved and take pride in their community by purchasing flowers for the downtown area. The project focuses on community appeal, downtown development, and sustainable growth.

Troyer says that the greatest benefit for the community is that “it increases people’s quality of life when everything is clean and beautiful.” This internship has been a wonderful experience for Troyer who wants to enter a career in community development.

The sociology and anthropology internship program is a great way for students to get real world experience and build connections in the community before they graduate.
David Blouin introduces students to quantitative research methods by having them actually conduct research in his Quantitative Research Methods course.

This past summer, Professor Blouin developed, in partnership with leaders of the Monroe Park Co-op and Monroe Park Neighborhood Association, a new community-based project for the course. The project involved conducting surveys of customers at the co-op and of residents in the neighborhood. The survey focused on a range of issues including health, food preferences, concerns with local food and sustainability issues, and the experiences and quality of life in the neighborhood. In addition to gathering basic demographic information from residents, students asked them about their communication and interactions with other residents and what they liked most and least about their neighborhood.

Students helped revise the survey instrument, solicited additional survey items from neighborhood residents and co-op leaders, and added some questions of their own. Students completed papers based on specific aspects of the survey they found personally interesting or important and student Ashley Snell presented a poster at the Ganey Community Engagement Awards Dinner, held on Notre Dame’s campus.

Blouin’s students benefited greatly by learning about research methods by actually doing research.

“I employ a community-based research project that introduces students to quantitative research methods and helps them learn about them by actually doing them.”
- Prof. David Blouin
IU South Bend graduate Dawn Tousignant, B.A. in Sociology, is employed as a coordinator for Safe Place and case manager at Youth Service Bureau (YSB) in South Bend. YSB is a community-based non-profit organization that serves the needs of youth at critical points in their lives.

As a Safe Place coordinator for YSB, Tousignant trains Safe Place facilities on the best way to interact with youth who come to Safe Place sites. The yellow Safe Place sign indicates that a community facility is considered a safe place in the community for youth who have been victims of abuse, or need a cooling off period from a conflict or dispute at home. As a coordinator, Tousignant facilitates school presentations to inform youth about Safe Places.

During National Safe Place Week, March 17-23, Tousignant and her team hosted an open house at the shelter. They invited members of the police and fire department, political leaders, school officials and Safe Place sites.

As a case manager for YSB, Tousignant helps youth with emergency housing solutions and assists them in developing a permanency plan. Tousignant’s office is located at Safe Station, a temporary shelter for youth. At Safe Station, the staff are trained to process through issues with the youth, helping them come up with better solutions. Tousignant conducts 30, 60, and 90 day follow-ups with all the youth in the program.

Tousignant enjoys the connections she makes with the youth by helping them realize their potential and strengths. Tousignant shares, “I have a passion for what I do. It doesn’t feel like a job, it feels like a service.” Her personal goal is to help them discover themselves, nurture them in the process, and help them grow.

Tousignant says the greatest challenge she faces is the pressure of helping youth make decisions that will significantly impact their lives. On the paperwork end of it, she adds that there are often many tasks that need to be completed in short periods of time. Tousignant points out, “With any non-profit you have to be willing to work outside of your job description. Everything you do is important, yet you have to prioritize it all in order to get it done.”

Tousignant truly has a passion for working with youth and YSB is the perfect place for her to grow.

“I have a passion for what I do. It doesn’t feel like a job, it feels like a service.”

Dawn Tousignant at Safe Station, a temporary youth shelter.
Professor Josh Wells was recently accepted into The Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching (FACET), an honor given to the top teachers in the IU system.

Professor Wells decided to become an educator so that he could keep learning alongside his students. He says that teaching has allowed him to engage in a wider range of cutting edge research. Wells says that had he continued his career in the private sector he would have been limited to a narrow scope of research that pertained to the needs of the organization where he was employed.

Professor Wells believes that his research in Technology Enabled Active Learning (TEAL) has been a contributing factor to receiving this honor. A course taught in the TEAL approach dedicates half the learning to standard lecture and the other half in lab-related experience.

Professor Wells says that the most powerful moments for him as an educator are when students return after going off to graduate school or entering the workforce and share something that he said or did for them during his class that impacted their lives.

One piece of advice that Professor Wells gives to students is to learn a skill. Speaking as an anthropologist, Wells states, “You need skills from the broader world of humanity.” He says that whether students learn a foreign language, statistical analysis, or artifact analysis, knowledge of a special skill will help them get a job or give them a skill to promote when they are applying for a graduate program.

Acceptance into FACET is a great honor and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology congratulates Professor Wells on this wonderful achievement.

Graduate School Night

The IU South Bend Sociology Club and Anthropology Club co-sponsored a Graduate School Night this past March. The goal of the event was to help de-mystify the graduate school process for students.

Guest speaker and graduate student Rebecca Gibson answered questions about her experience getting in and getting through graduate school. Faculty member Rebecca Torstrick provided information about National Science Foundation grants and Fulbright scholarships.

Events such as the Graduate School Night are part of an attempt by both the Sociology and Anthropology Clubs to support students who want to continue their academic career after their undergraduate career. The Sociology Club has also supported student researchers going to conferences and the Anthropology Club has held events on campus for students to share their research with faculty members and fellow classmates.

“You need skills from the broader world of humanity.”

-Prof. Wells advice to students

Email the clubs to find out more:
Sociology Club: Nikki Caudill nidcaudi@iusb.edu
Anthropology Club: Sarah Nixon stnixon@iusb.edu
Sitting down and talking with Betty Mooney was delightful. She is full of fascinating stories and experiences.

Mooney earned an M.A. in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1953 and a Doctor of Arts in Philosophy and Education at the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in 2006. In the 60s she worked with the Kinsey Institute analyzing interviews and data from the 40s and 50s with regards to adolescent sexuality. She currently assists local police as an expert in the field of sexuality. They call on her to weigh in about the best course of action in difficult cases where individuals are not breaking the law, but by society’s standards are acting sexually inappropriate. Mooney says, “Sexuality is diverse in cultures. The same acceptable act in one culture is taboo in another culture. We really don’t know much about ourselves.”

Mooney has over 60 years of experience in the field of sexuality and loves to teach. At IU South Bend, she teaches the course, Marital Relations and Sexuality from a cultural point of where we are at today in terms of sexuality. Mooney’s teaching philosophy is to teach students that they own their own body, that they are responsible for their body, and that they need to know as much about it as possible.

Mooney loves her job as a professor. She loves that students begin the semester with closed arms and end it with open minds. When I asked her what advice she would give students, she responded, “I don’t give advice to students. I teach them.” Mooney believes that giving advice to others is a way to direct them towards the person you think they should be, rather than allowing them to grow as the person they already are.

After our interview I decided to sit in on her class. She began her lecture by saying, “Let us attack Chapter 6 of Gary Kelly’s book Sexuality Today in which we are going to explore sexual fantasies and fetishes.” Some students might think it awkward to hear such a lecture from a woman in her 80s, but not Professor Mooney’s students. Her students radiated respect for her as they listened attentively to a lecture filled with her experiences. She had a story for every term in the textbook. She encouraged students to share opinions on difficult scenarios, such as a man touching himself while parked in front of a school at the end of the school day, but not exposing himself. Students expressed a gut instinct to want the man punished, but also recognized that he had not broken any laws. The class had a wonderful discussion about the textbook material by analyzing scenarios that Mooney had experienced.

“Let me tell you a story” is a phrase that Mooney uses often and the stories are filled with lessons from which we can all learn. Any student looking for a sociology class will not be disappointed if they enroll in her course.

“Sexuality is diverse in cultures. The same acceptable act in one culture is taboo in another culture. We really don't know much about ourselves.”
Sociology Excellence Award Winners:
Robyn Black
Megan Albaugh Bonham

Anthropology Excellence Award Winner:
Aubrey Stevens

Linda Marie Fritschner Award For Excellence in Research and Creativity:
Megan Albaugh Bonham

What have YOU been doing with your degree?
We hope that you will keep in touch by telling us about how your degree has prepared you for your career.
Send any updates and photos to Gail McGuire, Chair of the Sociology and Anthropology Department, at IU South Bend
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