The Julia Crane Award, named in honor of the late Julia Crane, Professor of Anthropology, recognizes excellence in undergraduate work by a rising senior conducting research leading to an undergraduate honors thesis on a Latin American and/or Caribbean. It is not restricted by discipline or department.

Eligibility:

- Be engaged in a departmental honors program
- Full-time enrollment at UNC-CH

Competition: The competition is merit-based and open to all disciplines and themes. Proposals must be well-crafted and supported by a strong academic record. Awards will be made on the basis of: (1) the overall quality and originality of the project, (2) strength of support by the thesis advisor, (3) likelihood of the project’s successful completion, and (4) an assessment of the degree to which the funds sought are necessary to the completion of the project. Any research involving human or animal subjects must be approved by the Institutional Review Board. No funds will be paid until documentation of proper IRB approval or exemption is received.

Funds: The Award may cover research expenses such as fees to access resources, specialized data sets, purchase of archival materials or images, supplies, and transcription, among other expenses. No travel costs will be considered. The award can only be used for the period awarded. Any changes must be approved by the Institute for the Study of the Americas in advance of expenditure of award funds. Typically, the award ranges from $500-1000.

Reporting: A final report is required within 30 days of the completion of the award. Reports should outline the progress made under the award period and status of the honor’s thesis project. Students may be asked to share their experience at ISA events.

Where to Submit:
Send your complete and signed application to: riefkohl@email.unc.edu. Confidential letters of recommendation should be send separately by your advisor to the same email. They will be matched to your application. All submissions are due by 5pm EST on the posted due date.

How to Apply:
Step 1: Confirm honors program requirements and deadlines with your departmental honors advisor.
Step 2: Meet with Beatriz Riefkohl Muñiz (riefkohl@email.unc.edu) to discuss your plans.
Step 3: Submit your application electronically.

About Julia Crane: Julia Crane was known as the greatest English-language ethnographer of the Dutch Caribbean. She earned her undergraduate and doctoral degrees at Columbia University where she worked under the tutelage of Margaret Mead. Crane became a faculty member at the University of North Carolina in 1966. In 1970, she led student teams on a summer research project in Saba. This work resulted in the publication of Saba Silhouettes (1987), a book that broke scholarly ground by its use of individual life histories to form a collective oral history of a society. Her other works include, Educated to Emigrate: The Social Organization of Saba (1971), the widely used Anthropology Field Projects: A Student Handbook (1974, co-authored with Michael V. Angrosino), and Statia Silhouettes (1999), life histories the Netherlands Antilles island of Saint Eustatius.

Julia Crane was one of the most dynamic champions of a comprehensive Caribbean studies perspective within the discipline of anthropology. She was dedicated to the proposition that the best way for students of anthropology to learn about the discipline was to provide them with guided practice in research. Her learning-by-doing philosophy animated her courses in research methods, social organization, and peoples and cultures of the Caribbean.