MSU Undergraduate Anthropology Club Meeting
October 7, 2013 - Graduate Panel

- Dues are due! The sooner the better
- Historical walking tour - Wednesday 5:15pm MSU museum (West Circle Side) with Dr. Goldstein
- Friday homecoming parade - pass out stickers - meet at the union at 4:50 to leave by 5:00
- October 28 - bake sale at the CATA station - if you can be there to help sell let us know, that night is the halloween party, costumes!! and games or movie

- Valerie - Graduated from MSU in May, going NYU Physical Anthropology and Skeletal Biology Program
- Nikki - Second year Archaeology - mortuary archaeology
- Eddie - Second year Sociocultural, works in south korea
- Taz - Medical Anthropology PhD student - specifically in pharmaceutical anthropology (Adderall)
- Taz - Process of applying to grad school has changed significantly over the last 6 years
  - Applied to 10, MSU for funding
  - Contact professors beforehand
  - Dedicate adequate time
- Eddie
  - Didn't have an area of focus, taught in South Korea for two years to start
  - Traveled Asia by bike, lead to where he wanted to focus on his research at
- Nikki
  - Applied to 5 schools
  - Contacted people from every university - see what people are working on to relate to your research
  - Didn't take time off, decided that was the best route for her
- Valerie
  - Most recent process
  - Very important to take the first step toward professors to get contacts, volunteer, etc.
  - Be sure that you are interested in the same thing as the graduate professors at other schools
  - Go to conferences to network
  - Apply to a ton of schools - most important that it just relates to what you want to do
  - Start saving money now to do the applications
- Constantly look for scholarships
- Are the applications expensive?
  - Very, the average is around $80
- Branch out and go other places, don't apply to MSU grad programs
- Start building recommendations now
- Always contact grad students for extra help
• Be sure that whoever is writing your letters will write you a strong letter not just a
generic letter like everyone else’s
• A few really good letters are better than a lot of crappy letters, constantly remind them
to write the letters
• If you want a PhD should you focus on just PhD programs or just focus on masters
first?
  • Do not limit yourself to a PhD program, especially because forensics is limited, so
its okay to go to a masters to have that under your belt then go towards a PhD
after that
  • Masters will give you more experience in order to proceed with your PhD in the
strongest way possible
  • If looking at PhD look and see if you can obtain a masters along the way
• How difficult is it to get a TA position?
  • Here you get ranked depending on your background, what you've been and what
you have done
  • Every school is different depending on the program
• Relationships will be different with professors in graduate school than it will in grad
school.
• Talk to graduate students in the department of the places that you want to apply to,
see what the city is like, the program, etc.
• Check out Goldstien's CV as a good example
• As underclassmen should we start working on our CV now?
  • Yes keep track from the beginning until the end
  • If you're in charge of something specific in a club, keep track of everything you're in
charge of not just a member or
• Prepare yourself for a lot of transition
• In your personal statement, be as confident as possible and fake it until you make it as
long as you keep your grades up
• Its okay to change your mind once you get here
• Personal statements - 3 important things
  • Don't be cocky - such as do not put your GPA
  • Personal statement - not over 2 pages, every single sentence has to mean
something - no need to put GPA or things in cv - start with something that sets you
apart - be very specific of what you do and do not want to do early in the writing
  • Always have multiple other people read it
  • Let them know how they can benefit from having you as a student
• Forensics personal statements don't like filler or a huge back story, they want it to the
point (first two sentences) say exactly what and why you're interested in; show don't
tell
• What about the GRE? Prep?
  • The newer version is a lot better, out of 800
  • Caplain books, a lot of good resources online on good quality websites
  • Learn how to take the test, know the concepts not just getting the answers
  • Know the structure of questions and how to take the test not just knowing the
answers
  • Learn prefixes, suffixes, etc.
• How important is the GRE to get in?
  • A good one won’t get you in but a bad one will keep you out
  • The better the score the better the funding
• What is considered a good score?
  • Reading and writing are harder than the math
  • Depends on schools
• Would you compare it to applying with undergrad with ACT/SAT to grad school with GRE?
  • You can when it comes to scores expected but personal statement, experience, etc. are more important
• What about GPA?
  • Important but a lot of experience will back you up more
  • Don’t get so caught up in the numbers as in what you learn and explain your whole story to go to bat for yourself
  • Get professors from networking to go to bat for you
  • Major GPA is more important than overall
  • List major and accumulative GPA separately
  • Don’t feel bad about your weaknesses but focus on your strengths
• Do they take your high school and ACT scores into consideration?
  • They basically just check that to see that you went not how well you did
• How early should we prepare for the GRE test?
  • Don’t prep while you’re taking classes, try to take in between your junior year so that you have time to try it again
  • It’s never too early to take practice classes or tests online
• Why would you suggest graduate school?
  • For forensics to testify you must have a PhD
  • It depends on exactly what you want to do, look up job requirements