

MICHAELA HOWELLS

July 2025

Colorado State University (CSU)
Department of Anthropology and Geography

Email: Michaela.Howells@colostate.edu

Linked In: www.linkedin.com/in/michaela-howells-10a7712b8

CURRENT POSITIONS

Associate Professor (Tenured). Department of Anthropology and Geography, CSU
Director. GAPS Lab (Growth Adaptation Pregnancy Stress Lab), CSU
Co-Director. Balinese Macaque Ethnoprimateology Field Project. Bali, Indonesia

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Anthropology, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2013. Dissertation Title: *Maternal psychosocial stress and neonate outcomes on the Pacific island of Tutuila*. Dissertation Advisor: D.L. Dufour.

Certificate in College Teaching, University of Colorado Boulder, 2013.

M.A. Anthropology. Iowa State University, 2006. Thesis Title: *Chimpanzees, humans and parasites: sympatry in southeastern Senegal*. Thesis Director: J. Pruetz.

B.A. Anthropology. Central Washington University, 2002. Honors Thesis Title: *Aggression and use of space with move to a novel environment in Cebus apella*. Thesis Director: M. Matheson

B.S. Primate Behavior and Ecology. Central Washington University, 2002.

A.A. Green River Community College, 2000.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2024	UNC Board of Governors Governor James E. Holshouser, Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Service (System Level Award UNCW Nominee – Nominated)
2024	UNCW Top Published Peer-Reviewed Articles in College of Humanities, Social Sciences, Arts
2024	UNCW Board of Trustees Teaching Excellence Award
2024	UNCW Distinguished Teaching Professorship
2024	UNCW Distinguished Scholarly Engagement and Public Service
2023	UNCW Top Published Peer-Reviewed Articles in College of Humanities, Social Sciences Arts
2023	Wilma Women to Watch Award - Education
2023	New Hanover Equity Award – Education
2023	UNCW College of Arts and Sciences Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award
2023	UNCW Honors Faculty Mentor Award
2023-24	UNCW Kathleen Berkley Inconvenient Women Award (Nominated)

2022	YWCA Lower Cape Fear – Women of Achievement – Education
2022	Art Equity Fellow: ARTivism AIDS Quilt – UNCW Arts
2022	UNCW Distinguished Teaching Professorship (<i>Nominated</i>)
2022	UNCW Distinguished Scholarly Engagement and Public Service (<i>Nominated</i>)
2021	Frank Harr Service to Wilmington’s LGBTQIA Community Award. UNCW.
2020	Information Literacy Fellow – UNCW Randall Library
2019	Discere Aude Award, UNCW Center For Teaching Excellence
2019	YWCA Lower Cape Fear – Women of Achievement – Education (<i>Nominated</i>)
2019	L.S. "Bo" Dean Faculty and Staff Award, UNCW LGBTQIA+ Resource Center
2018	Janet Mason Ellerby Award for Scholarship. UNCW Women’s Studies Program
2018	Distinguished Anthropology Alumni Award (Inaugural Recipient) – Central Washington University
2017	UNCW Dub Awards – Best Educational Programing - Darwin Day 2017 (<i>Nominated</i>)
2015	Featured in the Women of UNCW Campaign
2012	Best Student Presentation Biological Anthropology Section of the American Anthropological Association, 111 th Annual Meeting, San Francisco
2009	Graduate Part Time Instructor Teaching Excellence Award, University of Colorado, Boulder
2009	Best Should Teach Silver Award – Science and Mathematics, University of Colorado, Boulder
2007	Best Should Teach Silver Award – Social Science, University of Colorado, Boulder
2005	Finalist - Primate Interest Group Student Prize American Association of Physical Anthropologists
2004	Teaching Excellence Award, Iowa State University
2002	Departmental Honors in Anthropology, Central Washington University
2000-2002	Honor Roll, College of Sciences, Central Washington University
1997-1999	Dean’s List, Green River Community College

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Extramural Grants Awarded

2024	National Science Foundation “Assessing intergenerational impact of place-based racism on pregnant people in a historically traumatized community” (In Review)
2023	New Hanover County Endowment Grant “Expanding HIV Care and Support in Southeastern North Carolina” SEEDS of Healing
2020	National Science Foundation. 18-504 Biological Anthropology Program – Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants. “Thermogenesis and Energetic Costs in Humans”. Co-PI: Ocobock C, Howells ME, Niclou AM. (Note: Project suspended due to COVID-19)
2018	Natural Hazards Center Quick Response Application (NSF)
2016	Pacific Society of Reproductive Health Send Hope not Flowers
2015	Wenner Gren Foundation Engaged Anthropologist Grant
2011	Wenner Gren Foundation

	Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
	Osmundsen Initiative
2010	National Science Foundation
2008	American Association University Women
2005	American Society of Primatologists
2005	Explorers Club
2005	Sigma XI – Grant in Aid

Intramural Grants Awarded (Home Institution)

2024	UNCW Research Reassignment Award (UNC System Version of Research Sabbatical) Dr. Howells Declined Due to
2024	UNCW Cahill Grant
2023	UNCW Applied Learning Pedagogy Initiative
2023	UNCW CAS Curriculum Grant
2023	UNCW CTE Travel Award
2022	UNCW Research Momentum Funds
2022	UNCW SURCA – Disasters and Maternal Health
2021	UNCW Material Cultures IRSS Interdisciplinary Research Seminar Series Material Cultures of Racial Justice and Healthcare Equity.
2021	UNCW SURCA – Russian Maternal Health
2021	UNCW Cahill Grant
2020	UNCW Travel Grant (Hazards Workshop)
2019	UNCW Travel Grant (Samoa)
2019	UNCW Travel Grant (Hazards Workshop)
2019	UNCW CAS Pilot Grant
2019	UNCW SURCA Grant – Hurricane Pregnancy
2018	UNCW Hurricane Pedagogy Grant
2018	UNCW SURCA Grant – Inking of Immunity
2017	UNCW Dean’s Fund
2017	UNCW ETEAL Supported Pedagogy Initiative
2016	UNCW Women’s Studies and Resource Center Travel Grant
2016	UNCW Dean’s Fund – Darwin Day
2016	UNCW Dean’s Fund
2016	UNCW Global Citizen
2016	UNCW Travel Grant
2016	UNCW SURCA Grant – Stress & Classroom
2016	UNCW SURCA Grant – Zika Virus
2016	UNCW Curriculum Improvement Grant
2015	UNCW ETEAL Supported Pedagogy Initiative
2015	UNCW Dean’s Fund
2014	UNCW ETEAL Supported Pedagogy Initiative
2013	UCB Dissertation Completion Fellowship
2012	UCB Haskell–Houghtelin Scholarship Fund
2011	UCB Beverly Sears Graduate Student Grant Margaret Hoenich Award
2011	UCB Haskell–Houghtlin Scholarship Fund
2010	UCB Dorothy Martin Award
2008	UCB Dissertation Improvement Grant

2008	UCB Haskell-Houghtelin Scholarship Fund
2007	UCB Dissertation Improvement Grant
2007	UCB Burt Fund
2007	UCB Walker Van Riper Award
2007	UCB Beverly Sears Research Award
2006	UCB Dissertation Improvement Grant
2006	UCB Travel Grant
2005	ISU Anthropology Departmental Award
2004	ISU Professional Advancement Grant
2004	ISU Travel Grant

Professional Grant and Training Workshops Completed (Selective)

2023	Wenner-Gren Grant Training Workshop
2021	UNCW SPARC NSF Grant Training Workshop
2021	UNCW SPARC Research & Innovation 101
2017	UNCW SPARC Office Grant Writing Boot Camp
2017	ECU NSF Grant Writing Workshop
2016	NSF / NIH Grant Writing Workshop

Book (Refereed)

Bingham SC, **Howells ME**. (2025). (Re)framing the “American Dream”: Tiny Housing as a Window into Consumer Culture, Political Landscapes, and Structural Equity. Bloomsbury / Rowman and Littlefield, Maryland. 336 pages. <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/reframing-the-american-dream-9798881804510/>

Journal Articles (Refereed) – (*Italicized Indicates Student Co-Author*)

Howells ME, Chen-Edinboro L, Reich J, *Blair A*. 2025. Delivering Disaster: Intergenerational Impacts of Climate Disasters on Birthweight. Invited Article: Annals of Human Biology Special 50th Anniversary Issue: Human Biology, Climate Change & Sustainability. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03014460.2025.2494570>

Howells ME, Aunchalee P, Josefson C, Dancause K, Quinn E, *Daniels D*, *Blair A*. 2025. The Impacts of Water Insecurity and Heat Stress on Pregnancy, Parturition, and Lactation: An Assessment of Trade-Offs and Constraints in Human Reproduction to Climate Change. Invited Article: Evolutionary Medicine, Public Health, and Medicine. Special Issue: Heat and Water Stress Across the Human Lifetime. Volume 13, Issue 1, 2025, Pages 125–139, <https://doi.org/10.1093/emph/eoaf008>

Howells ME, LeZotte J, LeShonda Wallace, Edward Adams, Jeffrey Mills, Isabelle Nechvatal. 2024. The AIDS Memorial Quilt as Radical Public History. *The Public Historian*. Vol 46 (4): 65-87. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/942907>

Loudon JE, **Howells ME**, Sutarjana N, Buana IN, Buda W, Wandia IN, Putra A, Fuentes A. 2024. Healing Hanuman’s Army: A Model of Veterinary Care at the Ubud Monkey Forest. *Animals*. Special Issue: Human Animal Interactions. 14(1):117-140.

Loudon JE, Smith BK, Bianchi S, **Howells ME**, *Krowka MA*, Gomez AM, Davison S, Paine OCC, Sponheimer M. (2023). Variable digestibility of captive northern greater galagos (*Otolemur garnettii*) fed experimental “frugivorous” and “insectivorous” diets. *Zoo Biology*. 42(5):644-650 <https://doi.org/10.1002/zoo.21773>

Lynn CD, **Howells ME**, Muehlenbein MP, Nowak T, Gassen J, Henderson A. (2023). Tattooing as a Phenotypic Gambit. *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*. 182(1):7-11.
<http://doi.org/10.1002/ajpa.24741>

Howells M, Wander K, *Rivera L, Arfouni C, Benhelal O*, Dancause K. (2023). Maternal stress and hair cortisol among pregnant women following Hurricane Florence. Invited Special Issue: Extreme Weather Events and their Impact on Health and Human Biology. *American Journal of Human Biology*. 35(1), e23847 <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajhb.23847>

Howells ME, Dancause K. (2022). “Go with the Flo”: Conducting research on prenatal stress following Hurricane Florence as participant observers. *Frontiers in Medical Sociology*.
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fsoc.2022.957127>

Howells ME, *Woolard KL, April TB*, Bender R, Loudon JE. (2022). Is there a difference in student physical activity between a field school and a traditional classroom setting? *American Journal of Human Biology*. DOI: 10.1002/ajhb.23799 <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ajhb.23799>
Lynn CD, **Howells ME**, Muehlenbein MP, *Wood H, Caballero GW*, Nowak Tj, Gassen J. (2022). Tattooing, rheostasis, and psychoneuroimmunology. *Adaptive Human Behavior and Physiology*

Loudon JL, Lewis AE, Turner TR, Grobler JP, **Howells ME**, Pender JE. (2022). Ecotoxicology at anthropogenically disturbed sites inhabited by vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*). *Primates*. 63:525–533. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10329-022-01002-3>

Bala N, Cook-Sather A, Slaters Sarah, Amer A, Anthony H, Cachia C, Cassidy A, Conley CF, Costello K, DeVita JM, Galvan AS, **Howells ME**, Kapur M, Kizimchuk S, Kladder J, Liao C, Medland E, Mori Y, Morrin AM, Nyrose S, O’Connor R, Pountney G, Selby M, Sipos Y, Srinivasan S. (2022). The art of partnership: Expanding representations and interpretations. *International Journal for Students as Partners*. Vol. 6 Issue 2. 135-152. <https://doi.org/10.15173/ijpsap.v6i2.5315>

Howells M, Dancause K. (2021). Effects of Stress on Pregnancy: Outcomes After a Hurricane. Natural Hazards Center Quick Response Grant Report Series, Vol 305. Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder. <https://hazards.colorado.edu/quick-response-report/effects-of-stress-on-pregnancy>

Brazelton L, **Howells ME**, *Landgraf L*, Lynn CD. (2021). Impacts of family and fieldwork on career/family balance among tenure-track and tenured anthropologists. *American Journal of Human Biology*, e23686. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajhb.23686>

Sarma MS, Gildner TE, **Howells ME**, Lew-Levy S, Trumble BC, Fuentes A. (2021). There and back again: The biosocial dynamics of returning from the field. *American Journal of Human Biology*, e23673. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajhb.23673>

Howells ME, Dancause K, Pond R, *Rivera L*, Simmons D, *Alston BD*. (2020). Maternal marital status predicts self-reported stress among pregnant women following Hurricane Florence. *American Journal of Human Biology*. 32:e23427. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajhb.23427>

Carney RM, **Howells M**, Tanumafili A, Matalavea A, Gafa J, Isaia L. Trends of Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea, Hepatitis and Syphilis Infections in Samoa from 2012 to 2017. (2020). *World Health Organization’s Western Pacific Surveillance and Response Journal (WPSAR)*. 11(1).
<http://doi:10.5365/wpsar.2019.10.2.004>

Lynn CD, **Howells ME**, Herdrich D, Ioane J, Hudson D, Fitiao ST. (2019). The evolutionary adaptation of body art: Tattoo as an honest signal of immunological fitness in American Samoa. *American Journal of Human Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajhb.23347>

Hawley NL, Tripathi RR, Muasau-Howard B, **Howells ME**, Faiai M, Van der Ryn M. (2019). Knowledge of gestational mellitus among pregnant women in American Samoa. The Pacific Journal of Reproductive Health. <https://doi.org/10.18313/pjrh.2019.902>

Lynn CD, **Howells ME**, *Stein MJ*. (2018). Family and the field: expectations of a field-based research career affect researcher family planning decisions. PLoS One. 13(9): e0203500.

Howells ME, Lynn CD, Weaver J, Langford-Sesepesara M, Tufa J. (2018). Zika Virus in American Samoa: challenges for prevention and management in the context of non-communicable disease. Annuals of Human Biology. Special Invited Edition Human Biology in the Pacific. Vol 45, No 3 (229-238).

Van Tilburg H, Herdrick DJ, **Howells ME**, Sesepasara VH, Ausage TC, *Coszalter M*. (2018). “Row as One!” A History of the Development and Use of the Sāmoan *Fautasi*. The Journal of the Polynesian Society.

Howells ME, Lynn C, Ocobock C, Robinson C, *Woolard K*. (2017). It’s a Deadman’s Party: Integrative Evolutionary Education. The Journal of the Evolutionary Studies Consortium. 7(1):132-149.

Howells ME, Ah Ching J, Bender R. (2016). Does maternal marital status indirectly influence use of medical interventions during delivery in American Samoa? Pacific Journal of Reproductive Health. 1(3):102-108. DOI: 10.18313/pjrh.2016.901

Howells ME. (2016). Debates and Controversies: Myth of the Freshman 15. In: Filling Up: The Psychology of Eating. Justine Reel (eds). Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood / ABC-CLIO.

Howells ME, Pruetz J, Gillespie TR. (2010). Patterns of Gastro-Intestinal Parasites and Commensals as an Index of Population and Ecosystem Health: The Case of Sympatric Western Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*) and Guinea Baboons (*Papio hamadryas papio*) at Fongoli, Senegal. American Journal of Primatology 71:1-7.

Sponheimer M, Loudon JE, Codron D, **Howells ME**, Pruetz JD, Codron J, de Ruiter DJ, Lee-Thorp JA. (2006). Do "Savanna" Chimpanzees Consume C4 Resources? Journal of Human Evolution 51:128-133.

Loudon JE, **Howells ME**, Fuentes A. (2006). The Importance of Integrative Anthropology: A Preliminary Investigation Employing Primatological and Cultural Anthropology Data Collection Methods in Assessing Human-Monkey Co-existence in Bali, Indonesia. Ecological and Environmental Anthropology 2:2-13.

Refereed Book Chapters (*Italicized* Indicates Student Co-Authors)

Fair J, **Howells ME**. (2025). Tiny Houses and the Housing Crisis Black Baltimore. In: (Re)framing the “American Dream”: Windows into the History, Politics, and Economics of Tiny Housing. Bingham SC, Howells ME. Rowman and Littlefield, Maryland.

Saxton M, **Howells ME**. (2025). The Environmental Impacts of Tiny Home Downsizers: A Study Overview. In: (Re)framing the “American Dream”: Windows into the History, Politics, and Economics of Tiny Housing. Bingham SC, Howells ME. Rowman and Littlefield, Maryland.

Howells ME, Loudon JE, Brotcorne F, Petterson JV, Wandia IN, Putra IGAA, Fuentes A. (2022). Primates and primatologists: reflecting on two decades of primatological and ethnoprimateological research, tourism, and conservation at the Ubud Monkey Forest. Tourism and Indonesia’s Primates.

Springer, Developments in Primatology. Eds Gursky S, Supriatna J, Achorn A.

Sponheimer M, Loudon JE, **Howells ME**. (2019). Fossil primates from flooded habitats: the antiquity of an association. In A.A. Barnett, I. Matsuda, and K. Nowak (eds) *Primates in Flooded Habitats: Ecology and Conservation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Howells ME, *Pieters M*. (2018). “The mosquito brings the sickness”: local knowledge, stigma, and barriers to Zika prevention in rural Guatemala. In D. Schwartz (eds) *Maternal Health, Pregnancy-Related Morbidity and Death Among Indigenous Women of Mexico and Central America: An Anthropological, Epidemiological and Biomedical Approach*. Springer Nature.

Refereed Book Reviews, Encyclopedia Entries, Other (*Italicized Student Co-Authors*)

Howells ME. (2018). Zika: From the Brazilian Backlands to Global Threat. *American Journal of Human Biology* (Invited Book review). *American Journal of Human Biology*.

Howells ME. (2018). Puberty in nonhuman primates. *The International Encyclopedia of Biological Anthropology*. Eds. W. Trevathan. John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

Howells ME. (2017). Puberty. *The International Encyclopedia of Primatology*. Eds. A Fuentes. Wiley Blackwell.

Howells ME, *Pieters M*. (2016). Zika’s Frightening Stranglehold. *Sapiens* (Online Magazine of the Wenner Gren Foundation). Published February 8, 2016. <https://www.sapiens.org/biology/zika-and-family-planning/>

Howells ME. 2013. Evolution of Menopause. *Citizendium*.
https://en.citizendium.org/wiki/Evolution_of_menopause

Non-Refereed Publications for National Research and Grants Organizations

Howells ME. 2017. Biological Anthropology in a Changing World. May/June Edition of *Anthropology News*. Contributing Editor for the Biological Anthropology Section of the American Anthropological Association.

Howells ME. 2016. Engaged Anthropology Grant: Michaela Howells. The Wenner-Gren Blog.
http://blog.wennergren.org/2016/08/eag_howells/

Howells ME, Kissel M. 2016. Redefining Biological Anthropology. March/April Edition of *Anthropology News*. Contributing Editor for the Biological Anthropology Section of the American Anthropological Association.

Howells ME. 2016. Celebrating the Year of the Monkey in Minneapolis, MN. March/April Edition of *Anthropology News*. Contributing Editor for the Biological Anthropology Section of the American Anthropological Association.

Manuscript Submitted and Under Review

In Prep

Manuscripts in Final Staged of Preparation

Howells ME, Bender RL, Dufour D, Ah-Ching J, Muasau B, Carney B, Langford-Sesepasara M, *Wagi C.* (*In Preparation*). Marital status impacts access to prenatal care in American Samoa: Implications for population health and Zika exposure. Target Journal: Human Organization.

Howells ME, Bender RL, Dufour DL. (*In Preparation*). Is there a relationship between psychosocial stress and pregnancy outcomes in Samoan women? Target Journal: American Journal of Human Biology.

Howells ME, Dufour DL, Williams H, Reina JC. (*In Preparation*). Trends in BMI and Ideal Body Size of Urban Colombian Women in Two SES Groups. Target Journal: American Journal of Human Biology.

Research Training (Select)

2024	Evolutionary Medicine Focus Group (UNCW Representative)
2021-2022	Gillings on the Ground: Disaster Response Training – University of Chapel Hill (1 year)
2018 & 2022	Evolutionary Medicine Summer Institute. Includes ONE Health Training TriCEM. NC State (1 Week)
2022	Volunteer Doula Training – New Hanover County Regional Medical Center (16 Hours)
2021	Partnering for Impact: Exploring Community-Based Participatory Research - UNCW
2019	Hazards Workshop – Boulder, CO (3 Days)

Consultant

SEEDS of Healing. HIV awareness and advocacy resource in SE North Carolina. 2019-present. Collaborative partnership including research and educational outreach.

<https://www.seedsofhealinginc.org/>

Healthy Opportunities Program Pilot (HOP). 2021. UNCW Center for Workforce Development. Developed Cultural Competency training for pilot project. Training Recording:

<https://youtu.be/dXylG9Vavlk>

Scientific Advisor. 2016-2021. Mandala Suci Wenara Wana – Sacred Monkey Forest Sanctuary. Monkey Forest Ubud. <https://monkeyforestubud.com/>

Scientific Advisor. July 2018. National Geographic film crew of “Rare”. Filmed in part in the Ubud Monkey Forest. Expected Air Date October 2020. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/rare/>

Expert Witness – Alaskan Public Defenders Office. January 2014 – December 2015.

FIELD EXPERIENCE (SELECT)

Human Biology

August 2018 – Present – UNCW Department of Anthropology

- Disasters and Maternal and Child Health - Impacts of Hurricane on Pregnancy

May 2023 – Present – UNCW Department of Anthropology

- Toxic Stress and Place Based Racism: Impacts on Pregnancy Outcomes

March 2022 – June 2022 – Volunteer Doula. Novant Health, New Hanover Regional Medical Center

- Volunteer Doula. Member of inaugural cohort. Program aims to provide birth support free of charge to all birthing people at this center

July 2017 – Present – Historic Preservation Office American Samoa

- Co-PI. Inking of Immunity

July 2016 – Present – Department of Health, American Samoa

- Research Associate. Coordinating research on the socioeconomic risk factors associated with Zika Virus on the Samoan island of Tutuila

October 2010-June 2012 – Department of Health and LBJ Tropical Medical Center, American Samoa

- Research Associate. Coordinating research on the impacts of prenatal stress on Samoan neonates between the two key prenatal care centers on the Samoan island of Tutuila

July 2007-July 2008 – Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado, Boulder

- Research Assistant Lactation Study. Energetics and anthropometric tests on lactating females

Primate Behavior and Ecology

May 2016-June 2018 – Department of Anthropology (UNCW) – Bali, Indonesia

- Co-Director Balinese Macaque Ethnoprimateological Field Project. Developed, organized, and taught the ethnographic portion of the field school.

May 2006 – July 2006 – Department of Anthropology (Iowa State University) - Western Senegal

- Field Research Assistant. Collected biological specimens and behavioral data from a community of savanna chimpanzees.

June 2004 – August 2004 – El Zota Biological Field Station (Costa Rica)

- Research Assistant – Iowa State University & DANTA (non-profit organization). Collected data on use of non-native tree plantations by three species of primates. Project lead – trained students on data collection techniques. Assisted owners in developing a forest management plan.

June 2003 – August 2003 – Balinese Macaque Field Project (Bali, Indonesia)

- Research Assistant – Notre Dame University. Collected demographic data on multiple groups of long-tailed macaques. Worked in conjunction with Udayana University to assess impact of human/monkey interactions. Assisted in the collection of macaque fecal samples for parasitic investigation. Utilized both GPS data and digital photography.

June 2002 – August 2002 – Balinese Macaque Field Project (Bali, Indonesia)

- Student. Collected behavioral data on long-tailed macaques, human/monkey interactions, and post-copulatory behavior. Received training on identification, video follows and data collection methods.

Fall 2000 – Spring 2002 – Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute (Ellensburg, WA)

- Intern and Docent. Collected behavioral data on five adult chimpanzees. Conducted video scans regarding use of enrichment. Received training on data collection methods, scan sampling techniques, video follows, enrichment preparation, cleaning, meal preparation.

Health Education Messaging

2019 - Present – New Hanover County, Wilmington NC

- Education Specialist. World AIDS Day. The Quilts Come to Wilmington. Designed curriculum and trained 135 community members on HIV/AIDS and the AIDS Quilt.

July 2016 – 2020 - Department of Health, American Samoa

- Research Associate. Gestational Diabetes education program. Co-developed screenplay for educational video for gestational diabetes outreach video with Yale and American Samoa Community College faculty. GDM Video Intervention – American Samoa.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ilMu8BqcUM>

June 2015- August 2015 – Department of Health American Samoa

- Created five prenatal health messaging posters in collaboration with the health care professionals

Stable Isotope Analysis (University of Colorado, Boulder)

March 2005 – Department of Anthropology Lab Assistant

- Preparation of chimpanzee hair samples for stable isotope analysis.

Genetics (University of Colorado, Boulder)

August 2003 – February 2004 – Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

- Research Assistant. Prepared slides for analysis. Analyzed mammalian and reptilian blood samples for parasites. Isolated malarial DNA in *Lemur catta* blood samples using extraction and PCR techniques.

APPLIED WORK (Select)

Organizing Member – First Year Cape Fear

April 2023 – Present

- Developing plan to reconvene the community organization First Year Cape Fear a program focusing on perinatal health
- Working with community partners from multiple organizations, NGO and government organizations
- Assessing grant opportunities, attending community meetings, assessing potential partners

AIDS Quilt Education Leader and UNCW Coordinator - AIDS Memorial Quilt

August 2019– Present (Annual Event)

- Developed educational material and programming surrounding AIDS Quilt visit
- Coordinated the hanging of 5-25 Quilts on the UNCW campus and across New Hanover County

Periods Don't Stop for Pandemics – Menstrual Equity Drive

February 2021 – Present

- Directed donation drive for menstrual hygiene products in New Hanover County
- Raised over 25,000 donations (as of 5/3/21)

Docent Education Leader – Frank Harr Foundation AIDS Memorial Quilt

October 2019 – December 2019

- Developed and delivered educational material to AIDS Quilt Docents
- Trained 135 docents through 5 training sessions (35 UNCW students)

Expert Witness – Alaskan Public Defenders Office

January 2014 – December 2015

Professional Grant Writing Services

May 2014 – August 2014

- Professional Grant Writer – CM Dance Denver Colorado. Awarded \$7,000 Bowen Family

Foundation, Awarded \$40,000 in grant money

Clinical Training and Experience

September 2023

- Black Maternal Health Barriers to Care. Workshop presented by New Hanover County Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Wilmington, NC

June 2015

- Hansen's (Leprosy) Disease Workshop – Weeklong workshop hosted in American Samoa by the National Hansen's Disease (Leprosy) Clinical Center

1997-2004, 2011-2014

- Certified Nursing Assistant (Washington State and Colorado). Long term care and rehabilitation

Media Engagement and Mentions

UNCW Honors Excellence at Inaugural Faculty Celebration. UNCW News. May 03, 2024

<https://uncw.edu/news/2024/05/uncw-honors-excellence-at-inaugural-faculty-celebration>

Alumni Spotlight Winter 2023. University of Colorado Boulder. College of Arts and Sciences.

<https://www.colorado.edu/anthropology/2023/12/20/alumni-spotlight-winter-2023>

The science of vampires: UNCW professor explores the biological roots of mythical creatures. Wwaytv 3. October 24, 2023

<https://www.wwaytv3.com/the-science-of-vampires-uncw-professor-explores-the-biological-roots-of-mythical-creatures/>

Bellamy Mansion and UNCW Anthropology Club host Vampire Seminar. WECT October 24, 2023.

<https://www.wect.com/video/2023/10/26/bellamy-mansion-uncw-anthropology-club-host-vampire-seminar/>

2023 Women to Watch Award Winners: Meet the Winners Celebrated in this Year's Awards. September, 12, 2023.

<https://www.wilmamag.com/2023-women-to-watch-award-winners/>

Women to Watch Awards Finalists-Education. Meet the 2023 Finalists. August 24, 2023.

<https://www.wilmamag.com/women-to-watch-awards-finalists-education-4/>

UNCW associate professor recognized for research on effects of natural disasters on health inequalities. WECT News 6. August 17, 2023.

<https://www.wect.com/2023/08/17/uncw-associate-professor-recognized-research-effects-natural-disasters-health-inequalities/>

WILMA's 2023 Women to Watch Awards Finalists: Meet this year's Women to Watch finalists. Wilma Magazine. June 5, 2023.

<https://www.wilmamag.com/wilmas-2023-women-to-watch-awards-finalists/>

Featured: "We Are UNCW" Seahawks Stories. UNCW Webpage. March 16, 2023

https://uncw.edu/profiles/howells_michaela.html?fbclid=IwAR3PrPdA3aov2EmbX-FUmMCYckaayUmMDKwKCqP_MhILDy6_BadyhAqITDo

World AIDS Day: Local health expert explains the importance of being tested; UNCW displays a remembrance quilt. December 1, 2022. WECT News.
<https://www.wect.com/video/2022/12/02/world-aids-day-local-health-expert-explains-importance-being-tested-uncw-displays-remembrance-quilt/>

Dr. Howells Wins Education Award. March 7, 2022. UNCW News.
<https://uncw.edu/news/2022/03/dr.-michaela-howells-wins-ywca-education-award.html>

UNCW professor to deliver a talk on vampire folklore right in time for Halloween. Oct 25, 2021.
<https://theseahawk.org/32870/culture/the-hottest-ticket-in-town-dr-howells-vampire-talk/>

Group Collecting Menstrual Hygiene Products to Address Period Poverty. April 29, 2021. WECT 6 News. <https://www.wect.com/2021/04/29/group-collecting-menstrual-hygiene-products-address-period-poverty/>

New Study Researches How Hurricane Florence Could Have Impacted Pregnancies. Dec 27, 2018. WWAY 3 News (Wilmington, NC). <https://www.wwaytv3.com/2018/12/27/new-study-researches-how-hurricane-florence-could-have-impacted-pregnancies/?fbclid=IwAR0RN2odGS0CUe8GnhrO1nVD1nEL-msEirmILwOzjCqnKZI6KmneTp2oEE4>

UNCW Public Outreach - Dub Geographic and the Department of Anthropology
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Nzsx4P2VIg&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR0s_yCgij_ep0wASyB5MLLVMD4yz47vsLjexkuath-l5fbPFyg4FYk5vWA

Public Health Video – Gestational Diabetes (GDM)
GDM Video Intervention – American Samoa
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ilMu8BqcUM>

GAPS Lab – Growth Adaptation Pregnancy Stress
Facebook Page: @GAPSLabNC

Inking of Immunity – Taina o le tetee atu I faamai
Facebook Page: @Inking.of.Immunity

Balinese Macaque Field School
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1028955133807699/>

Balinese Macaque Ethnoprimateology Field Project web page. <https://www.balimacaqueproject.com/>
UNCW Professor Spotlight: Michaela Howells
<https://theseahawk.org/14780/lifestyle/professor-spotlight-michaela-howells-anthropology-and-womens-studies/>

Samoa News. July 24, 2017. Tattoo research progressing steadily. <http://www.samoanews.com/local-news/tattoo-research-progressing-steadily>

Samoa News. July 10, 2017. Can tattoos make you healthier? <http://www.samoanews.com/local-news/can-tattoos-make-you-healthier>

NBC News. Nov 22, 2016. Cultural Factors Complicate Zika Prevention in American Samoa.
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/american-samoa-cultural-factors-could-make-zika-worse-n686781>

Biocultural Systematics: Biocultural Medical Anthropology at the University of Alabama. December 22,

2016. <https://anthropology.ua.edu/blogs/biocultmed/2016/12/22/replacing-the-lone-stranger-with-evidence-based-theory-collaborative-fieldwork-in-anthropology/>

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Professional Presentations (* Denotes Published Abstracts. † Denotes Invited. *Italicized* Indicates Student Co-Authors)

- 2024 **Howells M**, Browne K, von Meding J, Fernandez M, Schuller M, Ulysse G, Velez-Velez R, Villarrubia J. Invited Panelist. Roundtable session with Disasters Deconstructed Podcast: Compassionate Stories of Disasters in Place. Risk and Disaster TIG Presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology Meetings in Santa Fe, NM.
- 2024 **Howells ME**. One Health and Anthropology: The Role of Environment and Increased Human and Non-human animal Interaction on Health. Invited Lecture: One Health Institute, Colorado State University.
- 2024 **Howells ME**. Delivering disaster. Intergenerational impacts of maternal stress through a climate crisis. Invited Lecture: University of North Carolina at Charlotte.
- 2021 **Howells ME**, Foster PP. Forward together, where science, ethics, and religion intersect in a changing world. Invited Lecture for DoSER (Dialogue on Science, Ethnicity, and Religion) through the AAAS (American Academy for the Advancement of Science).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CyhkIMtzW8>
- 2019 **Howells ME**. Tattoo and Cultural Protections of Health. Invited Lecture: Tatau Tattoo Festival, Apia Samoa.
- 2019 **Howells ME**. Rowing Towards Health: Fautasi Training. Invited Lecture: Fautasi Heritage Symposium. Hosted by the NOAA's National Marines Sanctuary of the American Samoa and American Samoan Historic Preservation Office. American Samoa.
- 2018 **Howells ME**. The embodiment of inequality: the effect of maternal social status on fetal growth, prenatal care, and Zika exposure in American Samoa. Invited lecture East Carolina University Department of Anthropology.
- 2018 **Howells ME**. "Fight the bite": Zika, tattoos, and health in American Samoa. Invited lecture Central Washington University, Department of Anthropology and Museum Studies.
- 2018 **Howells ME**. "Fight the bite": Zika, tattoos, and health in American Samoa. Invited lecture Green River College Department of Anthropology.
- 2017 **Howells ME**. Stigma and size: maternal social status, neonate size, and risk of Zika in American Samoa. Invited Extemporaneous Talk: University of Alabama.
- 2011 **Howells ME**. Impact of psychosocial stress on gestation length and pregnancy outcomes in Samoan women. In-service presented to the American Samoan Department of Health.
- 2008 **Howells ME**. An ethnoprimateological approach to understanding human-chimpanzee sympatry in western Tanzania. 2008 Walker Van Riper and William H. Burt University of Colorado Lecture

Series. University of Colorado Museum of Natural History.

Conference Presentations (* Denotes Published Abstracts. †Denotes Invited. *Italicized* Indicates Student Co-Authors)

- 2025 *Blair A*, **Howells M**, Reich J, Edinboro L. Born of a Storm: Does Intrauterine Exposure to Hurricane Florence During the First Trimester Shape Birth Outcomes? Southeastern Biological Interest Group (SEBIG). University of North Carolina Greensboro.
- 2024 **Howells M**, *Blair A*, Dancause K, Schultz L, Galeano MA. The Impact of Hurricane Florence on Maternal Stress and Pregnancy Outcomes. Society for Applied Anthropology, Risk and Disaster, Santa Fe, NM.
- 2023 **Howells M**, Dancause K, Wander K, Galeano A, Schultz L, Flock N, *Blair A*. Health Disparities and natural disasters: unmarried pregnant women and stress following Hurricane Florence. Presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology Meetings in Cincinnati, OH. March 29.
- 2023 *Shepard ZR*, Loudon JE, Smith KB, **Howells M**, Gomez AM, Paine OCC, Sponheimer M. Dry matter digestibility and stable carbon and nitrogen isotope analysis of captive northern galagos (*Otolemur garnettii*) fed experimental “frugivorous” and “invertebrate” diets. Presented at the American Association of Biological Anthropologists Meeting in Reno NV. April 20.
- 2023 **Howells M**, Dancause K, *Blair A*. Health disparities and natural disasters: do unmarried pregnant women experience higher levels of physiological stress following a hurricane? 9th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Bioanthropology Interest Group (SEBIG). Charlotte, NC. February 4.
- 2022* **Howells M**, Dancause K, *Rivera L*, Wander K, *Bell A*. Biological and perceived stress in pregnant women following Hurricane Florence. American Journal of Human Biology. Presented at the 46th Annual Meeting of the Human Biology Association, Denver, CO. March 23-25.
- 2022* Dancause M, *Arfouni C*, *Benhelal O*, **Howells M**. Relationships between hair cortisol concentrations, perceived stress, health behaviors, and infant outcomes in a sociodemographically diverse sample of pregnant women. American Journal of Human Biology. Presented at the 46th Annual Meeting of the Human Biology Association, Denver, CO. March 23-25.
- 2022* Loudon J, **Howells M**, *April T*, *Woolard K*. Primates on the move: a comparison of student physical activity during an ethnoprimateological field school and traditional classroom setting. American Biological Anthropology Association Meeting. Presented at the 91th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Denver, Colorado. March 23-25.
- 2022* Smetana MRA, **Howells ME**, Gassen J, Nowak TJ, Muehlenbein MP, Wood H, Caballero GW, Lynn CD. Bacteria-killing activity, immunoglobulin A, C-reactive protein, and cortisol responses to tattooing. American Journal of Human Biology. Presented at the 46th Annual Meeting of the Human Biology Association, Denver, CO. March 23-25.
- 2021* **Howells ME**. Maternal stress following Hurricane Florence. Mid Atlantic Biological Anthropology Meeting

- 2020* **Howells ME**, Carney RM, Tanumafili A, Matalavea A, Gafa J, Naseri T. Differences in STI prevalence across age and sex classes in Samoa: the value of age specific preventative services. Accepted for presentation 45th Annual Meeting of the Human Biology Association, Los Angeles California (Presentation not possible due to COVID-19 cancellation)
- 2020* Lynn CD, **Howells ME**, Chen W, Chen-Fruean E, Nowak T, *Caballero G, Wood H*, Muehlenbein M. Tattoos and other biomarkers: secretory immunoglobulin A, C-reactive protein, cortisol, and bacteria-killing response to tattooing. Accepted for presentation 45th Annual Meeting of the Human Biology Association, Los Angeles California (Presentation not possible due to COVID-19 cancellation)
- 2020*[†] *Capps T*, Oppenheim G, Kim D, **Howells ME**, Braun DR, Hlubik S. Experimental investigation of phytoliths and combustion features and their relevance for the 'Cooking Hypothesis' from East Turkana, Kenya. Accepted for presentation 89th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Los Angeles California (Presentation not possible due to COVID-19 cancellation).
- 2020* *Krówka MA*, Smith BK, Bianchi S, Loudon JE, **Howells ME**, Gomez AM, Paines OCC, Sponheimer M. Food choice and nutritional analysis of frugivorous and insectivorous diets in captive Northern greater galagos (*Otolemur garnettii*). Accepted for presentation 89th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, Los Angeles California (Presentation not possible due to COVID-19 cancellation)
- 2019 **Howells ME**, Dancause K, Pond R. Going with the Flo: socioeconomic disparities in stress experiences and mediation following Hurricane Florence. Presented at the 44th Annual Meeting of the Human Biology Association, Cleveland, OH, March 26-28.
- 2019 Lynn CD, **Howells ME**, Herdrich D, Ioane J, Hudson D, Fitiao TW. Tattooing and Immune Response: More Like Exercise or an Inoculation? Presented at the 44th Annual Meeting of the Human Biology Association, Cleveland, OH, March 26-28.
- 2019 Terrell E, Lynn C, **Howells ME**. Family and Career Dynamics among Biological and Applied Anthropologists. Presented at the 44th Annual Meeting of the Human Biology Association, Cleveland, OH, March 26-28.
- 2018 Lynn CD, **Howells ME**, Herdrich D, Ioane J, Hudson D, Fitiao TW. The Evolutionary Adaptation of Body Art: Tattooing as an Honest Signal of Fitness. Presented as part of the session "The Resistance to and Resilience of Adaptation: The Place of Evolutionary Theory in Biocultural Anthropology: Part I" at the 117th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, CA, November 14-18
- 2018*[†] **Howells ME**, Lynn CD. Zika virus and maternal stigmatization: Supporting maternal and child health through religious engagement in American Samoa. Invited Session AAAS: Biological Anthropology and Dialogue with Diverse Publics. Paper presented at the 87th American Association of Physical Anthropologists. Austin, TX.
- 2018*[†] Lynn CD, **Howells ME**. Fight the bite: Zika Virus, personal responsibility, maternal stigmatization, and disabled children in American Samoa. Invited Session: The False Meritocracy of Choice within Social Constructs of Health. Paper presented at the 87th American Association of Physical Anthropologists. Austin, TX.

- 2018*[†] Lynn CD, **Howells ME**, Herdrich D, Ioane J, Hudson D, Wilson Fitaiao ST. Tatau and the hygiene hypothesis: retesting the inoculation effect of tattooing in American Samoa. 43rd Human Biology Association Meeting in Austin, TX.
- 2018*[†] Loudon JL, **Howells ME**, Wandia I, Putra I, *Crudup MR*, Fuentes A. Trouble in paradise: analyzing the patterns of a bites and scratches directed at humans by long-tailed macaques (*Macaque fascicularis*) at Padangtegale Wana, Bali, Indonesia. Invited Session: Anthropologists Take on Emerging Infectious Diseases: Poster presented as part of the AAPA and AAA Joint Session. 87th American Association of Physical Anthropologists. Austin, TX.
- 2017 **Howells ME**. Barriers to Zika Prevention in American Samoa. Podium presented at the 4th Annual Mid-Atlantic Biological Anthropology Interest Group Meeting.
- 2017* **Howells ME**, Lynn CD, Sesepasara M. The embodiment of inequality: Zika risk in the Pacific island of American Samoa. Poster presented at the 42nd Human Biology Association Meetings, New Orleans GA.
- 2017* Lynn CD, **Howells ME**. Behaviors, badges, bans, and babies: religious commitment signaling and unwed motherhood in American Samoa. Poster presented at the 86th American Association of Physical Anthropologists. New Orleans, LA.
- 2017* *Lewis AE*, Loudon JE, Pender JE, Andrews JC, **Howells ME**, Grobler JP, Turner TR. Examining heavy metal concentrations in hair of South African vervet monkey (*Chlorocebus pygerythrus*) to assess anthropogenic impacts. Poster presented at the 86th American Association of Physical Anthropologists. New Orleans, LA.
- 2017* *Pieters M*, **Howells ME**. Zika in rural Guatemala: condom stigmatization and the embodiment of risk. Poster presented at the 42nd Human Biology Association Meetings. New Orleans, LA.
- 2017* *Woolard KL*, *Boswell EM*, **Howells ME**, Lynn CD. Stress, creativity, and final exams: A preliminary report. Poster presented at the 42nd Human Biology Association Meetings, New Orleans GA.
- 2017 Lynn CD, **Howells ME**. Of Moms and mosquitos: embodiment of inequality and Zika risk in American Samoa. Conference on Rural Health – University of Alabama. Tuscaloosa, AL.
- 2017 **Howells ME**, Lynn CD. Mosquitos and Moms: the intersection of biology and culture during recent Zika outbreaks in American Samoa. Podium presented at the Southeastern Evolutionary Perspectives Society. Tuscaloosa, AL.
- 2017[†] Herdrich DJ, Tilburg HK, **Howells ME**, *Coszalter MD*. History of the development and use of the Samoan Fautasi. Key Note Address given at the Hawaiian Watercraft Conference. Honolulu, HI.
- 2016*[†] **Howells ME**, *Pieters M*, Sespasara M. American Samoa and the Embodiment of Inequality in the Age of Zika. Invited Session. Podium presented at the 115th American Anthropological Association Meeting, Minneapolis MN.
- 2016 **Howells ME**, Lynn CD, Herdrich D. Does maternal social status impact their exposure to the Zika virus in American Samoa? Podium presented at the Modernization and Health in the Asia-Pacific Region. Joint sponsored by the Japan Physiological Anthropology Society. University of Hawaii, Hilo.
- 2016 **Howells ME**, Bender RL, Dufour DL, Sespasara M, Muasau-Howard B. Reduced Maternal Social

- Status in American Samoan Women Results in Slower Fetal Growth. Podium presented at the 1st meeting of the Pacific Islander Health Conference, Fayetteville AK.
- 2016* **Howells ME**, Lynn CL. Anthropologists Under Pressure: Perceptions of Stress, Conflict, and Support in the Pursuit of Career-Family Balance. Podium presented at the 85th Meeting American Association of Physical Anthropology Meetings, Atlanta GA.
- 2016* **Howells ME**, Dufour DL, Bender RL, Sesepasara M, *Lloyd A*. Does chronic maternal psychosocial stress among American Samoan women affect neonate body size? Poster presented at the 41st Human Biology Association Meetings, Atlanta GA.
- 2016* *Wagi C*, **Howells ME**, Bender RL. Examining maternal marital status in American Samoa: implications for neonate size and access to prenatal care. Poster presented at the 41st Human Biology Association Meetings, Atlanta GA.
- 2016 **Howells ME**, Bender RL, *Wagi C*. Stigma and size: does reduced maternal social status in American Samoan women result in slower fetal growth? Podium presented at the Southeastern Evolutionary Perspectives Society Meeting, Tuscaloosa, AL.
- 2015* **Howells ME**, Bender RL, Darna DL, Sesepasara M, *Lloyd A*. Is Chronic Maternal Psychosocial Stress Linked to Neonate Outcomes in American Samoan Women? The Intergenerational Effects of Stress on Neonate Body Size. Invited podium presented at the 114th American Anthropological Association Meeting, Denver CO.
- 2015* Lynn CD, **Howells ME**. Anthropologists, Kids, and Careers: When Family Is Strange and the Field Familiar. Invited podium presented at the 114th American Anthropological Association Meeting, Denver CO.
- 2015 **Howells ME**, *Lloyd A*. Stressing the Small Stuff: Does Maternal Psychosocial Stress Affect Neonate Body Size in American Samoans? Podium presented at the Mid-Atlantic Biological Interest Group Meetings, Richmond VA.
- 2015 *Wagi C*, **Howells ME**, Bender RL. Tie the Knot, Grow a Baby: The Effects of Marital Status on Neonate Growth in American Samoa. Poster presented at the Mid-Atlantic Biological Interest Group Meetings, Richmond VA.
- 2015* **Howells ME**, Dufour D, Williams HS, Reina JC. 2015. Time and transition: actual and ideal body size of high and low socioeconomic women in Cali Columbia over a 13 year period. Podium presented at the 40th Human Biology Association Meeting. St. Louis, MO.
- 2014 **Howells ME**, Bender RL, Dufour DL, Sespasara M, Ah Ching J, Mua'sau B, Time M, Sipili G. To love, honor and obey: the relationship between marital status and birth outcomes in American Samoa. Podium presented at the Mid-Atlantic Bioanthropology Interest Group. Richmond, VA.
- 2013* **Howells ME**, Dufour DL. The impact of maternal social status on pregnancy outcomes in American Samoa. Podium presented at the 112th Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. Chicago, IL.
- 2013* **Howells ME**, Bender RL, Dufour DL, Sespasara M, Ah Ching J, Mua'sau B, Time M, Sipili G. To love, honor and obey: the relationship between marital status and birth outcomes in American Samoa. Podium presented at the 38th Human Biology Association Meeting. Knoxville, TN.
- 2012 **Howells ME**, Bender RL, Dufour DL, Ah Ching J, Mua'sau B. You just have to wait: marital status and pregnancy outcomes in American Samoa. Paper presented at the 111th Meeting of the

American Anthropological Association. San Francisco, CA.

- 2012* **Howells ME**, Bender RL, Dufour DL, Ah-Ching J, Mua'sau B. Does residency status impact gestation length and birth outcomes in Samoan women? Poster re-presented at the 2012 Women's Health Research Day. Denver, CO.
- 2012 **Howells ME**, Bender RL, Dufour DL, Ah-Ching J, Mua'sau B. Does residency status impact gestation length and birth outcomes in Samoan women? Poster presented at the 37th Human Biology Association Meeting. Portland OR.
- 2011 **Howells ME**, Ah Ching J, Bender R. The impact of state-assigned identity on pregnancy outcomes in Samoan women. Podium presented at the 2nd Samoa II Conference National University. Apia, Western Samoa.
- 2010* **Howells ME**, Reina JC, Dufour DL. C-reactive protein and cardiovascular disease risk factors for women in Cali, Colombia. Poster presented at the 35th Human Biology Association Meeting. Albuquerque, NM.
- 2007* **Howells ME**. Time for retirement? An alternative perspective of the grandmother hypothesis. Invited poster presented at the 106th American Anthropological Association Meeting. Washington DC.
- 2007* **Howells ME**. Common origins: commensalisms between humans and chimpanzees in southeastern Senegal. Poster presented at the 75th American Association of Physical Anthropologist Annual Meeting. Philadelphia PA. American Journal of Physical Anthropology; (132 S44):131.
- 2006* **Howells ME**, Pruett TR, Gillespie TR. Increased human-chimpanzee sympatry in southeastern Senegal: implications for pathogen transmission and health. Podium presented at the 75th American Association of Physical Anthropologist Meeting. Anchorage AK. American Journal of Physical Anthropology; (129): 105-106.
- 2005* **Howells ME** & Pruett J. They came, they saw, they conquered – now what? Management of a Costa Rican rainforest for three species of primates. Poster presented at the 74th American Association of Physical Anthropologist Meeting. Milwaukee WI. American Journal of Physical Anthropology; (126):119.
- 2004* **Howells ME**, Fuentes A, Loudon J. Sacred crop raiders? An examination of sympatric associations among *Homo sapiens* and *Macaca fascicularis* on the island of Bali. Paper presented at the 20th Congress of the International Primatological Society. Torino, Italy. Folia Primatologica; (75):279.
- 2004* Loudon J, Fuentes A, **Howells ME**. Sacred crop raiders? An examination of sympatric associations among *Homo sapiens* and *Macaca fascicularis* on the island of Bali. Poster presented at the 73th American Association of Physical Anthropologist Meeting. Tampa, FL. American Journal of Physical Anthropology; (123):137.
- 2003* **Howells ME**, Matheson M.D. Aggression and use of space in captive *Cebus apella*. Poster presented at the 102nd American Anthropological Association Meeting. Chicago, IL.

Co-Authored Student Researcher Presentations at UNCW

- 2023 *Blair A*, **Howells ME**, Ghosh I, Dancause K, Bender RL. 2023. "A Hurricane Came,

- Devastation Reigned”: Are Pregnancy Outcomes Impacted by Natural Disasters in the Cape Fear Region? UNCW CSURF Conference.
- 2023 *Gerasimov L, Howells ME*. Comparative Study of Maternal Mortality in USA and Russia: Intersections of Public Health Policy and Stigma. UNCW CSURF Conference.
- 2020 *Capps T, Howells ME*. Experimental investigation of phytoliths and combustion features and their relevance for the 'Cooking Hypothesis' from East Turkana, Kenya. UNCW Anthropology Day.
- 2020 *Krówka MA, Howells ME*. Food choice and nutritional analysis of frugivorous and insectivorous diets in captive Northern greater galagos (*Otolemur garnettii*). UNCW Anthropology Day.
- 2019 *Rivera T, Howells ME, Dancause K, Pond R*. Going with the Flo: socioeconomic disparities in stress experiences and mediation following Hurricane Florence. Poster presented at the 2019 Center for Support of Undergraduate Research and Fellowship (CSURF).
- 2019 *April T, Howells ME, Woolard KL, Loudon JE*. Abroad spectrum of activity: comparing energetic output of students on study abroad and in traditional classroom settings. Poster presented at the 2019 Center for the Support of Undergraduate Research and Fellowship (CSURF).
- 2017 *Brehm A, Howells ME*. Midwives and cesarean sections – who is affected? Poster presented at the 2017 Center for the Support of Undergraduate Research and Fellowship (CSURF).
- 2017 *Woolard K, Boswell E, Howells ME*. Poster presented at the 2017 Center for the Support of Undergraduate Research and Fellowship (CSURF).

Community Presentations

- 2023 **Howells ME**. Maternal Health Disparities: Barriers and Solutions. Invited Presentation. Church of the Servant. Wilmington, NC.
- 2023 **Howells ME**. Vampire Science: The Blood, Bones, and Bodies Behind the Myth. Invited Presentation Bellamy Mansion Museum. Wilmington, NC.
<https://www.wwaytv3.com/the-science-of-vampires-uncw-professor-explores-the-biological-roots-of-mythical-creatures/>
- 2023 **Howells ME, LaKeisha SD., Overstreet-Galeano A**. Equity Matters: Maternal Health. New Hanover County Health and Human Services. Invited Panelist on Webinar.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyVBYQPla3E>
- 2022 **Howells ME**. Wicked Witches and Strange Brew: Conjuring a Dark History. Invited Presentation for Bellamy Mansion Museum. Wilmington, NC.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dk26UrbUek>
- 2021 **Howells ME**. Vampire Science: Folklore, Feminism, and Fact. Invited Presentation for Bellamy Mansion Museum. Wilmington, NC. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4CrnOFpVRs>
- 2021 **Howells ME**. Webinar: Periods Don't Stop for Pandemics. League of Women Voters Lower

Cape Fear.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvI3234EOm8&list=PLTb7VaiixAOykBNAX4W0xYzo0bhdsgT8T&index=11&t=19s>

- 2021 **Howells ME.** Self-Love Speaker Series feat. Dr. Michaela Howells- Menstrual Health and Period Poverty. UNCW Residents Life.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FHKbRUsU4I&list=PLTb7VaiixAOykBNAX4W0xYzo0bhdsgT8T&index=10>
- 2020 **Howells ME.** Victorian Mourning. Invited Presentation for Bellamy Mansion Museum, Wilmington, NC..
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_kvh250ZJA&list=PLTb7VaiixAOykBNAX4W0xYzo0bhdsgT8T&index=17&t=3313s
- 2019 **Howells ME.** Victorian Mourning Rituals through Clothing. Invited Presentation for the “I Love Vintage” meeting at the Second Skin Vintage, Wilmington NC.
- 2019 **Howells ME.** Vintage Tiki Fashion: Clothing and Escapism. Invited Presentation for the “I Love Vintage” meeting at the Second Skin Vintage, Wilmington NC.
- 2017 **Howells ME.** Fashion as political resistance: defiant fashion, defiant women. Invited Presentation for the “I Love Vintage” meeting at the Second Skin Vintage, Wilmington NC.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor – UNCW

July 2021 – December 2024

- **Courses Taught:** Human Origins and Variation, Human Biology

Associate Professor – UNCW

July 2021 – December 2024

- **Courses Taught:** Biological Anthropology, Medical Anthropology, Human Growth and Development, The Myth of Race
- **Undergraduate Honors Theses Directed:**
 - Alexa Blair. 2023. “Do Natural Disasters Impact Pregnancy Outcomes? An Assessment of Hurricane Florence on New Hanover County Births”
 - Luba Gerasimov. 2023. “Are We Having an Abortion or a Baby? The Formation of Russian Identity through Policy and Maternal Mortality”
 - Jeremy Rezek. 2023-2024. “Black Maternal Health and Toxic Stress” (Student personal challenge resulted transitioning honors to DIS)
- **Directed Independent Studies (DIS):** Alexa Blair, Luba Gerasimov, Jeremy Rezek, Rena Lunsford

Assistant Professor – UNCW

August 2015 – August 2021

- **Courses Taught:** Introduction to Anthropology – Four Field Approach, Biological Anthropology, Human Origins, Human Biological Variation, Human Growth and Development, Medical Anthropology
- **Directed Independent Studies:** Tamara Capps, Mead Krowka, Taryn April, Michael Coszalter, Katherine Woolard, Michelle Pieters, Latisha Rivera, Jennifer Rankin, Alayna Brehm, Kaitlyn Lawrence, Lauren King, Elizabeth Boswell, Cara Stomporg,

Kathleen Chapman, Alexandria Stephenson, Alexandra Stephens

Affiliate Faculty. Women and Gender Studies, UNCW

August 2015 – December 2024

Lecturer – UNCW

August 2014 – July 2015

- **Courses Taught:** Introduction to Anthropology, Biological Anthropology, Human Biological Variation, Human Growth and Development

University Instructor

American Samoa Community College – Teacher Education Program (January – March 2011)
Introduction to Psychology

University of Colorado Boulder (2008 -2010)

Primate Behavior, Introduction to Physical Anthropology 1

Lab Instructor for Physical Anthropology 1, Lab Instructor for Physical Anthropology 2

Field Teaching Experience

Summer 2016, 2017, 2018

- Instructor Ethnographic Methods: Balinese Macaque Ethnoprimateology Field School. Bali, Indonesia.

December 2005 – January 2006

- Teaching Assistant: Primate Behavior and Ecology field school, La Suerte Biological Field Station, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

June 2004 – August 2004

- Teaching Assistant: Primate Behavior and Ecology field school (1st and 2nd sessions) El Zota Biological Field Station – Costa Rica, Iowa State University and Indiana University

Lead Graduate Teacher

2007 – 2008 & 2009 – 2010

- Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado, Boulder

Pedagogical Research

December 2022 – Present – AIDS Education and Anti-Stigma Outreach

- Developed and implemented research focusing on AIDS Quilt as a pedagogical tool
- Developed interdisciplinary Professional Development Canvas page. AIDS Quilt: Teaching Research and Activism <https://uncw.instructure.com/enroll/DCY6CK>

December 2021- May 2022 - Art Equity Fellow. University of North Carolina Wilmington Arts

- Developed and implemented research focusing on AIDS Quilt as a form of ARTivism and resistance
- Hosted interdisciplinary AIDS Awareness Program “AIDS Quilt Science and Arts Showcase”

May 2009 – August 2009 – McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program (UCB)

- Research Assistant and Academic Counselor. Provided direction and research support for undergraduate McNair Scholars.

July-September 2008 – Graduate Teacher Program (UCB)

- Research Assistant – Center for the Integration of Research Teaching and Learning (CIRTL) Network. Interviewed STEM teachers to determine role of CIRTL in their discipline.

Teaching Assistantships (2002 – 2014)

University of Colorado

Human Evolutionary Biology, Introduction to Women's Studies, Introduction to Physical Anthropology

Iowa State University

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Biological Anthropology and Archaeology, Globalization and the Human Condition

Central Washington University

Biological Anthropology, Advanced Biological Anthropology

Pedagogical Training (Select)

2022	1898: Racism Legacies and Futures Curriculum Development Workshop (UNCW Equity Institute/Third Person Project) (4 weeks long)
2022	Evolutionary Medicine Summer Institute. NC State. (3 hours of pedagogy training)
2021	Engaging with Public Audiences on Human Evolution. Briana Pobiner. Smithsonian.
2020	UNCW Information Literacy Fellowship (2 months)
2020	UNCW Course Design Institute (1 month)
2020	Eight ways to connect your students with support this semester. UNCW Center for Teaching Excellence
2020	Teaching through a disaster. Again. UNCW Center for Teaching Excellence.
2020	Sticking the landing: How to close the semester from a place of strength. UNCW Center for Teaching Excellence

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPLIED LEARNING EVENTS ORGANIZED (Select)

AIDS Quilt Arts and Science Showcase

- Developed and produced a large-scale interdisciplinary showcase featuring community collaborators (health professionals, activists) and multiple UNCW departments utilizing the AIDS Quilts in their Curriculum
- Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TY_CsQBwJ8

AIDS Quilt: Teaching, Research, and Activism – Professional Development Canvas Page

- Support page developed to connect faculty across disciplines with teaching material
- Enrollment: <https://uncw.instructure.com/enroll/DCY6CK>

Darwin Day (2019, 2017, 2015-16)

- Interdisciplinary public outreach science event
- Flash talks, Art Exhibit, Scavenger Hunt

DEPARTMENTAL, COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE (Select)

2023-Present	Accessibility, Equity and Diversity (AED) Committee. UNCW College of Arts, Social Science, and Humanities.
2022-Present	Hearings Panel. UNCW.
2023	Co-Instructor. Dracula Book Club. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.
2023	Co-Organizer UNCW Anthropology Day

2023-24 Honors Thesis Committee Member - Andie Danielle Roylance
2022-23 Rural Health Task Force – UNCW College of Human Health Services
2023 1st Year Health Scholars Fellowship Taskforce Membership (Bonner Fellowship)
 UNCW College of Human Health Services.
2022-23 Honors Thesis Committee Member-Myah Smith (Biology)
 The impact of federal policy on the welfare of animals in the domestic breeding
 market.
2022-23 Honors Thesis Committee Member- Gabriella-Lauren Japitana Lardizabal (Public
 Health).
2022-24 Co-Organizer UNCW Anthropology Department Open House

2022-23 Faculty Professional Relations Committee. UNCW.
2022 Search Committee Member – Archaeology Lecturer
2022 Co-Instructor. LGBTQIA+ Elder Health. Osher Life Long Learning Institute.
2021-23 Assessment Committee Member (UNCW Department of Anthropology)
2020 Host and Moderator – Speaker: LeShonda Wallace. Southern Sisters in a Global
 Crisis: HIV/AIDS in the Time of COVID-19. Pandemic Exposed lecture
 Series. UNCW Honors College and UNCW Department of Anthropology
2020 Presenter – “Having Uncomfortable, but Brave Conversations in the Classroom.”
 UNCW’s Center for Teaching Excellence Racial Justice Learning Community
2019 Co-Organizer, UNCW Darwin Day
2018-21 Board Member – UNCW Women’s Studies Program
2018-22 Senator – UNCW Department of Anthropology
2016-18 Assessment Committee Member
2015-21 Administrator – UNCW Department of Anthropology Facebook Page
2018 Honors Thesis Committee Member – Tara Capel (Anthropology Undergraduate)
2018 Honors Thesis Committee Member – Stepfanie Zaph (Philosophy Religious Studies UG)
2017-19 Co-Organizer Anthropology Day
2017 Faculty Representative – Seahawks Saturday
2017 Organizer, Engaging Global Perspectives, Invited Speaker Marc Kissel, ASU
2017 Organizer, Public Anthropology Lab: Human Origins with Marc Kissel, ASU
2017 Presenter – UNCW Anthropology Club – Lightning Round Presentations
2017 Search Committee Member – Anthropology Department Chair
2017 Honors Thesis Committee Member – Mariana DeLara (Anthropology Undergraduate)
2016-17 Search Committee Member – Cultural Anthropologist
2016-17 Organizing committee – Dean’s Lecture Series in the Humanities
2017 Co-Organizer, UNCW Darwin Day
2015-17 Faculty Advisor – Anthropology Club UNCW
2016 Presenter – UNCW Anthropology Club – Lightning Round Presentations
2016 Took Students – Human Biology Association Meetings, Atlanta GA
2016 Presenter STEM Expo – Watson School of Education - K-12 Workshop Evolution
2016 Organizer, Engaging Global Perspectives, Invited Speaker Christopher Lynn, UA
2016 Invited Lecture UNCW – Depart of Public and International Affairs –Dr. Jessica Wienkle
2016 Invited Lunch with Provost Marilyn Sheerer
2016 Featured in SWOOP “We are UNCW” Series
2016 ETEAL Exploration Day UNCW – Representing Department of Anthropology
2016 Co-Organizer Anthropology Day
2016 Co-Organizer Primate Conservation Panel, UNCW
2016 Co-Developed Evolution Song Parody and Music Video with UNCW Students
2016 Organizer, Diversity in Action Lecture Series, Invited Speaker Richard Bender, UCB
2016 Organizer, Anthropological Statistics Weekend Workshop with Richard Bender, UCB
2015-16 Co-Organizer, UNCW Darwin Day – Scavenger Hunt & Event

2015-16	Steering Committee Member – 2016 Vagina Monologues UNCW
2015	Honor's Thesis Committee Member – Katherine Culley UNCW
2015	CSURF Poster Session - Student (Cheyenne Wagi) Presented our Research
2015	Honor's Program – “Pizza with Professors”
2015	Organizer, Diversity in Action Lecture Series, Invited Speaker Christine Avenarius, ECU
2015	Took Students - Mid-Atlantic Biological Anthropology (MABIG), Richmond VA
2015	Organized Duke Lemur Center Visit – ECU and UNCW Anthropology Club
2015	Chancellors visit and Anthropology Open House
2015	Chancellors Parents Weekend Fund Raiser – UNCW Society
2015	Invited Lecture UNCW Anthropology 105 - Dr. Fletcher's – Hominid Evolution
2015	Invited Lecture UNCW Anthropology Club – Being an Anthropologist
2015	Invited Lecture ECU Anthropology Club – Being an Anthropologist
2015	Anthropology Club Involvement Fair
2015	Co-Designed Osprey Hall Museum Cabinets – Entry Way and Classroom
2014	Organizer, Transgendered Health Panel, UNCW
2014	Organizer, Diversity in Action Lecture Series, Invited Speaker Dr. Blakely Brooks ECU
2014	Organizer, Natural Selection Panel, UNCW
2014	Presenter, UNCW Anthropology Club, Professionalism

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2022-Present	Triangle Center for Evolutionary Medicine (TRICEM) – Advisory Board Member
2022	Promotion and Tenure Reviewer – Department of Anthropology New Mexico State University
2021- Present	Biological Anthropology Women's Mentoring Network (BAWMN) – Steering Committee
2016-2020	Chair Public Relations – Executive Committee for Human Biology Association
2018	Panelist – Balanced: A Panel on Family Life and Careers in Academia. AAPA 2018
2016-2018	Vice-President – Southeastern Evolutionary Perspectives Society
2016-2018	Program Committee – Southeastern Evolutionary Perspectives Society
2016-2018	Section Editor – Anthropology News - Biological Anthropology Section of the AAA
2017	Human Biology Association (HBA) – Fellow at Trainee Professionalization Workshop
2016	Biological Anthropology Section AAA Organized Student Professionalization Workshop
2015-Present	Administrator – Biological Anthropology Section of AAAs Facebook Page
2015-Present	Administrator – Human Biology Association Facebook Page
2013-2015	Graduate Representative, Biological Anthropology Section of the American Anthropological Association
2014 -2015	Organizer, Workshop: Now What? How to Get Employment After Graduate School. Biological Anthropological Section American Anthropological Association
2015	Steering Committee Member – Southeastern Evolutionary Perspectives Society
2012	Session Chair, “Biocultural Insights into Life History and Human Social Behavior”. 111 th meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, CA
2009-2010	Student Representative, Human Biology Association

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND OUTREACH

2023-Present	Health Committee Chair - New Hanover County NAACP
2023-Present	YWCA Board of Directors Member
2022-Present	New Hanover County NAACP Health Committee (Member)
2021	Moderator – SEEDS of Healing. HIV/AIDS Survivors Panel

2020	Moderator – Frank Harr Foundation and SAGE. Race: Power of Illusion documentary. Screened 3 Part documentary and lead discussion (3 Week Event)
2017	Faculty Mentor – New Hanover High School Student Lauren Sause Senior Project: Traditional Pacific Islander Lifeways
2016	Invited Speaker – 2016 Summer Health Academy Amerika Samoa hosted by the American Samoa Community College
2015-2017	Co-Director and Executive Committee Member - Cape Fear Swing Dance Society
2011-2012	Governor’s Council on Population Control, American Samoa
2011-2012	Science Fair Judge, Elementary, High School and Territory Level, American Samoa
2011	Volunteer Health Educator AIDS Day Outreach Samoana High School, American Samoa
2010-2012	Volunteer Prenatal Care Nursing Assistant - Department of Health, American Samoa
2009-2010 & 2013	Presenter Expanding Your Horizons (Science / Math Conference for Girls sponsored by the American Association of University Women), Boulder, CO
2009-2010	Graduate Representative, Graduate Committee, University of Colorado, Boulder
2009-2010	Graduate Representative, Graduate Committee, University of Colorado, Boulder
2008-2010	Chair Biological Anthropology Student Speaker Series, University of Colorado

LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

2023-Present	Health Committee Chair - New Hanover County NAACP
2023-Present	Board Member - YWCA Executive Board
2022-Present	New Hanover County NAACP – Executive Board Member
2021-Present	New Hanover County NAACP – Health Committee

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION TRAINING (SELECT)

11/15/23	New Hanover: Race and Trauma Training (6 hours)
9/25/22	Cape Fear Community Racial and Health Equity Summit. Sokoto House. (8 hours)
12/7/21	Active Ally Training. UNCW. (1 Hour)
9/22/21	Safe Zone/Ally: LGBTQIA 101. UNCW. (1 Hour)
3/28/21	Train the Trainer: Safe Zone Training, LGBTQIA Center of the Cape Fear Coast.
2/1/2021	The Sit In: Cultural Competency Model. UNCW Upperman Center. (3 Hour)
10/30/20	Racial Justice Learning Community Series: Critical and Decolonizing Praxis Teach In by Unlocking Silent Histories (3 Hour Session)(Part 2). UNCW Center for Teaching Excellence. Conversations and Guidance on Anti-Racism.
10/23/20	Racial Justice Learning Community Series: Critical and Decolonizing Praxis Teach In by Unlocking Silent Histories (3 Hour Session)(Part 1). UNCW Center for Teaching Excellence. Conversations and Guidance on Anti-Racism.
11/06/20	UNCW Gender and Leadership Academy: Courage to Grow
10/21/20	Being a Curator of your Own Health. UNCW Gender Studies and Research Center.
10/19/20	Creating Brave Dialogue and Driving Action on Racial and Gender Justice in Multiracial Teams. UNCW Gender Studies and Research Center.
10/14/20	UNCW Access, Equity, and Diversity. Katherine Turner, Global Citizen, LLC. UNCW Gender Studies and Research Center.
10/02/20	UNCW Gender and Leadership Academy: Courage to grow

MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Human Biology Association – Fellow
American Association of Applied Anthropologists – Member
Social Science Extreme Events Research Network (SSEER Network)

Biological Anthropology Women's Mentoring Network (BAWMN) – Steering Committee Member
Southeastern Evolutionary Perspectives Society –Vice President, Program Committee (2018)
American Anthropological Association (AAA) – Professional Member
Biological Anthropology Sections of AAA - Professional Member, Editor BAS section Anthro News (2018)
American Association of Biological Anthropologists – Professional Member
Coalition to End Teenage Pregnancy American Samoa – Member (2013)

MEMBERSHIP IN RELATED NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

NAACP Silver Lifetime Membership

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

