

Society for Applied Anthropology Newsletter

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SfAA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By John Young <jyoung@orst.edu>
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This is my last column as SfAA President. I am pleased to report that the Society is running smoothly and is in excellent condition financially. At the last Board of Directors Meeting in December, we not only finished our deliberations on time, but voted unanimously on all issues. This uncommon occurrence is worth noting as a strong indicator of a common sense of purpose in advancing our profession.

As applied anthropology becomes more unified and purposeful, I regret to say that mainstream anthropology has begun to formalize its fragmentation. For those who still doubt that postmodernism has inflicted any permanent damage, we now have proof. Stanford University has created two completely new departments of anthropology with separate faculties and degree requirements. Applied Anthropology, to the extent that it survives at Stanford, is aligned with the Department of Anthropological Sciences and the traditional four fields. The subject matter of the Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology is "globalization." Apparently its faculty members will write stylish narratives about everything that is wrong with the world. Their agenda is to "raise intellectual dialogue" among themselves rather than to do anything constructive.

Having received a Ph.D. degree from the original department, I find this turn of events difficult to swallow, but I remain optimistic about the future of applied anthropology in a broader context. Our agenda remains to take intellectual dialogue in another direction - out of the ivory tower into the streets, the workplace, and the boardroom, legislative chambers and arenas of public discussion.

I mentioned when I began as SfAA President that my long-term goal is professionalization. During the past two years expanded initiatives, such as those on public policy and the EPA Cooperative Agreement, have moved us toward this goal. In addition we have opened up voting and the possibility for greater participation to all members. Our progress depends on member commitment and involvement to launch and sustain new initiatives. I urge those

who wish to bring their ideas to the table to express interest in committee assignments or other kinds of service. One way to start showing interest is to attend the leadership training workshop at the Annual Meeting. I can personally testify that the intrinsic rewards of serving to advance applied anthropology as a profession and the associated collegialities are well worth the price of your effort.

Before I sat down at the computer to write this piece, I was sipping a cup of fresh Yunnan green tea while listening to a report about epidemiology on the NPR morning news. Unexpectedly I heard the voice of our colleague Susan Scrimshaw explaining the importance of paying attention to ethnicity and associated cultural practices rather than race in identifying populations at risk to specific types of cancer. Such an insight is routine for us as applied anthropologists. What I found exciting to contemplate is that the cultural perspective had entered public dialogue and that the producers of the show knew that this particular issue called for the expert commentary of an applied anthropologist. I see awareness increasing at the local level as well. A few days ago I received a phone call asking if an anthropologist could help sort out the perspectives and interests of competing groups on watershed issues. I assured the caller that he was on the right track and helped him set the ball rolling.

(continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>SfAA President's Letter</i>	1
<i>Another World on the Wane</i>	2
<i>SfAA Annual Meeting Program Notes</i>	3
<i>Honduras, Hurricane Mitch</i>	4
<i>Report from PA Editor</i>	6
<i>LPO News</i>	6
<i>TIG for Intellectual Property</i>	7
<i>SfAA Environmental Anthropology</i>	7
<i>Anthropology and HIV Prevention</i>	9
<i>Announcements</i>	9
<i>Job Openings</i>	10
<i>From the Editor</i>	11

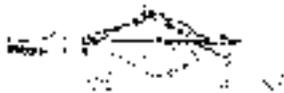
We will have achieved professionalization when the public widely knows, not necessarily what applied anthropology is by definition, but rather what occasions, circumstances and positions appropriately call for the expertise of an applied anthropologist.

In the interest of professional courtesy, I would like to clarify a remark that I made about administrators in the previous issue of the *SfAA Newsletter*. I have known administrators who “unnecessarily call attention to themselves”, but “most” probably do not. As an administrator myself, I intended that remark neither to be taken personally, nor to demean administration as an occupation. To the contrary, my knowledge of administration leads me to believe that applied anthropology has much to offer and that applied anthropologists should not shy away from administrative work. Having a presence in administration is an important step in professionalization. We are uniquely qualified to understand culture in organizations, including the struc-

We will have achieved professionalization when the public widely knows, not necessarily what applied anthropology is by definition, but rather what occasions, circumstances and positions appropriately call for the expertise of an applied anthropologist.

tural hierarchy, reward systems, patterns of communication, and the implicit symbolism of organizational rituals. For example, a couple of weeks ago I pointed out to a Vice-Provost for Research an aspect of a ceremony to honor book authors that actually was an insult, putting them lower in the pecking order than researchers who have secured patents. He immediately recognized the problem when I explained it. Though embarrassed to miss a meaning so obvious, he was new on the job and appreciated the opportunity to make an improvement.

Linda Bennett, our incoming President, is an administrator at the University of Memphis. I am confident that we will thrive more than ever with her leadership. In the past Linda has served the Society extraordinarily well in a number of capacities. I especially appreciate the supportive role she has played during the past year. Together we are planning a seamless transition in leadership at our Annual Meeting in Tucson, marked by handing over a worn and battered, but much treasured gavel. Thanks to the efforts of Willie Baber and his Program Committee, the Tucson meeting promises to be a blockbuster. I look forward to seeing everyone there.



ANOTHER WORLD ON THE WANE

By Merrill Singer <anthro8566@aol.com>
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John Young writes in the November *Newsletter* of our gullibility as consumers in buying into the newfangled digitized world of electronic gizmos and gadgets. He laments that unwittingly we have agreed to serve our technology rather than the reverse. What are the consequences he perceives of wedding our lives to high tech? Wasted time (e.g., if you happen to be on AOL—which should be renamed Advertisements On Line—for example, just deleting junk e-mail is approaching a full-time job), wasted money (getting our electronic “friends” fixed and re-fixed with repugnant regularity), ruined eye sight, a boatload of frustration, and the slow digitization of our very brains. Together these seem like a pretty steep price to lay for our online lives. Were the costs only this small!

A more chilling account of the true price we pay is found in the January/February 1999 issue of *Tikkun* magazine, in an article by Rutgers biology professor David Ehrenfeld. In “The Coming Collapse of the Age of Technology,” the dark reality we face is presented in mind numbing detail. For starters, Ehrenfeld ticks off examples of the perilous ecological costs of our fossil fueled/electronically powered/use-and-throw-away/profit driven world: global soil erosion, worldwide deforestation, pollution and salinization of vital aquifers, widespread desertification, insect resistance to insecticides, acid rain and snow, loss of plant varieties, collapse of world fisheries, global warming and flooding, a growing hole in the ozone layer, extinction of linchpin species, and the spread of deleterious exotic species including those that cause lethal human diseases.

Ethnobotanist, Wade Davis, in his new book *Shadows in the Sun*, cites some representative examples of our technology enabled rush toward the brink. As Davis notes, on the eve of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, 4,247 square miles of rain forest were being cut down each year. Since then, this rate has tripled. Currently, in Amazonia, an area the size of Belgium (over 22,000 sq. miles) is being cut down every year. At the same time, in the 300 year period between 1600 and 1900, it is estimated that fewer than 100 species went extinct as a direct consequence of human activity. In the last 40 years alone, it is conservatively estimated that 1,000 species *per year* have disappeared. The rapid loss of biodiversity and the conversion of all biomass into human biomass are staggering.

Were the ecological price tag not exorbitant enough, Ehrenfeld adds additional items to the high tech bill: misuse of information (e.g., the secreting of effective low tech strategies), the loss of information (something Mike Whiteford, whose failing hard drive and disappearing computer files sparked John Young’s essay, knows well), the emergence of an increasingly complex, ever more central-

ized, and highly vulnerable global information/economic system, and the exhaustion of resources needed to drive the whole shebang. In *The Coming Oil Crisis*, for example, noted petroleum geologist C. J. Campbell documents that we have already used up more than half of the world's supply of oil (and make no mistake, it was oil and not fear of immanent military threat that propelled the Desert Fox rainfall of billions of dollars of cruise missiles on Iraq), and most of this oil was consumed in just the last few decades. In Ehrenfeld's (p. 71) assessment, the global techno-economic and ever more rapid information system that emerged about 500 years ago — and evolved, according to Eric Wolf in *Europe and the People Without History*, fully into a distinctly capitalist mode of production during the course of the 18th century — reached its zenith in the late twentieth century,

Powered by the global arms trade and war and enabled by a soulless, greed-based economics together with hastily developed and uniquely dangerous technology. This power system, with its transnational corporations, its giant military machines, its globalized financial system and trade, its agribusiness replacing agriculture — with its growing number of jobless people and people in bad jobs, with its endless refugees, its trail of damaged cultures and ecosystems, and its fatal internal flaws, *is now coming apart* (emphasis added).

In short, it is Ehrenfeld's contention that the meltdown of Mike Whiteford's computer is but a microcosm of a far broader technological and economic collapse that is looming ahead for all of us.

The real problem, of course, is not narrowly technological in nature. It is the harnessing of extremely costly technology to a global system of stripped-earth, fast-buck social and economic inequality that is the ultimate source of pending crisis. In his book *The Ownership Solution*, Jeff Gates points out that new wealth to the tune of \$5 trillion dollars was extracted by the U.S. from the planet between 1983 and 1989. Did this treasure go toward making life better for the people of the world or even of the U.S.? Did it go toward solving our egregious environmental problems? In fact, over 50% of it was swallowed up by the richest one-half of one percent of the U.S. population. Even the Congressional Budget Office admits that the most comfortable one percent of U.S. households received 70% of the overall increase in household income between 1977-1989.

The average U.S. family now has a net worth of only \$56,400 (down \$100 from six years ago). And even this meager amount (compared to the wealth of the incomparably wealthy) is eight times that of Latinos and ten times that of African Americans. The hourly wages paid in prison, the place of residence for a startling number of Latino and African American young adults, doesn't promise to change this imbalance any time soon. It is estimated that in six years, the nation's millionaires will control 60 percent of purchasing power in the country.

In a reverse of Marx's dictum, we live in a world in which wealth moves from those according to their ability to those according to their greed!



The title for the upcoming SfAA annual meeting is "Constructing Common Ground: Human and Environmental Imperatives." How fitting! If there was ever a time for anthropology to make itself relevant, it is now. The question, however, is this: do we as a discipline - indeed, do we as a species - have the capacity to connect the dots between multiple ecological crises, the growing price of maintaining a high technology culture, and the increasingly degree of economic injustice and social suffering, with the world-dominant techno-economic system that has reached its peak and as exemplified by the once venerated Asian economics is now stumbling and sputtering and threatening collapse? Or will we pretend that things are not so bad, that alarmists always are claiming that the sky is falling, and that the very system that has mortgaged the world of our children will miraculously save us?

In *The Collapse of Complex Societies*, the archaeologist Joseph Tainter analyzed the demise and disappearance of complex social systems, the common endpoint of all past civilizations. The ultimate cause of collapse Tainter argues is one of diminishing returns in which the costs of keeping a social system together - calculated in terms of expenditures of time, productive effort, environmental resources, and human emotion - continue to go up until they outstrip the benefits. Perhaps for applied anthropologists the upcoming national conference can serve to help us begin focusing on the signs of breakdown, the costs of maintaining a global political economic and social system that has reached its terminal phase, and the prospects for future alternatives.

CONSTRUCTING COMMON GROUND: HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPERATIVE – SfAA ANNUAL MEETING

By Willie Baber <wlbaber@uncg.edu>
1999 Program Chair
University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Thanks to the hard work of the Greensboro-based subgroup of the Program Committee, and the SfAA Office, we posted the Preliminary Program on our Website before January 1, 1999. We corrected errors in the Preliminary Program, as we were made aware of them. In addition, we have made an effort to accommodate changes desired by some of you. Some changes are difficult and time consuming. Moving sessions at this point in time is impossible without generating scheduling difficulties. As of January 20th the number of errors and changes to the Preliminary Program has been minimal.

Options and opportunities are closing quickly as we move into the final stages of the 1999 conference. We

(continued on page 4)

learned recently that Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, cannot deliver the keynote address. Members of the Program Committee are looking into other possibilities at this time.

Individuals with BARA, the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and Northern Arizona State University are very active throughout the Program activities, as well as University of Memphis, Oregon State University, and the University of South Florida.

Through the efforts of Tim Finan (U of A), Bob Alvarez (ASU), and Miguel Vasquez and Francis Smiley (NAU), the three presidents of their respective institutions have agreed to participate in a forum on affirmative action. This is a major event, scheduled for Thursday evening. We should have the details of it worked out shortly.

The theme for 1999 has generated a few highlights in the 1999 program. David Haines and others have organized four sessions: one dealing with migration and public policy, another session on refugees, migrants, and housing, a discussion session on current developments, and a fourth session on career paths and professional development.

PESO is well represented, with a contribution of eight sessions involving a range of topics. One PESO and BARA session, *Industrialization in the US-Mexico Borderlands: The Human Consequences of a Post-National Experiment*, is attractive, particularly in light of our conference site, in the Southwest, and borderlands issues. William Fisher did an excellent job as coordinator of PESO sessions.

Jay Sokolovsky and Neil J. Henderson (University of South Florida) organized a session in honor of Professor Otto Von Mering (with the Association for Anthropology and Gerontology), entitled *Cultural Value Dilemmas in Health and Aging: A Symposium Honoring Professor Otto Von Mering*. This session is scheduled for Friday afternoon, and a reception immediately follows it. In addition, Brian M. Du Toit, Della McMillan, and Paul Nkwi have organized *Displacement and Adjustment* in honor of the Malinowski Award recipient.

Several sessions are devoted to healthcare. Satish Kedia and Garcia-Downing (University of Arizona) organized a session entitled *Assessment and Avoidance of Health Risks in Human Resettlement*. Council on Nursing and Anthropology (CONAA) is well represented in a session entitled *Nursing and Applied Medical Anthropology*. We received papers sufficient to fill two sessions on HIV and intravenous drug use. Quandt, Arcury, and Norton will address health-related issues in their session entitled *Farmworkers and Green Tobacco Sickness: New Issues for an Understudied Disease*.

Among the well-organized NAU sponsored sessions is Miguel Vasquez's *Indigenous Knowledge in the Information Age: Changing the Terms of Engagement*. Miguel may

supplement this session with an off-site public forum. *Applied Anthropology and Sustainable Development* is the title of a session organized by Carlos A. Perez and Mary S. Willis. Other related sessions include those by Andreatta, Grey, and Delind (*Resistance and Reform: A Critical Look at Agriculture and Food Systems*), and Thomas Weaver and William Alexander's session *Operationalizing Political Economy for Development Anthropology*.

Native American interests and issues of multiculturalism surface in a number of sessions, including Nancy J. Parezo and Shelby Tisdale's *Cultural Continuity:*

The View from American Indian Studies, and *Language Imperative: Reversing Language Shift in American Indian Communities*, by Teresa McCarty and

Bernadette Adley-Santamaria. "Multiculturalism" is addressed in an interesting way by Nancy Rosenberger and Sunil Khanna: *Surviving in a Multi-layered Social Environment*.

Student participation is well represented in sessions or posters about particular applied programs or projects. A luncheon event, *Meet a Past President of SfAA*, proposed by Carla Guerron-Montero and Anthony Paredes, will interest students in particular.

These are only a few sessions, selected here only in relationship to what comes to my mind. The Program is full, and addresses a wider range of topics than those selected here. Refer to the SfAA web page for a complete list of all sessions and posters. We are now focusing closely on overall conference planning, which includes developing plenary sessions (including keynote address), public forums, NGO participation, and tours.

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, International Wildlife Museum, Saguaro National Park, and San Xavier Mission are locations of interest southwest of the city and within a reasonable driving distance. Remember that the Mariachi festival will be in full swing during our meeting. Plan to enjoy the festival. For information on Tucson, Arizona and the Southwest refer to Arizona's Web site: <<http://www.opus1.com/emol/arizona/arizona.html>> . Thanks for your support, and I will see you in Tucson!

HONDURAS, HURRICANE MITCH AND A GRADUATE STUDENT IN IOWA

By Jon Wolseth <jjwolseth@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu>
University of Iowa

My first reaction when I heard of Hurricane Mitch was to call the travel agent and hop on the next plane to San Pedro Sula, Honduras. The worst of the hurricane had finally past after lingering for days off the coast, swirling ever more slowly but dumping more and more rain on the

For a complete list of all sessions and posters, see the SfAA Webpage <<http://www.telepath.com/sfaa/sfaa99/sfaa99prelim.html>>.

already embattled country. For over a week I sat in limbo, unable to contact anyone from the city that I had stayed in just a few months earlier. Most of the people I knew did not have phones in their homes. Those that did were just as unreachable because the lines were down, disconnected, or always busy.

I caught glimpses of news coverage, always upset at the inadequacy of the information they could give. I wondered why all the pictures were coming from Tegucigalpa and I thought that if things were that bad there, places closer to the coast must be in near ruin. I searched web sites for pictures and reports and concluded that even with the availability of news technology, they can't report a story that's virtually unreachable.

Finally, one morning as I was running out the door to catch the bus, CNN was airing another of their hurricane reports (by now Mitch had been down-graded from a hurricane to a tropical storm but that held little change in the amount of damage that was to be recorded). This time, however, they had pictures from the northern part of the country. On screen were the flooded streets of San Pedro Sula and the submerged houses near the river in La Lima. And at last, the verifiable proof that I didn't want to see - one of the plazas in El Progreso, the city where I had done my fieldwork this past summer, was a giant lake. Just as quickly as they had appeared, the pictures were gone, leaving me in a state of shock.

Up until that point, I didn't want to believe that the devastation was as bad as the news reports had made it sound. I was holding out hope, however fragile, that somehow Progreso and the folks I know there had missed the brunt of the storm. By any stretch of the imagination this was fanciful thinking, but without being able to talk to anyone there it seemed justified. Over the next several days, I alternated between dropping the semester and going there to help or helping with relief efforts here.

Finally I went to talk to one of my professors whose judgement I trust. This professor had been through a similar experience with her long-term field site early on in her career. Pragmatically, she told me that unless I had some sort of medical training that I'd only be a liability if I went. That woke me up out of the daze I was in and I began to formulate options about what I could do for my friends there while still here in Iowa.

This past summer in Honduras I had worked with a private Catholic-affiliated child welfare organization. In addition to having social workers working in the homes with at-risk children, the organization also runs three orphanages for abandoned and abused children. The organization is administered through an order of nuns in the town. I contacted the nun's order here in the States and found out they had recently been able to contact the sisters in Honduras.

I talked at length with the sister on the phone, asking impossible questions like "Do you know if so-and-so is O.K.? What about this person? What about the orphanages?" She kindly replied that they still knew very little because of the

difficulty in getting from one place in town to the next and so forth. Finally I asked if there was anything that she knew of that the sisters and the organization needed right away. Her reply was eye-opening - money.

The bridges going in and out of town were washed out as were many more on the way to the coast. It was impossible for the large number of goods being donated by people to actually reach any of the in-land towns and villages because many of the roads had been washed out. As a result, the goods being brought on barges by such aid groups as the International Red Cross were just sitting on the docks, waiting to be airlifted by the small number of helicopters and planes available.

The best thing I could do was get the word out to friends, relatives, and colleagues that if they wanted to help sending money was the best way to do it. I learned that more people are willing to give money if they are in some-way personally connected with the organization or if they can put faces and names with the problem. It did end up that I was more helpful here by getting the word out and giving people an address of where to send money. Equally important, I put a human face on the disaster to the people around me by telling the stories that I had heard from the people who were living through the devastation.

Anthropological training does not prepare us for when natural or human disaster strikes our fieldsites. More than just a data repository, these fieldsites are places in which we have developed strong bonds of friendships with the people who live there. The periods of uncertainty and lack of communication involved with disasters is a strain that nears depression. Yet I discovered that my reticence to talk about what was occurring was not helping the situation of the people for whom I was grieving. For the children I worked with, the numerous socially conscious in Progreso, and the families who had touched my life, the most helpful thing I could do with my anthropological knowledge at that time was raise awareness and solicit collections in my own area.

Things are still not good in Progreso or elsewhere in Honduras. The rains demolished much housing and property, destroyed crops, and rendered basic infrastructure useless. Such a devastating event alters people's lives and worldviews. It is difficult to imagine what the future will be for my friends there. The rebuilding and healing process could take decades, a process in which I hope to be a part of with my continued commitment, both scholarly and personal, to the town and people of Progreso.



REPORT FROM PA EDITOR

By Alexander (Sandy) M. Ervin <erwin@skyway.usask.ca>
University of Saskatchewan

The next issue of *Practicing Anthropology*, Vol. 21(2) Spring 1999, represents an important milestone. With its emphasis on applied linguistics, it means that, over the last ten issues, all four anthropological subdisciplines will have been represented in their applied forms. Teresa McCarty (University of Arizona) has assembled the issue along with her co-editors, Lucille Watahomigie and Akira Yamamoto. Their issue is titled *Reversing Language Shift in American Indian Communities: Collaborations and Views from the Field*.

As a topic for applied linguists, nothing could be more vital than the alarming loss of Native American language capacity among the current generation. The various authors, including Native American and anthropologists, discuss the strategies, pitfalls, and successes in collaborative attempts to reverse these losses at the community level in the Southwest, Midwest, Alaska, South America, and Canada.

Besides assembling a vital and interesting collection, Teresa and her colleagues have to be given kudos because of their highly competent editing, thus making my job almost redundant. We also have a feature article from Russia, provided by Anatoly Yamskov and titled *Applied Ethnology and Ethnoecology in Combining Aboriginal Land Rights with the Preservation of Biodiversity in Russia*. Stimulating, it is also reminiscent of policy debates surrounding the resolution of indigenous land rights in the U.S.A., Australia and Canada.

Readers may have noticed the listing of a new international advisory board for *Practicing Anthropology* in the last issue. This is in keeping with the Society's intention to internationalize more of its functions and contacts. While the brevity required here does not give justice to their many years of experience in applied anthropology, a brief introduction to them is in order:

BELGIUM: Dr. Alain Anciaux is Professor at the Brussels Free University. INDIA: Dr.

Deepak Kumar Behera is Reader in the Department of Anthropology at Sambalpur University in India and a member of the Executive Council of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES).

MEXICO: Dr. Carmen Bueno Castellanos is co chair of the Commission on Policy and Practice of the IUAES. FRANCE: Dr. Dominique Desjeux is Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Sorbonne and Rene Descartes Universities, Paris.

JAPAN: Dr. Yashushi Kikuchi is Deputy Director of the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies at Waseda University in Tokyo. UNITED KINGDOM: Dr. Patricia Nicholson is a practicing anthropologist who has worked almost continuously for over a decade with government and nongovernment organizations in Asia and the Pacific.

THE NETHERLANDS: Dr. Gerard A. Persoon is Head of

the Programme for Environment and Development, Centre for Environmental Science, Leiden University.

CANADA: Dr. Joan Ryan is Senior Research Associate at the Arctic Institute of North America, Calgary, Alberta.

CHILE: Dr. Diego Salazar is a professor at the School of Public Health, University of Chile, Santiago, Chile.

ISRAEL: Dr. Malka Shabtay is an instructor at the Departments of Behavioral Sciences and Education, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

AUSTRALIA: Dr. Sandy Toussaint is Lecturer in Anthropology, the University of Western Australia, Nedlands.

RUSSIA: Dr. Anatoly M. Yamskov is Senior Researcher and Head of the Research Team in Ethnic Demography and Ethnic Ecology at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences.

I have received two books and am seeking reviewers. Contact me if you are interested in reviewing either:

Loker, William M (ed.)

1999 *Globalization and the Rural Poor in Latin America*. Boulder, CO.: Rienner. Cloth, 231 pages.

Walle, Alf H.

1998 *Cultural Tourism: A Strategic Focus*. Boulder, CO.: Westview. Cloth, 238 pages.

The addresses and phone numbers for the editorial office of *Practicing Anthropology* are: Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 5A5, Canada; the office telephone number is (306) 966-4176; my home number is (306) 343-9140; the departmental fax number is (306) 966-5640.

LPO NEWS

By Carla Littlefield <clittlef@compuserve.com>

Littlefield Associates

Denver, Colorado

SfAA will host its annual LPO luncheon at the Society's Annual Meeting in Tucson. A representative from each of the active LPOs will be invited to participate. The agenda will include a discussion of results of the informal survey to be conducted in February among LPO leadership. A short range goal of SfAA is to explore new avenues for strengthening the relationship between SfAA and LPOs, including a survey to determine what assistance SfAA can provide to support LPOs and their missions. To assure participation in both the annual luncheon and the survey, please contact me at the e-mail address above.

The "High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology" (HPSfAA) is planning its 19th annual conference to be held in Estes Park, Colorado, April 16-18, 1999. The conference theme is, "Multi-Dimensional Anthropology: Working Together Across the Spectrum." Conference Co-Chairs are Eliot Lee and Stacey Jones. More information can be found on the HPSfAA web page: <http://www.colorado.edu/AppAnth/HPSfAA/events/annual99.htm>. HPSfAA invites those who plan to travel to SfAA's Annual Meeting in April

to swing past Colorado and enjoy the mountains before heading southwest to Tucson and the desert! Estes Park is the doorway to Rocky Mountain National Park, a relatively short distance from Boulder and Denver.

The "University of Nebraska-Lincoln LPO" has changed its name to "Practicing Anthropologists of Nebraska" (PAN). President, Laura Shennum, hopes this will improve people's understanding of what the student organization does and whom they represent. Their goal for the Spring semester is get out into communities, volunteer for different projects, and practice skills they have learned. A proposed project is to work with the new chapter of Habitat for Humanity on the UNL campus, donating time and materials. Laura Shennum would like to share ideas with other groups doing applied anthropology projects. Contact her by e-mail <LauraWSNBC@aol.com>.

To submit information for the LPO News column or communicate about LPO issues, please contact SfAA-LPO Liaison, Carla Littlefield.

TOPICAL INTEREST GROUP (TIG) FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

By Tressa Berman <igtlb@asuvm.inre.asu.edu>
Arizona State University West

The Anthropology and Intellectual Property Rights group will sponsor a session at the up-coming SfAA meetings titled *Protecting Indigenous Intellectual Property Rights: Culture Up Against The Law*. The session, co-organized by Tressa Berman and Robert Gough, includes topics by anthropologists and legal scholars who engage the law to further human rights issues in IPR. The session of eight papers will take place on Thursday morning, April 22. Papers of related interest to IPR issues include several presentations about repatriation (Bailey, Hitchcock) and a paper on Indigenous Knowledge in the Information Age (Vasquez) on Saturday afternoon.

The Topical Interest Group on Anthropology and IPR is also looking for a new listserve operator. For those of you who may not know, the TIG operates a listserve on IPR where scholars from all disciplines can get connected, express their views, and inform others of important issues arising in the area of IPR and indigenous peoples. The Listserve Manager has an important role, and can become an active voice in stimulating discussion and networking with new colleagues. If interested, please contact Mariette Van Tilburg at <vtilburg@sunlink.net> or Tressa Berman at <igtlb@asuvm.inre.asu.edu>. Please attend the business meeting of the IPR TIG in Tucson. Look forward to seeing new members there.

REPORT ON THE SfAA ENVIRONMENTAL ANTHROPOLOGY PROJECT

By Barbara Rose Johnston <bjohnston@igr.org>
SfAA/EPA Fellowship Program Coordinator

Over the past few months, Florida project consultant Laura Ogden has been assisting the Governors Commission for a Sustainable South Florida, in their efforts to develop the South Florida Social Science Symposium proceedings into an implementing action plan. The expected date of completion for the Action Plan is February 1999. An update will be posted on our Website. With the recent federal announcement of additional Everglades Restoration funds, there is most certainly the need, and, thanks to Ogden and others efforts over the past two years, a growing interest and demand for social science involvement in the world's largest environmental restoration project. For copies of the plan, contact Laura Ogden at <Laogden@aol.com>.

David Driscoll, consultant for the South Florida Eastward Ho! Brownfields project, has been working with Dade County DERM to revitalize the outreach initiative in the region after a disappointing turnout at the last public hearing. He hopes to elicit participation in an EPA-inspired "participatory phase-one risk assessment" in the coming months. He is also collecting pediatric health data to combine with the contaminant data to place in the GIS database he is preparing for this project. Information on environmental health aspects of this project will be included in a session - *Humanizing Environmental Risk: the Growing Role of Social Scientists in the Assessment and Management of Environmental Health Hazards* - organized by David Driscoll at the SfAA meetings in Tucson.

In October 1998, Hamilton County (Ohio) Environmental Priorities Project (HCEPP) consultant Daniel Cartledge submitted a final project report with recommendations to the HCEPP consensus forum for incorporating quality-of-life issues in the planning process. This report was used by the consensus forum in developing their action plan recommendations. A copy of this report is available on the SfAA Website.

The 1998 internship program is in the final stages of completion, with the submission of evaluations and project reports. An October 15, 1998, evaluation of Brendan Lavy's summer internship with the Cherokee Nation prepared by Dwayne Beavers, Cherokee Nation Environmental Specialist III indicated it was a success. Lavy helped develop a Primer Manual for Community Empowerment entitled *Public Participation and Environmental Justice* (published on the Cherokee Nation webpage) and worked with the Director of the Nuclear Risk Management for Native Communities.

(continued on page 8)

Over the past few months, final project reports for Stephanie Paladino (public participation in the Broad River (Georgia) Watershed Management project), Johnelle LaMarque (Lead Hazards Outreach in Philadelphia, PA) and Sandra Crismon (Participation and Environmental Justice Issues in EPA Region 4 Watershed Projects) were prepared and presented to members of the community, EPA mentors, and SfAA advisors for review and comment. The reports were then revised and published on the SfAA www page. The most recent addition to the webpage is SfAA environmental anthropology fellow R. Shawn Maloney's final project report. This report details his work on environmental values and public participation in the Pfiesteria-related water quality crises of the Chesapeake Bay, and involved working with the Pocomoke Creek Watershed Association in Maryland.

A new project initiated in the past few months is a co-sponsored project with the Center for a Sustainable Future in Vermont. The purpose of the pilot project is to implement a Sustainable Development Extension Network in Burlington, Vermont. Both the SfAA Environmental Anthropology project and the Center for a Sustainable Future are providing funds to support SfAA fellow Carol Nepton to provide technical assistance in mapping sociopolitical networks and developing group-specific "sustainability issue" profiles.

In December 1998, internship plans were finalized. Seth Beach began work to research environmental pollutants (arsenic, lead, cadmium, and zinc), potentially responsible parties, and develop effective education materials in support of an environmental justice project in North Denver, Colorado.

Many of the projects noted above will be discussed at the Saturday afternoon session of the SfAA meetings in Tucson ("Addressing the Human Dimensions of Environmental Problems: Reports from the SfAA/EPA Environmental Anthropology Project").

Other new projects under development include one or possibly two "cultural profiling" projects in EPA Region 5. Funding has been identified, and we are in the preliminary stages of deigning a project for an anthropologist to develop sociocultural studies of a couple of cities in the region with the goal of producing indicators of community based environmental protection. Potential project areas have yet to be identified, but may include the greater Chicago area, NW Indiana, or SE Michigan. The objective here is to develop material that allows environmental management staff to better understand the cultural complexity and needs of citizens and key players in cities. Ideally, this work will inform EPA and other environmental planners about some of the sociocultural issues, identify ecopolitical activities and key players, and examine sustainability measures (economic, demographic, environmental justice measures). For updates on the Region 5 "cultural profiling" project and for announcements concerning technical assistance positions, check our Website or contact me directly

<bjohnston@igc.org> or <<http://www.telepath.com/sfaa/eap/abouteap.html>>.

EPA Project Officer Theresa Trainor has been working over the past two years to expand her colleagues understanding of social science (more than economics!). Thanks to her efforts, a number of well-funded EPA grant programs have been more broadly defined and now specifically encourage applications from anthropologists, sociologists, geographers and other environmental social scientists. For grant announcements, please check out EPA's National Center for Research and Quality Assurance at <<http://www.epa.gov/ncerqa>>.

Similarly, student internship programs offered by the regional offices and by the national programs include growing demand for social science students. For student internships sponsored directly by your local EPA office, call the local office job and internship information hotline or check out the EPA webpage for your region <www.epa.gov>. Also, summer internships on projects sponsored by EPA will be announced on the <<http://www.eco.org>> site beginning February 1999. Over 600 internships will be offered during summer 1999 - so check this site often.

And finally, as indicated in my last column, EPA is undergoing reorganization. The office that sponsored our project is being merged with the Office of Water. In response, our project is developing a network of environmental social scientists interested in water-related issues (water quality including pesticide contamination, superfund contamination, non-point pollution, source water pollution prevention; and, watersheds including the management, restoration, remediation). We are also actively exploring the development of Cooperative Agreement projects through the Office of Water. Our summer 1999 internship program will be focusing on water-related issues (an announcement will be posted on our Website by the end of January 1999).

Please contact me if you are involved in or interested in getting involved with a locally situated WATER project that has some form of EPA interaction (Office of Water, environmental justice, superfund, etc.). For additional information I encourage you to check out the EPA's Office of Water, their mission statement, programs and initiatives, and projects (including water problems and projects in your own community) at <<http://www.epa.gov/ow>>.



ANTHROPOLOGY AND HIV PREVENTION: THE BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE VOLUNTEER (BSSV) PROGRAM

By Lara A. Frumkin <Lfrumkin@apa.org>
Program Coordinator, Office on AIDS
American Psychological Association

Are you looking for the opportunity to put anthropology into practice in helping your own community? Look no further, the Behavior and Social Science Volunteer (BSSV) Program may be for you.

The American Psychological Association Office on AIDS, in collaboration with the AIDS and Anthropology Research Group (AARG), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), would like to extend an invitation to anthropologists to join in the efforts to stop the spread of HIV through enrollment in the BSSV Program. Anthropologists are being sought because of their training in community level research and their background in assessment at multiple levels of analysis. Volunteers provide Technical Assistance to those in their community involved in HIV prevention planning and program implementation.

The BSSV Program provides an opportunity for qualified behavioral and social scientists from several disciplines, including Anthropology, to participate as volunteers in HIV prevention planning and program implementation activities in their local communities. The goal of the BSSV Program is to link social and behavioral scientists with local HIV prevention efforts and to increase local capacity for selecting and using science-based prevention interventions. Based on the local needs, volunteers will be linked to Community Planning Groups (CPGs), health departments and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) who are involved in providing prevention services to at-risk populations. These groups frequently provide HIV prevention for communities.

Lamont Lindstrom, an anthropologist and current Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer (BSSV) states, "anthropology offers both a method and an analytical focus that can contribute to the work of CPGs. 'Participant observation' is an intensive, ethnographic methodology by which one learns through doing. An anthropological approach can help them [the CPGs] organize what they already know." Dr. Lindstrom further comments that "anthropology's focus on 'culture', helps clarify local systems of understanding and value" which are very crucial elements to consider when designing effective HIV prevention programs.

In addition to helping their community, anthropologists who participate in the program may directly benefit in several ways. They will be part of a professional collaboration with national partners like CDC, APA, and technical assistance providers such as the Academy for Educational Development (AED), state partners like HIV Prevention Community Planning Groups, health departments and local part-

ners such as Community-Based Organizations that provide prevention services. Anthropologists will have an opportunity to participate in providing technical assistance and training offered to community groups and volunteers, and will be kept informed on up-to-date information on HIV/AIDS prevention planning and services.

The BSSV Program staff recruit and collect information on the skills and interests of social scientists, provide orientation to the HIV Prevention Community Planning process, link anthropologists with local planning groups, health departments and community-based organizations, and assist volunteers in identifying resources for specific technical assistance needs. The BSSV Program also supports ongoing professional relationships among the volunteers through internet contact, publications and regional meetings.

Please contact the BSSV Program office at (202) 218-3993 to get more information and obtain an application.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food and Agriculture Interest Group Forming

Answering Bob Trotter's call for topical interest groups, a small band of risk-takers has indicated interest in forming a TIG focusing on food and agriculture. An organizational meeting will be held during the annual meeting in Tucson. Consult the program for day and time.

The Food and Agriculture Interest Group is organized for the purpose of examining, from an applied perspective, the human dimension of food and agricultural systems, dietary behaviors, food and agricultural issues as they effect urban and rural communities, and the role of food production and distribution systems in human adaptation.

For more information, contact Garry Stephenson <garry.stephenson@orst.edu> at Extension Agriculture Program/Department of Anthropology, Oregon State University, 1849 NW 9th Street, Corvallis, OR 97330.

Would You Like to Get More Involved in the SfAA?

Here's your chance to learn more about the organization, meet some of the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors and the Editors of *HO*, *PA* and even the *Newsletter!* The Society will host an informal gathering during the SfAA meetings, from noon-1pm on Friday, April 23, 1999 and you are invited. Just stop by, chat, have a sandwich, and learn about the Society.

Attention Anthropologists: Participate in the SfAA Information Exchange in Tucson

Would you be willing to make a poster or supply information about your work or your company for students to see? We would like to add information on practicing anthropologists and their work to the traditional information tables on applied academic departments. If you would be willing to supply information or make a poster and if you wish, to be there to talk to students on Friday, April 23 at 8:30am to noon, please contact Nancy Rosenberger, Department of Anthropology, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-6403 <nrosenberger@orst.edu>.

D. Michael Warren Named Recipient of 1998 Richard Evans Schultes Award

The late Professor D. Michael Warren, founder and director of the Centre for Indigenous Knowledge for Agriculture and Rural Development (CIKARD) at Iowa State University, was named recipient of 1998 Richard Evans Schultes Award. The Schultes Award is presented annually by the Healing Forest Conservancy to a scientist, practitioner, or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to ethnobotany or to indigenous peoples issues related to ethnobotany. As an anthropologist, Warren pioneered the multidisciplinary field of indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) relating to health, nutrition and agriculture, making CIKARD the prototype for the IKS Centers now in some 33 countries worldwide.

The *Indigenous Knowledge and Development Monitor* that he was closely associated with from its inception, links the growing global network. Through his research, Dr. Warren succeeded in demonstrating the rational, health-promoting basis for African ethnomedicine, particularly those of Yoruba health knowledge and beliefs. His extensive contributions to IKS are reflected in the 31 books/manuals he authored or co-authored, as well as numerous book chapters, articles and reports. The \$5,000 that accompanies the Schultes Award will be used to continue Warren's work at CIKARD.

The award honors the name of Richard Evans Schultes, the Harvard ethnobotanist widely recognized as one of the most distinguished figures in the field. For his work, Schultes received the annual Gold Medal of the World Wildlife Fund, the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement and the Linnean Gold Medal. Schultes has published over 400 technical papers and nine books, including, with Robert Raffauf, *The Healing Forest* (1990) and *Vine of the Soul* (1992). The Healing Forest Conservancy is named after their 1990 book.

The International Nominating Committee for the award is chaired by Michael J. Balick, Ph.D., and Philecology Curator of Economic Botany and Director of The New York Botanical Garden's Institute of Economic Botany. The award

was announced in Aarhus, Denmark, at the annual meeting of the Society for Economic Botany, of which Schultes is a founding member.



JOB OPENINGS

University of Minnesota — Department of Family Social Science College of Human Ecology

Assistant Professor, 100% nine-month academic year tenure-track appointment, resident teaching and research position. Research agenda must focus on rural families. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. Starting date: August 30, 1999.

Qualifications: Minimum requirements for this position are an earned doctorate in Family Science, Rural Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology or a closely related field by date of appointment, evidence of effective teaching in the classroom, research training and potential for scholarly activity, demonstrated written and oral communications skills, and effective interpersonal skills. Preferred qualifications for this position include demonstrated research and publication in the area of rural families, and experience with grant procurement.

The Department of Family Social Science, a unit in the College of Human Ecology, includes 20 faculty, approximately 225 undergraduate majors, and 50 graduate students (master's and Ph.D.). See our Web site for information about faculty members, programs, and a description of courses <<http://fsos.che.umn.edu>>. Review of applications will begin March 1 and continue until the position is filled. Send letter of application, vita, official transcripts and three letters of reference to: Paul Rosenblatt, Ph.D. Search Committee Chair Family Social Science Dept, University of Minnesota, 290 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave, St. Paul, MN 55108 (612) 625-3120 <rosen007@maroon.tc.umn.edu> The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.



Cleveland State University — Department of Health Sciences College of Arts & Sciences

The Department of Health Sciences at Cleveland State University will fill one new nine-month, tenure-track assistant professor position to begin Fall, 1999. This is a growing department with current baccalaureate programs in Physical and Occupational Therapy being replaced with entry-level Master's programs by the year 2001 and 2002 respectively. In addition, new graduate and undergraduate programs, including the Master of Science in Health Sciences, and graduate certificate programs in Ergonomics/Human Factors and Culture, Communication and Health Care have recently been developed. With the move into a new Health Sciences Building and the development of a formal research and education relationship with the Cleveland Clinic Health System, this is an exciting, supportive environment for scholarship and teaching. Cleveland is a great city in which to live and an international center for health care and research.

Primary duties include: teaching in the advanced Master's program, with opportunities to teach in the entry-level Occupational and Physical Therapy Programs, research, and service. Minimum qualifications for this position are an earned doctorate in an appropriate discipline or near completion of a doctoral degree (all but dissertation) and evidence of potential excellence in research and teaching. The preferred candidate will have an earned doctorate and demonstrate strong organizational skills. In addition, preferred qualifications include a record of teaching excellence in two or more of the following areas and research and publication in one or more of the following areas: health management principles, health policy, clinical education, children's health care issues, gross anatomy, international/cross-cultural health, mental health, research methods/evaluation/assessment, urban health care delivery, women's health issues, physical therapy, or occupational therapy.

Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. Review of applications begins February 19, 1999. Position open until filled. Send a letter describing areas of teaching expertise and research agenda, curriculum vitae, and the names of three references to: Bette Bonder, OTR, Ph.D., Search Committee, Department of Health Sciences, Cleveland State University, 2501 Euclid Ave., Cleveland OH 44115. Cleveland State University is an AA/EOE committed to non-discrimination. M/F/D/V encouraged. Information is available at <<http://www.csuohio.edu/healthsci/hs.htm>>.

FROM THE EDITOR

Have you checked out the *Newsletter* on the Society's website recently <<http://www.telepath.com/sfaa/sfaapubs.html>>? If not, take a look. The *Newsletter* is in a "PDF" format which allows you to see the document (and print it out) exactly as it looks in the paper format that arrives in the mail. Of course, it's not quite that simple. If your machine doesn't have "Adobe Acrobat Reader" on it, you will have to install it – which is free and you can do it by double-clicking on the highlighted button found on the SFAA's website. As they say in the computing circles, "It should be a seamless process". In other words, all of this should happen faster than you can type in a new URL (website address). Obviously don't count on this happening without something goofy happening – at least once. I have found that pouring a small libation before attempting anything like this actually helps. In any event, we really are working on making this whole process as user-friendly as possible. We're not planning on eliminating paper copy of the *Newsletter* any time soon. All of this is being done as a service to members and in an attempt to get information to you in a more timely fashion.

(continued on page 12)

SfAA 1999 Annual Meetings

Constructing Common Ground: Human and Environmental Imperatives

April 20 - 25, 1999

Inn Suites Hotel * Tucson, Arizona



The careful bibliographers among you will notice that we've gone from Volume 8, No. 4 (November 1998) to Volume 10, No. 1 (February 1999). It turns out that we were doing well at keeping track of things until the May 1996 issue, when we appear to have lost a year. Anyhow, in keeping with all of the hoo-ha about making sure that everything is Y2K compliant, we thought at the very least we could get the current volume and number correct.

This will be the last issue before the spring meetings in Tucson and the deadline for the May issue will fall almost immediately after the gathering. As we would like to get some contributions that deal with things that took place at the meetings into that issue, we will extend the deadline for receipt of materials until *May 15*. As always, I look forward to hearing from you. See you in Tucson.

Mike Whiteford <jefe@iastate.edu>



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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 24083, Oklahoma City, OK 73124 (405/843-5113); E-mail <sfaa@telepath.com>.

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