Nathalie Martinez, First Place Scholarship Winner

Nathalie Martinez—an Honors College student double majoring in Anthropology and French and double minor in Spanish and Business Administration—graduated this May 2021 Summa Cum Laude with an overall GPA of 3.91 from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Recognized as an Outstanding Graduate for the Class of 2021—a select group of outstanding graduates who exemplify the academic, research, and community impact of the graduating class—Nathalie wraps up her career at UNLV with a lengthy resume of academic and research accolades, service and leadership engagements, and high...
Lambda Alpha

2021 Newsletter

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Communications

You can contact the Lambda Alpha National Office through email, mail, or phone.

Melanie Cabak (M.A. in Anthropology, South Carolina, 1991) is the Lambda Alpha Administrative Coordinator.

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Laanthro.org
At the Lambda Alpha National Office we receive questions from faculty sponsors and students about how to manage Lambda Alpha chapters. Other than the rules for student membership, we leave chapter management up to individual faculty sponsors (see laaanthro.org for student membership requirements). Nevertheless, we do have some suggestions for chapters.

Many chapters hold induction ceremonies for their nominees. Some chapters nominate student officers at organization chapter meetings and related events. Other potential chapter activities include monthly meetings, chapters hosting guest speakers, student presentations of their research, volunteer activities, anthropology clubs with student recruitment drives and student paper competitions.

The annual newsletter is the best venue for sharing your chapter’s activities and programs. Useful items to include are student accomplishments, recognitions, and on-going efforts of individual Lambda Alpha members connected with your department. Chapters are also encouraged to submit news items about cooperative projects conducted under the aegis of Lambda Alpha such as lectures series, dedications, etc. For example this newsletter features an article by Gamma of Michigan concerning a Food and Identity conference they participated in at Eastern Michigan University. Be creative, and share your chapter’s activities through the newsletter.
In 2021, scholarships and grants totaling $22,000 were awarded to Lambda Alpha members. Fourteen qualified graduate students applied for the Graduate Student Research Grants. Six grants were awarded in 2021 totaling $12,000. Each chapter can submit one applicant in each grant category. Eleven different Lambda Alpha chapters were represented among the grant applications. The honor society would like to congratulate the following students on their achievements and thank them for applying to the annual graduate student award competition.

**ARCHAEOLOGY PROPOSALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samantha Murphy</td>
<td>University of Colorado, Denver</td>
<td>Zeta of CO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Perez</td>
<td>University of Nevada, Las Vegas</td>
<td>Alpha of NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jocelyne Ponce</td>
<td>Tulane University</td>
<td>Beta of LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley Whitten</td>
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**CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC ANTHROPOLOGY PROPOSALS**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Suman Acharya</td>
<td>University of Maine</td>
<td>Alpha of ME</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celine Eshenbrenner</td>
<td>Tulane University</td>
<td>Beta of LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goeun Lee</td>
<td>University of Kentucky</td>
<td>Delta of KY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Locke</td>
<td>University of Alabama</td>
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**BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY PROPOSALS**

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<tr>
<td>Kaelyn Dobson</td>
<td>Texas State University</td>
<td>Theta of TX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Farley</td>
<td>University of Illinois, Urbana</td>
<td>Mu of IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara Friend</td>
<td>University of Colorado, Denver</td>
<td>Zeta of CO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane Holmstrom</td>
<td>University of Central Florida</td>
<td>Gamma of FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robin Quataert</td>
<td>University of Buffalo</td>
<td>Lambda of NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ariane Thomas</td>
<td>University of Iowa</td>
<td>Beta of IA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Suman Acharya (Alpha of Maine) is a PhD Candidate in the Anthropology and Environmental Policy program at the University of Maine. Previously, he earned an undergraduate degree in Forestry from the Institute of Forestry at Tribhuvan University, Nepal. Before joining the University of Maine, he worked as a District Climate Change Specialist for the Adaptation for Smallholders in Hilly Areas (ASHA) project in Nepal. His dissertation research uses a multilevel governance framework and engages the theory of collective action with attention to issues of power to investigate the political nature of climate change adaptation. Using participant observation, the household survey, key informants interviews, oral histories, and focus group discussions, the study aims to examine the political nature of collective action across scales and elucidate how power and politics limit or foster collective action across institutions in multi-level governance and affect adaptation planning and decision-making across scales using Nepal as an ethnographic case study. In addition to the Lambda Alpha Graduate Research Grant, Suman’s research project is supported by the Chase Distinguished Research Award and the Churchill Exploration Fund.

Kaelyn Dobson (Theta of Texas) of Texas State University was awarded one of the Lambda Alpha bioanthropology grants. Ms. Dobson is researching nonhuman primates at various facilities in Texas. While there is a broad consensus that captive scenarios alter and humanize the gut microbiome of primate species, it is unknown which elements of captive living have more or less impact on the alteration of the microbiome. Katelyn is studying the relationships between the primate gut microbiome and environmental characteristics to determine which are key to primate conservation and captive primate husbandry protocols. She is collecting squirrel monkey (Saimiri) gut microbiome data at three captive primate facilities for comparison of samples from facilities, wild primates and current literature on
human microbiome trends.

The overarching goal is to understand the impacts of facilities’ protocols on captive primate species’ gut microbiomes through comparisons of the biodiversity and composition of *Saimiri* gut microbiomes through fecal sample analysis. This research builds on previous knowledge of primate gut humanization in captive scenarios by identifying detailed information on the influencing characteristics of captive housing and management. Results will provide implications to the impacts of captive primate living with recommendations for best practices regarding housing, grouping, interactions, conservation plans, human proximity protocols for captive and wild primates and considerations for future interactions with primates.

Jane Holmstrom (*Gamma of Florida*) is a Ph.D. candidate in her fourth year of the new Integrative Anthropological Sciences doctoral program at the University of Central Florida. Focusing on Medieval (9th-13th century) cemetery sites of Saint-Jean de Todon and Saint-Victor-la-Coste, her dissertation research incorporates stable (carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen) and radiogenic (strontium) isotope analyses, geospatial analysis, archaeological evidence, and historical documentation to understand how the evolution of the Christian church impacted identity and status of upper- and lower-class cemeter-
ies that served the same community.

With support from the Lambda Alpha Graduate Research Grant, Jane will be the first to conduct strontium isotope analysis to examine origins and mobility of these individuals.

Emily Locke (Beta of Alabama) is a recipient of one the Lambda Alpha graduate research grants. Emily’s masters thesis research explores the ways in which multiple disasters—defined as the compounding effects of 2 or more natural disaster events (i.e., tornados, hurricanes, and COVID-19)—have shaped perceptions of infant health and well-being, particularly as they relate to infant feeding practices in the United States’ southern region of Alabama. Southern Alabama is home to many populations that are marginalized due to systemic racism, rurality, poor healthcare access, and poverty, as well as regional susceptibility to multiple disasters. Emily is interested in understanding how perinatal health care services are affected by multiple disasters in this region and the impact this has on perspectives of infant health for mothers, families, and medical professionals. Using ethnographic field methods and the Critical Medical Anthropological framework of syndemic theory, Emily is examining how structural inequity, the continuous impact of natural disasters, and COVID-19 in Southern Alabama shape these perspectives. This research will serve as the foundation for state-level emergency response plans and public health initiatives that address the needs of pregnant people and breast/chest-feeding families.

Daniel Perez (Alpha of Las Vegas) doctoral dissertation research, conducted within the Department of Anthropology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, focuses on the Virgin Branch heartland of the North American Southwest, a pre-contact archaeological area spanning southern Nevada, southern Utah, and north-
western Arizona. The interplay of Virgin Branch community identity, group affiliation, and social interaction over time, between ca. 300 B.C. and A.D. 1150, is considered intra-regionally and in the context of interactions with neighboring Kayenta Branch populations of northeastern Arizona. The principal question of my dissertation research is: How is Virgin Branch group identity communicated and reflected through expressions of technological and painted designs styles on pottery amidst intra- and inter-regional events and interactions over time? Support for this principal research question is provided through: (1) a refinement of the chronometry for the Virgin Branch heartland and an understanding of how this correlates with the well-established chronometry of the Kayenta Branch heartland; and (2) clarifying the technological styles and rules of design (i.e., design layout, design symmetry, and design elements) associated with painted pottery from both heartlands, over time. The theoretical approach for my research is framed by consideration of how the behavioral categories of exchange, enculturation, and migration, as dependent variables, are used and expressed through painted design, technological, and functional aspects of painted pottery to investigate the independent variable of identity—namely, Virgin Branch group identity. Methodologically, my research uses a hierarchical system of ceramic analysis through which technological and painted design styles are investigated within a statistical framework of diversity and similarity indices, across temporal and spatial contexts. Using archaeological approaches to painted and technological ceramic design styles as proxies for expressions of Virgin Branch group identity, this research ultimately aims to provide a more accurate depiction of the dynamic and nuanced nature of Virgin Branch group identity, in the context of so-
cial interactions both inter-regionally and with neighboring Kayenta Branch populations, over time.

Jocelyne Ponce (Beta of Louisiana) is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology at Tulane University. Jocelyne’s research project investigates the relationship between settlement density and socioeconomic organization among the Classic Maya. With support from the Lambda Alpha Graduate Research Grant, Jocelyne gathered and processed samples for archaeobotanical analyses and Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis (INAA) from extended household groups in the region of La Corona in northwest Petén, Guatemala. These analyses will characterize the dietary patterns, consumption practices and social status of each group to define variations in socioeconomic organization across settlement density zones (urban, peri-urban, and rural). By investigating the relevance of settlement density this project will develop a more comprehensive model of settlement organization in the Maya Lowlands. This study will also advance the conceptual and empirical understanding of the spatial and social components of settlements in tropical and agrarian-based regions. Results will provide a comprehensive view on the uniqueness of living in different locations and whether the notions of urban or rural lifeways apply to the Classic Maya.
the best student they’d encountered in their careers.

During her studies, she was fortunate to delve into different areas of research that all connected to her identity as an academic activist. Serving as an Undergraduate Research Assistant for the Latinx Voices Oral History Project of Southern Nevada, Nathalie worked to amplify the experiences of marginalized communities in the Las Vegas historical record. Her dedication to her community and validating linguistic experiences extended into her Undergraduate Honors Thesis where she investigated Spanish heritage speakers through her research entitled “Spanish from the ‘East Side’ of Las Vegas: Simplification of Tense/Aspect Distinction in Ser and Estar in Spanish Heritage Speakers of Sunrise Manor.” This investigation was also recognized by UNLV University Libraries through the Lance and Elena Calvert Award for Undergraduate Research among other distinctions at UNLV Undergraduate Symposia and the Western Regional Honors Conference. Her research in linguistics and personal experiences, inspired her interests in the intersection and cultural identity to explore language activism and revitalization.

For her senior research project in anthropology, Nathalie’s independent study delved further into the roots of language activism culminating in her submitted piece to Lambda Alpha, “The Legacy of Mexican Indigenismo in Language Activism.” Her work focussed on the history of Indigenismo in Mexico and Abiayala (otherwise known as the Americas) and its impact on language activism in the region. In addition to being recognized by Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society, she was also awarded first place for her poster presentation at the UNLV Undergraduate Research Symposium for her work. Her manuscript serves as a foundation to the historical framework of the research she plans to pursue in her future graduate studies investigating language activism and social movement theory. She believes that research and community empowerment are the necessary tools to address issues such as language loss and achieve epistemic justice.

As a Latina (of proud Colombian and Salvadoran roots) and first-generation college student, she has been dedicated to advancing her studies to earn her various scholarships and awards to pursue her academic interests and the privilege of studying abroad in France and Costa Rica. Her list of accolades including the Ben
Lambda Alpha Scholarship Winners

nett Family Honors Scholarship, Las Vegas Historic Preservation Award Student Scholarship, the American Association of Teachers of French Outstanding Senior in French Award, and, the VISTA Group Outstanding Graduating Senior Award with the College of Liberal Arts—awarded to one graduating senior in the College of Liberal Arts.

Outside of academics, Nathalie has served as an active member of community and campus organizations dedicated to student well-being, social justice, and college access. As captain of the Honors Rebellion, she led a team of Honors students through several Tough Mudder’s—a 10-12 mile obstacle course race—and continued her engagement through virtual Tough Mudder challenges. Her work as a Site Leader and Site Leader mentor with Alternative Breaks included facilitating week-long service and social justice trips surrounding topics such as immigration at the U.S.-Mexico Border in San Diego and guiding students as they planned their own service experiences. Within the Las Vegas community, Nathalie has also stayed active in the Latino Youth Leadership Conference, which aims to encourage Latinx high school students to pursue higher education and serve their community.

What’s next for Nathalie? She will continue her research in Linguistics and Anthropology this summer as a part of the MICHHERS program with the Rackham Graduate College at the University of Michigan. She will also be serving as an Intern for international non-profit Cultural Survival to support their initiatives for Indigenous human rights as well as serving as Parent Engagement Coordinator to organize the Latino Youth Leadership Conference in Las Vegas. All this, while preparing her applications for graduate schools to pursue a Ph.D. in the field of linguistic anthropology. With the support of an institution that recognizes the value of public scholarship and community-based methods, she plans to develop an interdisciplinary research portfolio using an applied linguistic and anthropological theoretical framework in developing “actionable theory” and furthering the abolitionist anthropology agenda.
Talia Buchman, Second Place Scholarship Winner

Talia Buchman, second place scholarship award winner, earned her BA from West Virginia University (Spring 2021) in Anthropology. At WVU, Talia has maintained a perfect academic record, successfully completed the WVU Honors Foundation program and the Honors EXCEL Program. Talia was selected as an Eberly College of Arts and Sciences Foundations Scholar and awarded Most Outstanding Senior in Anthropology. She served two terms as President of the Anthropology Club and was an active member of WVU’s chapter of A Moment of Magic.

During her time at WVU, Talia learned ethnographic research via the Research Apprenticeship Program while assisting Dr. Susanna Donaldson (Sociology and Anthropology) and Dr. Ann M. Morris (Radiation Oncology) with their research on cultural knowledge and perception of cancer in rural West Virginia. Talia remained active in undergraduate research as an Honors EXCEL student. The WVU Honors EXCEL Program provides space for exceptional students to plan and execute their own research or humanitarian project. Talia’s EXCEL research on non-human primates under human care resulted in the development of a novel enrichment devise for use among lemurs at the Good Zoo in Wheeling, WV and a single-authored presentation at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology (“Educating the Zoo-going Public: Using Nonhuman-animal Enrichment to Engage and Educate the Public”).

Talia’s work with primates hast motivated her to explore a career in primatology—a career path that will take her to Madagascar this fall where she will work as a research intern under primatologist Dr. Patricia Wright at the Val Bio Research Centre at Ranomafana National Park.
Lambda Alpha Scholarship Winners

McKenna Litynski, Third Place Scholarship Winner

McKenna Litynski is a member of Lambda Alpha’s Delta of Maryland chapter and graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Mary’s College of Maryland in May 2021. McKenna double majored in Environmental Studies and Anthropology with an Archaeology Concentration and a minor in Museum Studies. This summer, McKenna conducted excavations under Drs. Todd Surovell and Madeline Mackie at the La Prele Mammoth Site, a Clovis mammoth kill and camp site that is approximately 12,900 years old in Converse County, Wyoming. McKenna will begin the M.A./Ph.D. anthropology program at the University of Wyoming in the fall of 2021. Her research interests lie in zooarchaeology with emphasis on the precontact period and how modern-day climate change is impacting archaeological sites in North America. McKenna will use her Lambda Alpha National Scholarship to offset costs associated with graduate school.

Lambda Alpha Membership Archive

The first Lambda Alpha chapter was established in 1968 at Wichita State University. Darrell Castell, an undergraduate student at Wichita State University, was the founder of Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society. A total of 260 chapters have been established since its founding in the late 1960s. Our newest chapters are Augustana University (Beta of South Dakota) and Southern Utah University (Gamma of Utah). Every state except North Dakota and Wyoming have at least one chapter. We currently have 194 active chapters. These chapters have been sponsored by numerous faculty members through the years. Since its founding and until the end of summer session 2021, a total of 31,831 students and faculty members have joined Lambda Alpha. This number includes six members at large.

Recently a digital Lambda Alpha Membership Archive has been completed. Upon request, the national office can now provide chapters with an excel file that contains student and faculty membership data since the 1960s.
In 2021 the National Office of Lambda Alpha received applications from 11 highly qualified students for the annual $5,000 award given to a senior. This year we also awarded second place ($3,000) and third place ($2,000) scholarships. The scholarship applicants have presented papers at conferences, published papers, conducted fieldwork and conducted research. Many of these students have also led the anthropology clubs in their departments, been recipients of awards, grants, and honors. Several students have had anthropological employment. Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society would like to congratulate the following scholars on their achievements as undergraduate students and thank them for applying to the annual award competition. We would also like to encourage faculty sponsors to nominate a senior for the 2022 Senior Scholarships. Application guidelines will be emailed to faulty sponsors in late January 2022.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noelle Barrera</td>
<td>Trinity University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talia Buchman</td>
<td>West Virginia University</td>
<td>Alpha of WV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Cameron</td>
<td>SUNY Oswego</td>
<td>Kappa of NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neve Durrwachter</td>
<td>Ursinus College</td>
<td>Omicron of PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryam Elhabashy</td>
<td>Univ. of Maryland Baltimore Co.</td>
<td>Beta of MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKenna Litynski</td>
<td>St. Mary’s of Maryland</td>
<td>Delta of MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nathalie Martinez</td>
<td>University of Nevada, Las Vegas</td>
<td>Alpha of NV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Pascali</td>
<td>Idaho State University</td>
<td>Alpha of ID</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlos Rivera Fernandez</td>
<td>Florida State University</td>
<td>Kappa of FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Rogers</td>
<td>Portland State University</td>
<td>Beta of OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camrie Schmitz</td>
<td>Ripon College</td>
<td>Epsilon of WI</td>
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# New Lambda Alpha Chapters
## Academic Year 2020-2021

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<th>Chapter</th>
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<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delta of Alabama</td>
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<td>Department of Social Sciences</td>
<td><a href="mailto:scarmody@troy.edu">scarmody@troy.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Troy University</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epsilon of Alabama</td>
<td>Dr. Jordan Kiper</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10th Ave. South, UH 3165</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Birmingham, AL 35294-1241</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mu of Florida</td>
<td>Dr. Lori Lee</td>
<td>Depart. of Humanities</td>
<td><a href="mailto:llee@flagler.edu">llee@flagler.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flagler College</td>
<td>74 King Street</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Saint Augustine, FL 32084</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theta of New Jersey</td>
<td>Dr. James M. Hundley</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rowan University</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Glassboro, NJ 08028</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beta of South Dakota</td>
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<td>Augustana University</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gamma of Utah</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>351 W. University Blvd.</td>
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<td>Cedar City, UT 84720</td>
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Lambda 15 Alpha
The following pages list all the new members inducted into the Lambda Alpha National Anthropology Honor Society during the 2020-2021 academic year. There were 141 active chapters during the 2020-2021 academic year. Only active chapters are listed; for a complete list of all chapters and faculty sponsors please see the chapter directory on the web page.

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Brent Valentine
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