

Building Bridges in Graduate Education:

Wrap-around services and the vital role of community in fostering student success



**What are the
policy priorities
in higher
education?**

2024 TOP ISSUES

workforce development

state operational support

return on investment

ongoing culture war

**INSIDE
HIGHER ED**

Challenges

- Rising costs
- Student debt load
- Limited funding
- Inequities in access
- Work-life harmony



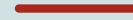
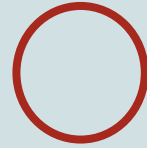
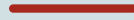
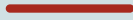
Strategies

- Increasing funding for graduate programs
- Implementing policies to reduce student debt
- Initiatives to ensure that all individuals have equal opportunities to pursue advanced degrees



- UNLV is a large R1 urban public university in the state of Nevada
 - Undergraduate enrollment = 25,500
 - Graduate enrollment = 5,000
- Minority Serving Institution (MSI)
- Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI)
- Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI)
- Member of the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Research Universities (HSRU)





Anthropology

Introduction to my disciplinary background.

Educational Sovereignty

The right of a community to access educational resources.

Funds of Knowledge

Knowledge assets from family and community.

Building Bridges

Fosters collaboration, innovation, & global engagement.

What is Anthropology?

Anthropology is the study of what makes us human.



To understand the full sweep and complexity of cultures across all of human history, anthropology draws and builds upon knowledge from the social and biological sciences as well as the humanities and physical sciences.



AMERICAN
ANTHROPOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

Short Biography

- Training in nutrition, ecology, and human biology
- Experience working with hunter-gatherers in Tanzania since 2004
- Research areas: diet, reproduction, human ecology, and childhood



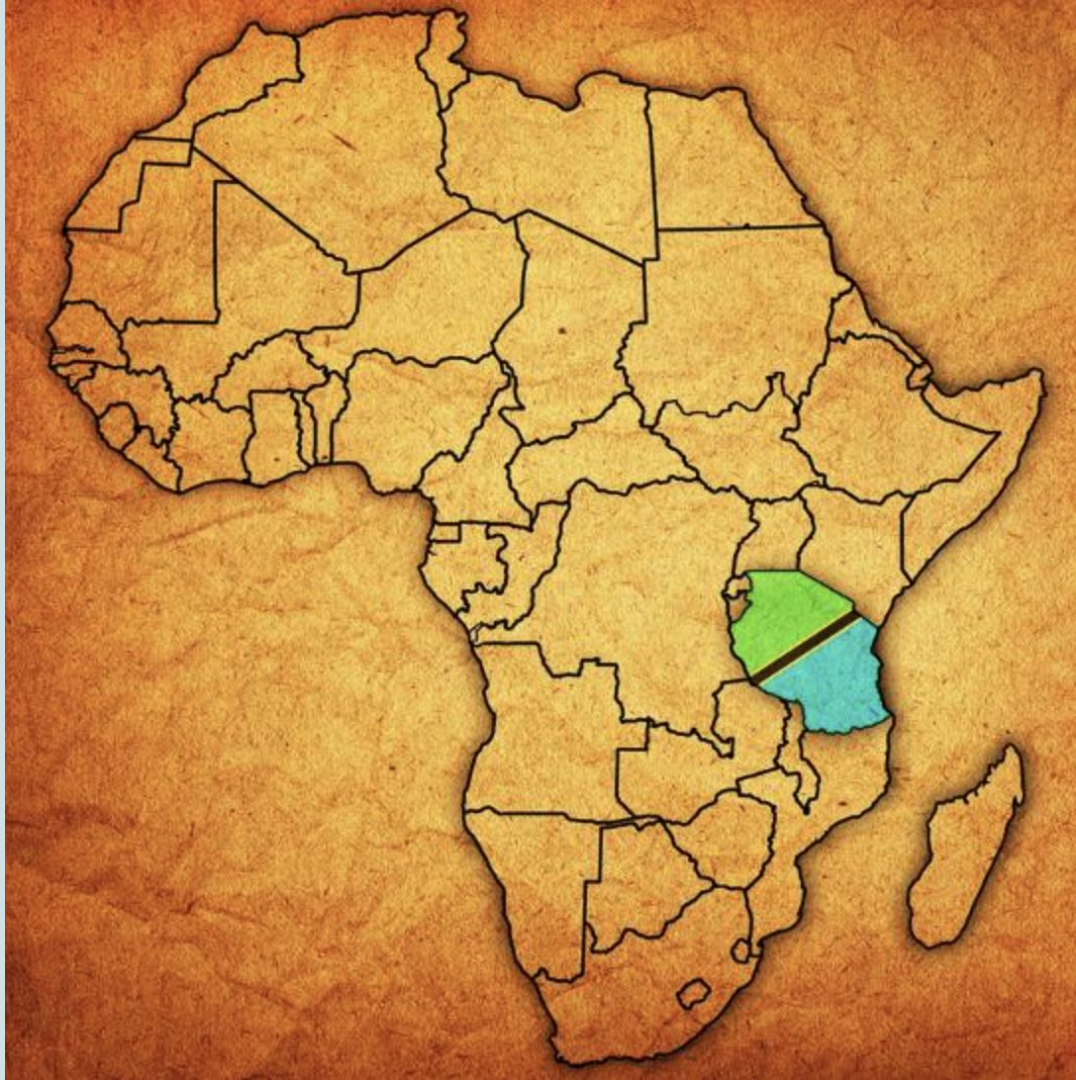
Just south of the Equator, between the soda waters of

Tanzania's Lake Eyasi and the ramparts of the Great Rift Valley

live the Hadza - a small tribe of approximately 1000

hunter-gatherers: one of the last in Africa.





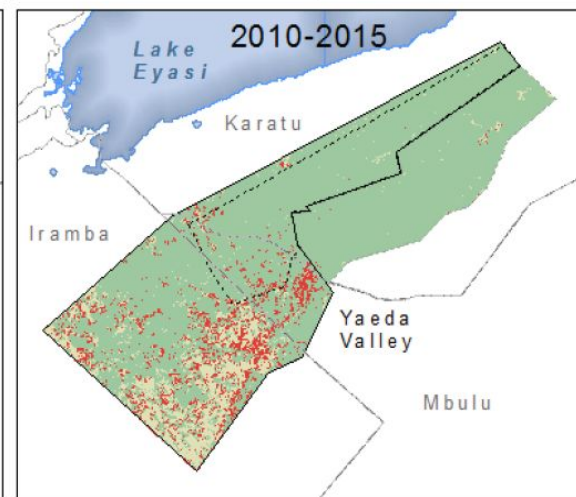
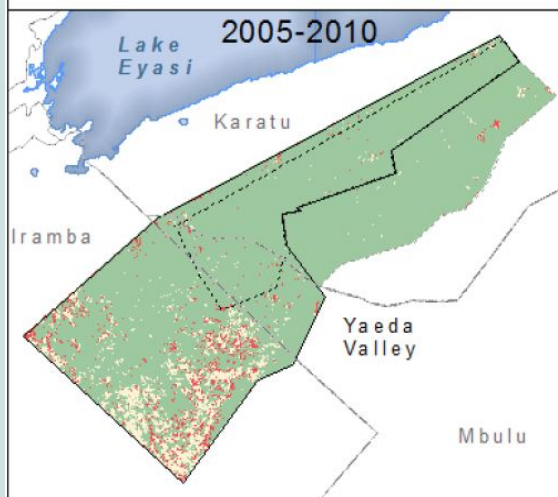
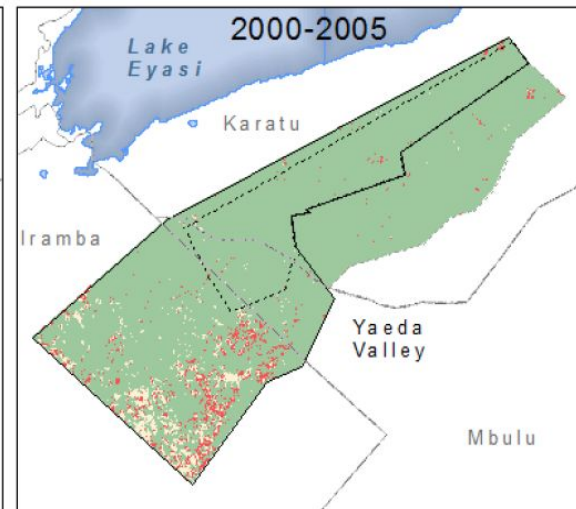
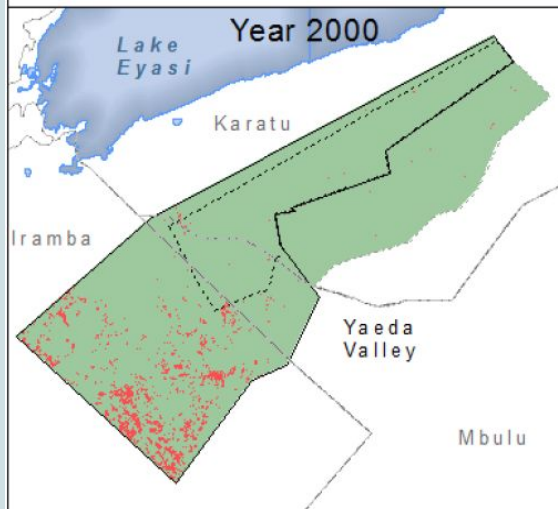


carbontanzania

Landcover

-  Agriculture
-  Conversion to agriculture
-  Acacia-Commiphora woodland

Landcover Change in the Kidero Hills 2000-2015



Reference Area

Year	Agricultural Land (ha)	% of area	Average Annual Conversion Rate
2000	3257.3	5.24	
2005	5884	9.47	1.89
2010	8714.8	14.03	1.40
2015	19570.78	31.50	2.10

The political & economic landscape is changing...



The National Newspaper

DAILY NEWS

□ HOME NEWS □ EDITORIAL □ BUSINESS FEATURES COLUMNIST ANALYSIS

YOU ARE HERE: HOME NEWS

Minister orders 100 beehives for Hadza community annually

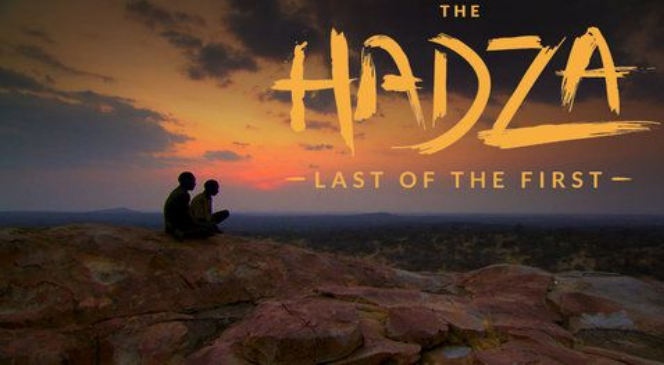
MARIAM JUMA IN BABATI / 19 JUNE 2017

HOME NEWS

Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Prof. Jumanne Maghembe

Climate

How is the community responding?



Community Based Participatory Research

Collaborative interventions that involve scientific researchers and community members working together to address challenges affecting populations experiencing disparities.



- Food, water, & housing insecurity
- Access to education
- Political & economic mobility

HADZA ON THE BRINK

Farmers, tourists, and cattle threaten some of the world's last hunter-gatherers, long a magnet for researchers

By Ann Gibbons, in the Yaeda Valley in Tanzania



OLANAKWE
- Community Fund -
www.olanakwe.org



We are a mutual aid organization supporting community-based educational programs and economic development projects that directly benefit Indigenous Hadzabe hunter-gatherers of Tanzania, East Africa.



What can we learn from the Hadza?

- The importance of community based work
- Educational sovereignty
- Funds of knowledge



Educational Sovereignty

- Fundamental right to self-determination and access to education.
- Decisions regarding education reflect the unique needs and aspirations of the populace.
- Emphasizes self-governance in shaping the educational landscape to foster the development and wellbeing of individuals within that community.

Funds of Knowledge

- Drawing on knowledge assets from family and community lifeworlds to build engaging and supportive education–community interactions that build capacities.
- Strength based (as opposed to deficit based) approach.

Zipin, L., Sellar, S., & Hattam, R. (2012). Countering and exceeding 'capital': A 'funds of knowledge' approach to re-imagining community. Discours

Moving from theory to action

How to “liberate educational sovereignty” in higher education?

- Assess the educational landscape & identify community assets
- Foster professional growth across systems
- Engage in ongoing systems development and alignment advocacy

Strategies

- Increasing funding for graduate programs
- Implementing policies to reduce student debt
- Initiatives to ensure that all individuals have equal opportunities to pursue advanced degrees





REBELS
MAKE IT
HAPPEN

Increase funding

- Partnering fellowships to support our diverse graduate student body
 - The Crossing Latinidades Humanities Research Initiative
 - Fellowships through the US Department of State
 - Deloitte Foundation Accounting Scholars Program

- External grants to support fellowships
 - Sloan Centers for Systemic Change

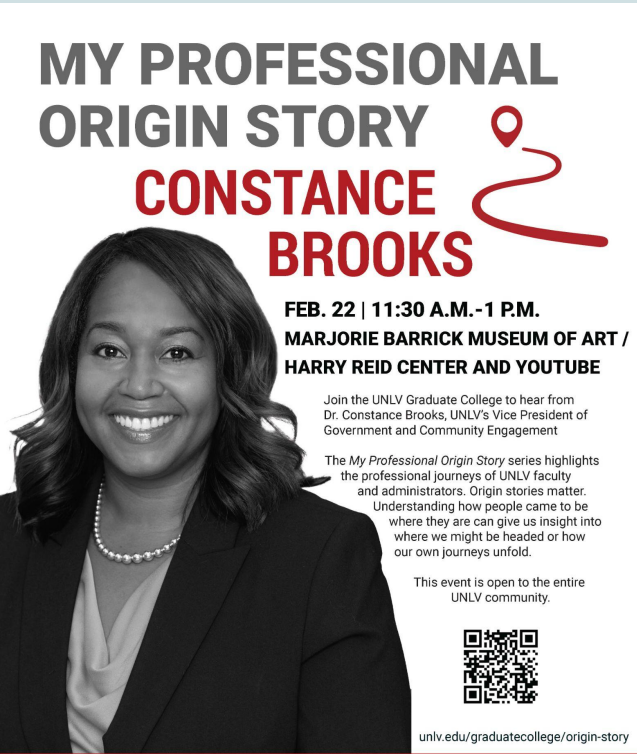
Policies to reduce student debt

- Increase onboarding fellowships
- Emergency Retention Grants
- Student Support Spot
- Reduce monetary amounts for registration holds



Equity Initiatives

- Graduate Registered Student Organizations (GRSOs)
- Programming to prepare for graduate school
- My Professional Origin Story
 - Speaker series highlighting the professional journeys of UNLV faculty and administrators.



**MY PROFESSIONAL
ORIGIN STORY**


**CONSTANCE
BROOKS**

FEB. 22 | 11:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.
**MARJORIE BARRICK MUSEUM OF ART /
HARRY REID CENTER AND YOUTUBE**

Join the UNLV Graduate College to hear from Dr. Constance Brooks, UNLV's Vice President of Government and Community Engagement

The *My Professional Origin Story* series highlights the professional journeys of UNLV faculty and administrators. Origin stories matter. Understanding how people came to be where they are can give us insight into where we might be headed or how our own journeys unfold.

This event is open to the entire UNLV community.



unlv.edu/graduatecollege/origin-story

UNLV | GRADUATE COLLEGE

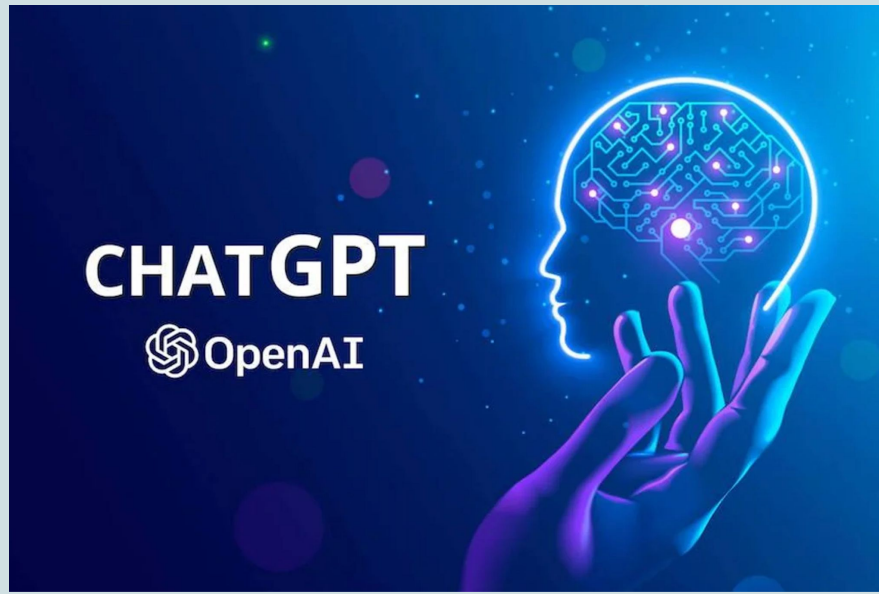
BRIDGE

BUILDING RESILIENT & INCLUSIVE DISCOVERIES TO GRADUATE EDUCATION



Center for the Improvement of
Mentored Experiences in Research

- Uncovers the “hidden curriculum” of graduate school
- Peer mentorship program
- Culturally responsive mentor training for faculty mentors at all career stages

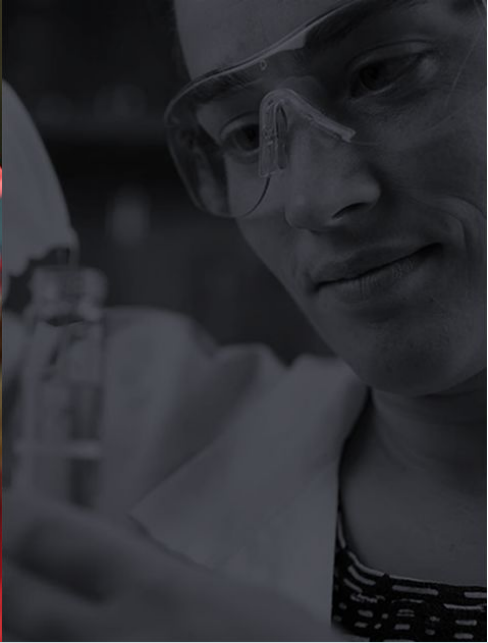


What is the goal of a Graduate Dean at a diverse R1 university?

The goal of a graduate dean at a diverse R1 university is to cultivate a dynamic and inclusive academic community that fosters excellence, innovation, and student success in graduate education and research.

Roadmap to turn theory into reality - wraparound services

- **Emphasize community based work**
 - This work requires buy in from students and faculty
- **Promote educational sovereignty**
 - The right to an advanced degree
- **Funds of knowledge**
 - Recognition of cultural capital
 - Enhanced relevance and engagement



Thank you