Hello everyone! Welcome to another week of That Anthro Podcast. Thank you so much for all the support on the re-release of this season three. I’m so happy to be back podcasting, and I’m particularly excited about this week’s episode. You know, I’m always excited. I wouldn’t be producing the podcast if I didn’t love every guest I had on.

This week we have Jeanette Lombardi and Kayla Stevens, who this summer lived in DC and worked for the American Anthro Association. Well, it was an internship, but they did quite a bit of work. The Louise Lamphere Internship that the American Anthro Association has every year. There’s always two spots available for students. They were selected, and they were there, living in DC for about six weeks. So, I talked to both of them individually. The first part is Kayla. The second part is Jeanette.

Learn about them, and the work that they did at the American Anthro Association and the lessons that they took away. They’re both really interesting, fascinating people who are working on different things and I’m really thankful that I got to meet both of them and get to share a bit about this internship program with you all. Especially if anyone is interested in looking for an internship. I think this is a great one.

Thank you again to the American Anthro Association for putting me in contact with these lovely women. I’m very thankful that they took the time to speak with me. So, without further ado, let's get into the episode.

Today we have a very special guest. Her name is Kayla Stevens. She's a rising senior, in anthropology and environmental studies at the College of Wooster. But you’re also pursuing a pathway in museum and archival studies.

So just to kind of start off, we’re going to talk a little bit about how you settled on your major. Kind of tell me about that process, and whether it was started before college, or in college, I’d love to know.

>> KAYLA STEVENS: I didn't really know about anthropology at all in high school. I didn't even know it was a thing that like existed, Like I'd never even heard of the word, I don't think.

I was very much someone in all the different, like college tours, and throughout the whole college admissions process where I was always the one saying, “I don't know what I want to study. I’m undecided, but I'm just trying to find like an environment that works well for me.”

And I don't think I had really even heard about anthropology until my dad mentioned to me, he's like, you know, there's this thing called anthropology that you might find interesting.

So, then I had that like in the back of my mind. Then I think I had like Googled, like “What is anthropology?” I was like, okay, this sounds kind of cool.
So, when I got to The College of Wooster we had this session where you choose, you know what classes you’re going to take your first semester. I was like, I know I want to study anthropology.

And I think that spring, like the spring, in my senior year of high school. My cousin went to the college of Worcester as well. He was a year older than me. So, my aunt had been kind of like lurking on the college website to see, cause she had known that I was maybe interested in anthropology, and she had seen, oh, there’s this professor who seems like he would be a good one to talk to.

So, I had emailed him being like, Hey, what's anthropology like? I feel like I might want to study it if I come to Wooster. Can you just explain in it to me because I have no idea. So, he explained to me, and it was helpful, and he kind of told what it looked like at the department.

So then, when I was at that first year class selection event. I guess, when we went to choose what classes to take -

>> GABRIELLA: I remember that.

>> KAYLA: Yes, I know so stressful, right? I was like, okay. I know this professor. I've been in touch with him. I'm going to take his class. So it was just like the intro to anthropology, or whatever.

>> GABRIELLA: That's awesome.

>> KAYLA: And it was really nice. I just the way the class was structured, worked so well for me that it just everything really clicked. I was like. Yep, this is what I want to do.

>> GABRIELLA: So cool. What was the professor's name? We'll shout him out.

>> KAYLA: Yeah, Professor David McConnell.

>> GABRIELLA: Awesome. Yeah, I think you actually just inadvertently gave a great piece of advice for our listeners. Which is either whether it's your first year or before you're starting your undergrad like it's so important to make contacts with professors early on. Not even being like necessarily asking, like, can I work in your lab without experience, but just getting your name in their head, so that if you need help, down the line with anything involving the major, like you have a resource, and you have someone who can maybe guide you or just say here's an email of someone who can help you. I think that is just like very, very helpful and something that some people might not realize to do. And I really commend you for doing that, because you probably that really set you up for success, I’m sure. Given that we're talking today, you've clearly had quite a bit of success with an Anthro.

Now you're in you're going into your fourth year. How are you feeling about just in general, have you settled on a subfield? Are you still pretty general within anthro?

>> KAYLA: Yeah, I would say, I think kind of from the beginning I’ve been very cultural anthro. I mean, I remember in the like intro to anthropology. We kind of covered all the four fields of anthropology, and I enjoyed all of that. I remember like telling my dad like every single reading on the syllabus. I was like, this is so cool! But I think cultural has definitely been where my interest was.

>> GABRIELLA: So, something that you mentioned to me before we talked was that your school has kind of started a newer program or track in museum and archival studies. So, what does that entail? And tell me just tell me a bit about the program.
KAYLA: Yeah, so it’s this kind of overarching program that’s called Pathways. So, there’s a bunch of different – mine is a museum in archival studies. I think the intent behind kind of the creating these pathways is it was very kind of career based. So, you’re kind of entering into this track with a specific career skill set or like experience set in mind. It combines coursework, so you have to fulfill certain requirement fields.

There’s also an experiential learning component. So last summer I had done a research assistantship with a museum studies professor, so that kind of counted. And then there’s like a bunch of reflective things along the way. I know you have to like work on your resume and get like go to the career center for that. So, I think that’s a really helpful.

I found that throughout, like various experiences and internships, being kind of in a way forced to do that reflective process, is so important. To like, take a step back and see like how does this fit into the bigger picture.

I think also something that’s really interesting is, I never actually thought I would do a pathway when they were first announced as a thing at my college. I thought like I had entered undecided, and I had to stuck with labeling myself as undecided for the first full year of my college experience. So, I didn’t really think I wanted to tie myself to like a specific career field, because that’s what the pathway program seemed like. But I realized that it’s not tying me to anything, and I feel like still having that reflective component in my like college experience is still going to be so helpful.

GABRIELLA: Yeah, and just giving you a different skill set. It almost sounds kind of like an early professionalization sort of thing, in that you’re learning how to package your skills and market yourself as someone who could get you know whatever career it is that you’re looking for. Especially even like the resume and CV, that will be really helpful just down the line if you decided to apply to grad school, just having some feedback on that just is really helpful.

So yeah, that’s really interesting to hear about. I like to hear about the different schools and things they’re doing. I think one of my favorite things about the podcast is that I get to hear about a lot of different programs at different schools and I’m glad that it’s been a really good success for you. You also mentioned to me that you are now serving as the co-president of the Sociology Anthropology Club at your school.

What are some of your favorite things about that club and just like the community? I know lots of times that people's favorite thing about clubs on-campus is just, you know, getting to meet others.

KAYLA: Yeah, it’s definitely been really nice. I actually started being a part of the club by accident my sophomore year. I had a friend who was friends with the current incoming president, and he was asking for help for the executive board, because I think everyone else was graduating, I guess. I don’t remember saying this, but I guess I had offered my hand and help and next thing I knew I was serving as co-secretary on the exec board which was honestly great, because it was in the midst of like the pandemic. Everything was remote, but I was on-campus. It was kind of depressing, but it was nice because it gave me such a good structure, and I met a lot of good friends through that.

I feel like in terms of now being co-president, I think my favorite part, at least from last year, was, as you mentioned, definitely, like the community building. Our department is technically sociology and
anthropology combined, so you can specialize in each field as your major. So, we have a ton of perfect – well not a ton it’s a small school - but we have quite a few professors. So, it's really nice, because we’re able to associate with them and work towards events. It's fun, because you know, we'll have a movie night and professors will come, and it's kind of it's kind of nice to hang out with them outside of the more rigorous classroom setting.

>> GABRIELLA: Yeah, it definitely is. I know that quite well. I think that for me actually that was part of why I started my own podcast was because I think probably my first year at UCSB, which is a huge school, I was like these professors are up like quite literally on a pedestal up high and they're like almost so scary to even try and have a normal conversation with them and think of them as a normal person. But like they're a normal person, too, if they just happen to, you know, be in a more elevated status.

But I yeah, that I'm really glad to hear, too that the professors are really interactive with the club. I think honestly, if anyone can join or be on the exec board of a club, in their major, I think it's a really really beneficial thing, because again, it teaches you that communication, with other people that you may work with down the line whether it's just in classes or in like a job setting.

Have you found that specifically as the president you've had to kind of change the way you - not present yourself - but your responsibilities have probably changed. Kind of a mind shift is probably what I was looking for.

>> KAYLA: Yeah, I think definitely. It’s made me think a lot about what it means to kind of be a leader, I guess. It’s like I can't just - like I have to be able to assert myself, and kind of show some sort of authority. But I'm someone who, I don't like to be intimidating.

I am definitely not that kind of person and I've been thinking about it a lot recently where I want the club to - in terms of the exec board - I want the club, to be a space where we all can kind of find own sense of leadership, in each of our roles. So, it's not just me bossing everyone around, because then no one is going to initiate things to themselves. And I think it's more fun along the way too, if we all kind of collaborate in that way.

It's been really cool, though, because I don't know, it's just been really nice. I enjoy everyone that I've been working with, and it's yeah, it's been a really nice, time.

>> GABRIELLA: Oh, I just wanted to highlight that you also do, because one of my favorite things in the podcast is showing like work-life balance and we're not all we're not all school, we're not all fun, it's a nice balance. You do band things, and you play an instrument.

How long is, how long have you been doing this?

>> KAYLA: Yeah, so I play clarinet at The College of Wooster. In the fall we do marching band, except my high school did not have a marching band. We had a very small ragtag pep band for football games. So, that was like my only experience with sport events with music.

So, I started my first year with the marching band, and it just worked out. I figured out how to march, and it clicked somehow. So, I'm stuck with it. And now I'm entering my last year of it, and I'm really excited actually because me and my good clarinet friend, who we've actually been friends since like the first day of marching band before classes even started our first year, the two of us are going to be section leaders for the woodwinds. So that'll be really cute. I’m excited.
GABRIELLA: Yeah, that is really cool. I actually did Google the college beforehand and saw that the mascot was the Scotsman. And I was, like, you know, interesting.

My next question is about, you know what you just did this summer, which is you just finished a several month long? Two month long internship, is it?

KAYLA: It was actually six weeks.

GABRIELLA: So, a six-week internship with the American Anthro Association called the Louise Lamphere Summer Internship Program. How did you become interested in that and kind of start your process to then being accepted into it?

KAYLA: Yeah, so I think it was something that first was on my radar maybe last year, like last school year. I think a friend had sent the link to the application website or the website that had the information about the internship, but it was at a point where it was kind of too late for me to apply for it and I hadn't really done an internship before. So, it wasn’t super confident about applying, but I had it on my radar for this year and was prepared to apply.

I think I entered into it with not very many specific expectations. I just kind of wanted to be able to do an internship that was directly anthropology focused because in the past like last summer, for example, I was working in a development office of a nonprofit, so I definitely could apply what I have learned in anthropology classes, but I wanted something that was more directly associated with the field.

GABRIELLA: That’s cool. It’s good for your CV. When you got accepted, what was your thought? Because I mean, first of all, I've had internships, but I've never had an internship where I actually have to move somewhere for six weeks. Was It an exciting challenge?

KAYLA: I feel like it was something that I mean, I knew that if I was accepted, I'd have to move to DC. But it was something so far off that I hadn't even really thought about it. Quite honestly, I didn't even think I was going to get accepted. So, it was like, whoa! I actually have to like figure out what this is going to look like.

But thankfully, the American Anthro Association was really helpful with like they got us housing right on Capitol Hill. So, that’s really convenient and made everything work really smoothly, which is good because I am not a city person. I need to be able to just navigate it very clearly, and I did so I am glad for that.

GABRIELLA: Had you visited Washington DC before?

KAYLA: I had definitely been there in the past. Maybe in high school.

It's actually kind of funny, because Wooster Band in the spring, which is symphonic band instead of marching band because it’s no longer football season, we were actually supposed to visit DC on a tour in the spring of 2020 which didn't happen because of COVID.

So, I kind of joked that visiting or living in DC now was kind of fulfilling that unfulfilled intention. Which was kind of nice.
>> GABRIELLA: That is so cool. So, I'm actually only 20 min from DC. I'm really looking forward to getting to explore it more too. I've been and I've been in and my mom, and I like went to the Smithsonian and stuff, but just in general, exploring more of the non like big highlights of DC.

It's a really cool place and I'm glad you got to have that experience, and I'm glad that you know you were in a central location because that's definitely important.

>> KAYLA: Yeah, for sure.

>> GABRIELLA: So, I know that you spent your time, your time split. You would work sometimes at the Arlington office, maybe certain days a week, and then you would also work at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. Could you tell me just a little bit about how your work week looked like, and then we'll kind of dive into your responsibilities at each place, and what you learned from it?

>> KAYLA: The Folklife Festival started on the National Mall in late June and then ended on July Fourth. So, I was able to be at the festival Sunday and Monday and then I did half a day of cleanup on Tuesday of that week. But basically my job was to do a lot of evaluation and research kind of pertaining to that. So really looking at the experiences of the visitors, and also the participants, which is like the term that we use for the people who are presenting their work at the festival.

So a lot of that, when I was actually at the festival was doing interviews with the participants. Which was really exciting, because I've never really interviewed people that I like don't know. So, it's kind of scary, but everyone is super friendly. So it worked out.

>> GABRIELLA: Yeah, ethnography.

>> KAYLA: Yes, I felt like a true anthropologist. So that was a lot of what I was doing during the festival, and then a lot of the after work was kind of analyzing thank you notes and survey results. You know, throughout the festival area on the Mall there were a bunch of places where visitors could kind of write, you know “this is what I’m doing to be sustainable” or “this is how I am going to be more eco-friendly”, or “this is what I don’t want to lose from climate change”. A lot of those kind of reflective things posted throughout the festival.

I was then looking at photos of those and analyzing them, trying to identify the big themes, and then it all came together into one kind of cumulative report document that'll help with like future curation but also development efforts to reach out to potential sponsors.

>> GABRIELLA: What is something that you took from that that you feel like you can apply in your own research as you go forward, especially probably related to ethnography?

>> KAYLA: Yeah, I think it’s definitely the interviewing. As I said, I've never really interviewed people that I didn't already have some sort of relationship to before. It was really exciting to just get a crack at that.

I mean everyone at the festival was already kind of in the mindset that they were to be friendly to whoever came up to them at the at their table. So obviously it's not like they were going to shoo me away when I told them I was a Smithsonian intern.

It was really nice too, I know you mentioned how it might relate to my environmental studies minor. It was really nice, because you know everything that the participants were speaking about - whether it be sustainable agriculture, or you know alternative fibers for your sustainable clothing, or whatever - it's
all a lot of the stuff that I've learned about before or I'm just personally passionate about. It was really nice to just have not only a really lovely interview with someone, but also get to have a really genuine conversation about something that I was actually interested in.

So, I'm excited because I mean my senior year I have to do like a capstone thesis project, and it's definitely going to involve interviews. So, I think I kind of want to keep that that approach and the confidence of gained going forward, which I think is going to be so helpful.

>> GABRIELLA: Yeah, I'm really glad to hear that. Do you have any kind of concept of how your capstone will unfold? Do you know what you're researching yet, or if you don't know is there kind of like a plan and a timeline for when you'll when you'll be working on that?

>> KAYLA: Yeah, so my junior year, I actually, in the spring semester, did a bit of prep for it, because we have a class that kind of prepares you for a senior year capstone. We actually call it independent study, or “IS”. So, if you hear me saying “IS” that is what I am talking about.

So yeah, my project i, going to be about - are you familiar with Marie Kondo and like good de-cluttering?

>> GABRIELLA: Yeah.

>> KAYLA: So, she's gotten very popular in the last couple of years I think, because of her Netflix show. But I really want to look at her first book. Umm, what is it called, The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up.

It was something that I really loved reading when I was younger for some reason, and I really want to understand how her identity as a Japanese woman kind of plays through her writing and her method of de-cluttering because I think there's a lot to unpack there. If you look at, for example, her website where she sells a lot of household wares, a lot of things are marketed or labeled specifically as authentically Japanese, which makes me wonder kind of how like our understanding of like a culture country kind of plays into - I guess it's appeal to western audiences, or how we kind of understand what she's marketing towards a western audience.

Definitely a lot of ways to go with that in terms of the research but that's kind of the main premise. I just want to look at how her writing both reflects and communicates kind of Japanese culture, and how, it relates to home organization.

>> GABRIELLA: That is a very poignant question, and to be honest like I give you the absolute most props, because that's a very sophisticated thing to want to look into. I actually recently, my spring quarter of UCSB, I took an Anthro of Japan class and truly, I've also visited Japan. So, I kind of had a pre-existing like interest. It's such a unique culture, and there is so much to learn, especially from an anthropology perspective about how we've adopted certain Japanese cultural phenomena in America. Well in the West in general.

So, I honestly mean I may want to read that after you write it, because that is so cool. I think you'll have a lot a lot to unpack and a lot to contribute. And I think honestly that's such a great way to set yourself up like that's because there's a lot within that. I think sometimes being like too niche down within a like a senior thesis can almost like put you in a box of like this is the only thing I'm ever going to study. Not that it has to but some people can kind of see it like that if they get really invested in one thing, and that
has, you know, so many different layers to unpack, and hopefully will really set you up for you know, whatever you decide to do after you graduate from Wooster I keep saying it wrong. Wooster?

>> KAYLA: Wooster.

>> GABRIELLA: What if any advice or lessons do you think you could share with anyone else who may be in a similar stage of their academic journey, wanting to do an internship? I know that's kind of a broad question so you can take it however you like but just really anything you think that you've learned, or that you feel like you would have done differently, knowing, having done several internships now, just some general kind of thoughts on how someone who may be getting their first internship, may want to listen to.

>> KAYLA: Yeah, I guess what first comes to mind is just imposter syndrome is really real. I mean I said I did not think I would get this internship. I just applied for the heck of it to see what happened, because it didn't hurt, and here I am. I think something that's really good for that is reaching out to professors, and maybe advisors or mentors that have known you quite a bit at college or just know you in general, I guess.

And what your interests and workstyle is, I guess. And just meeting with them to kind of go over application materials, or just kind of figure out how you want to describe yourself in writing because it's really hard to kind of step back and then explain to someone else what you're like as a person whether it be for like a person statement, or even your resume.

I think that was a really big thing. I mean, my advisor has been so helpful and just honestly giving me a confidence booth and being like no okay, like, you're fine. You're okay. You're doing okay, like, don't worry about it.

I think, yeah, just having like a second set of eyes to look over your materials or someone to talk through those things is super helpful, just to kind of get out of your mind a bit when thinking things through.

>> GABRIELLA: I think that's a wonderful piece of advice, and yes, imposter syndrome. It never goes away sadly. Well I say it never goes away. It doesn't go away for quite a while, and I deal with it quite often with myself, as a young podcaster. I think it's important that we're transparent about it, and saying, you know, it's not like we're all just going to pretend, like everything's hunky dory. We have to be honest and say, you know, sometimes I need my mentor to remind me that I'm worthy of an opportunity like the opportunity that you got.

So, I commend you for being able to reflect on that and sharing that with our listeners about how helpful that was for you because I think it definitely is for a lot of people, and you know I hope it'll, this is what I always think when you know mentor is able to kind of help you work through something you kind of take that and go hopefully I'll be able to do that for someone someday, too, and be able to instill that confidence.

So, I think that's a really good lesson to take away from all of that is, you know, supporting each other, and but also like you said, learning how to write about yourself in a way, that is accurately reflecting - you'll be set for grad school applications, if you've now mastered that because that for me the personal statement was what I spent just hours and hours and hours on being like, how do I describe myself and my ambitions in a non cliche and / or bragging way because it can be easy to almost talk yourself up in a
nonproductive way. Obviously, you want to highlight your accomplishments and work skills, but it can be hard to find that balance of professionalism and confidence versus like bragging. You know?

>> KAYLA: Yeah, for sure, that makes sense.

>> GABRIELLA: I think the last thing that I wanted to chat about was just some of your other favorite things that happened the summer, whether it was like in DC or just I don't know some other fun life things because like I told you earlier, I like to promote all the fun things that happen in life, and all of the experiences we have that are not necessarily school related. So, just do you have any favorite moments from the summer?

>> KAYLA: Okay, yeah. I think I really just enjoyed being able to walk to almost anything I wanted to visit. What's really nice is I lived maybe 10-15 min from Eastern Market on Capitol Hill, so there is like the market - I think it might just be Saturdays, and Sundays - I could be totally wrong, but I only went on Saturdays or Sundays. It was really nice, just seeing all the food, and like jewelry and stuff that people were wearing. I'm actually wearing earrings I got from one of the shops. It was it was really nice, I remember one morning I got up early to eat like at a cafe outside in the market area, and then I went grocery shopping in the market.

I definitely was trying to pack in a lot of museums which can get exhausting very quickly, like after two museums I am done for the day. I am someone who has to be very thorough and read every single time, which is exhausting even if it's cool. It's nice to take some time just to relax a bit.

Another really nice thing is my roommate, who is also my co-intern, and we went down to the Wharf one day, and just sat outside and read for a couple of hours. It was just so nice, and I don't know just peaceful. Things like that was kind of nice, especially when you think of a city as being super busy like hustle bustle.

>> GABRIELLA: I completely understand. It's the simple things in life that get us to the finish line. Also, you were interning every day of the week, from 9 to 5 or somewhere around there. So yeah, you know, it's nice to take that time off to just do little things, and you are right walking, being able to walk to things is like such a special thing.

Thank you so much for chatting with me today and answering all my questions. I'm really glad that I got to share your story with our listeners, and I'm so happy that you had such a great summer and you took so much from it, because that's what's really important is taking all the lessons learned and applying them as you continue on your academic journey.

>> KAYLA: Yeah, thank you for having me. This has been great.

>> GABRIELLA: Today we have another lovely guest who did a summer internship with the American Anthro Association this summer, Jeanette Lombardi. So, welcome, I'm really glad to have you here. Another fellow about - another student, about to start grad school. So, we were kind of chatting about that beforehand.

>> JEANETTE LOMBARDI: Thank you for having me. I'm very excited.
Gabriella: Yeah, it’s my pleasure. So, we’re going to just kind of briefly give the listeners a little background about you, kind of some of your goals, and some of the experiences you had prior to your summer internship.

Just to start, I mentioned that Jeanette was about to start her Master of Science. That’ll be at Syracuse University in the Biomedical Forensic Science program, which is really exciting. She comes from Monmouth University, with a major in anthropology and a minor in biology and archaeology.

What are some of the main things that you’re looking forward to in this new program? You mentioned to me that it’s kind of a shift, you know you’re going to forensic science from anthropology. So, what are you looking forward to?

Jeanette: I am really excited to get more into the forensic field. In undergrad, I focused mainly on forensic anthropology and archaeology. I’m excited to bring like more forensic anthro into this program and get a little bit of experience in DNA analysis, that’s something that this program will allow me to focus on and I’m excited to explore that.

Gabriella: Yeah, it’s a really valuable skill. One of my roommates does that specifically within bio arch, but the same kind of like DNA stuff which is cool. What are some of your fondest memories from Monmouth?

Jeanette: I honestly, I really love the department there. I made friends both in the department out and everyone there was really great. I also worked a couple of jobs on campus there, and I gave tours to incoming freshman students. Honestly, I really love doing that. I met so many people that way, and everyone’s really friendly. So, I really love those aspects of my undergrad.

Gabriella: Do you feel like it almost made you like become even more of like a Monmouth stan because you had to like talk so highly of it like on tours?

Jeanette: I can tell you every single fact on Monmouth that exists because I like - to be able to do that job well like you need to know everything about the school. And like you don’t need to know everything about the programs like, we have admissions counselors who know specifically everything that they need to. I know a lot like. I'll be like, "I wonder how big this is?" Their campus is 116 acres.

Gabriella: Oh, cool.

Jeanette: I guess it's like fun facts now that I have in my head.

Gabriella: What’s the student population?

Jeanette: Are we talking about the number of undergrads? Okay, there's about 4,200 undergraduates, and with grad students about like 6,000 - 6,100. Honestly it doesn't really feel small like you know, a lot of people. The department's really tightknit there which I'd love, because then I knew all the professors, I was able to work with them. I knew the other students my age, too.

Gabriella: Definitely is. I actually know that I am at George Mason, I don’t quite know like numbers wise, but it’s smaller than UCSB. Like, for example, like the intro to bio anth class, I am TA-ing for has like 40 people, my intro to bio anth was like 200 or 300.

Jeanette: Oh, my gosh! Yeah.
>> GABRIELLA: So, it's different. And it's actually making me really appreciate smaller schools, not tiny schools. I still personally don't think I could strive in like a 1,000-to-2,000-person school.

>> JEANETTE: No, I don't think so either. I really got to know the underclassmen under me, and honestly like I was playing my knowledge that I had as a tour ambassador, like my knowledge of the school, the programs like really, I was just like spouting information. Everywhere I was like, “What do you need to know” I have every fun fact you could ever possibly want, which I like doing that.

So, really like pulling that into being a TA. I am TA-ing for a general biology one laboratory course here at Syracuse. So, I am the lab instructor. I have about 20 students under me, in both of my classes, which will be fun. It will be exciting.

I haven't - with the way Covid was - I wasn't able to be in the lab as much as I would have been otherwise. So, I think that'll be fun to do that, and I'll be able to bring in my knowledge that I have of like helping other students guiding them. TAs are kind of just another resource for students to use. They're kind of like a go-between students and full-time faculty. And you're closer in age, so maybe they're more comfortable talking to you than the professor.

I feel like with my kids that I peer mentor, because I was between them and the Dean of the Honor School, and she's great. But sometimes kids feel like overwhelmed, or they just are nervous. Even though, like you can be really personal person. And then you still have like a first-year student who's just new to college and living away from home and they just have questions that they feel like you can answer better, so I feel like I'm pulling that knowledge in to. I also, besides peer mentoring, I tutored.

So, I tutored every possible anthropology class you could ever think of that I've ever taken. And like I mentioned Italian and biology, I'm able to pull in the information I've learned and taught from them, and then apply it in this classroom setting. I think that's exciting, and it will be a new chapter for me to adventure into.

>> GABRIELLA: Definitely. I feel the same way going into TA-ing. I just have to constantly remind myself to set the boundary of like being friendly, but not being friends with them, because it is our job. I peer mentored as well in undergrad, so it's a bit different because, you can't be friends with your students. I'm not saying, you know, I think there's a big difference between friends and friendly, so I think there's that to deal with. But I'm also excited. I like the idea that you know, like you were saying, the students can come to us with the things that they may, they just may need more personal help with. However, it was funny when I was introducing myself to my students, I was like talk to me about anything except Northern Virginia, geography, because lord, knows that I don't know it.

>> JEANETTE: Ask me anything about California and I can help you.

>> GABRIELLA: Yeah, I was like California, I got that. Alright. So, what did you do your theses on?

>> JEANETTE: Yeah, so I actually did two.

>> GABRIELLA: Congratulations, girl. I didn't even do one. That's because the UCSB - I can say this now that I've graduated - the UCSB honors course is a trainwreck.
JEANETTE: Ooh. Yeah, the honor school they allow for either like a typical research thesis, or you can do like a caption project and do something entertaining and fun. So, for them, like where my research aligned with anyway, like it was easier and more in my realm for me to do the research thesis. And I was able to kind of use some of my same sex estimation material that way it was like a whole new thesis. So, I was looking at the effects of sexual dimorphism and the construction of femineity and masculinity. It was really cool. It was more along the lines of like feminist anthropology, cultural anthro, and like forensics. Which I love the combination of, and it was really fun to be able to look at not only the skeletal analysis, but like I look into media too.

Like media portrayals of like what we expect men and women to look like. I actually pulled some cartoons, too. So, you know the movie in Encanto that came out recently. I actually included Luisa from it in my analysis. People had some things to say, so it was really interesting to talk about in research.

GABRIELLA: That's fun. It seems like a nice interdisciplinary study, and something that you know, I mean, I think the more that we can pull in popular media. What are some of your goals after your masters?

I know obviously don't get me wrong, I don't have any like specific goals after my masters, so I don't mean anything like specific, but just kind of generally in your perfect world like, where are you kind of hoping to take your career?

JEANETTE: Yeah, so I actually kind of have it planned out a little bit but I'm also leaving to see where I go. I've always wanted my PhD and I've been striving towards that. So, I was kind of thinking, maybe back, until, like a biological anthropology degree, and being able to like adapt my forensics to that. We'll see if I want to continue doing that, and that's you know still my same path. I'm working with the anthropology department here. I'm taking some classes. They have a bio archaeologist. So, I'm trying to see like what kind of experience I can get with her.

GABRIELLA: I think I know who it is. What's her name?

JEANETTE: Shannon Novak.

GABRIELLA: Yeah, I'm pretty sure I like emailed someone to work there.

JEANETTE: Yeah, I reached out to her and I'm taking some of her classes this semester, Anthropology of Death and Human Osteology.

GABRIELLA: Oh, awesome.

JEANETTE: Yeah, I'm very excited. I just got one of my books for the class from the library on campus, Am I walking back to my apartment going this is def mourning and burial. I'm like yup.

GABRIELLA: Yup.

JEANETTE: Yeah, which is fine. So, I'm really still trying to keep some anthro while I'm here. But I want to delve more into forensics, and that's what the whole degree is for. So, I'm going to see if that's something I rather just get into and if I like that more then maybe I want for my PhD.

But I think as of right now I'm going to kind of leave it up to see what the cards are. Ideally, I want to work for like a medical examiner's office, or a government agency for like criminal cases.
GABRIELLA: It's good I'd like to have the goals, but also to understand, the goals can change. I literally had a mental breakdown when I decided that forensic anthro wasn't for me. It just wasn't for me. I have nothing against forensic anthro as a whole. It wasn't for me, and but for so long I had been saying that that's what I wanted to do, that when I came to the realization I had a full breakdown, because I was like this, is what I said I wanted for so long. It's so funny because it's not like I detoured that much. It's like I'm in bio arch. I mean, I'm still working with bones. It's just old bones versus new bones.

So yeah, I think that's kind of a good, just a little note to anyone else who's like in the kind of similar stages as Jeannette and me. Everyone's plans change in little, Big or in-between ways, and it's totally all right, and it's all right to have goals, but also to be aware that they're going to change. So, I think that's our little negative advice.

So, now I'd love to chat about your internship with the AAA, which is the American Anthro Association. You started it about I believe Kayla was saying around July?

JEANETTE: Yeah, so we were down, I was down like right before the Fourth of July. So, it was nice and hot down there, you know.

GABRIELLA: Sure.

JEANETTE: I worked between the American Anthropological Association and The Naval History and Heritage Command for six weeks. With my field site at the Washington Navy Yard, The Naval History and Heritage Command, I worked under their underwater archaeology branch, so that was super fun, and I love the experience I got from being able to rotate the work I was able to complete.

GABRIELLA: What specifically would you do at The Naval History and Heritage Command?

JEANETTE: So, while I was there were four or five interns who are working, and I was the only one with the AAA. The other ones were under a different program. But we're all pretty much working on the same project, which was the ship the Royal Savage. It was a British schooner that sank during the American Revolution. American shot it down. Then they actually took it, and like fixed it up, and they used it against the British and the British shot it down, and they blew it up and there's a whole big battle.

The point of that being it sank and in the 1930s it was retrieved and kind of sat around a barn for 70ish years, maybe 80 years. No one wanted to put up the money to kind of make a museum around it, or actively preserve it. All of the parts that were kept, the man who retrieved it Lorenzo Hagglund, he didn't want to sell any other pieces which is really great for us. And I worked on the documentation of it. So, the way they document - they make artifact cards - which lists out all the information you could possibly need like descriptions of it, size, weight markings on it that are specific, the condition, and any associated objects. Then we actually drew pictures of what I looked like too.

GABRIELLA: Cool.

JEANETTE: Which is fun, like drawing. So, I had fun drawing little fix with everything. And then, besides that I took photographs of artifacts. The process for that is kind of like lengthy and specific like I didn't realize how much goes into it, but I had to take pictures at different exposures, and pick the best ones, you have to have your measure for it and label, and then you have to like crop everything and pick the best one I liked it though. I really like the process of that. Some of the other interns are working on
like conservation. But besides that, I did like a side project too where I got information about this submarine that they might take out the water. I did like a summary of all the documents that they had about it. It was a lot of emails and then like history packets that they had from the First World War when the submarine sank. So, that was fun to go through and see. I was able to pose anthological questions for it. So, I was like:

“So, what does a conservation process look like?”

“What do we do with the human remains that are found on there?” Because a lot of people died when that submarine sank.

It was really interesting being able to get all this experience and everyone there was super knowledgeable. Like you would ask questions, and they would just know the answers, or they would look them up and help you figure out everything. I had never done underwater archaeology before.

>> GABRIELLA: Specifically, can you give us any insight into what some of the artifacts you were cataloging were?

>> JEANETTE: Absolutely I can. So, I worked on like an axe head, some barrel lids, a lot of different types of objects. So, there was like metal iron objects, organic composite, organic wood. There are ship timbers. There are some lead artifacts, and when you work with lead artifacts, you take more precautions. So, besides just wearing your typical gloves, you also need a lead mask to wear just in case. So, I had to wear lead mask because there were particles from a lead on it. I worked on some cannon shot, which are fun, and I accidentally found some grenades.

>> GABRIELLA: Was that a little adrenaline pumping, heart racing?

>> JEANETTE: It was like, I take it to my boss, and I was like, “Hey, this looks a little funky. Why are all these holes here?” Like I know what this white webbing is. It’s from like old insects that died in here, but then obviously, we got to take precautions and be like well, I mean to find all of the quote “cannon shots”, you know, that might not be heading shots and put them in solution to make sure they’re not active. Which is great because I was carrying them baggies in my arms. To take pictures of them first, and I was like they go up so do I,

We had a little bit of an interesting day. I was like I was almost done cataloging these, I was so close, then we had to go back through them. Of the – there’s a lot of them too - but of the 13 that we like took aside to put in the solution, only four of them were really grenades, and none of them were active. Luckily.

>> GABRIELLA: Cool. The story probably would have ended differently if they were.

>> JEANETTE: Exactly, but it’s a fun little story to be able to tell people like, “Hey I found some grenades by accident.”

>> GABRIELLA: For sure.

>> JEANETTE: Yeah.
GABRIELLA: I know you are working with in a museum. Was there anything that you saw that we weren't necessarily working on that was kind of like special or unique, or something you maybe wouldn't have expected to be in a museum like that?

JEANETTE: They are currently under renovation. They're moving a couple different office spaces around. So, we were sharing like the museum with Cold War. But it was interesting, being able to go through that and see what they had.

We actually we're going to tour through the full museum exhibit by one of their - so one of our tour guides he showed me, and three of the other interns around the whole museum actually. It was really cool.

They had part of a ship that was built into the museum. Like, I guess, when they were creating it they built it directly into the building itself.

GABRIELLA: That's so cool.

JEANETTE: And they had some tiles that were from like important ships that were like on tiles.

GABRIELLA: So that was that was three days of your week, the other two days you were at that actual AAA office. One day was virtual, right?

JEANETTE: Yeah, one day was virtual. I lived with Kayla on Capitol Hill, which is really cool.

GABRIELLA: Yeah.

JEANETTE: We were like Two blocks from the Library of Congress and the Capital Building itself. So, I sat outside the Library of Congress that one day a week and I did my work from there.

GABRIELLA: Oh, that's awesome!

JEANETTE: It was great. They had free Wi-Fi. I was like, “Okay, perfect!” That's perfect for me. So, I sat there I was able to get outside a little bit. I love being outside. So, I was glad to be able to sit out there, even for a little bit.

GABRIELLA: What were your thoughts in general about living in DC and working in DC?

I feel like it's definitely a unique experience being in a city like that. Especially one that, you know, has so much history, but is also quite literally our nation's capital.

JEANETTE: I would forget like periodically that this is the nation's capital and then I would remember it and be like, “Hey, that's cool!”

GABRIELLA: Yeah.

JEANETTE: Yeah, cause’ you like get used to it and then you're like, oh, yeah, now, this makes sense why there's so many people here.

I had never lived in the city, though, before, so I was a little bit nervous about finding my way. My sense of direction is not good. I even learned that when I was out in the field like working for the CRM that I worked for, and we had maps showing where you had to go. I would like walk around looking in a circle, trying to figure out which direction it was.
GABRIELLA: Been there.

JEANETTE: Yeah, you still figure it out. Like I based off where everyone else is placed, and like figured out. I got better at reading maps though, I did.

GABRIELLA: That's great.

JEANETTE: Which is good for my sense of direction. I’m not completely lost anymore. I’m getting a little better. By living a city, I was like nervous. I was like, I don’t know anything around me. I don’t know where good areas to be in. Where good restaurants are and stuff. I liked where we lived on Capitol Hill. I thought it was really nice and it was close to places.

I didn’t actually find living there hard, though. I thought it was going to be a lot harder to live in a city and try to figure my way out, and it wasn't. Like you kind of just get into the groove of it. Yeah, which is fine and then like so many things to do too. I always was busy. Which is great,

GABRIELLA: Yeah, do you think you would recommend to other students that this is an interesting and thought-provoking internship?

JEANETTE: Oh, absolutely! What I did between the AAA and the UAB were completely different. And I love that. I like that they were different because they gave me two different experiences for one internship. I don’t think I talked about what I did at the AAA.

But for them I actually worked on a member survey they had. They put out a member survey in 2021, and I worked on the data visualizations for them.

GABRIELLA: Oh cool.

JEANETTE: So, I made tables, charts, and graphs based on the research from the survey. Then I actually wrote the report for it, which I am co-authoring with Daniel Ginsberg.

GABRIELLA: I met them.

JEANETTE: Yeah, Daniel's great. So, it's really fun to work under them. I worked a lot - I don't know if you talk to Caitlyn?

GABRIELLA: Mmhmm

JEANETTE: She works under them, and they were great to work with. I thought it was really great the experience I had. They also had a whole bunch of side projects for us to work on if you to not work on our main project for a little bit. Which I liked because doing different things is fun. As much experience as I can get like I'll take.

GABRIELLA: Diversifying of your skill set.

JEANETTE: Exactly. Like we worked on going through articles from Anthropology News to put together a reader for high school and college students. We worked on like the AIAN Task Force, which has to do with like Native Americans in North America. We worked on increasing accessibility in Youtube videos through captioning, which is not something I thought I'd ever do. We actually I don’t know if Kayla mentioned it, but we worked on an article that's going to be published for Anthropology News about what we did in this internship.
GABRIELLA: Oh, awesome! I don't think she mentioned that.

JEANETTE: Yeah, so hopefully, you'll come out at some point soon. It was a little bit like, what are week in the life was like. That was fun to write about. We have so many pictures, too, for everything that we did. So, I loved it.

GABRIELLA: You'll have to send some of the pictures to post on the podcast Instagram.

JEANETTE: Oh, my gosh, absolutely! I didn't know that the podcast had an Instagram.

GABRIELLA: Yeah, @ThatAnthroPodcast. Listeners follow please.

JEANETTE: I'm about to follow you right now.

GABRIELLA: Yay! Well, I really appreciate your time and I'm really glad that we got to chat. I'm glad that your internship was a great experience. You know, I really believe in, like I was saying, diversifying your skill set moving somewhere. I mean even just the fact that you were able to navigate a city and public transportation because I know you guys would take the Metro a lot for your six weeks.

That in and of itself is such an accomplishment and really a testament to your work ethic, and the fact that you know you can adapt in lots of situations. So yeah, I don't I know I don't need to tell you that I'm proud of you, but I just want you to know you did a cool thing, and I'm really glad that you wanted to come on and tell to help our listeners about it.

JEANETTE: Yeah, absolutely. I'm so happy to talk about it at any time. This internship really was a great experience, and not what I thought I would ever get. This is actually my second year I applied, I think.

I think I applied the year before too, but I had more experience going in this year. Especially in archaeology, even though I focus on forensic anthro. I've done a lot of archaeology and I love it. Then it pulls me into that little rabbit hole where I am like maybe I want to this forever. Then I'm like, “Do I want to do underwater archaeology now? Do I not want to do forensics anymore?” Then I'm like, you start thinking, honestly, I love doing a little bit of everything and I feel like that is what I was able to do.