

Newsletter

Society for Applied Anthropology

Vol 14, No. 1

February 2003

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Noel Chrisman [noelj@u.washington.edu]
University of Washington

This will be my last President's Letter. At the annual meeting in Portland, March 19-23, I will turn the gavel over to Linda Whiteford from the University of South Florida. This will happen at the business meeting late Friday afternoon. In spite of some very good sessions that compete for the time, I hope that some of you will be able to attend. Let me sweeten the pot. You can also experience other changes in leadership: Diane Austin takes over the treasurer position; Susan Andreatta will be our new secretary; Lenora Bohren and Allan Burns will attend their first meeting of the Board of Directors on Sunday; Jody Glittenberg and Elizabeth (Buzzy) Guillette will be our new members on the Nominations and Elections Committee. Diane will make up for the absence of Tom Arcury; Susan replaces Willie Baber; Lenora and Allen replace Susan Andreatta and Stan Hyland; and Jody and Buzzy take the places of Susan Charnley and Mike Kearney. I think the Society is in good hands for the future. Once the new members have taken office, the SfAA web site will be changed and you can easily contact any of these outstanding applied social scientists.

We will also have changes in the area of publications. Pat Higgins has been toiling away as the editor of the monograph series for more than four years. She has been doing a masterful job of guiding and editing the human rights monograph and the collection of Malinowski Award winner papers. These are nearing completion, and I'm sure Pat is nearing exhaustion. (She does have a day job.) After consulting with the Publications Committee and the Board of Directors, I have offered that position to Mike Angrosino. He has said that he will add another

duty to his work with the Oral History Project. The Society depends on volunteers, and we appreciate all who do this work. Look at the web site for all the others. Those of you who have looked at the new *PA* have seen the names of the new editor and her associate editor. Jeanne Simonelli and Bill Roberts have taken over the job so ably handled by Sandy Ervin for the last five years.

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There is one award that has not been announced yet: the Sol Tax Award. This is a new award for the Society. Art Gallagher was the first awardee. I'm pleased to tell you that John van Willigen will receive the second award. John's career exemplifies Professor Tax's contributions: the most obvious one is the massive archive of applied anthropology reports. Early on, Dr. van Willigen recognized that many applied anthropologists do not disseminate their work in academic channels. His archive at the University of Kentucky remedies the lack of access to applied reports that would go unheralded except for his creativity.

Almost two years ago I wrote my first column (May 2001). The annual meeting had just occurred in Merida, and I had just assumed the presidency. In that column, I said that my goals for this presidency were (1) to increase training and education for current and entering professionals in the applied social sciences and (2) to draw together the knowledge and skills that anthropologists use in applied settings so we can do better at the first goal. These ideas were certainly a result of my vision of applied anthropology. But they are also on the horizon for anthropology generally. (I wrote about this in *Anthropology News* last April 2002.) It is clear that anthropology departments should do a better job in preparing their graduates for jobs inside and outside academia. Moreover, professional anthropologists, both in applied and academic settings, should have greater opportunities for continuing education. I have been doing evaluation research for a number of years and have learned from books and colleagues. Once I'm a past president, I expect to attend the NAPA workshops on this subject and others to receive more training. The second goal will help us prepare balanced presentations of workshops, conferences, and other training opportunities because we will have a better idea of what needs to be in the tool kits of applied anthropologists. In addition, this will be crucial information for working with anthropology departments as we attempt to help them augment their curricula with more central applied knowledge and skills.

So, how do I think I've done? I think I've done well. This is mainly because of a new, and time-limited institution, the AAA/SfAA Commission on Applied and Practicing Anthropology. You'll remember that this was an opportunity that Louise Lamphere, then AAA president, offered to then SfAA president Linda Bennett and me. The Commission had its first meeting at the SfAA meeting in Merida in 2001 and meets twice a year. It is made up of current and former presidents from the SfAA and the AAA, practitioners and academics, and a variety of interests. This year we will add two masters-prepared practitioners, one more

senior and the other more junior. Of the commission's work, the project that matches my two goals is the web site. Soon this independent web offering (sponsored by NAPA) will be accessible on the front pages of both the AAA and SfAA web sites. We expect that it will hold a wide range of other web sites as resources. A good example is the Society for Medical Anthropology web site that is an excellent resource for medical anthropologists. The new applied/practicing site will identify workshops and other training opportunities for anthropologists at various levels of expertise. In addition, we expect that we will be able to identify categories of training and levels of expertise. This will allow participants in the workshops to keep track of their progress in expertise.

Along the way, I found that I was acting in accord with two other goals. One was to increase the number of partnerships between the Society and other relevant applied social science organizations. The second was to develop a new fellowship program to replace our successful venture with the Environmental Protection

[Sponsored by NAPA, t]he new applied/practicing site will identify workshops and other training opportunities for anthropologists at various levels of expertise.

Agency. I reported on these goals in the last two *Newsletters*. The Society has done well for creating and sustaining partnerships, but we have not yet developed a new fellowship program. If your agency seems to have some needs that can be filled by applied anthropologists, and will simultaneously provide training opportunities, e-mail Ed Liebow [liebow@policycenter.com] or me.

Finally, I'd like to say what an incredible pleasure it has been to take the lead in such a vibrant and creative organization. I really do believe that applied and practicing anthropology is the future of our discipline. I have appreciated the excellent work of our committees, the officers and board members, and the Society Office. Linda Bennett provided excellent guidance in my president-elect year and wonderful advice during my presidency. I look forward to working closely with Linda Whiteford during her presidency. She has already made a difference in how well the president's tasks are organized.

ETHNOGRAPHY AT HOME: TEAMSTERS SPEAK ON WAR IN IRAQ

By Paul Durrenberger [epd2@psu.edu]
Penn State

The news is full of troop movements to the Middle East, call-ups of reserves, and the administration's denial that war with Iraq is inevitable. It's not so full of stories about the resistance to the war. At a demonstration in Washington D.C. late last year, I saw the usual suspects. There were lots of people, so many that we couldn't see the speakers. Thanks to the sophisticated sound system, though, we could hear their words. The usual cast: Al Sharpton, Susan Sarandon, the Ben and Jerry ice cream guy who had just written a book. And so on. But that's what you expect at a peace rally. That's the kind of place where you'd expect tree huggers and peaceniks and university people to hang out and agree with each other. There was even the curvaceous siren gently swaying as though stoned holding the obligatory "make love not war" signs. The signs were clever.

That night, after the bus ride back to central Pennsylvania, I watched the speakers on CNN and could see them better than I did from the middle of the crowd.

What I didn't expect was for a bunch of truck drivers at a Teamsters meeting later in Chicago to agree.

Get off Chicago's Green Line train at the Ashland Avenue stop. Go down the long metal stairway to the street and past Union Park on your left, past the residential hotel with decaying cars in its parking lot. As you walk, you see a couple of churches on the other side of the street along with KFC/Taco Bell fast food station. On the left side of the street you see the regional headquarters of the United Electrical Workers (the union that represents the graduate assistants at the University of Iowa), a dumpy redbrick building famous for its colorful murals inside and out. Then comes the fortress-like building for UNITE!, the clothing workers' union. You can see why this stretch of street is still called "Union Row." Finally, you come to a broad lawn with two tall 1960's glass and aluminum buildings - not tall by Chicago standards, maybe, but 7 or so stories. In front of them is the low-slung auditorium that other unions and families can rent for celebrations. This is "Teamster City."

Across the back of the auditorium that faces the buildings is a mural of the Janus-like two horse Teamster symbol and the slogan, "705 Fighting for

the Future." On the seventh floor are the offices of the 22,000-member strong local 705, Jerry Zero Secretary-Treasurer, their principal officer.

There's also a spacious parking garage with wide turns. "For the Cadillacs they used to drive," explained my collaborator, Suzan Erem as she parked there. The reference is to the more traditionally centralized business oriented union that had been trusted a few years before.

There's a parking lot where the reps park. Members park there when they come in for the monthly meetings. One bargainer commented, as we pulled in after a day of negotiating with an oil company, "Some things never change," and pointed to the Cadillac SUV parked facing his more modest vehicle. On the way to one meeting, we saw one member maneuvering his shiny black Mercedes.

I was accustomed to union presidents who wore fancy suits, elegant footwear, silk neckties and the other trappings of power to let the politicians and bosses know that they were all moving in the same circles. The 705 reps and negotiators don't. They don't need to, they explained. They have a powerful union.

Teamsters stood in front of the auditorium smoking, joking, and talking. As we went in, people handed us printed copies of resolutions that they would bring before the meeting.

I had a survey instrument ready for the October meeting. The President, a long time Army sergeant and Vietnam vet, opened the meeting and introduced Suzan who took the podium to explain the survey as her nine-year daughter and I passed them out to the 300 or so members sitting in the folding chairs. People actually paid attention to the minutes, financial statement, and announcements. They heard who had been suspended for what and who had charged whom of what. Then came time for the open microphone.

There was resolution in support of the West Coast Longshoremen who were locked out. A speaker said that Bush used Taft-Hartley against the Longshoremen, used war scare tactics. Bush used that against unions. "If your people speak out, it's against us. Using that as a front is disgraceful!"

There was applause.

Another guy took the mike. "Since PATCO [Air Traffic Controllers Union that Reagan busted in 1981] there's been a war on labor. Now Bush is damaging unions. Transportation on a global scale has changed. Docks-rail-UPS are all linked. They go after the docks,

and then they will go after teamsters. That's their game plan. We need to support them [Longshoremen]."

There was applause again and the resolution passed.

Jerry Zero spoke from the podium. "There are new federal regulations about Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL). Three strikes and you're out including operating a non-commercial vehicle. Including improper changing of lanes. They have written exams, physicals, drug exams, and drug tests. That's to drive a truck. If you care to fly a plane into the country and crash it into a building, you don't have any problem." Applause. "This comes to us right from the Bush-whacker. It's getting out of hand." The negotiating team for the freight contract would meet in room 300 right after the meeting, he announced.

Then the resolution against war in Iraq. "I have no quarrel with the working class people of Iraq. It takes billions from schools and acts as a cover for his corporate corruption. 705 stands for justice. Therefore against war. 705 seeks others who are against the war."

Another guy comes to the mike and says, "My dad was a Marine. He did two tours in Vietnam. He was a translator and knew the Vietnamese. 60,000 Americans died. But a lot of others' heads were fucked up. No friends of Bush are gonna die. Hussein is evil. But I have no beef with ordinary people and they want us to go kill those people and we got to think about this and take a stand against it."

Another teamster. "Congress gave Bush the ticket. In Vietnam nobody knew what he or she were fighting for. As union members we are still fighting for our freedom against our own government. I need an excuse to fight against the people of Iraq. As for sending our guys in to protect oil interests, I'm totally against it."

Another. "I served three years in the Marines. My brother is screwed up. I'm not in favor of war. History makes war seem full of glory. There is no glory. The government pulls the wool over our eyes on oil. It belongs to oil barons that built the oil refineries. The people over there didn't build it. Bush was there—Desert Storm—three days and it's over. How come you're burning our oil? Get out. . . ."

Another. "My dad served in Vietnam. He has all kinds of personal problems. Drugs. Alcohol. I say no more blood for oil."

Another: "There hasn't been a debate on this in our country. Our union is strong enough to have a debate. Our congress won't do anything but give Bush a resolution for war. Current policy is the Bush administration can do anything it wants to anyone. It makes the lives of people like us worse. My uncle died of Agent Orange. In the eyes of the Pentagon, we're collateral damage. We need to fight for justice here and not for oil profits abroad."

And so it went. The next guy was wounded in Vietnam. His brother was killed. Another said this was for corporations. One guy said his mother was a Marine and supported it.

Jerry Zero said it was a good resolution. "I see no connection between Sadam and Bin Ladin. I have seen a lot of proof that people who blew up our buildings came from Kuwait or Saudi Arabia. Our friends. They didn't come from Iraq. Let's talk to Saudi Arabia and police their people. Or Kuwait. We might want to look into some of these countries and see why these things happen. The Vietnam War supported drugs. Reagan's war supported drugs. Why not find out why people use drugs? It's a waste of money and lives."

When they voted the auditorium resounded with "Ayes." There was one dissenting vote. The motion:

- ◆ "Whereas, we value the lives of our sons and daughters, of our brothers and sisters more than Bush's control of Middle East oil profits;
- ◆ "Whereas, we have no quarrel with the ordinary working-class men, women, and children of Iraq who will suffer the most in any war;
- ◆ "Whereas, the billions of dollars being spent to stage and execute this invasion means billions taken away from our schools, hospitals, housing, and social security;
- ◆ "Whereas, Teamsters Local 705 is known far and wide as fighters for justice;
- ◆ "Be it Resolved that Teamsters Local 705 stands firmly against Bush's drive for war;
- ◆ "Further Resolved that the Teamsters Local 705 Executive Board publicize this statement, and seek out other unions, labor and community activists interested in promoting anti-war activity in the labor movement and community."

Once again, moving with the people of this country gave me reason to feel proud.



CAN THERE BE A CRITICAL APPLIED MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY?

By Merrill Singer
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Council

Applied anthropology, well over 100 years since its founding (if we accept Conrad Reining's assertion that our first years were the "lost years" of the mid-1800s), still has a noticeably thin library. While the bookshelves devoted to applied anthropology texts have grown of late (and some exceptional contributions have appeared), the total opus remains comparatively small. Thus, the appearance of a new volume, like Margaret Gwynne's *Applied Anthropology: a Career-Oriented Approach* (Allyn and Bacon, 2003), especially because it is specifically targeted to junior and senior college students in the process of making life course decisions, is cause for merriment.

While I have not yet had time for a thorough review of the book, being a medical anthropologist I turned first to Chapter 11, entitled Applied Medical Anthropology, and was pleased to note that Critically Applied Medical Anthropology (CMA) was one of the topics to be covered there. Not surprisingly—and quite appropriately—the brief section under this heading notes that CMA has acquired its share of critics and thus quotes Tom Johnson's statement in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* (vol. 9, no. 1, p. 107, 1995) that CMA has had "much to say, but little to do." In that CMA, in celebrating its twentieth year, is still going strong (e.g., the annual meetings of the Critical Anthropology of Health Caucus at the AAA have been growing in size under the able watch of Arachu Castro), Gwynne's resurrection of the assertion that CMA is long on (critical) words but short on (applied) deeds merits reflection.

The larger question is this: is an applied critical medical anthropology possible? Let me begin my answer by emphasizing that in a world that (in various and sometimes quite painful ways) punishes those who call reigning structures, groups, and practices into question, it is not too surprising to find that there are not as many examples of applied CMA in print as we might wish. That said, there certainly is enough that has been published already to clearly affirm that CMA is praxis: a theory that is guiding real world applications and an approach to action that helps generate theory.

This point is illustrated by the work of Kenyon Stebbins, whose efforts were honored at the 2002 meeting of the Society for Medical Anthropology in New Orleans. Kenyon is best known for his writings on tobacco and the tobacco industry (the Merchants of Doom who cause the death of one person every ten seconds, a projected 500 million between 1998-2025!). In a series of publications that began when he was a postdoctoral fellow, Kenyon developed a penetrating analysis and critique of Big Tobacco internationally (and the assistance it has received from the U.S. government to extend its tentacles to find new victims). At the same time, he melded his analytic writings with aggressive activism in support of smoke free environments, no small task in a tobacco state like West Virginia where he found academic employment prior to his retirement. Some of his applied work is documented in "Clearing the Air: Challenges to Introducing Smoking Restrictions in West Virginia," *Social Science and Medicine* 44:1393-1401.

Happily, there are a fair number of other critically applied medical anthropology contributions to cite as well, including Nancy Scheper-Hughes' work on organ harvesting; Hans Baer on the nuclear industry; Alyne Unterberger (in Florida) and Michael Duke, Claudia Santelices, and Anna Marie Nicolaysen (in Connecticut) on farmer health and rights; Susan Shaw, Janie Simmons, myself and others at the Hispanic Health Council and elsewhere on syringe exchange and harm reduction among drug users; Richard Parker and many others on HIV prevention and intervention; Paul Farmer, Jim Kim, Arachu Castro and their colleagues at Partners in Health on infectious diseases and other health crises of the poor internationally; Ida Susser on homelessness and reproductive health; Jean Schensul and Margaret Weeks at the Institute for Community Research and Linda Whiteford on various health topics, etc. All of these examples—which have been published—affirm that it is quite possible to carry out critical "system challenging praxis" within applied medical anthropology as I argued was feasible in "Beyond the Ivory Tower: Critical Praxis in Medical Anthropology" (*Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, vol 9, no. 1, 80-106, 1995).

In sum, CMA has not only had much to say, it has been doing a fair amount too in addressing contradictions in health conditions and health care in the capitalist world system. While the "total of all of these acts" remains to be written up in one place to facilitate disciplinary awareness, the amount there is to write about is growing steadily.

REPORT FROM THE *HO* EDITOR

By Donald D. Stull [stull@ku.edu]
University of Kansas

On November 21, 2002, Michael Paolisso, assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Maryland, College Park, received Anthropology and Environment's Junior Scholar Award "for outstanding scholarship in the field of environmental anthropology, as evidenced in the article, 'Blue Crabs and Controversy on the Chesapeake Bay: A Cultural Model for Understanding Watermen's Reasoning about Blue Crab Management'" which appeared in the fall 2002 issue of *Human Organization* (61:226-239). Congratulations, Michael. Keep up the good work.

Every article we publish in *HO* is a winner, but it is always nice when other professional societies recognize the work that appears in our journal—and, more importantly, the social scientists who produce it.

* * *

In the last issue of the *SfAA Newsletter*, I asked readers to tell me about their favorite article in *Human Organization*. I got the following message from Brigitte Jordan, consulting corporate anthropologist at the Systems and Practices Laboratory, Palo Alto Research Center, in California:

By the way, loved your favorite article idea in the *SfAA Newsletter*. I have a feeling that will get some number of readers involved and I think it'll be really interesting to see what people choose. As for myself, I am partial to the article on "Steel Axes for Stone-Age Australians" by Lauriston Sharp, that he wrote in 1952 (17[2]: 17-22). I use this example all the time when I talk about the difference between the use value and the symbolic value of artifacts and tools. It is very powerful in corporate settings where one can easily go from the stone axes to raising questions about the symbolism (both positive and negative) attached to new technologies managers may be trying to introduce.

Brian Garavalia, *HO* editorial assistant, is very fond of Robert B. Everhart's 1975 article on "Problems of Doing Fieldwork in Educational Evaluation" (34:205-215):

For several years now I have been interested in the administration or management (depending upon one's leadership mind set) of education.

Everhart discussed the difficulties a field researcher faces in doing evaluations in an educational environment. He captures the very essence in being made responsible for a serious evaluative process, and at the same time being responsible to many stakeholders, clients, sponsoring agencies, and a parent organization, to name a few. In addition, and making the process even more complex, the field researcher attempts to gather information from those who believe their very livelihood depends on the thumbs up or down of the evaluation results. Historically, evaluations (data) have been reported in statistical form, not in a descriptive record. Everhart makes clear that the field researcher can provide the picture not seen through "pure" raw data.

Educational institutions affect the lives of many people around the world, and it is necessary to provide a form of evaluation that not only appeases the bureaucrat (the program worked or not) but provides a descriptive record of a process (why it worked or didn't) that has been implemented for better or worse. These issues are as relevant today as they were in 1975.

Brigitte and Brian have their favorites. What are yours?



REPORT FROM THE *PA* EDITOR

By Jeanne Simonelli [simonejm@wfu.edu]
Wake Forest University

By now you should all be reading the Winter 2003 issue of *Practicing Anthropology*. The issue, edited by Alayne Unterberger, focuses on projects and programs with Spanish-speaking farm workers in cities and towns away from the US-Mexican border. As the articles highlight, problems facing these rapidly growing host communities are both similar and different from those long dealt with on the actual border. A commentary by Duncan Earle highlights some of these patterns, and what can be gleaned by paying attention to lessons learned on the border.

Winter 2003 marks our first effort by PA's new editors, as well as an attempt to make the journal of even more immediate use for those teaching the application of anthropology. In the section "Teaching Practicing" the authors have provided reflection questions to help guide discussion. We hope that you will consider using PA as a timely, instructive resource for your students. Even more, we hope that you will encourage them to join the SfAA, still one of the best student bargains in town!

"Teaching Practicing" continues as a feature in the Spring 2003 issue, an Editor's Choice compilation featuring articles by practitioners working worldwide to design development with the participation of those most affected by programs, projects, and research. The individual pieces address what is fast becoming a mantra in development circles, the need to include the "community" in the design of programs. These articles are all by anthropologists who have long been aware of the importance of "grassroots" participation in planning, execution, and evaluation of projects, and who also recognize the difficulties and drawbacks of putting the perspective into practice. A commentary by Florence Lackey outlines some of the specific pitfalls. Travel with us this Spring from Nepal to Mindanao, from Alaska to South Africa, as anthropologists evaluate community-involved service and development efforts, including tourism, home health care delivery, urban renewal and conflict resolution.

FROM THE SECRETARY

By Willie L. Baber, SfAA Secretary
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University of North Carolina-Greensboro

The SfAA Board of Director met on November 23, 2002, during the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, President's Room, University Center of Tulane University, New Orleans. Minutes of the Atlanta Board Meetings (March 6 and 10, 2002), and Timeline, were approved.

The following Committee Reports were approved: *Human Organization* Report (Don Stull), *Newsletter* Report (Mike Whiteford), Publications Committee Report (Barbara Rylko-Bauer), COPAA Report (Linda Bennett), Sol Tax Committee Report and Recommendation (Lucy Cohen), Del Jones Student Travel Award Report (Willie Baber), Student Committee Report (Chad Morris for Anne Ballenger), International Committee Report (Carla Guerron-Montero), Membership Committee Report (Susan Andreatta and Jim Carey), Nomination and Elections Committee

Report (Susan Charnley), Public Policy Committee Report (Joe Heyman), Internet Committee Report (Don Stull for Satish Kedia and Neil Hann), Oral History Project Report (John Van Willigen), SAR/SfAA Report (Linda Whiteford).

The SfAA Board received the following written reports from committee chairs or project directors who were unable to attend the Board Meeting: Susan Charnley (Nominations and Elections), Joe Heyman (Public Policy), Satish Kedia and Neil Hann (Internet Committee), and John Van Willigen (Oral History Project).

In addition to the above Reports the following items were approved: SfAA Budget (Tom Arcury, Treasurer), New Sustaining Fellows, and implementation of a Sol Tax plaque for the winner of the Sol Tax Award.

Timeline:

Publications

The *HO* Report contains a new category of record keeping, i.e., "type" [male, female, State in U.S., and Country] by number of authors. Linda Whiteford wanted know if "type" and number of authors was available for multiple years. Don replied that this could be done for a period of four years. Don will complete an analysis for a four-year period.

Tom Arcury suggested that for on-line issues of the *Newsletter* eliminate the two-column format for easier reading on-line. Mike Whiteford agreed to take this under advisement.

Don Stull: request to Board members, send to him favorite *HO* article in one paragraph.

HO Search - Don Stull noted that he will participate in the Search and he will forward information about what to look for in an editor to Barbara Rylko-Bauer (Chair of Publications Committee).

Noel Chrisman: *HO Search* deadlines, November 2003 (deadline for applications), and July 1, 2004 as the starting date of the new editor. Personal inquiries should start now.

Linda Whiteford: Board members should send names of potential candidates to Noel Chrisman.

COPAA

Tom May is arranging for a room in Portland prior to the beginning of the meetings. The Consortium

schedules annual meetings at the same time as SfAA.

Annual Meetings

Don Stull moved to select Dallas (2004), and explore Santa Fe for the following meeting, 2005, noting that North Texas' new M.A. Program is an extra incentive for North Texas to do the job. Motion seconded by Linda Whiteford, and modified to extend invitation to SMA. Approved.

Sol Tax

Lucy Cohen (out-going Chair of Sol Tax Committee) recommended Sara Quandt as Chair of the Sol Tax Committee.

Del Jones

Willie Baber agreed to continue as Chair of Del Jones Student Travel Award Committee, if necessary, and at the pleasure the SfAA President and Board.

Student Committee

Noel Chrisman: will remind the Consortium and Linda Bennett (COPAA) to link up to students and help encourage students to participate on the Student Committee.

Noel Chrisman: will write to Linda Bennett (COPAA) and make sure that all departments get information on awards, and publicize recruitment needs of the Student Committee.

Sustaining Fellows

Motion by Mike Whiteford, seconded by Stan Hyland, to have Board members contact persons identified but not yet Sustaining Fellows. Board members are encouraged to make contact with individuals personally. Motion approved.

Office Report

Don Stull recommended on-line rebilling by having individuals down-load a form and posting it to the SfAA Office. Tom May responded that this could be done in the future.

Finance Committee

Moved by Paul Durrenberger, seconded by Tim Wallace, to take the \$18,000 on web page and put it into administrative costs, for payment of Neil and/or subcontractors, and a clerical modification that this Committee is merged with the Internet Committee.

American Indian Issues Committee

Don Stull moved, seconded by Susan Andreatta, to disband the American Indian Committee for lack of mission, or purpose. Motion passed.

Membership Committee

Majority approved recommendation to survey the Annual Meeting.

Majority decided to officially congratulate Ted Downing, Chair of ISC, who was elected to the Arizona House of Representatives.

Contract Working Group Report

Tom May volunteered to work on "sound bites" related to definitions of applied anthropology, for publicity purposes, and to strengthen image of SfAA compared to other anthropological organizations.

The Contracts Working Group and SfAA Office will work on funding sources through different groups or agencies that share the mission of SfAA. Approved.

Athens Public Policy Conference

A prior motion to support "public policy" amended to state: SfAA has an interest in the development of information on public policy and anthropology. Motion Passed.

Other Items

The meetings of the Board are scheduled for Wednesday March 19, all day, and Sunday morning on March 23, 2003.

Noel Chrisman asked Board members to suggest ways to obtain co-sponsorships of the SfAA Annual Meeting.

A reception for Sustaining Fellows has been suggested, to take place before the awards ceremony on Friday of the SfAA Annual Meeting. Tom May will provide a copy of the human rights book to Sustaining Fellows, signed by the authors.

Board members are encouraged to identify persons who meet the qualifications for all SfAA Awards, particularly Mead and Malinowski.

Moved by Tim Wallace, seconded by Mike Whiteford, to adjourn at 4:30 pm.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED IN THE SfAA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

By John van Willigen [ant101@pop.uky.edu]
University of Kentucky

Members of the Society can help the Oral History Project in many important ways. Remember, we rely entirely on volunteer interviewers and many of our ideas for interviews come from members. It would be really useful if you suggested persons to be interviewed and volunteered to interview them. While we may think first about "historic figures" it makes a great deal of sense to interview experienced people who are still very much active in the field. There are a number of ideas that come to mind: 1) Interview applied anthropologists that were your teachers; 2) Create a student study group or course that focuses on the development of your applied anthropology program or local practitioner organization; 3) Have someone interview you about your earlier experiences in application. There are many possibilities.

The Oral History Project Committee will be presenting a poster at the Portland Meetings of the Society. This poster will focus on our guide for volunteer interviewers. These materials have been distributed in previous newsletters so they are widely available. The current version includes a general overview of our goals and procedures and a general interview guide. I assume that the interview guide would be modified to suit individual needs. The primary reason for having the poster is that you can contact a member of the committee to discuss your ideas for oral history interviews. Please drop by to say hello. If you need to contact the committee you can reach me at <ant101@uky.edu>.

Soon we will be making the transcript of the interviews Robert Canfield did with John W. Bennett this past summer in St. Louis available on the Internet at the University of Kentucky Oral History Program site. The interview touches Bennett's work with the Committee on Food Habits during World War II as well as his involvement in the research program of the Supreme Commander Allied Powers in Postwar Japan. The 1940s sees tremendous involvement of anthropologists in various kinds of applied anthropology research.



STUDENT COMMITTEE REPORT

By Chad Morris [chadmorris1@aol.com]
University of Kentucky

As we prepare for the Portland meetings, the Student Committee would like to bring several opportunities to your attention:

√ STUDENT ORIENTATION SESSION (Wed. 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.). For students who attend a professional annual meeting for the first time, these gatherings can be intimidating and confusing. How does one choose among sessions, workshops, business meetings, receptions and open forums? How does one profit from the annual program and learn more about presenters? How does one approach and contact professionals during the meetings? Students will find answers to these and other questions in the Student Orientation session, designed to guide students on how to navigate through the meetings in the most successful and productive manner. Several SfAA Past Presidents, the Conference Chair and the Student Committee will conduct this session.

√ STUDENT COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING (Thurs. 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.). All student members are welcome to attend the business meeting, as there are several important agenda items. Important items of business are the installation of new 2003-2005 Student Committee officers and planning for the coming year. Agenda items are posted on our web site. Please feel free to add your suggestions and comments for discussion.

√ SfAA PAST PRESIDENT & STUDENT LUNCHEON (Sat. 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.). Past presidents and students informally discuss a variety of common subjects such as current projects, dissertation and thesis ideas, method and theory, and tales from the field. Lunch is free for the first 25 students to register! Pre-registration is required. Please contact Anne Ballenger, Student Committee Chair, at [anneball@erols.com] to reserve your space.

Look at our Conference Connection Website <<http://members.tripod.com/anneballenger/student/sfaa.html>>. The site includes a list of places to stay and eat in Portland - keeping a student's budget in mind! If you are looking for an opportunity to room share at annual meetings, see the SfAA Forums page <<http://www.sfaa.net>>.

We're particularly proud to announce that we've received a strong set of applications for the multiple Student Committee positions turning over at the Portland meeting. The next SfAA *Newsletter* will no

doubt include a brief introduction of the new Student Committee members, all of whom are excited to help their fellow students and learn more about the opportunities presented through SfAA service.

As for me, this is my last column for the Student Committee, as my term as editor expires in March. I'd like to thank Mike Whiteford and the Executive Board for allowing precious *Newsletter* space to be dedicated to student interests. Their generosity is reflective of their deep commitment to students of anthropology. Of course, thanks go also to the many Student Committee members who have contributed to this column during my tenure. My own interest in student issues continues, as I've begun my term as President-elect of the National Association of Student Anthropologists. I look forward to working closely with the new Student Committee in that regard! As always, the Student Committee is interested in hearing from you. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, comments or suggestions. We're looking forward to seeing you in Portland!

A NOTE FROM THE OUTGOING STUDENT CHAIR

By Anne Ballenger, Student Chair
[anneball@erols.com]
Catholic University of America

As my term comes to a close, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the continual dedication, enthusiasm and creativity of my fellow committee members over the last four years. It has been a privilege to serve along side of you and collaborate on a wide variety of projects. Thank you.

In particular I would like to thank the SfAA Board and Past Presidents for their continued fiscal and personal support of the Student Committee and student members. None of our current or past activities would have been accomplished without them. Tom May and the Business Office have been invaluable resources and most patient with my innumerable requests. I'd also like to recognize Kristin Lundburg, Student Board Representative, Carla Montero-Guerron, Past Student Board Representative and Student Committee Chair, and Andrew Gardner, student conference volunteer extraordinaire, who have all spent more hours than one should to ensure our student voice and presence was heard and visible. I thank you for your continued hard work and invaluable counsel.

It has been my great pleasure to get to know many SfAA students at our conferences, via e-mail and

through the SfAA web forum. Your continued participation in SfAA, abundant energy and innovative conference presentations will surely continue to invigorate SfAA for many years.

NEWS FROM THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

By Barbara Rylko-Bauer [basiarylko@juno.com]
Michigan State University

The Publications Committee has had some changes in membership since last year's SfAA meetings. Current members are Barbara Rylko-Bauer (chair), Hans Baer, Laura DeLind, Nancy Schoenberg, and Paul Durrenberger (Board liaison). In addition, current editors also serve on the committee, and these include Michael Whiteford (*Newsletter*), Donald Stull (*HO*), Jeanne Simonelli and Bill Roberts (*PA*), as well as Patricia Higgins (Monograph Series).

Pat Higgin's term as Monograph Series editor is coming to an end in March of this year, but she has graciously agreed to stay on and see to completion two projects on which she has devoted much time and energy: *The Dynamics of Applied Anthropology in the Twentieth Century: The Malinowski Award Papers* (edited by Thomas Weaver) and the monograph *Human Rights, Power, and Difference: The Scholar as Activist* (edited by Carole Nagengast and Carlos VJlez-Ib<Zez). The Malinowski Award Papers will be the SfAA's first electronic book. It is currently being posted on the web and will be available for purchase soon - in its entirety or by individual chapter. More information about both monographs will be available at the upcoming meetings in Portland - so keep your eyes open!

A successful search has been conducted for Pat's replacement, and I am happy to report that the new SfAA Monograph Series editor will be Michael Angrosino (University of South Florida). He will take over this position in late March and will share responsibilities with Pat until her above-mentioned work is done.

Pat Higgins has done an exemplary job during her 3-year tenure, and we have all benefited from her commitment, skill, and contributions as Monograph Series editor, as well as her dedication to the SfAA. And we welcome another accomplished veteran of the SfAA as the new Monograph Series editor.

Please send any questions, comments, and suggestions for the Publications Committee to me at the above e-mail address.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE TOUR FOCUSES ON WHEAT, THE ENVIRONMENT & TRADE

By Garry Stephenson [garry.Stephenson@orst.edu]
Oregon State University

Portland is the world's second largest wheat export terminal. The Food and Agriculture Interest Group Tour will explore why wheat passes through this port and where it goes.

This year's SfAA Food and Agriculture Interest Group Tour will feature the movement and export of a key agricultural commodity—wheat. The guiding theme for the tour is: *Why Wheat, Why Here, Who is Involved, and Where Does it Go?* Portland is the second largest wheat export center in the world, the largest on the Pacific Coast. Its prominence is the result of some interesting environmental features of the region and some intriguing attributes of business and trade. Wheat is drawn from throughout the West and the Midwest, channeled through Portland and shipped to Japan, China, and other Pacific Rim countries. The tour will provide a glimpse of the interaction between environment and economy and the global food system. Sites include an orientation to the physical setting from a stunning viewpoint, an international trade facility, a large modern grain-shipping terminal (Port of Portland), and lunch highlighting wheat as a key ingredient.

The tour is scheduled for Friday morning, March 21st, from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. A simple lunch is included and will be delivered to our last stop. At press time, the cost for transportation had not been determined. The final cost for the tour will be the cost of transportation plus \$10 per person for lunch.

Registration for the tour is through regular SfAA conference registration channels. For more information on tour specifics contact me at above e-mail or call me at (541) 766-3551.

In addition to the tour, a Food and Agriculture TIG meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 21st from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The business meeting will be brief. As an added feature of the meeting, there is serious consideration being given to continuing the "wheat" theme of the day with a tasting of Oregon wheat beers. Stay tuned.

To join the Food and Agriculture email list, send a message to [lyris@lists.oregonstate.edu] in the body of the message type "subscribe foodag-l" and your first and last name. Or go to <<http://www.lists.oregonstate.edu>> and follow the web procedures for subscribing.



Portland is the world's second largest wheat export terminal. The Food and Agriculture Interest Group Tour will explore why wheat passes through this port and where it goes.

TIG FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

By Mary Riley [mriley5@uic.edu]
PCRPS, UIC

If you are planning on attending the upcoming SfAAs Annual Meetings, please be sure to attend the TIG for IPR Business Meeting, at which we will be discussing organizational issues, new directions for the future, and holding elections. Now is the time to get involved. The meeting will be held in the Salmon Room (of the conference hotel), on Saturday, from 1:30-3:15 Hope to see you there!

There is one interesting piece of news I came across that I cannot resist sharing: in the *New York Times* it was reported that the Oneida Tribe is to endow a \$3 million chair at Harvard Law School in - you guessed it - Indian Law. And where did the \$3 million gift come from? Casino revenues! Article is at <www.nytimes.com/2003/01/23/nyregion/23ONEI.html?tnemail1>.

If you have any news items, comments or ideas to submit for the news column, or if you would like to try your hand (or is that pen?) as a guest columnist, be sure to contact me via e-mail, or send it to: Mary Riley, PCRPS, UIC, 833 S. Wood Street, 3rd Floor, Chicago, IL 60612.

NAPA HIGHLIGHTS

By Edward Liebow [liebow@policycenter.com]
NAPA President

Looking ahead to 2003, NAPA aims to continue its close collaboration with the SfAA, especially when it comes to training, mentoring, and other professional development activities. We will again be sponsoring "instant mentoring" at the SfAA Annual Meeting in Portland, and the NAPA Mentor Match program, a voluntary service open to all, is available by going to the NAPA page at the AAA web site (aaanet.org/napa) and clicking on the link to the Mentor Program.

The NAPA *Bulletin's* new general series co-editors are Tim Wallace and Alayne Unterberger. Two new volumes are slated for release in 2003, one on ethnographic field schools and the other on tourism. In addition, we will be reprinting several recent volumes that have sold out their print runs. Some older volumes that remain popular will be available on request through a digital document retrieval service.

As a co-sponsor of the Portland meeting for the first time, NAPA is contributing workshops on evaluation and promoting your anthropology background in plain language, a roundtable discussion on bi-national researchers, and several symposia on research and its applications.

One final highlight involves the NAPA Student Paper Award. In 2002, the second year of this award, we received 15 submissions. The overall quality of submissions was very strong, and prizes were awarded to: Gordon Roe (Simon Fraser U) for his paper reporting on his work with Vancouver's injecting drug user population; "The VANDU Health Network Research Project;" Wendy Hathaway and James Kuzin (U South Florida), for their work at a Tampa area Youth Enrichment Center; and to Alexandra Kenny, Connie Lira, and Conny Camenzind (George Washington U) for their work on gender equality and empowerment of women in South Africa. This year's competition guidelines will be posted shortly, and the deadline will be October 1.

LPO NEWS

By Carla Littlefield [clittlef@compuserve.com]
Littlefield Associates
Denver, Colorado

The "Chicago Association for the Practice of Anthropology" (CAPA) met on January 28th. Rebecca Severson organized the program around the topic, "Participatory Design in Chicago: Are There Jobs That Bring Anthropologists and Landscape Architects Together?" Their December meeting featured Suzan Erem and Paul Durrenberger who spoke on "Opportunities and Dilemmas in Application-Oriented Fieldwork: Anthropology and Activism in a Chicago Union." The event was organized and moderated by Will Kelley, CAPA Secretary. Stimulating discussion followed the meeting and continued in the after-meeting at a local restaurant. For information about future meetings, locations and times, visit the CAPA website at <www.chicagoanthro.org>. CAPA's membership is growing; they invite local and visiting anthropologists to attend their meetings and join their listserv. Look for them at the SfAA Annual Meeting in Portland where several of their members will be presenting.

The "Southern California Applied Anthropology Network" (SCAAN) will hold their next meeting in February at the home of Julie Heifetz in Bel Air, near the Getty Museum. The speaker is to be arranged. The agenda includes discussion and determination of the recipients of SCAAN's annual gift. Last year SCAAN

gave its first donation, a cash gift of \$300 to the Sidi musicians of Kacch, Gujarat to replace instruments lost in the devastating earthquake in January 2001. The musicians responded gratefully to the donation. On Saturday, March 29, Renee Lagloire will conduct a workshop on program evaluation in the non-profit sector. Renee gave a lively presentation at SCAAN's September meeting about her consulting work in Los Angeles with the state health department, with a community-based organization, and with a consulting firm. SCAAN is limiting the number of participants at the March workshop and asks that reservations be made by e-mail. Contact Gillian Grebler at <ggrebler@verizon.net>.

The April meeting will feature Deogratias Ngirabakunzi, an anthropologist from the Congo, formerly Zaire. Arrested and imprisoned for being from the wrong ethnic group, he was released to a refugee camp in the Benin Republic where he served as the ombudsman. Later flown to the U.S., he began his life as a political refugee. Ngirabakunzi will share his journey and discuss his work focusing on the political ecology of pastoral peoples. SCAAN welcomes new members. Contact Gillian Grebler (see above) for information about membership and upcoming events.

The "High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology" (HPSfAA) is planning its annual meeting to be held April 4-6 in Estes Park, Colorado. The theme this year is "Transitions: Realizations and Challenges." Conference chairs are Eliot Lee and Stayce Jones. Send abstracts to Lorraine Poulson at [lpoulson@mesastate.edu]. Contact Eliot Lee for information at [eliot@anthrotech.com].

The "Sun Coast Organization of Practicing Anthropologists" (SCOPA) has not formally met as a group during the past six months. Alvin Wolfe reports that SCOPA is an "active network of busy practicing anthropologists who can collectively be accomplishing a lot even if they don't have a meeting of the whole." SCOPA members are collaborating with two other Tampa Bay area anthropological organizations, the University of South Florida Anthropology Alumni Society and the Anthropology Connections Committee of the University of South Florida (USF). SCOPA members serve not only as internship supervisors of USF students in Applied Anthropology but also, more informally, as mentors to other graduate students who may not be interns. To join SCOPA, contact Glen Brown at <gbrown@childrensboard.org>.

THE CONSORTIUM OF PRACTICING AND APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY PROGRAMS PRESENCE AT THE SfAA MEETINGS

Linda Bennett, Consortium Chair
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University of Memphis

Ken Brook (Montclair State University) has organized a Faculty Forum for the SfAA meetings on behalf of the Consortium of Practicing and Applied Anthropology Programs (COPAA). The Forum will address University Reward Systems and Applied/Practicing Anthropologists. Participating in the Forum are Allan Burns (University of Florida), Jeanette Dickerson-Putman (Indiana University-Purdue University—Indianapolis), Mark Nichter (University of Arizona), Satish Kedia (University of Memphis), Laurie Price (California State University, Hayward), John Young (Oregon State University), Ken Brook, and myself.

The Forum discussion comes out of the initial work of the Consortium's Committee on Tenure and Promotion and External Program Review. We especially invite faculty, chairs, and other administrators from colleges and universities where "engaged scholarship" is being discussed and structured into tenure and promotion guidelines to attend and participate in this Forum. It is an open forum, and we enthusiastically encourage your participation. One of the current initiatives of the Consortium is to provide information and, hopefully, expertise as applied programs in anthropology and sociology, in particular, attempt to recognize applied scholarship in strategic planning of departments and tenure and promotion proceedings for faculty.

The Forum will be held in the Medford Room from 3:30-5:15 on Friday, March 21, 2003.

The Consortium will convene its fourth annual meeting on Tuesday March 18th, before the SfAA meetings get underway. One top item of discussion will be the development of an Advisory Board composed of non-academically based practitioners and organizations. Any reader who is interested in knowing more about the Consortium is strongly encouraged to contact me at <lbennett@memphis.edu>. In the meantime, you can learn more about COPAA by logging on to our web site at <www.copaa.info>.

THE BARA HISTORY PROJECT: APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

By James B. Greenberg, Associate Director, BARA
[jgreenbe@u.arizona.edu]
University of Arizona

The Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology (BARA) celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2002 by launching a sustained project to document its history. Formerly the Bureau of Ethnic Research (BER), BARA is the oldest applied anthropology unit within a university in the United States. As part of these commemorations, BARA is undertaking a BARA history project, which we hope will place BARA contributions to the profession of applied anthropology in historical context. As we move forward with this project, we would like to encourage and invite all those who have been associated with BER or BARA to participate in this endeavor.

Since its founding in 1952, BARA has carried out hundreds of projects aimed at solving real world problems not only faced by cultural communities within Arizona and the United States, but also across the globe. Throughout the course of its fifty-year history, BARA has employed scores of professional anthropologists and trained hundreds of graduate and undergraduate students. Due to the contributions of its current and former faculty, students and alumni, BARA enjoys a reputation as one of the premiere applied anthropology units in the country.

The goal of this project is not merely to document BARA's history but to reflect upon the practice of applied anthropology over the last five decades. BARA's history project proposes to ask the hard questions about the discipline and the work done by BARA and BER. How were applied problems framed and by whom? Whose interests were at stake? How did funders frame problems? How was the work carried out? What theoretical ideas informed the work? What methods were used? What was the reaction of local stakeholders and communities to this work? What was their role in this research? What was the impact of this research on these populations? What ideas, methods, and lessons came out of these studies, and what impact did they have on applied anthropology? What ethnical issues did these projects encounter, and how were they resolved? These are important issues, and anchoring the discussion in a historical corpus of actual applied work will not only engender real insights into the evolution of applied anthropology but help to define its future.

This project has several components: 1) organizing and reviewing of the BER and BARA archives; 2) doing oral histories interviews and, 3) organizing a reunion of our current and former faculty and students.

Currently, this project is organizing and reviewing BER and BARA archives and examining the contributions made by the many projects we have done over the past half a century. This past Fall our students used these archives to write papers comparing projects from different periods, and we have organized a session for the SFAA meetings in Portland "Historical Perspectives on Theory and Methodology: 50 Years of the Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology." As well, Dr. Robert Hackenberg, associate director under William Kelly, is currently working on the history of BER during the Kelly years, 1952-1969. The current director, Tim Finan, and the former directors, Thomas Weaver and Carlos Vélez Ibáñez, have agreed to write up their years.

To supplement the archival work and tell the untold stories, BARA is also contacting former faculty and alumni for oral history interviews. We are in the midst of preparing a proposal for Wenner-Gren and are contacting those people we are aware of who figured prominently in this institution's work and history. If you haven't received a letter of invitation and would like to participate, please contact us.

The BARA reunion will include a number of workshops on the History of Applied Anthropology at Arizona followed by a public forum that would invite current BARA faculty and a number of the most illustrious alumni, former faculty, and community members to talk about their experiences with BARA, and to help frame the contribution BARA has made to applied anthropology. These workshops would allow participants to compare and discuss their experiences and perspectives, and to exchange their insights with students and colleagues. The public forum would summarize the workshop discussions and would be open to the general public.

If you would like to participate in any aspect of the BARA history project or would like more information about it, please contact Dr. James B. Greenberg, Associate Director, BARA, [jgreenbe@u.arizona.edu], Tel. (520) 621-6282, Fax (520) 621-9608 or Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology, Haury Bldg 316A, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721.

BIOTECH 'TRANSFERS' ACROSS CULTURES: CHINA, AIDS TESTING, AND APPLIED MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

By Vincent E. Gil [vgil@vanguard.edu]
and Kenneth A. Peavy
[kenneth.peavy@mckesson.com]
Vanguard University of Southern California

Now, in this third decade of HIV/AIDS, fighting AIDS globally is ever the more reliant on those significant accomplishments in medicine and biotechnology we've witnessed in the preceding two decades. Many medical anthropologists have also gained as a consequence of their involvements, increased sophistication in medical discourse, clinical training, even practice (Johnson and Sargent 1990; Inhorn and Brown 1997; Romanucci-Ross et al. 1997). Despite these tremendous enablings, it is still uncommon to find anthropological attention turned to the successful diffusion of HIV biotechnologies from developed, to developing countries. And yet, fighting the global pandemic now depends largely on the availability of biomedicines—their affordability, utilization—and equally, on those diagnostic means to identify and capably treat infected individuals (UNAIDS 2002).

The AIDS pandemic continues to bring home the need for medical anthropological research on issues that surround the *transfer of biotechnologies* used in HIV diagnostics—from those *developing* the technologies, to those attempting to *utilize it* in very differing cultural and physical contexts. Producers of biotechnologies face the enormous challenge of making these operable across a variety of platforms: of scientific knowledge, clinical experience, epistemologies of illness and belief systems, as well as human error. The goal of “pan-global” biotechnologies infers the ideal of elegantly simple operationalizations, not the real problem of achieving these.

Manufacturers of new technologies, mainly Western biotech or pharmaceutical companies, do not often ask questions of *agency*, of how recipients of a new technology ought to be trained to utilize it; or even whether these technologies assume some set of “universal understandings” or require a “baseline of knowledge” for their appropriate deployment. The role of culture—and I mean specific cultural rationales about illness, treatment, even the nature of human blood or body fluids to be used in diagnostics—is rarely considered by the scientific community of inventors.

Medical anthropologists, however, are uniquely positioned to ask and facilitate responses to such

questions as, what *would* make a technology viable in different environmental and cultural contexts? How can *culturally sensitive* modifications to the education given clinical staff in deploying novel technologies assist in insuring their viability? What variables in the local “culture of medicine” *need to be addressed* for the success of a novel technology within a developing country's medical infrastructure?



Admixture of living and work environments is not only commonplace but often unavoidable

One of the most important technological innovations to come about in the AIDS fight has been the creation of rapid diagnostic tests for the detection of HIV in sera and/or whole blood (WHO 1998). Early-generation antibody (ELISA) and confirmatory tests (Western Blot) were designed for “batch” testing (i.e. screening 90 to several 100 specimens per day), making them suitable for surveillance and centralized blood safety services, less so for case-specific diagnostics. These tests require sophisticated equipment, a constant electricity supply, are technically demanding, and warrant appropriate blood handling efficiencies (WHO 1998; Bayne 1997). Validity of test results further depend on skilled technicians who are capable of correctly preparing any necessary reagents, pipetting with accuracy, and properly operating equipment. These tests have obvious limitations for implementation when one considers developing world realities at points of care.

The creation of simple, rapid tests generated significant breakthroughs, in that these neither required the equipment, nor generally, the sophistication of laboratory expertise that other HIV testing technologies did. Moreover, rapid tests are highly reliable and specific; most perform “stat”, that is, give results in minutes, and wherever they are administered. There is less chance of error since interpretation of results is generally straightforward and often visual (as in a confirmatory “red dot”).

Nevertheless, to the medical anthropologist, what appears as a potentially “pan-global” technology may still need investigation in the ‘living laboratory’ of specific cultural milieus.

As example of the need to investigate the potential issues which may arise in transferring this type of technology, we illustrate here the case of initiating use of a Western-biomanufactured rapid HIV test (red-dot immunosorbent assay type) at a provincial hospital in Kunming City, southwestern Yunnan Province, at the epicenter of China’s HIV epidemic.

This hospital was sorely in need of HIV screening, and baseline surveillances of both its blood supply and its patient (service) population (see Gil 1999; 2002). Our roles as medical anthropologists and as an epidemiologist were to facilitate the transfer of a rapid testing technology, train the clinical hospital staff on use of the tests, and conduct the first serosurveillance of HIV among in- and out-patient populations using the rapid tests.

By their own admission, China now has well over a million HIV infections (Rosenthal 2002), and according to our own, recently *declassified* CIA reports of consensus estimates by experts, will have 10 to 15 million HIV/AIDS cases by 2010 (CIA 2002). The UN has termed China, along with India, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Russia, as “*The Next Wave*” countries, with significant social, economic, and even military implications brought about by their epidemics.

We began our work by testing the proposition that even simple modifications to the manufacturer’s instructions for test kit preparation and administration *that accommodated local customs and realities, social protocols and habits of mind*, would be significant in assisting local clinical personnel to learn, and effectively deploy the kits (see Gil, 2002). Formal Chinese protocols for engagement, collective and didactic learning approaches, were used in a two-day training session. Hospital hierarchies of power were preserved; in that laboratory and hematology lab directors were trained first and then included as instructors to others. Locally favored learning techniques, inclusive of rote memorization—a common means of mastering the characters of Chinese language—were felt to minimize potential errors in test preparation (cf. Chu and Ju 1993). Deployment of tests in hematology labs, wards of the hospital, and other points of care were done by paired trainees, since collaboration is a strong social theme in socialist ideology.

Results, observed and measured through prepared instrumentation, then compared to the small controls we were enabled, confirmed there were no problems of substance—the logistics of test preparation and administration were easily mastered by all technicians and clinical personnel by the first day. In other words, training modifications worked, to the enthusiastic learning outcomes and comments of trainees.

Day two saw the realities of “culture” and “context” come into play as intervening variables!

We did participant observation of trainees as these went about doing serosurveillance testing, and it soon became apparent that cultural predispositions for the handling of blood, for the care of laboratory environments and the management of HIV tests therein, posed significant problems for successful testing.

On numerous occasions we intervened trainees as these attempted to utilize blood that had been left unrefrigerated and uncapped for hours; that had been allowed to separate—hemolyze—or that was unsuitable to use for the procedure. We put considerable effort into correcting explanatory models used by these clinicians (cf. Kleinman 1980), derived from general cultural beliefs, which generate clinical misunderstandings about handling of blood; epistemic misconceptions about the viability of blood (“blood is okay for quite a while after we draw it—it is a living thing, it doesn’t ‘die’ right away”; or, “blood is naturally warm; it’s okay not to cool it for hours”); and about procedures to follow for sample integrity and biohazards safety.

On other occasions in the hematology lab, screening liters of donated, refrigerated blood for HIV, saw nurses cut sampling tubes from several liter bags with the same scissor (cross contamination), and attempt to use these open vials of blood for HIV testing without regard to the contaminating instrument. Again we intervened with explanations of what constitutes cross-contamination. Instrumentation shortages, local ideas about what constitutes adequate sterilization, and conservation of resources, all play a part in the unspoken logic of using an instrument multiple times by simply wiping it clean.

The cultural treatment of clinical environments raised yet another arena for potential rapid HIV test failures. Separation of clinical work environments and place of residence is a standard practice in developed countries: No-one actually ‘lives’ in the laboratories in which they work. However, the admixture of work and living environments in China is not only commonplace, but oftentimes unavoidable given

extreme population pressures and scanty housing opportunities. The formula even extends itself to the medical community, where many doctors 'live' in their clinics, in their hospitals of practice (Gil, personal observations 1990-2002).

It was therefore not a surprise to find two female lab techs sharing a living room immediately *inside* the laboratory space in which they perform their hematology work. Sundry questions may arise here—but what is of import is the opportunity for test contamination, which comes from an admixture of living, food preparation/eating, and work surfaces when the work in question is medical analytics. We attempted significant interventions to enable surface disinfections, so as to insure test kits were not compromised by remnant food or other particulates, or by the few flies that gathered daily in this lab to share the lunch menu. (We were quick to disable several batched samples, and used the opportunity to further instruct on the appropriate handling of blood and environmental surfaces for such tests for HIV.)

We could go on, but the point is clear: As this case from China illustrates, *transfer of the technology itself*, when training was culturally contextualized, was not problematic. However, for deployment to be successful, rapid HIV testing technologies cannot presume to be independent from those epistemic, structural, and actualization elements which the culture of use brings, and which need to be addressed if a technology transfer is to be viable long-term. As this present case points out, the technology itself operates quite well and is simple to master. It is the subjectivity of what end-users bring to the equation in its deployment that becomes the problematic in cross-cultural applications.

In the wake of this recalcitrant HIV pandemic, there needs to be stronger coordination between biotechnology manufacturers and end-point users, especially when these are in developing countries. In this regard, medical anthropologists can facilitate what Herskovits (in Bledsoe and Goubaud 1998) called *cultural reinterpretation*—helping to clarify and correct the different epistemics and perceptions Western medicine and technologies take on in non-Western cultures.

We continue to work with China, helping to develop those appropriate "contextualizations" of medical analytics and training that can eventuate successful, reliable HIV assessments.

1. MedMira Laboratories *Rapid HIV Screen*®, a product of MedMira Laboratories, Toronto Canada. This

biotechnology firm donated 10K kits for utilization at this hospital.

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The importance of simple/rapid assays in HIV testing. *WHO Weekly Epidemiological Record*, 73(42), 321-328.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Nominations for the 2005-2006 Malinowski Awards

The Society for Applied Anthropology invites nominations for the Malinowski Award. This award is presented to an outstanding social scientist in recognition of efforts to understand and serve the needs of the world's societies, and who has actively pursued the goal of solving human problems using the concepts and tools of social science. Each nomination should follow the criteria for selection set forth by the SfAA, as follows:

- ◆ Nominees should be of senior status, widely recognized for their efforts to understand and serve the needs of the world through social science.
- ◆ Nominees should be strongly identified with the social sciences. They may be within the academy or outside of it, but their contributions should have

implications beyond the immediate, the narrowly administrative, or the political.

- ◆ Nominations should include individuals who reside or work outside of the United States.
- ◆ The Awardee shall be willing and able to receive the award and deliver an address at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology.

Each nomination should include: 1) a detailed letter of nomination outlining the accomplishments of the candidate; 2) a curriculum vitae, and 3) selected publications and supporting materials. Additional letters of support are especially encouraged.

Nominations are valid for five years from the date of nomination. At present there are only five candidates under consideration; the committee would like to increase the number to ten. Self-nominations are accepted. The committee encourages nomination of women scholars and international figures. This is an important award that provides every member of our society the opportunity to honor those who have contributed to our field as exceptional teachers, applied social scientists, and influential theorists.

The committee is in the process of collecting nominations for the 2005 Award. Nominations should be sent to the Chair and must include original letters of nomination, letters of support, and reprints. The candidate's C.V. may be sent as an attachment to e-mail, but do not send articles or chapters as attachments.

Send nominations to: Ann McElroy, Chair, Malinowski Committee, Department of Anthropology, 380 Fillmore, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14261. Phone: (716) 645-2291; Fax: (716) 645-3808. E-mail: [mcelroy@acsu.buffalo.edu].

Public Policy TIG

The Public Policy Committee is sponsoring an Open Forum at the SfAA meetings, on Friday 12-1:15 in Salon D. Entitled "Finding Success in Policy Arenas: An Open Session to Share Experiences and Questions", it offers an opportunity for SfAA members to exchange lessons learned when engaged in public issues, from the local to the global. Come equipped with your questions and your insights! All SfAA members interested in public engagement are welcome to attend.

FROM THE EDITOR

It's less than a month away from our annual meetings and I hope you've made your plans to attend. Sunil Khanna and his colleagues from the greater Portland area have put together an excellent program. There are some really enticing sessions, and the conference theme ties together a series of concepts that should peak the curiosity and interest of any applied anthropologist.

If you've never been to Portland, you're in for a special treat. It's a gorgeous area. Located on the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers the city has some wonderful downtown scenery. Should you be a jogger, you are welcome to join Ed Liebow and me on some runs that should be pretty spectacular. Portland is a beneficiary of some interesting zoning laws that were enacted some time ago and resulted in refurbishing some areas that were getting rather rundown and seedy. No more - it's a great city and the area will demand that you occasionally slip away from the convention hotel and see some of the region that will be hard to ignore.

President Noel Chrisman will bang his gavel for the last time at Friday's Business Meeting. Many thanks, Noel, for your fine leadership over the past two years. As always, there will be a turnover in a number of offices that make our Society run (see the President's Letter). I personally will miss all who are leaving, and at the same time I am looking forward to working with the folks coming on board. I think it really speaks highly of our organization, that we can continually find excellent people who are willing to guide this group.

Well, enough of this quasi-self congratulatory stuff. Time's a fleeting before the meetings begin, and I better burrow around and come up with my abstract so that I'll know what I'm going to be doing.

Mike Whiteford [jefe@iastate.edu]

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The 2003 Annual Meeting of the SfAA explores the collaborative efforts in anthropology and reports the research, ideas, and experiences of scholars and practitioners with diverse interests and backgrounds. The sessions, panel discussions, open forums, workshops and posters focus on ways anthropologists and other social scientists collaboratively work on complex issues with other professionals, practitioners, stakeholders, and diverse publics. The meeting invites contributions in all areas of anthropological inquiry, especially in environmental conservation and sustainability, agriculture and development, migration and resettlement, health research and policy, education, urban planning and community development, technology and its social impact, ethnicity, gender, and class, business and work, society and the law, ethnic conflict and human rights, and cultural heritage and historic preservation. In addition to highlighting anthropology's linkages with other disciplines and areas of research and practice, the 2003 meeting addresses the significance of meaningful engagements across disciplinary and professional boundaries.

The SfAA *Newsletter* is published by the Society for Applied Anthropology and is a benefit of membership in the Society. Non-members may purchase subscriptions at a cost of \$10.00 for U.S. residents and \$15.00 for non-U.S. residents. Checks or money orders should be made payable to the Society for Applied Anthropology. All contributions reflect the views of the authors and not necessarily viewpoints adopted by the Society for Applied Anthropology, the institutions with which the authors are affiliated, or the organizations involved in the *Newsletter's* production.

Items to be included in the *Newsletter* should be sent to: Michael B. Whiteford, Department of Anthropology, 324 Curtiss Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1050, E-mail: jefe@iastate.edu. Telephone: 515/294-8212; fax 515/294-1708. The contributor's telephone number and e-mail address should be included, and the professional affiliations of all persons mentioned in the copy should be given.

Changes of address and subscription requests should be directed to: SfAA Business Office, P.O. Box 2436, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-2436 (405/843-5113); E-mail <info@sfaa.net>. Visit our website at <<http://www.sfaa.net/>>.

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