



NAPA Notes

Letter from the President

I continue to hope that you and your loved ones remain safe during the waning days of 2020, a year that will be highlighted and underscored in history books. The good news though is that in spite of the pandemic, dismal economy, and heightened racial tensions, our members continue to advance NAPA's mission to bring together professional, practicing, and applied anthropologists (PPA) in order to find solutions for pressing global problems. Not meaning to sound hyperbolic, NAPA remains a vital and dynamic section of the AAA.

Here are a few highlights of what NAPA members accomplished in 2020.

- Approved a \$2,500 contribution to the AAA COVID-19 Emergency Grant Initiative to provide grants to AAA members who found themselves unemployed as a result of the pandemic
- Created an ad hoc Black Lives Matter committee to develop a statement and action items in response to the murder of George Floyd, Breanna Taylor, and other African Americans by the police. This work will continue in 2021 and beyond
- Created an ad hoc strategic planning committee to examine the organizational structure and processes of NAPA. The committee has presented its report to the GC which will discuss their recommendations and vote early in 2021
- Re-appointed the Editor and Publications Coordinator of the *Annals of Anthropological Practice* (AAP for another three-year term). The AAP has experienced an increase in the number of submissions in the last year.

(Continued on next page...)



David Himmelgreen, Ph.D.
NAPA President

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NAPA Notes

- Redesigned and increased the length of the *NAPA Notes* newsletter
- Awarded the Volunteer of the Year and Student Achievement awards at the virtual NAPA Business meeting.
- Continued to expand the NAPA social media presence through Facebook, Twitter, website, and Guest Blog
- Developed plans for expanding the NAPA Mentoring program
- Continued to remain financially strong with assets over \$154,000 with fewer than expected expenses as a result of the cancellation of the SfAA and AAA meetings.

One cause of concern for the AAA and NAPA is the continuing decline in membership. Our membership declined by 36% (year over year as of September, 2020), which was the same for the overall decline in AAA membership. The NAPA GC is cognizant of this problem and is actively engaged in reversing the trend, for example, reducing the membership fee for students in 2020. NAPA members are encouraged to reach out to their PPA colleagues about joining the organization and the GC will do its part to grow NAPA through implementation of its new strategic plan.

This is my last column at NAPA President before stepping into the role of Past-President. I want to thank all of my GC colleagues and members for their support during the last two years. During my tenure, I received several emails from NAPA members that were uplifting. NAPA's success is contingent upon the highly engaged volunteers that selflessly offer their precious time. I am extremely grateful to them all. .

By the time you read this column, there will have been a peaceful transition to the next NAPA President, Cathleen Crain. As many of you know, Cathleen has been a mover and shaker in NAPA and a fierce advocate for PPAs. NAPA is in great hands with leaders like Cathleen, Lauren Penny (President-Elect), Chad Morris (Treasurer), Toni Copland (Secretary), Zelda Harrison and Erik Kjeldgaard (Members-at-Large), Betselot Wondimu (Student Representative), and the many committee members that make the organization run.

I wish you all the best and look forward to contributing my time and effort to NAPA.

Warm Regards,

David



Committee Updates

And Now for the Rain of Frogs!

For more than 15 years, the NAPA/AAA Careers Expo has been a marquee event at the AAA meeting. Bringing together professional anthropologists with well-developed careers to discuss career paths with new/young anthropologists and their mentors; it is an event which changes horizons for many.

This year has been extraordinary as everyone knows. AAA cancelled the meeting in early summer and started organizing a virtual meeting, “Raising our Voices” (ROV) which was not intended to be a replication of the in-person meeting but a different, virtual event. Expo planning flexed as functionality was understood right up to the event. Two, two-hour sessions were planned, a week apart. The illustration of the participants and their specialties is provided below. More than 40 professionals participated representing a variety of subdisciplines and specialties.

The ROV meeting at ~2,000 was considerably smaller than the in-person meeting where approximately 10% of all AAA attendees come to the Expo. Promotion was through normal channels including: NAPA; AAA; NASA; WAPA; CoPAA; and other outlets. The first session had no more than a handful of attendees. In debriefing, the committee identified multiple issues that could have affected participation: politics, pandemic, paywall, platform, attendance at ROV, and general distraction. We cancelled the second session as we couldn't guarantee a different outcome.



Josh Gold Photography

WASHINGTON D.C.

2017



Committee Updates

And Now for the Rain of Frogs!

Both the committee and the professionals took this disappointment as an opportunity to analyze, learn, and imagine new opportunities. The professional participants provided creative ideas for future virtual events for new/young anthropologists. And they were enthusiastic about opportunities to network with other professionals. The committee capitalized on this experience and, in addition to planning future mentoring events, is now actively considering opportunities for bring together professional in casual environments. Watch for future developments! These will be exciting accompaniments to the amazing Careers Expo – next year in Baltimore – in person.



Josh Gold Photography

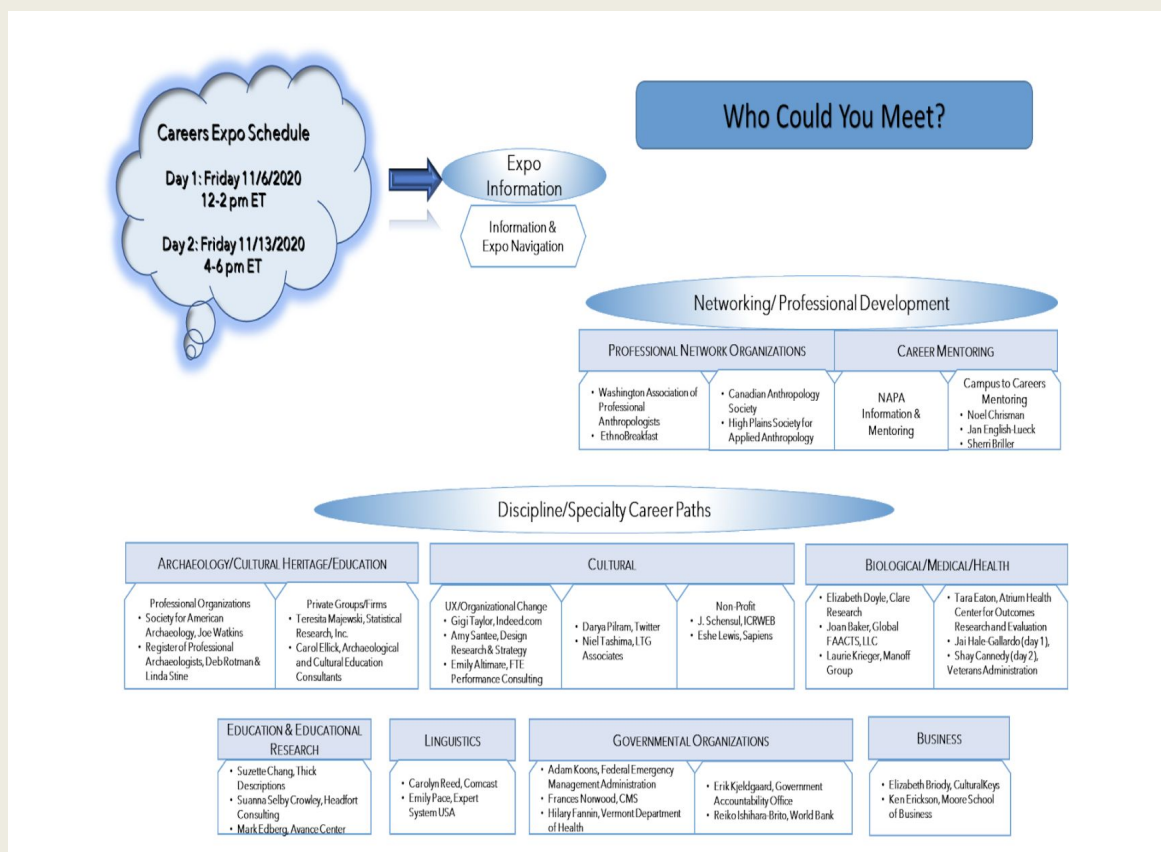
SAN JOSE

2018



Committee Updates

And Now for the Rain of Frogs!



Careers Expo 2020

NAPA hosted a virtual booth at the AAA Careers Expo at this year's virtual meeting. NAPA members Cassandra Workman, Jason Lind, Jason Miller and Wendy Hathaway provided instant mentorship to students and early professionals--fielding general questions about a range of issues including courses to take to enhance future employment opportunities, places to look for jobs, ideas for applied research, and other information about NAPA and professional and practicing anthropology. If you are interested in providing mentorship at our next meeting or throughout the year, please contact the NAPA Volunteer Coordinator, Wendy.Hathaway@gmail.com.



Committee Updates

2020 Student Achievement Award Winners



1st Place

Erin Young

Erin is interested in applying theories and research from medical anthropology to strengthening health care systems for the most marginalized individuals in our communities. She received her master's degree from Creighton University and is hoping to work with evaluating health policy within a framework of health equity and human rights.



1st Runner Up

Samantha King

Samantha King is a PhD Candidate in Sociocultural Anthropology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her dissertation project investigates how farming families and communities in the Commonwealth of Dominica continue to cultivate sustainable livelihoods despite increasingly challenging dynamics of global change. More information about her research is available at www.samanthaking.info



Committee Updates

Changing of the Guard

The NAPA Governing Council has new leadership to take note of. Vacant positions will be filled in the Spring of 2021.

NAPA President Cathleen Crain

NAPA President-Elect Lauren Penny

NAPA Past-President David Himmelgreen

Member-at-Large Zelda Harrison

2021 SfAA Conference Guide

Registration is **OPEN** for the virtual 2021 SfAA Conference



"Linking Social, Cultural, and Physical Ecologies"

*Mark your calendars for
March 23rd - 27th*

[Click here for more information](#)



AAA 2020 Fellow Award

“What About My White Friend?”

A Talk with Suzette Chang about the AAA, COVID-19, and the “Elephant in the Room”

By Marcella Zulla

Suzette Chang is the winner of the AAA 2020 Fellow Award. She is founder and CEO of Thick Descriptions, a non-profit organization providing awareness tools about traditional ways of labeling human diversity – and why we must shift beyond “what we have always done.”



Suzette Chang

M: How did you get your start in anthropology?

S: There are two introductions to anthropology for me – an official one, and an unofficial one. When I was five years old, my mother and I were walking through a prominent department store in El Cerrito, California where I grew up. While my mother was busy, I made a new friend, and she and I played with each other. When my mom was ready to go, she told me to come with her, but I didn’t want to leave. My mom positioned her hand/fingers around my wrist and pulled me away from my friend. I was so upset, and began to scream with a really loud voice: “What about my white friend?” Suddenly the world stood still as everyone looked in my direction. This was my unofficial intro to anthropology.

Fast-forward, a few decades later, in 2006, I completed my first anthropology class, and the above experience with countless others made sense to me. We, meaning humans, have this tension between biological and cultural science (which is a component of anthropology) rubbing against each other. Especially in the U.S., where the belief is to neatly separate humans by race/ethnicity is still very prominent.

Read the full interview in an upcoming post on NAPA's website



AAA 2020 Fellow Award

M: I am assuming all these experiences informed your work with *Thick Descriptions*, for which you received the AAA 2020 Fellow Award. Can you tell us a little more about that?

S: Yes! The name “Thick Descriptions” is inspired by Clifford Geertz’s concept of the same name, and Thick Descriptions is primarily concerned with how historically labels are formed and impact humans within our daily lives and within the context of broader scales/systemic thinking (i.e. housing, economics, education, policies etc). These labels weigh heavy because they inform not only how we see and understand others, but also ourselves. Thick Descriptions’ primary focus is to provide natural and social science tools, knowledge, awareness and resources to kids, tweens/teens and adults. One initiative that supports our mission is EITRU (Elephant in the Room-Unboxed) a brave and safe space for mature adults to address and discuss uncomfortable topics such as social constructs/labels.



M: What did you speak about in your proposal to the AAA?

S: I spoke about my thesis, which is exploring labels assigned to historic Oklahoma Black towns. You know, Oklahoma was meant to be an all-Black state. Also Native Americans who were displaced were brought to Oklahoma. But in the end, it became a state inhabited predominantly by people of European descent. Many factors played a role in this: greed, power, land-ownership; especially resources and land-ownership drove this development. People made use of “any means necessary” to attain land, at the cost of historically overlooked groups. This happened in the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

M: Lastly, how have you handled the pandemic?

S: I am an extrovert with introvert tendencies so it has been challenging and powerful. Due to COVID-19 the 2020 AAA Fellows are afforded intimate/one-on-one experiences with AAA board members and staff. These experiences are extremely valuable.



Expanding Creativity and Self-Empowerment During COVID-19 Quarantine

As an international jazz trumpeter, cultural anthropologist, and cultural entrepreneur, my schedule was busy, sometimes hectic, and meticulously calculated. I was living my best life until COVID-19 forced me to a screeching halt. The stay-at-home mandate of coronavirus hasn't stopped my quest for creativity and self-empowerment, it reshaped the intersectionality of being an anthropologist and audience engagement.

One morning, sitting in my front yard drinking coffee, I went on Facebook Live (FBL) and something fantastic started. Since then, I've been holding court Monday through Friday, hosting a curated FBL discussion with topics centered on culture, cultural performance, history, COVID-19, politics, and tourism. "Facebook Live for Quarantine with Dr. Brice Miller," became the local industry voice. Special guests like Delfeayo Marsalis and other cultural performers are featured weekly. In an unintentional way, these conversations have made the practice of my anthropological engagement easier, allowing members of the cultural and creative communities to realize common experiences, including the need for systematic support within our ecosystems.

The pandemic put on my cultural anthropologist hat and lets me engage in ways that are personable and accessible while allowing folk to see my authentic self and passion. Using digital storytelling as a central platform for my anthropological work made transitioning online easy. As humans, we need interaction and socialization. At this moment, it's allowing us to have a sense of community and a space to exchange information and ideas. I'm glad I went live that morning.

—Dr. Brice "Doc" Miller

Dr. Brice Miller is a Grammy-nominated jazz trumpeter, vocalist and composer, founder of The New Orleans Music Company and ArtsNOLA, leads several ensembles including Ecirb Müller's Twisted Dixie and Delfeayo Marsalis and the Uptown Jazz Orchestra, and is the author of the forthcoming book, *Feet Don't Fail Me Now: Brass Bands in Post-Katrina New Orleans*.



An Invitation to a Sentipensante Practice through Experiential Learning at the U.S.-Mexico Border

Mariela Nuñez-Janes, Professor, UNT
Andrew Nelson, Assistant Professor, UNT
Alicia Re Cruz, Professor, UNT



In May 2019, ten students and three professors piled into a van and car and drove twelve hours from Denton to El Paso. We participated in the Border Awareness Experience (BAE), organized by Annunciation House, a shelter and advocacy organization for migrants. We hiked up Mount Cristo Rey and saw the metal scar, the wall, carved on the soil of the border as an infinite wound (Anzaldúa 2012). Through visits to immigration court, talks with activists, lawyers, and asylum seekers, we witnessed how violence keeps this wound constantly open inflicting pain through surveillance technologies and border patrol agents.

At the completion of the BAE, we returned to North Texas for two weeks of classes and built upon the sense of community resulting from our lived experiences at the border. Grounded in *sentipensante* (Redón 2009) approaches to learning we started with a day of reflection about what was in our hearts. We discussed migration and border scholarship with scholars, artists and activists, closing with students' final projects, a collection of written editorial pieces, infographics, artwork, and musical performances.



An Invitation to a Sentipensante Practice through Experiential Learning at the U.S.-Mexico Border

It was an experiment that involved taking risks. We travelled to the U.S.-Mexico border during the height of the asylum crisis risking the unpredictability of a regime intent on harming migrants and their supporters. Yet the biggest risks involved other kinds of border crossings: disrupting hierarchical relationships between students and professors, challenging academic ranks, crossing disciplinary boundaries, and experiencing vulnerability to transgress who we are and what we do as anthropologists. Summer 2019 seems like a lifetime away yet the experience remains relevant pressing on us with urgency to practice anthropology with our hearts and minds.



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Anzaldúa, Gloria E. 2012. *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books.

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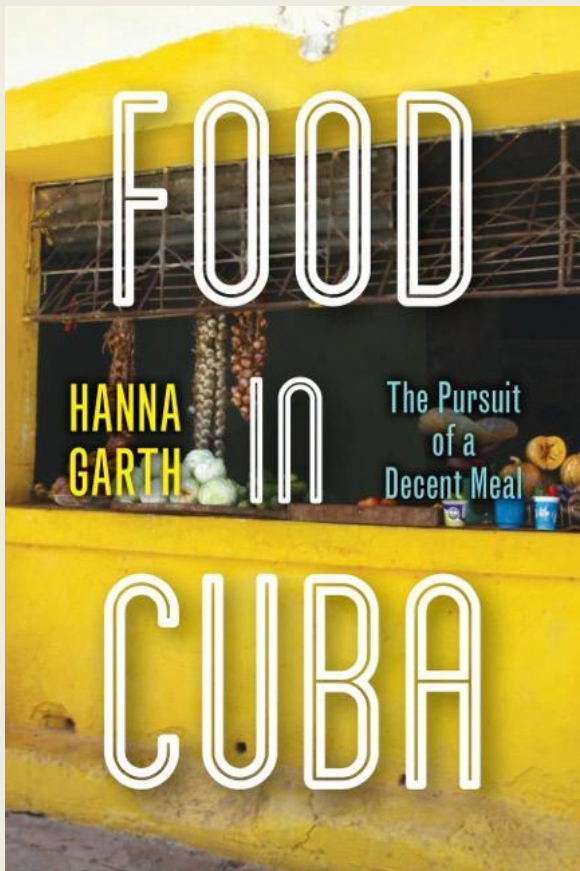


Food in Cuba: The Pursuit of a Decent Meal

Hanna Garth
UC San Diego

Cuban families often describe finding the ingredients to put together their daily meals as “a struggle.” In *Food in Cuba: The Pursuit of a Decent Meal*, I document the ways in

which families in Santiago de Cuba innovate solutions to certain forms of food scarcity. Although the Cuban government provides an extremely low-cost food ration for every Cuban, families still struggle to supplement that ration and to access particular ingredients for making traditional foods and putting together what they describe as “a decent meal.” Drawing on over ten years of ethnographic research in Cuban households, I reveal the centrality of the social and emotional dimensions of eating as people invest great deals of time and energy in the search for food. As food access becomes strained and families must rely more heavily on social and informal networks, lower-income, darker-skinned, and otherwise marginalized Cubans face even greater difficulty, which exacerbates existing inequalities. *Food in Cuba* offers accounts of the daily lives of Cuban families who both benefit from socialist entitlements, and struggle to overcome the difficulties of the socialist system.



[Food in Cuba: The Pursuit of a Decent Meal](#)



Is Data Sharing Really Caring?: Considerations on the Movement to Require Qualitative Data for Publication or Funding

Ethnographic Methods and Implementation Core (EMIC)
Center for Access and Delivery Research Evaluation and Delivery (CADRE)
Iowa City VA Health Care System, Iowa City, IA

Long gone are the days of dusty banker's boxes filled to bursting with carefully-plotted kinship charts, coffee-stained journals, microcassettes, photographs, and artifacts that compose the ethnographic data treasure trove. Today, the management of digital anthropological data has become a central piece of its collection. Where is your data stored? On a secure server or a password-protected computer? What data management and coding software are you going to use? What is your plan for an audit trail? Much of this is useful, both in our own processes of data collection and analysis and in the larger disciplinary project of providing transparency to a research method whose rigor can appear opaque to those unfamiliar with ethnography. However, one aspect of data management—data sharing—is uniquely fraught, especially for those of us who seek to do anthropologically-minded work across disciplinary boundaries and professional contexts.

Prompted by a crisis of replicability and high-profile instances of data manipulation among quantitative disciplines, data sharing involves storing data to make it available to parties beyond the original researcher(s) so that it can be used for purposes such as secondary data analysis, replication and verification of results, or systematic reviews. Data may remain with the original researcher(s) and be accessed through individual requests, or it can be stored in third-party data repositories. For qualitative data repositories, such as the Qualitative Data Repository or QDR (<https://qdr.syr.edu>), interested parties are able to access it based on criteria determined by the original researcher(s) and the repository.



Is Data Sharing Really Caring?: Considerations on the Movement to Require Qualitative Data for Publication or Funding

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As scholars whose research is largely qualitative and who have long acknowledged and grappled with the thorniness of knowledge production, sociocultural anthropologists are well-situated to weigh in on a growing call for data sharing and its potential impact on qualitative research. We view this moment as a chance to reimagine what data sharing is in a qualitative research environment, rather than (as it has seemed thus far) the imposition of a quantitative data sharing framework upon qualitative research endeavors. The possibility for secondary qualitative data analysis through data sharing might offer a novel opportunity to leverage the longitudinal, cross-comparative strengths of qualitative research. However, there are real institutional barriers and ethical and epistemological challenges to doing so. Further, there exist few contemporary frameworks for using secondary qualitative data collected by third-party researchers. As members of an anthropologically-minded qualitative research team, we have begun working through the many challenges and looking to identify the potential opportunities that come with qualitative data sharing. For, while the future of qualitative data sharing is uncertain, what is clear is that the future is coming.

The views expressed in this essay are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States Government.

Kenda Steffensmeier
Aaron Seaman



Addressing Food Insecurity on College Campuses

Karen Díaz Serrano
USF

Imagine not knowing where your next meal will come from, or not being able to feed your child a healthy breakfast before sending them off to school, or not being able to satisfy your growling stomach before a midterm exam. For 600,000 food insecure individuals in the Tampa Bay area, these are real issues that they must tackle in their everyday lives.

The United States Department of Agriculture refers to food insecurity as the lack of reliable access to enough nutritionally adequate food for an active, healthy life for all household members. People who suffer from hunger are diverse, often from hardworking families, and include children, teenagers, senior citizens, veterans, and even college students.

Food banks help address food insecurity issues. Feeding Tampa Bay is a Feeding America affiliated food bank located in Florida that works hard to ensure that its hungry neighbors are being fed. In 2019, Feeding Tampa Bay committed to the bold goal of reaching a Hunger-Free Tampa Bay by the year 2025, which means that every individual across its ten-county service region will have consistent access to healthy meals. This goal is even more crucial as the need for food assistance becomes increasingly apparent during the COVID-19 health crisis.





Addressing Food Insecurity on College Campuses

Feeding Tampa Bay has worked to increase accessibility to food assistance through initiatives like the Mobile Pantry program. Through the Mobile Pantry program, refrigerated trucks deliver nutritious foods directly into neighborhoods that have few food relief options. Once the food arrives, volunteers are tasked with directing traffic, stocking tables with the food provided, and carrying the food to guests' cars. Each mobile pantry has the capacity to distribute 8,000 pounds of food over a two-hour period, serving 500 families at a time. The food provided includes a variety of items like protein, fresh produce, baked goods, and dry or canned goods. All food is distributed free of charge to anyone who visits the mobile pantry; with no ID, papers, or pre-screening required.

During normal times, the mobile pantries follow a similar set up to that of a farmers' market, encouraging guests to choose the food items they would like to take home. Although there may be limits to the number of items that each person may take, this client choice model promotes dignity and discourages food waste since individuals only take the food they know they will eat. However, during COVID-19 additional safety precautions have been implemented to protect staff and volunteers, causing changes to this model. Now, all food is pre-packaged and distributed via a drive-thru model to follow social-distancing guidelines. Cars drive through the food line and masked, gloved staff and volunteers place boxes of food into the trunk of each car.

As a result of COVID-19, nearly 1.1 million additional individuals across Tampa Bay are now food insecure. Not only do Feeding Tampa Bay's programs need to be adjusted in order to address the higher demand for food, but they must also comply with CDC guidelines. Such adjustments led to the creation of Feeding Tampa Bay's Mega Pantries, 22 times larger versions of mobile pantries equipped to serve over 3,500 families at a time by distributing 175,000 pounds of food. These outdoor distributions are hosted every day, rain or shine, as long as conditions are safe.

As of July 2020, the Mega Pantry program has reached nearly 10,000 families each week. Of those families, a recent survey shows that 57% lost their job due to COVID-19 closures and 68% have never been in a food line before. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated food insecurity and increased the need for targeted programs to vulnerable populations.



Addressing Food Insecurity on College Campuses

Two of the Mega Pantry locations in Hillsborough County are on college campuses, one at Hillsborough Community College (HCC) and the other at the University of South Florida (USF). In Pasco County, a Mega Pantry has recently been added to Pasco-Hernando State College (PHSC). While these pantries are open to the community at large, they help bring hunger relief to vulnerable college students.

In recent years, food insecurity among college students has been a growing concern among institutions of higher learning in the United States ([Meza et al., 2019](#)). Struggles brought on by food insecurity causes additional hurdles to academic success and negatively influence students' college experience. For example, not having enough to eat results in less concentration, lower immunity, and irritability, which negatively impact student participation in the classroom and ultimately, graduation rates.

Despite the common stereotype that surviving off of Ramen noodles and frozen pizzas is part of the college experience, evidence suggests that students' concerns about lack of food and financial resources are more dire now than in previous years. Before the pandemic, it is estimated that 30 percent of college students were food insecure ([Siddiqi et al., 2020](#)). But COVID-19 campus closures have led to restricted food services and limited access to food for students reliant on subsidized meal plans - causing them to be more vulnerable to food insecurity and its effects. Recent reports suggest that food insecurity among this population has now gone up to 44 percent of students at two-year institutions and 38 percent of students at four-year institutions ([West, 2020](#)).

Anthropology has been beneficial in illuminating the issues that populations face when dealing with food insecurity, issues of limited availability and stereotypes of hunger, which COVID-19 has brought attention to. Moving forward, Practicing Anthropology can help play an important role in bringing more awareness and understanding of the complex issues related to food insecurity. It can also play a role in developing and implementing effective strategies to combat hunger and protect vulnerable populations, such as college students.



Addressing Food Insecurity on College Campuses

The efforts made by food banks are important for both the people suffering from food insecurity and the community at large; this work cannot be done without the help of dedicated partners and volunteers. Through donations of time, money, or voice, every individual can help combat hunger and the health effects that come with it.

Karen Díaz Serrano serves as the grants coordinator for Feeding Tampa Bay and is currently enrolled at the University of South Florida to obtain her PhD in Medical Anthropology. Her research interests include food security and health disparities

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A Message from the Editor

What a tremendous year for us all! The year 2020 has ended in a fashion we could not have anticipated when it started. Given the unusual circumstances we find our society in at the moment, anthropologists continue to provide insight into the pockets of society that exist amongst and beside one another.

If you are an avid reader of this publication, then you have no doubt noticed the changes we are making here at NAPA Notes. The new editorial staff, myself included, are excited to have the opportunity to bring you fresh and diverse content being produced by anthropologists like you.

I hope you have enjoyed this edition, including our first ever full-length manuscript originally drafted for the Annals of Anthropological Practice. Stay connected to one another by visiting the NAPA website for additional publications and resources.



Senior Editor

JACQUELINE C.

Check Out Other NAPA Outlets

Submit your works to the [Annals of Anthropological Practice](#)

Search for and post job announcements at [AnthroJobs](#) or learn through [Mentoring](#)

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NAPA Notes is eagerly waiting for your submissions. Contact Jackie Cortez at jacqueline.n.cortez@gmail.com

NAPA Notes December 2020

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