



## Physical Anthropology Section - 2014

---

### H30 The Evolution of Education and Mentorship: A Symposium in Honor of Norman J. Sauer

*Colleen F. Milligan, PhD\*, California State Univ, Chico, Dept of Anthropology, 400 W First Street, Chico, CA 95929-0400; and Mary S. Megyesi, PhD, JPAC - CIL, 310 Worchester Avenue, Bldg 45, Hickam AFB, HI 96853*

---

After attending this presentation, attendees will have an understanding of the impact of successful mentorship from the undergraduate through post-doctoral level by looking at the Michigan State University program under the direction of Norman J. Sauer.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by highlighting the evolution of forensic science education in a forensic anthropology program. It will discuss the far-reaching impact of a mentor in the field and address areas for future consideration in further strengthening the balance between forensic science education and professional mentorship.

The current physical anthropology program at Michigan State University began under T.W. Phenice in 1968, with an emphasis on making skeletal biology accessible to students of osteology. With the addition of Norm Sauer to the faculty in 1974, the program's focus on education in skeletal biology and the application of the field to forensics was solidified. Sauer's influence on the field extends past his contributions in research and publications to his devotion to the classroom. Whether through undergraduate curricula, graduate student mentorship, community outreach, professional law enforcement development, or leadership within the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, Sauer has exemplified what it means to be a mentor to future generations of forensic scientists.

This symposium is organized to examine which components are part of a successful mentorship program and highlights the changing roles associated with mentoring to multiple levels of students and professionals. The presentations included are examples of professionals impacted by Dr. Sauer's efforts and the avenues of education and research that have developed as part of that influence. They highlight the breadth of research interests initiated through an educational program, the institutions that now employ past students, and growing impact on both original research in the field and the expansion of educational programs in the United States.

In the following symposium, Wankmiller and Bird discuss the importance of graduate education on professional development through student-mentor relationships. They include a discussion of current research in the areas of facial image analysis, trauma analysis, and human rights. Kolpan and McCormick offer a look at the use of craniometrics and contextual information in assessing ancestry in unknown samples. Their research provides an example of professional research influenced by the research interests of undergraduate and graduate mentors. The presentations combine areas of bioarchaeological instruction with its application to forensic anthropology in practice.

The symposium offers the opportunity to discuss educational initiatives within the field of forensic anthropology and the importance of curriculum development and mentorship opportunities. As highlighted by organizations such as the Scientific Working Group For Forensic Anthropology (SWGANTH), National Science Foundation, and National Academy of Sciences, education and training are a vital part of the growth and development in the field of forensic science.

---

#### **Mentorship, Forensic Anthropology, Education**