Elio Brancaforte, Associate Professor in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, has been awarded a Keeley Visiting Fellowship at Wadham College, University of Oxford during the academic year 2016-2017. While on sabbatical at Oxford he will be writing a book about how early modern European travelers represented Safavid-era Azerbaijan and Iran, and will be affiliated with the Faculty of Oriental Studies.

Assistant Professor of Economics, Patrick Button, was recently awarded a grant from the NBER Disability Research Center, which is funded by the Social Security Administration. Button is the Co-PI on this grant along with Phil Armour at the RAND Corporation. Their project is called “The Long-Run Effects of US Disability Discrimination Laws on the Earnings and SSDI Participation of the Disabled Population”.

Anthropology PhD student Lauren Dodaro won a Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship for the year 2017. It will cover her field research on her doctoral project.

Chris Rodning, the Paul and Debra Gibbons Professor and Associate Professor of Anthropology, was given the Patty Jo Watson Award for 2016 at the annual Southeastern Archaeological Conference, which took place recently in Athens, Georgia. The award is given annually to an outstanding scholarly paper in the archaeology of the American South published during the year preceding the award. Rodning received the award for his article, “Mortuary Patterns and Community History at the Chauga Mound and Village Site, Oconee County, South Carolina,” published in the journal, Southeastern Archaeology, in 2015.

Anthropology PhD student John White received an honorable mention for the 2016 Netting Award in the Culture and Agriculture section of the American Anthropology Association for his paper entitled: “Manioc Landrace Identification Characteristics of the Napo Runa: The Importance of Intercultural Diversity in Agrobiodiversity Conservation and Crop Development”.