

Faculty Advisor's Preface: Back to The Field, Again

Drexel G. Woodson
 Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology
 School of Anthropology
 University of Arizona

Anthropology (the intellectual discipline and the profession) was institutionalized in European and North American universities during the second half of the 19th century. For all anthropologists, “the field” and “fieldwork” became disciplinary anchors almost immediately. However, “the field” has changed forms and locations nearly as regularly as the content and duration of “fieldwork” have shifted. Today, across the subdisciplines, anthropologists grapple with complex relations among contrasting research sites and activities, anchored, it is still fair to say, by the field and fieldwork, but no longer limited to them.

The *Arizona Anthropologist*, Issue 27, presents another set of “Notes from the Field.” Issue 24 (Spring 2015) showcased the sensibilities, insights, and concerns of sociocultural anthropology graduate students after they returned from the field. Here, six archaeology, one linguistic, and one sociocultural graduate students voice their perspectives on similar matters while fieldwork is in progress. Readers can now compare how specialists in two subdisciplines envision and navigate the restless movement between the field and fieldwork, and other places/spaces and research activities—a movement that allows anthropologists to produce knowledge and understanding as well as vet them.

This issue also pays homage to Professor Emeritus William A. Longacre II (16 December 1937-18 November 2015), whose passing sounded a somber note just before the lively and well-attended culminating celebration of One Hundred Years of Anthropology at the University of Arizona. As a teacher, mentor, colleague, and department head, Professor Longacre influenced in remarkable and irreplaceable ways how several generations of anthropologists thought about their work and did it. “Uncle Willy,” as he was affectionately and respectfully known, will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.