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June 2019 News, Department of Anthropology at Stony Brook University

5 messages

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Wed, Jun 5, 2019 at 2:24 PM



College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Anthropology

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from the [Department of Anthropology](#) at Stony Brook University!

The past year has been a time of tremendous excitement for our Department! Our students and faculty have experienced wonderful achievements and we are delighted to share four particular stories with you.

Two of our outstanding undergraduate students, Penpichaya Miyan and Anna Zavodszky, presented posters on their research at this year's annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists (AAPA). Thanks to your contributions to the new Department of Anthropology Undergraduate Travel and Research Award, these students were able to participate at this meeting. We appreciate your investment in our Department!

PhD candidate Fanny Cornejo's photograph of the endangered yellow-tailed woolly monkey was chosen by the Central Bank of Peru for a new coin designed to raise awareness about the threat of extinction of indigenous animals in Peru.



Our newest faculty member, Chris Percival, has achieved remarkable success in his research program that works to understand the genetic and developmental bases of cranial morphology. He was awarded a substantial NIH grant that will further his research on the mechanisms by which early developmental processes are modified.

Congratulations to Penpichaya, Anna, Fanny and Chris! Read more about their achievements below.

Please send us your updates so we can include them on our forthcoming Alumni News page!

Warmly,

Frederick E. Grine
Professor and Chair

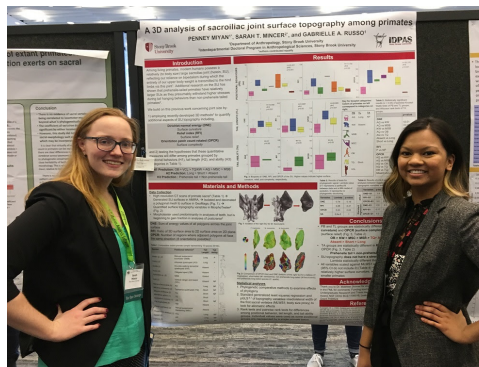
Undergraduate Student Spotlight

Penpichaya Miyan '19

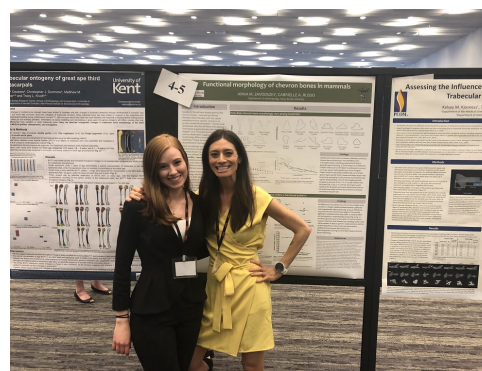
Anna Zavodszky '19

Penpichaya Miyan '19 and Anna Zavodszky '19 attended this year's annual meeting of the [American Association of Physical Anthropologists \(AAPA\)](#) to present their research to an international audience of professional anthropologists. Penpichaya's project was "A 3D analysis of sacroiliac joint surface topography among primates," and Anna presented on "Functional morphology of chevron bones in mammals."

Each received funding from a new competitive departmental Undergraduate Travel and Research Award. Both students also received Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities ([URECA](#)) travel awards in recognition of their outstanding academic work among Stony Brook undergraduates. "The AAPAs were a great experience," says Penpichaya. "It was my first time attending an academic conference and I was so glad I got to collaborate with my lab



Sarah Mincer, a student in the Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences (IDPAS), and Penpichaya Miyan '19 at AAPA.



Anna Zavodszky '19 and Professor Russo at AAPA

members to present a poster.” Anna adds, “The AAPAs were such a wonderful opportunity and great for my professional development! I was able to experience what giving a scholarly presentation is like and received really helpful feedback on my work.”

Both students were advised by Assistant Professor Gabrielle Russo. [Learn more](#) about Gabrielle’s research.

Graduate Student Spotlight

Fanny Cornejo

For more than 10 years, PhD candidate Fanny Cornejo has been working with the Peruvian government to bring attention to the critically endangered yellow-tailed woolly monkey. Fanny and her team have contributed valuable information on the species, and earlier this year, the Central Bank of Peru chose her photograph of a wild monkey to model a new coin. Today, 10 million of these coins are now in circulation in Peru. The coin is part of a series of coins released to raise awareness about threatened and endangered animals in Peru.



[Learn more](#) about Fanny’s research.

Faculty Spotlight

Chris Percival

Variation in skull morphology across primates and human ancestors reflect important evolutionary trends. With new technology, genetic variants correlated with relevant aspects of skull morphology can be identified. In order to determine how a known genetic variant leads to evolutionary changes in skull shape, we must understand the developmental processes that translate genes into the morphology that natural selection acts upon.



Assistant Professor Chris Percival's research connects genes to morphology through the careful study of mouse models that are more traditionally used to understand the developmental basis of human disease. In his second year in the Department, he has received more than \$300,000 from the National Institutes of Health to support his

collaborative research goals. The results of Chris's work will illuminate how early developmental processes can be modified to produce evolutionary changes in morphology and craniofacial birth defects like cleft palate and hydrocephalus.

[Learn more](#) about Chris's research.

Resources for faculty and students support and strengthen the educational experience. The Department of Anthropology depends on our alumni and friends to expand field opportunities for our students and provide seed money for senior honors theses and summer research experiences.

Your generosity, whether it's the renewal of your support or the decision to give for the first time, allows us to do what we do best – innovative, creative research and teaching that's the hallmark of a great public research university. I hope you'll consider investing in our faculty and students by making a [gift](#) today or speaking with the College's Advancement Representative, Assistant Dean Rebecca Bair, rebecca.bair@stonybrook.edu, or (631) 632-6178.

You may also make a gift online via the link below.

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Thu, Jun 6, 2019 at 12:35 PM

Hi Fred and Catherine,

I wanted to let you know this was sent yesterday. Let me know if you did not receive it.