

Newsletter

Society for Applied Anthropology

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Donald D. Stull [stull@ku.edu]
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Slipping coffee on a recent Sunday morning, I turned to the Arts and Leisure section of the *New York Times* to avoid the horrific images of the escalating violence in the Middle East bursting from my television. Hoping to escape into the latest museum exhibit I would never see or a promotion for an upcoming movie I probably wouldn't either, I was greeted instead with "Saving the World, One Video Game at a Time" (Clive Thompson, July 23, 2006).



Video games, it seems, are getting serious. Peacemaker, Food Force, Darfur is Dying, A Force More Powerful offer a chance to solve the Israeli-Palestinian crisis, dispense aid in war zones, escape the Janjaweed, foment democratic uprisings. Players of these, and a spate of other so-called serious games, step virtually into a real-life crisis and do their best to solve it. But if it blows up in your face—as it likely will—you can just start all over. The games' designers, and the nonprofit organizations that often fund them, want to show young people just how difficult and deadly serious these matters are, and, perhaps in the process, persuade players to go beyond the "game board" and take action.

As an applied anthropologist, I don't need a video game to teach me about the complexity of human societies, or the unintended consequences that, likely as not, plague efforts, no matter how well intended, to change them. Nor do I need convincing to take action when my research points the way. But I am a specialist in North America, not the Middle East. Like most other Americans, if the polls are to be believed, I am increasingly frustrated by the growing crisis in the Middle East, and by my ignorance of the underlying sociocultural forces playing out before me on the nightly news. Of course, there is no shortage of "expert" analysis, complete with surefire solutions, if only this government or that would listen. But I have little faith in the glib explanations and simple solutions offered up by all-purpose pundits and partisans thinly veiled in mantels of topical expertise.

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Looking for insight into the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, I turned with great interest to two recent issues of *Practicing Anthropology* (PA). The Winter, 2006, issue offers a collection of essays on "The Commitment to Social Action in Palestine: Programs and Practice," edited by Nadia Abu-Zahra, followed this Summer by a companion collection edited by Malka Shabtay and S. Zev Kalifon, "The Complexity of Diversity: Applying Anthropology in Israel 2006." While on fellowship in Jerusalem in 2005, Jeanne Simonelli, PA coeditor, did us all an immense service by soliciting manuscripts from social scientists and practitioners in Israel and Palestine. Acting in the familiar anthropological role of cultural broker, Jeanne has afforded our Palestinian and Israeli colleagues a platform from which they can speak for themselves, unedited and unfiltered. These collections provide a rare glimpse at what professionals are doing "on the ground," to use the popular term, to address the issues confronting their respective societies.

What they reveal should come as no surprise to readers of PA. Israel and Palestine are heterogeneous societies, not just in religion and ethnicity, but also in other equally significant spheres. Such "complexity of diversity" is largely unknown to the general public and usually glossed over by even the most aware of editorialists and Sunday morning television pundits.

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These articles were written well before the latest violent eruptions between Israel and Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon. And they make no effort to explain the spiraling cycle of attack and counterattack that grips the region. They do, however, offer insight into the root causes of much of what we witness on the nightly news.

The first collection describes the daily suffering of the Palestinians and how difficult it is live and work under military occupation, the use of art and theater to cope with and ameliorate the catastrophic circumstances of their daily existence, the reasons behind public mistrust of and lack of participation in public construction projects, the essential role of traditional systems of dispute resolution in maintaining social order. Although none were written by anthropologists, these articles offer a welcome look at how Palestinians try to live normal lives in abnormal conditions forced upon them by decades of war and occupation.

The Israeli presence is palpable in the first set of articles, but Palestinians are conspicuous by their absence in the second. Except for an effort to establish a center to preserve and promote Bedouin ethnomedicine and culture in the Negev Desert of Israel, the anthropologists and political scientist who contribute to this collection focus on the considerable needs of a multiethnic and multicultural society experiencing frequent immigrant flows, most recently from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union. Their descriptions reveal both the great potential and the considerable obstacles facing applied anthropology. They report on highly successful programs providing sexual health education and promotion to adolescents and cultural awareness and sensitivity training to preteens. But they also find it difficult to shape government policies designed to "absorb" new immigrants.

After reading these collections...I do have a better understanding of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples and the historical and cultural roots of what is proving to be the most intransigent international conflict of our time.

After reading these collections, I am no more hopeful for a timely and lasting resolution of the conflict that has gripped this region for so long. But I do have a better understanding of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples and the historical and cultural roots of what is proving to be the most intransigent international conflict of our time. I am also reminded yet again that anthropology's dedication to "what is happening on the ground" is both its strength and its weakness.

Upon being recognized for her lifetime contribution to applied anthropology in Israel at the first meeting of the Association of Applied Anthropology in Israel in 2005, Phylis Palgi said: "I cling to this motto, especially in the light of the present volatile and conflictual situation in Israel...'*It is later than you think, but not too late to think.*'" Indeed it is.

2007 SfAA ANNUAL MEETINGS IN TAMPA

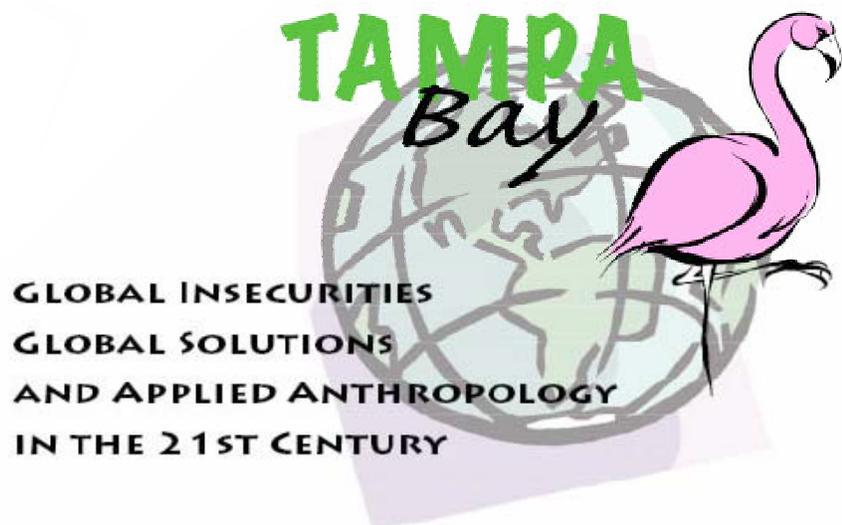
By Nancy Romero-Daza [daza@chuma1.cas.usf.edu]

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Co-Chairs 2007 SfAA Annual Meeting, University of South Florida

As the Chairs of the 2007 SfAA meetings, we would like to thank each and every one of you who has contacted us expressing your enthusiasm for the conference and sharing your ideas about possible sessions that fit the overall theme of Global (In)Securities, Global Solutions, and Applied Anthropology in the 21st Century. Special thanks go to the members of our Program Committee and to our co-sponsors: the Consortium for Practicing and Applied Anthropology Programs (COPAA), the Council on Nursing and Anthropology (CONAA), and the Society for Urban, National, and Transnational/Global Anthropology (SUNTA), all of whom are planning sessions, workshops, and special events that are sure to involve many colleagues from diverse fields.



Given the "global" emphasis of the conference, we hope to have increased participation from international colleagues from both within and outside academia. We expect to have a considerable number of sessions dealing with social, political, economic, and health-related factors that impact the well being of diverse groups around the world. For example, there is a strong interest in addressing issues that relate to children and youth as they are affected by changes at both local and global levels. Specific topics include the effects of increased participation in the tourism-driven labor market on school drop out and absenteeism rates, the protection of the rights of street children and other vulnerable youth, the physical and psychological impact of war on children, and the overall health of children in the face of HIV/AIDS, food insecurity, and poverty.

Similarly, given the constant movement of people across national borders as the result of globalization, we expect to have several sessions that specifically address issues such as the impact of tourism in the social and physical environment of host communities, the multiplicity of factors that affect the wellbeing of immigrants, refugees, and guest workers in developed nations, and the special needs of internally displaced persons. Regardless of the topic, we want to place a very strong emphasis on the

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contribution that anthropology and other sciences have made to face these challenges. We are therefore especially interested in highlighting “best practices” that have proven effective in addressing some of these issues. Of special interest are those strategies that use bottom-up approaches and that include members of the target population in the design and implementation of their programs.

This year’s program features lectures that highlight the interdisciplinary work of anthropologists and other scientists around the main conference theme. Included here is a special presentation by world re-known medical anthropologist and physician Paul Farmer, whose work centers around the political economy of health, especially as it relates to the AIDS pandemic. Farmer’s lecture, sponsored by the School of American Research, promises to draw a large audience interested in social justice and health. In addition, there will be a keynote speech by Setha Low, President Elect of the American Anthropological Association. Low’s lecture, “Fear, Anxiety and Paranoia: The New Emotions of Home. A national and global perspective”, will examine gated communities and post 9/11 neighborhoods in New York City and globally. Finally, there will be a number of sessions and events as part of the “Public Health Day”, organized in collaboration with the American Public Health Association and the Chiles Center at the College of Public Health at the University of South Florida. We are exploring the possibility of offering continuing education credits to attendants at some of the special workshops offered as part of the Public Health Day.

The local arrangements committee has identified a variety of educational and recreational activities and events of interest to SfAA participants and their families. Among these are several museums (e.g., the Dali Museum, the Holocaust Museum), parks, such as Fort De Soto (which was designated as the number one beach in the country for 2005, and also offers a 1898 fort and small history museum), tours for wildlife observation, canoeing and kayaking, and visits to cultural and archaeological sites such as the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center.

We look forward to seeing you in Tampa

SIGHS AND SIGNS OF THE TIMES: DOWNWARD TRENDS IN CHILDREN’S HEALTH

By Merrill Singer [Anthro8566@aol.com]
Hispanic Health Council

In the late 1970s, the international health community woke up to the significant problem of children’s health across the globe, especially the role of diarrheal diseases in child mortality. A campaign to reduce the death of children was launched, with strong efforts especially in oral rehydration for children with diarrhea and childhood immunization for a range of diseases including tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, and poliomyelitis. As a result of what Judith Justice has called the “twin-engine approach to child health,” the rate of mortality of children under five years of age fell throughout the world during the latter part of the 20th century, going from 146 per 1,000 population in the year 1970 to 79 per 1,000 population in 2003. In the latter part of this period, however, disparities in the health of children in richer and poorer around the world began growing again.



The mortality rate for children under five years old is now seven times higher in sub-Saharan Africa than it is in Europe. In 1980, it was just over four times higher. Indeed, child death in the world increasingly is concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, where 43% of the global total of child mortality is found, reflecting an increase of 13% between 1990 and 2003. Another 28% of child deaths occur in

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South East Asia. Indeed, more than half of all child deaths in the world occur in just six countries: China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria and Pakistan.

Even short of actual mortality, disparities in children's health across nations are telling. For example, 6% of children around the globe are born with serious birth defects. More than 90% of births with serious defects are found in middle- to low-income countries according to a recent March of Dimes report. Poverty has been found to be one of the most important factors in birth defects internationally; other factors include the mother's age, living in the "malaria belt" (countries with significant levels of malaria in which inherited diseases like sickle cell, thalassemia and glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency are most common), and marriage among close blood relatives. Similar socio-geographic disparities are found in childhood nutritional status and nutrition-related health conditions according to the World Health Organization. From 1990 to 2000, the global prevalence of both growths stunting (due to poor diet) and being underweight dropped by 20% and 18%, respectively. But high rates of malnutrition among children and other nutrition-related health and physical symptoms continue in southern and central Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

One of the key forces impacting the health of children around the world is condition of the environment in which they live, including the quality of the air they breathe, the water they drink, the food they eat, and the hidden threats that lurk in the areas in which they live and play. Children are at particular risk from environmental toxins because their brains, nervous systems, and immune capacities are still developing and exposure to environmental poisons can cause life-long damage and chronic disadvantage. Air pollution, for example, both outdoors and within the home, is a primary cause of acute lower respiratory infections in children, especially pneumonia. Such infections are among the biggest sources of mortality among young children causing more than 2 million deaths each year, the vast majority in resource poor nations. Similarly, lack of access to clean water is common in poorer countries. Each year, diarrhea disease continues to take the lives of 1½ million children. Moreover, it is estimated by the World Health Organization that 2 ½ billion people, most of them in poorer countries, lack access to adequate sanitary facilities.

For children, in particular (although significant disparities also exist among adults), planet earth increasingly is a world divided between comparatively wealthy and comparatively poor places, and where you are born is a major determinant of what will happen in your life, including the likelihood that you will live beyond your fifth birthday. The earlier effort of the international health community to address children's health—despite the shortcomings of that campaign identified by medical anthropologists and others—showed what can be achieved if the health of children is prioritized. In the storm-trooper-like march of globalization and neoliberalism, however, the valuing of the health of children has lost out to other goals. The toll, in terms of children's immiseration, is increasingly staggering.

SUSTAINING FELLOWS CAMPAIGN

By J. Anthony Paredes [janthonyparedes@bellsouth.net]
Past President, SfAA

Yesterday I finished signing off on more than 135 letters inviting certain individuals to become "Sustaining Fellows" of the Society for Applied Anthropology. Who is this select group? They are SfAA Fellows who have had some leadership role in the Society since 1992 who are not already current Sustaining Fellows of the Society (not included were another 92 "Student" and "Regular" Society members who have served in leadership roles). By "leadership role" is meant everything from being on an annual meeting program or editorial committee to having been a program chair or held elective office in the governing body of the Society. Going back any farther than 1992 would be an effort of rapidly diminishing returns, and, besides, that was the year in which I was elected president of the Society (more about that later).

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What is a “Sustaining Fellow?” A Sustaining Fellow of the Society is any Fellow who agrees to pay \$90 annual dues rather than the usual \$62 that Fellows pay. Why do this? First, the extra \$28 is used to offset the cost of activities for student members, who pay only \$30 per year even though actual cost of membership is approximately \$50 per year. Second, for those who pay income tax in the United States, the extra \$28 can be treated as a charitable contribution that can be fully deducted, rather than counting toward professional expenses of which only that portion exceeding a certain percentage of income can be deducted.

But why target this particular category of people? Haven’t they given enough already through their service? Is the Society for Applied Anthropology one of those organizations that just “keeps on asking and the more you give the more they want?” Well not exactly.

Let me explain.

As I was wrapping up my presidency in 1995, somehow I got the idea that everyone who had ever served on the Executive Committee (now Board of Directors) should become a Sustaining Fellow of the Society (I might have cast the net even wider). Later, I learned that in the academic world of university “advancement” and “development”—currently popular euphemisms for “fund raising”—it is often expected that anyone serving on a governing body, e.g., alumni association board of directors, should be a major donor to the institution (even though often not a formal condition for membership on the board or other governing body). With the help of the Business Office I mounted a campaign to write to every present and past Executive Board member who was not a Sustaining Fellow urging them to become one. The effort was quite successful, nearly 100% effective by the time it was over, as I remember it. Perhaps my memory is a little rosy. Even if not, in the list of letters I just signed, it looks there are some who “backslid” from their “upgrade” of eleven years ago.

Why this latest campaign? At the Past-Presidents Council meeting in Vancouver earlier this year, one of the principal topics of discussion was the Society’s “Development Committee” (see!). In a fit of altruism, but perhaps also in the selfish interest of demonstrating the value of the humble “nickel-and-dime” approach as well as “rolling out” high-profile “capital campaigns” and the like, I volunteered to take up the task of widening my 1995 efforts to include every Fellow who had once held a leadership role in the Society.

I think it is more than reasonable to expect that those who have held positions of leadership in the Society should be peculiarly motivated to “sustain” the organization.

So, at my request the Business Office did the research to find all those leaders past and present, to prepare the letters and envelopes, and send them to me for signing (and writing personal notes on lots of them), folding, enveloping, and mailing. I’ve done it now. My special thanks go to Business Officer staffer Melissa Cope for her effort and skillful organization of my tasks for this effort.

That still doesn’t fully answer the question of why we should target all these people. It is my view that even as we serve, we gain. By, for example, serving on an SfAA committee or as an associate editor, yes, we exert sometimes tremendous “volunteer” effort, though in some institutions that effort might be at least partly written off as a portion of one’s work assignment under the “professional service” category. Nonetheless, whether written-off as part of our job assignment or not, by serving SfAA in these capacities we gain in practical knowledge of the organization and the profession. And, let’s be honest, there is a certain amount of professional prestige and recognition that comes from serving. I doubt if there are many out there who fail to include in their vitas—at least in their early to mid-career—having served on professional organization committees and editorial boards. Thus, I think it is more than reasonable to expect that those who have held positions of leadership in the Society should be peculiarly motivated to “sustain” the organization.

Even in this latest "Sustaining Fellows upgrade campaign," I learned some things:

- ❖ There are lots of people who have served the Society in the past fourteen years. Remember that the 135+ solicited in this round are people who are not already Sustaining Fellows. To me, this says we are - with a total membership currently around 3,000 - an organization with very broad-based leadership.
- ❖ There is no category of "Emeritus Sustaining Fellow" with dues at a slightly lower rate than that of "Sustaining Fellow," and there probably should be (says this recently retired Sustaining Fellow).
- ❖ There is an amazing diversity among the programs represented by those to whom we sent letters, including not only traditional anthropology and sociology departments but also institutes, agencies, and other organizations dedicated to everything from forestry to public health and much in between.
- ❖ We and our leadership are, indeed, "international." Among the letters I just mailed, are some sent to six other nations besides the United States (but we probably need to work more on increasing the number of non-US members in leadership roles).
- ❖ A surprisingly number of those on "Regular" members list of those who have had leadership roles in the Society are very prominent people in the profession, yet somehow appear to have never been elected "Fellows" of the Society. How could this be, I asked myself. Maybe the Board can correct some of these omissions at its next meeting.

As I signed, folded, and stuffed into envelopes all those letters, I was struck by how many of the Fellow addressees I knew personally but had not seen in years, by how many I knew by reputation but had never met, by how many others whose names were completely new to me, and by how many senior people dutifully maintain their membership and service to the Society. For a recent retiree, it was reassuring to see that there are still two or three surviving active professional generations ahead of me.

Looks like I will be around "bulldogging" colleagues to become Sustaining Members of the Society for Applied Anthropology for some time to come.

I hope many who might read this will "beat me to the punch" and become a "Sustaining Fellow" without any prodding from me.

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

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

The Oral History Committee has changed membership. The current Chair is Judith Friedenborg (Maryland). Other Committee members are Allan Burns (Florida), Linda Bennett (Memphis) and John van Willigen (Kentucky). The committee is now a standing committee of the Society. Comments and Suggestions concerning Oral History issues can go to any of the members.

The Society for Applied Anthropology Oral History Project is partnered with the University of Kentucky Oral History Program. Historian Jeffery Suchanek directs this program. The Program is located at the *Society for Applied Anthropology*



Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University.

The program includes extensive collections of recorded interviews and transcripts. Some of the materials are interviews concerning the Frontier Nursing Service which brought primary health care to Appalachian communities in the 1920s, interviews concerning various important Kentucky figures (such as Sen. John Sherman Cooper, Associate Justice Fred Vinson) and a large collection of interviews documenting Kentucky family farms. A description of the program can be found at <www.uky.edu/Libraries/libpage.php?lweb_id=11&llib_id=13<ab_rank=3>. The Louie B. Nunn Center's web site includes a web-accessible database that includes the SfAA Interviews. This database is at <www.uky.edu/Libraries/libpage.php?lweb_id=11&llib_id=13<ab_rank=4>.

There are currently 62 interviews in the SfAA collection. These include interviews with James Acheson, William Adams, John W. Bennett, Carol Bryant, Erve Chambers, Michael Cernea, Noel Chrisman, Margaret Clark, Muriel Crespi, Wilton S. Dillon, Paul Doughty, Mary Elmendorf, Douglas Feldman, David Fetterman, George Foster, Peter Fricke, Art Gallaher, Jr., Walter Goldschmidt, Ward Goode-nough, Art Hansen, Katherine Spencer Halperin, Joe R. Harding, Gilbert Kushner, Ruth Landman, Peter Little, Felix Moos, Phileo Nash, Marion Pearsall, Robert Rhoades, Cara Richards, Steve Schensul, Thayer Scudder, Philip Stafford, Don Stull, John van Willigen, Murray Wax, Jean Weise, and Alvin Wolfe. Kathleen Molohon and Bernice Kaplan as part of an SfAA Oral History effort did some of these interviews in the 1980s. There is also a set of interviews done with early University of South Florida students as part of Mike Angrosino's seminar that focused on oral history. Many of the interviews in the collection are transcribed.

Recent additions to the collection are interviews with James Acheson, Peter Fricke and Ann Gautam. All these interviews were done by Susan Abbott-Jamieson and focus on the emergence of fisheries anthropology in the context of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Abbott-Jamieson is currently employed by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. Susan reported that the interviews done at the request of the SfAA Oral History Project were used by the agency to help document their program.

The committee is always looking for suggestions for persons to interview. In addition we always need volunteers to do interviews. Technical advice about doing the interview can be obtained from the committee.

LPO NEWS

By Lenora Bohren [Lenora.Bohren@colostate.edu]
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO

The LPO luncheon was held on Friday, March 31, 2006, during the SfAA Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC Canada. Thirteen representatives attended the luncheon at the Mosaic Grill in the Hyatt Regency Hotel. We were updated on the status and needs of the represented LPOs and learned that a new LPO is forming in the NYC area. Bill Roberts, a member of WAPA and co-editor of the SfAA publication, *Practicing Anthropology*, introduced himself to the group and spoke about a potential section in *PA* devoted to practitioners called "Practitioner Briefs." This section will feature the ongoing work of practitioners and highlight their involvement with LPOs. The Proposal was well received. News from the LPOs follows:



A new LPO is forming in the Boston/New England Area. The first meeting is scheduled for June 1st in Cambridge, Mass. Please contact Stacy Graiko at [graiko@mac.com] if you're interested in joining.

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Announcing the New York Association for the Practice of Anthropology! With the assistance of the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology (NAPA), the New York Association for the Practice of Anthropology (NYAPA) is being formed. As a networking and professional development organization in the greater New York metropolitan area, NYAPA will serve the local professional and applied anthropological community. As anthropologists work both within and outside the academy, membership is open to all. As this is a new organization, the needs of its membership can strongly influence its form. Please think about what you would like from such an organization and what you can offer to others. A preliminary development meeting is being planned for the spring. If you are interested in participating, please contact Susan Mann at [susan.mann@sw-software.com].

The Bay Area Association of Practicing Anthropologists hosted a potluck dinner and discussion meeting to discuss the opportunities and challenges of ethnographic research in the Bay Area in January. Visit their website to find out more about the upcoming BAAPA events: <www.csufresno.edu/Anthropology/CALPO/BAAPA.htm> or sign up for their list serve: <groups.yahoo.com/group/bayareaanthros/> or contact Kim Koester at [Kimberly.Koester@ucsf.edu].

The practicing and applied anthropologists in the Dallas/Fort Worth area have joined together to form the Texas Area Practicing Anthropology Society (TAPAS). The mission of TAPAS is to bring together practicing anthropologists in the North Texas area to promote professional development; generate career opportunities in the applied social sciences; provide a network for aspiring professional anthropologists; raise general awareness of the contributions of practicing and applied anthropologists to the public and business community. At the inaugural meeting, TAPAS proudly welcomed Ed Liebow to discuss issues of river use and environmental issues. Guest speakers from the Centers for Survivors of Torture joined TAPAS at the second meeting to discuss treatment methods and the asylum process. The third TAPAS meeting will be held in late August. Go to <www.tapas-lpo.org> for more information, or contact Roxanna Manoochehri at [roxanna_unt@yahoo.com] with any questions.



CAPA (Chicago) is off to a great start this year with two meetings and a party thus far. CAPA meetings have focused on two topics this year: cultural competence and the nature of people's responses to disaster. Both session formats were designed to use presentation to trigger discussion (rather than presentation and polite questions). Please contact Nancy P Greenman at [npgreenman@juno.com] for information on coming events.

SCAAN (Southern California Applied Anthropology Network) now has a website! It is part of the CALPO (Californian Local Practitioner Organization) website with Jim Mullooly from CSU Fresno: <<http://www.csufresno.edu/Anthropology/CALPO/index.htm>>. There is also a link to the NAPA website's updated LPO page <www.practicinganthropology.org/lpos/>. The next SCAAN event is on Saturday, May 20, with a screening of the documentary FROM AFRICA to INDIA, Sidi Music in the Indian Ocean Diaspora at the Skirball Museum. Last year's SCAAN award was given to Sidi Goma at their World Festival of Sacred Music performance at the Skirball Museum in September of 2005. For more about SCAAN Treasurer's and former President Amy Catlin's work on the SIDI community see <<http://www.boloji.com/wfs4/wfs492.htm>>, <<http://www.musicdiaspora.org>> and <<http://www.apsara-media.com>>. For information and to be on the email list, contact Gillian Grebler at [gggrebler@verizon.net]. SCANN always welcomes new members.

HPSfAA (High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology) held its annual spring conference at the YMCA Camp of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado from April 28 to the 30th, 2006. The conference was entitled "Webbed Anthropology: Articulating the Relationships Involved in Our Efforts to Improve the World". The keynote speaker was Steven Spitzer, Professor of Sociology at Suffolk University, Boston,

MA. He spoke on "In the Belly of the Beast: The Web of Demands, Interests and Meanings in Prison Work". Many interesting sessions addressed topics including Reservation Life, Partnerships, Farming Survival Strategies, Indigenous Needs, etc. The annual Omer C. Steward Memorial Award for exemplary achievement was awarded to Lenora Bohren. HPSfAA has changed the name of their journal from the High Plains Applied Anthropologist to The Applied Anthropologist. HPSfAA welcomes submissions of manuscripts to the editor, Larry van Horn at [julavaho1@mindspring.com]. Please visit the HPSfAA website at <http://www.hpsfaa.org> or contact the president, Kreg Ettenger at [kreg.ettenger@excite.com] for more information.

FROM THE DESK OF WILL SIBLEY

By Will Sibley [shadyside1190@comcast.net]
Past President, SfAA and Past President, WAPA

Following the WAPA "Girl-Boy-Girl-Boy" tradition in leadership, Charity Goodman will follow John Mullen as President of WAPA for the 2006-2007 "season." Ruth Sando will serve as program committee chair joined by Todd Pierce as an additional member.

It is anticipated that there will be an early Fall social affair to begin the 2006-2007 "season," followed with both monthly meetings in some succeeding months, along with somewhat more specialized sessions --- likely at members' homes --- in others.

Ordinarily, we can also anticipate both winter and spring social affairs, which bring together jolly groups of colleagues for good food, good drink and good conversation! Visitors from "abroad" who are coming to Washington should check the WAPA website for times and places of events for them to join as welcomed visitors. The website is now: <www.wapadc.org>.

NAPA NEWS

By Madelyn Iris [miris@northwestern.edu]
Northwestern University

Writing a column for a newsletter, regardless of the time frame, always raises issues of purpose, relevancy, timeliness, and meaning. It's not so easy! While its relatively simple to use this column space to let people know what NAPA has been doing over the last few months, my preference is to pursue a conversation, of sorts, with the reader. But, what does it take to engage people in a thoughtful, one-way exchange of ideas via this format? Is it even possible? I attempted to do this last time around, and I am going to continue to pursue that goal once again.



Last time I wrote I attempted to challenge you to think about, and perhaps act on, our professional commitment to address human problems, through personal or professional action, or both. I was thinking about the multiple ways in which we engage with our fellow travelers on this planet: as citizens, as teachers and mentors, as decision makers, and often as people who have the power to influence decisions through the creation of or at least the explication of new knowledge.

As an anthropologist working as a researcher in a social service agency, I know that the knowledge and information I provide to my colleagues has the potential to direct future service delivery, determine how resources might be allocated, and ultimately shape the ways in which people are helped.

Certainly, it is not my contribution alone that shapes such decisions, but it is not hard to see how the flow of the stream ultimately directs the river.

For example, I am currently involved in a multi-pronged effort to design and implement a service delivery system in Illinois, targeting older adults suffering from self-neglect. New legislation in Illinois, expected to be signed into law any day now, will mandate a state-wide response system, with the goal of alleviating the terrible human conditions associated with self neglect, including deplorable housing, malnutrition, and increased risk of disease and even death. However, even though we have a new law, we have little knowledge about the lives of those thought to be living under such terrible conditions, nor do we have more than an anecdotal understanding of how or why such conditions arise and persist.

The product of my efforts, in concert with my colleagues, will be empirical findings about prevalence and incidence of self neglect, identification of the factors that contribute to condition, projections of potential risk, and ethically and morally sound methods for intervention and assistance. I am very excited about the projects that are underway or about to start, as I can already envision some of the ways in which the information discovered might be used to guide the development and implementation of the service system. Since several thousand older people are identified as suffering from self neglect each year in Illinois (and that is without a clear definition, standardized assessment, or training protocol), the thought that "good" will result is invigorating.

In addition, I am a board member of an organization called "Health and Disability Advocates." This incredibly active and highly successful organization was initially called "The SSI Coalition for A Responsible Safety Net" and was formed back in the early 1990s when Supplemental Security Income was under threat. HDA seeks to assure that low-income older adults, children and adults with disabilities lead secure and dignified lives. Through its programs HDA advocates for policies that promote economic security and provide health coverage. My goal here is not to tell you all about HDA, but rather to provide an example of how private and professional goals and mission overlap. I sit on the HDA board as a private citizen, but I draw upon my anthropological perspective and experiences continuously, and I know that the anthropologist in me is highly valued by the organization.

Attention is paid when individual anthropologists are seen and heard in the public and private spaces where decision-making occurs - and thus we need to be present and to participate in all these domains.

I believe these examples exemplify the ways in which private and professional lives intersect, as well as how we might bring our anthropology into the public sphere. In the May, 2006 issue of this newsletter, Don Stull addressed the issue of "public anthropology." He quoted from James Peacock's 1995 AAA Presidential Address, who stated, "Society needs anthropology. ...But in order to address that societal need ourselves, we must redirect our focus.

...We must make a difference beyond the discipline and the academy." Peacock, and Stull were writing about anthropology as a discipline. I would argue that we must make a difference as individuals as well if we want to influence the role that anthropology can play in the public arena. It is my experience that the public, both in general and its leadership, hear individuals, not disciplines. Attention is paid when individual anthropologists are seen and heard in the public and private spaces where decision-making occurs - and thus we need to be present and to participate in all these domains.

I hope these ideas give you all something to think about. I welcome your comments and feedback and will respond to all emails. I can be contacted at the above email. Please don't hesitate to write. I hope to continue this "conversation" in the fall in the NAPA column of the *Anthropology Newsletter*.

Before I close, and just to switch gears, I do want to remind you all that NAPA is co-sponsoring the 2nd EPIC Conference (Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Conference).

The conference will be held at Intel's Portland, Oregon, research campus - which should be a terrific setting. The dates are September 24-26, 2006. There is a discounted registration for NAPA members. All registrants will also receive a hard copy of the conference proceedings. This conference is a great opportunity for people to network in a relaxed setting with applied ethnographers from a "Who's Who" of private sector employers. For those looking for career opportunities in this area, EPIC will be a terrific venue for meeting potential employers and making contacts. For more information, visit the EPIC website at <www.epic2006.com>.

STUDENT COMMITTEE REPORT

By Angela Leggett [ocotilloangel@yahoo.com]
University of California Los Angeles

As the new editor for the SfAA Student Committee, I intended to write my first column about the amazing things we have planned for next year. We have several incoming officers, for example, and we're working hard to keep in communication.

Maintaining frequent communication over the summer is difficult. Students are, as it turns out, hibernating. We're either struggling to pay bills, conducting fascinating fieldwork, or working on our summer reading lists. We might be doing these things on a remote tropical beach, because after all, we are on the path to becoming applied social scientists for reasons that sometimes go slightly beyond altruism.

It's becoming a tradition that the Student Committee editor writes an early column about students' summer fieldwork experiences, and although I'm only minimally informed, I can at least report something of our comings and goings.

Our new chair is Ashley Carse of the University of North Carolina. He has just returned from Panama, where he undertook preliminary research about that country's plans for its canal. True to the spirit of our organization, he said he is "collaborating with an applied ecology/social science reforestation project there called PRORENA, which operates out of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute."

Our new vice chair/chair elect Nick Rattray hails from the University of Arizona, one of my alma maters. He has returned from an Ecuadorian research adventure, enjoying a respite from the Tucson summer and arriving back home just in time for this year's spectacular monsoons.

Our faithful communication coordinator/web guru is Heide Castañeda, also of the University of Arizona. She breathlessly mentioned something about tiling her living room and finishing several chapters of her dissertation, both on one weekend. Among other responsibilities, Heidi moderates our student Web forum, where scholarships, calls for papers, and other relevant messages can be shared. The site's address is <www.sfaa.net/cgi-bin/ubbcgi/ultimatebb.cgi>; other SfAA forums are available there too.

Though Yvette Justice of the University of North Texas focuses her research on the anthropology of play, she is currently swimming in real-world work (marketing!) and writing up the final paper for her degree. She said she'd like to report back with magical tales of her summer in the Andes, but at least her job involves playing with toys and board games. She's tying it all together.

As for me, I'm about to begin my Ph.D. at UCLA. I'm trying to generate a publication or two out of my master's thesis, and I'm translating certain chapters of the thesis into Spanish so I can share my findings with the weavers I interviewed in Peru. I'm also headed to the volcanic beaches of the island of Hawaii for a pre-doctoral escape.



Judging by the emptiness of Las Cruces - the university town in which I currently reside - I believe that the rest of the student membership is already on the beach. While the student members have been planning to think about the Miami meetings one of these days, first we must all get to an internet café in our respective parts of the planet. And that just might have to wait until school starts back up again.

REPORT FROM *PA* EDITORS

By Bill Roberts [wcroberts@smcm.edu]
St. Mary's College of Maryland

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

This has been another busy summer for your *PA* editors. Bill recently returned from a two-month field school in The Gambia. Tiny Gambia was a busy place this summer. In early June Gambia hosted the biennial International Roots Homecoming Festival. The festival's theme was "Celebrating Unity Through Culture." Its aim is to reconnect members of the African diasporas with their



Gambian homeland while celebrating Senegambian culture and history. Later that same month Gambia hosted the seventh African Union summit. Nearly forty African heads of state visited Gambia and attended the summit. Additionally, the Presidents of Venezuela and Iran were allowed to address the assembly. Although international media coverage of the summit was poor, many Gambians took pride in their role as hosts for the continent's leadership. As I write, Gambian farmers hope for an improvement in erratic summer rains, and the Gambian people are preparing for national elections. Gambians will vote for their next president in September, and then elect members for the next national assembly and the local government Area Councils.

Earlier this summer, Jeanne made a visit to the U.S. Southwest, and is currently in Mexico helping lead a field school in Chiapas. Mexico's recent presidential elections were preceded by an "Uprising of Hope" among the Mexican left that wanted to see dramatic political change in the executive branch. Over the past week I have watched the media coverage as many Mexicans pursue a strategy of civil disobedience in an effort to have a recount of the ballots in an extremely close election. I haven't been able to reach Jeanne in the field, but I'm sure she'll have much more to tell us about the ongoing events after she returns.



It's been nearly a month since the Israeli government launched attacks against Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon following the abduction of two Israeli soldiers. As the violence increased, SfAA members received the most recent issue of *PA* (28:3) that was edited by Malka Shabtay and Zev Kalifon, entitled *The Complexity of Diversity: Applying Anthropology in Israel*. The issue presents examples of applied anthropology in Israel, and features the roles of practitioners working with the complex policy and educational issues associated with multiculturalism, immigration, assimilation, and building a nation of citizens who understand and appreciate their own cultural diversity. This was the second issue this year that focused on applied social science in this heavily conflicted region, and Jeanne and I look forward to hearing from you about the articles in these issues.

The final fall issue of *PA* this year will be an Editors' Choice, entitled *Contributions to Public Policy, Program Planning and Research Practice*. This issue features articles from practitioners working in Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, and the United States. The issue begins with an article by Josiah Heyman, Evelyn Caballero, and Alaka Wali, who introduce the topic of diverse national traditions in academic and applied anthropology that have developed around the world. This introduction is followed by articles that discuss the long-term public policy work conducted by Gabriela Vargas-Cetina in Mexico, Richard Chase Smith in Peru, and Evelyn Caballero in the Philippines. Each of these articles briefly illustrates the concern anthropologists have in making heard voices from the margins of society. Those margins are inhabited by communities with little access to the people with power to effect national policy.

The geographic focus then shifts to the African continent. Ethiopian anthropologist Shimelis Beyene discusses his work in the Awash region of his country; a region made famous by discoveries of early hominid remains. His article highlights the seemingly contradictory demands of conservation and development in the Awash National Park. Allison Fissell and Kimber McKay write about their work with traditional healers in Uganda, who continue to be the most accessible resource for Ugandans seeking assistance for curative or preventive services. Karen Flynn and Mustafa Kudrati focus on ethical concerns that emerged over the course of a decade of research and involvement with a Tanzanian NGO providing services to street children in Mwanza, Tanzania. Our final two articles are about programmatic work in the United States. David Turkon and Ann Wheat write about the work they have done to help Sudanese "Lost Boys" adapt to resettlement in Phoenix, Arizona. Armida Ayala concludes the issue with an article that describes her effort to develop effective strategies to prevent peri-natal transmission of HIV in Los Angeles County.

The *PA* editors wish to re-invite practitioners to send short submissions (approximately 500 words) to us for publication in a new section of *PA* that seeks to highlight the activities of practitioners and/or Local Practitioner Organizations (LPOs). These briefs, envisioned to be similar to "Reports from the Field," will provide *PA* readers with timely summaries about the topics, methods, successes or shortcomings of practitioners. Practitioners who use this forum will be able to reach a broader audience, and we hope the submissions will add value to our goal of making *PA* an important teaching resource. Please send your submissions to either one of us.

We want to remind you that if you submitted an article to us and haven't heard from us, please send us an email. *PA* editorial assistant Alice Wright continues to do a wonderful job of making sure all of the submissions are properly edited and sent to Neil Hann, who takes care of the final layout. So if you have submitted, please feel free to inquire.

CONSORTIUM OF PRACTICING AND APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY REPORT (COPAA)

By Linda A. Bennett [lbennett@memphis.edu]
Chair, COPAA

Greetings from the Consortium of Practicing and Applied Anthropology Programs. COPAA was an active presence at the SfAA Vancouver meetings in March 2006. Holding their seventh annual meeting, Consortium departmental representatives laid out an agenda for the future "to collectively advance the education and training of students, faculty, and practitioners in applied anthropology." Based upon commitment to this mission, two new departments were voted in as members: San Jose State University and University of Texas, San Antonio.



Please see the current list of 24 members along with links to each program at www.copaa.info/programs_in_aa/list.htm. The possibility of inviting departments from universities outside of the United States to join COPAA was discussed, with programs in Canada, Australia, and Mexico suggested in particular. A lunch sponsored by COPAA for departmental representatives followed the meeting that provided an opportunity for discussion of current developments in member departments.

During the Vancouver meetings COPAA sponsored two panel sessions that were well attended and led to lively discussion. One focused on "Tenure and Promotion in Applied Anthropology: Preparation for and Documentation of Scholarship." Organized by Liz Bird (University of South Florida) and myself, this panel included presentations by Sherylyn Briller (Wayne State University), Kerry Feldman (University of Alaska), Stanley Hyland (University of Memphis), Ann Jordan (University of North Texas), Sunil Khanna (Oregon State University), Elgin Klugh (Montclair State University), and Nancy Romero-Daza (University of South Florida). For a critical review of the points made in the presentations and discussions, see www.copaa.info/resources_for_programs/tenure_and_promotion_2006.htm.

The session provoked such lively discussion, panelists and attendees agreed that we should work toward publishing summaries of the presentations along with commentary of other leaders the education and training of applied anthropologists. We anticipate organizing another session on this general topic for the 2007 SfAA meetings in Tampa, and under the editorial leadership of Sunil Khanna, Nancy Romero-Daza, and Sherylyn Briller to explore publication possibilities.

The second session entitled "Allies on the Front: Perspectives from our Community Partners" was organized by Judith Freidenberg (University of Maryland), Peg Graham (University of Texas-Pan American), Susan Hyatt (Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis), and Karen Quintiliani (California State University, Long Beach). Featured speakers included Bevin Reid and Karl Arne, from the US EPA, Region 10 Based in Seattle, WA. See www.copaa.info/resources_for_programs/allies.htm to read a summary of the session and critical points made by the speakers and in the discussion.



Considerable enthusiasm and appreciation was expressed by departmental representatives for the work that had been done over the previous year in redesigning COPAA's website at the University of North Texas, under the leadership of webmaster Christina Wasson. The website is updated every few months. Please check the recently updated website www.copaa.info for details about the 2006 annual meeting and the actions of the departmental representatives. The website has several sections that are intended to be useful to students and programs. We welcome your commentary and suggestions about the website.

At the upcoming AAA meetings in San Jose COPAA will hold an open forum organized by Linda Whiteford, Christina Wasson, Kerry Feldman, and Linda Bennett entitled "COPAA: Accomplishments and Future Directions." We hope you will come and take part.

Anticipating being a co-sponsor of the 2007 SfAA meetings in Tampa, COPAA invites you to contact us about ideas for sessions for those meetings. Please feel free to be in touch with any of our officers with your ideas: Kerry Feldman, Secretary, [afkdf@uaa.alaska.edu]; Christina Wasson, Webmaster, [cwasson@unt.edu]; Sunil Khanna, Virtual Community Moderator, [skhanna@oregonstate.edu]; Gina Sanchez Gibau, Co-Treasurer, [gsanchez@iupui.edu]; Jeanette Dickerson-Putman; Co-Treasurer [jdickere@iupui.edu]; or me.

NOTEWORTHY

UMass Professor Briefs New U.S. Ambassador to Hungary.

Dr. Krista Harper, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Public Policy at UMass, was recently invited by the State Department to help prepare Ambassador April Foley for her posting in Hungary. The briefing, which took place in a State Department facility in Rosslyn, VA, on Thursday, July 13, 2006, covered a range of topics intended to familiarize the new ambassador with Hungarian business, politics, and culture.

Ambassador Foley was sworn in on July 5, 2006, and received the briefing from the Hungary experts one week later. Dr. Harper was joined by several other academic and private-sector experts on Hungarian economy and society. Dr. Harper, who is fluent in Hungarian, has studied social movements around the issues of health, environment, and human rights in Hungary since 1994.

"I was honored by the opportunity to brief Ambassador Foley, said Dr. Harper. "Anthropologists have in-depth, ethnographic experience that can contribute to international diplomacy and peace."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SfAA Election Slate - Student Representative

The slate of candidates for the Fall Election has been expanded to include the Student Representative on the Board. Previously, the slate included only two positions on the Board of Directors and two positions on the Nominations and Elections Committee. The current Student Representative, Jennifer Wies, has completed her degree requirements well ahead of schedule and will graduate in December of this year. We all extend our hearty congratulations. However, this will require that we identify qualified candidates and elect a replacement for Jennifer on the Board. We now solicit nominations for the Student position on the Board in addition to the four positions identified above (two for the Board and two for the Nominations and Elections Committee). Please send your suggestions for any or all of these positions to one of the members of the Nominations and Elections, Committee (Carolyn Smith-Morris, Ralph Bolton, Mary Odell Butler, and Allan Batteau) or to the SfAA Office <info@sfaa.net> or (405) 843-5113).

USF Assistant Professor in Anthropology

The Department of Anthropology at the University of South Florida seeks an Assistant Professor with expertise in Applied Medical Anthropology with a focus on policy analysis and qualitative methods to begin Fall 2007. Areas of possible interest include: male health, violence, trauma and health, health in international development, and health issues among African-Americans. Geographic area is open. Candidates must be committed to four-field applied anthropology and hold a Ph.D. in Anthropology at the time of appointment. Salary negotiable. Applicant must be prepared to teach four-field introductory anthropology; other undergraduate and graduate courses as required by department; and also to develop courses within his/her own specialization. Candidates should provide evidence of teaching competence and of research success or potential, including external funding and publication. Successful candidate will be expected to pursue external research funding.

For further information about the department and university, visit our web site: <www.cas.usf.edu/anthropology/index.html>. Applications should include a letter detailing experience and interest in the position, CV, evidence of teaching ability, 1-3 research publications (if available); three letters of reference. Send applications to Dr. Linda Whiteford, Chair: Search Committee, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida, 4202 E. Fowler Avenue, SOC 107, Tampa, FL 33620-8100, fax (813-974-2668) or e-mail [lindaw@cas.usf.edu]. Applications must be post marked no later than October 15, 2006. The University of South Florida is an affirmative action, equal access, and equal opportunity employer. Applications from women and minorities are encouraged. According to *Society for Applied Anthropology*

Florida law, applications and meetings regarding them are open to the public. For ADA accommodations, contact Debbie Roberson (813) 974-0775 at least five working days prior to need. USF is an AA/EA/EO institution.

SfAA Public Policy Committee

The goal of the SfAA Public Policy committee has been giving SfAA members the information and skills needed to be effective in a wide range of public policy settings and on a wide variety of topics. The Committee's approach can be found in this document: <www.sfaa.net/policy/policygoals.pdf>. Organizing formal workshops and sessions and informal "open forums" at the SfAA meetings is one of the best ways to share experiences and skills in addressing public policy. The committee urges SfAA members to consider submitting public policy oriented sessions and forums for the 2007 meetings at this address: <<http://www.sfaa.net/sfaa2007.html>>. If you do organize a relevant session, workshop, or forum, please email Joe Heyman at [jmheyman@utep.edu] so we can give it the sponsorship of the Public Policy committee.



Call for Proposals: SfAA Program Chair, 2009

The Board of Directors solicits proposals for the 69th Annual Meeting of the SfAA in the Spring of 2009. The meeting will convene in the Southwest or Pacific Coast of the U.S. The proposals will be reviewed at the Fall Meeting of the Board on November 18. Proposals should be submitted by October 28th to the SfAA Office (info@sfaa.net or Box 2436, Oklahoma City, OK 73101). A proposal should include a draft theme statement that is consistent with the mission of SfAA and follows the interests of the membership. The proposal should also explore how this theme and the proposed Program Chair will attract broad interest among cognate social science associations. The Board will also be interested in how the proposal intends to identify and generate external support and resources for the proposed meeting. Interested individuals or groups may benefit from a pre-proposal conversation with previous Program Chairs. Please contact the SfAA Office for a list of these individuals and the contact information (405/843-5113 or info@sfaa.net). Successful proposals from past Annual meetings are available upon request.

Call for Proposals: Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) Annual Meeting

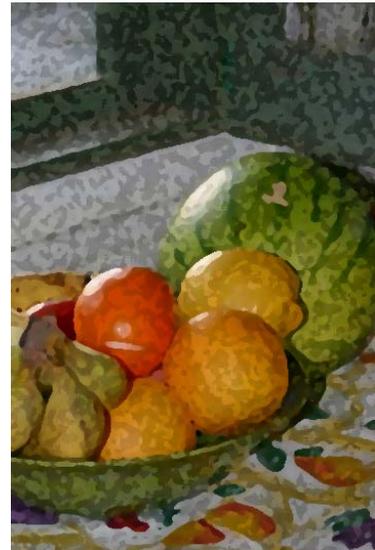
Port Elizabeth, South Africa, July 1-5, 2007. Join leading social scientists from Africa and around the world at the 21st Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology (Port Elizabeth, South Africa; July 1-5, 2007) to explore vital questions at the interface of society and biodiversity conservation. *Where* should the conservation community focus its efforts? *How* should the conservation community design and implement its conservation interventions? *What are the impacts* of conservation interventions? SCB's Social Science Working Group (SSWG) is currently developing a slate of conservation-relevant social science symposia, workshops, short courses, and organized discussions for the 2007 SCB meeting. We seek anthropology proposals that will enhance our scientific understanding of human interactions with the environment and that will inform conservation policy and practice. We are particularly interested in proposals that foster collaboration between African and non-African conservation social scientists, between social and natural scientists, and that address conservation issues transcending location- or case-specific application. The submission deadline for symposia, workshops, and organized discussions is October 16; the deadline for short courses is November 13.

If you are interested in developing or participating in a session at the 2007 SCB meeting, please contact Murray Rudd [mrudd@swgc.mun.ca], chair of the Social Science Subcommittee for the SCB 2007

Local Organizing Committee. Full details are at <<http://compworx.isat.co.za/scb/>>. With 600 members in nearly 60 countries, the SSWG is home to a diverse array of social scientists, natural scientists, and conservation practitioners within SCB - the world's leading professional society for conservation scientists and practitioners. The SSWG mission is to strengthen conservation social science and its application to conservation practice. To advance scientific knowledge, the SSWG creates forums and mechanisms for information exchange and learning; to help solve conservation problems, the SSWG develops resource materials for conservation practitioners and decision-makers. For more information regarding the SSWG, please visit our website at <www.conservationbiology.org/sswg> or contact Mike Mascia, SSWG President [michael.mascia@wwfus.org].

The 2007 WAPA Praxis Award

Since 1981, the Washington Association of Professional Anthropologists (WAPA) has presented the Praxis Award, recognizing outstanding achievement in translating anthropological knowledge into action as reflected in a single project. Anthropological knowledge is interpreted in its broadest meaning, encompassing theory, data, and methods. Nominations for the award, therefore, need to demonstrate the effectiveness and relevance of anthropology to contemporary social problems. WAPA encourages anyone holding an M.A. or Ph.D. in any subfield of anthropology to apply for this prestigious award. Should a large and diverse pool of competitive candidates apply, WAPA will consider making two awards in 2007. One award, if merited, would be weighted toward a promising professional relatively early in her/his career; the other award would be for a more established professional with a history of successful work. The 2007 award will be presented at a special reception during the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association.



Individuals, groups or organizations (wherein at least one anthropologist worked on the designated project) may apply themselves or nominate others. All applications will be judged by the same criteria. The anthropologist's contribution to the project's success is critical and should be indicated clearly. Recognition of this contribution by other major participants or contributors should be acknowledged in the nomination.

An independent panel of accomplished professional anthropologists will judge nominations. **Application deadline for the 2007 award is June 1, 2007.** The winning applicant(s) receives a cash award of \$500. Award recipients may be asked to contribute a chapter to future editions of the volume *Anthropological Praxis: Translating Knowledge into Action*, (Shirley Fiske and Robert Wulff, eds.). Full application materials may be found at the WAPA website <www.wapadc.org>. For further information contact: Praxis Award Chair Willis E. Sibley, 1190 Cedar Avenue, Shady Side, MD 20764-9153, Tel/FAX (301) 261-9404, [shadyside1190@comcast.net] or Bob Wulff, Co-Chair Praxis Award, [rwulff@hazelland.com].

FROM THE EDITOR

The Society for Applied Anthropology lost a true giant this spring. George M. Foster, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at the University of California-Berkeley, died May 18 at the age of 92. An ardent and articulate spokesperson for applied anthropology, Foster spent much of his long and very productive professional career writing about the dynamics of cultural change and the role anthropologists could play as effective brokers between those promoting changes and those who were going to be impacted. In the late 1960s, when many social scientists were concerned about the ramifications of applied social science in counter insurgency programs in Southeast Asia or reacting to the negative consequences of Project Camelot in South America, Foster continued to teach about the importance of *Society for Applied Anthropology*

understanding how and why cultures change. Through the days of protests, student strikes and tear gas, Foster continued to lecture to packed classes about the importance of understanding the dynamics of social and cultural change. His works on applied anthropology shaped the thinking of several generations of practitioners.

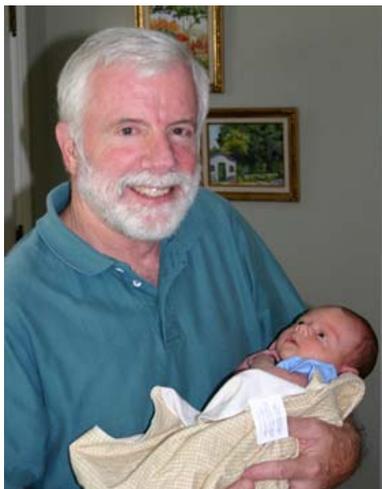
For almost six decades Foster, along with his wife Micki - a distinguished linguistic anthropologist in her own right - conducted research in the community of Tzintzuntzan, Michoacan, in western Mexico. Although Foster was a prolific writer and published material on everything from pottery glazes to the humoral pathology, he is perhaps best known for his work on trying to explain the forces surrounding culture change and for his many contributions in medical anthropology. Much of what he wrote on both of these topics was attributable to his knowledge of what was taking place in this community of artisans and farmers.

In addition to being an incredibly productive scholar, George Foster served the discipline in other ways as well. He was Chair of the Department of Anthropology at UC-Berkeley on two occasions. He was president of the American Anthropological Association and of the Society for Applied Anthropology. A member of the American Academy of Sciences, Foster received the Malinowski Award from the AAA and SfAA. At last year's annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, he was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Medical Anthropology.

I last heard from George shortly after the New Year. In his always-newsy Christmas letter, he wrote about the trips he had taken over the past year. (Micki passed away in December 2001, but Foster, struggling with Parkinson's disease for the last several years, continued to travel and visit friends and colleagues on a regular basis). But mainly it focused on the passing of so many friends and colleagues, and he talked about the experiences and memories they shared. Far from maudlin, the letter seemed amazingly upbeat, while clearly recognizing that things were drawing to a close. He even joked about his physical infirmities and said he was pleased that his banker still recognized his signature well enough to cash his checks. He ended the letter by talking about my family and my own accomplishments and how proud he was to have been part of them. I took his letter down to my study and put it next to my computer, fully intending to respond with a note of appreciation for the role he played in my career. He passed away before I wrote the letter.

The November issue of the *Newsletter* will have a more complete synopsis of George M. Foster's life and accomplishments.

Mike Whiteford [jefe@iastate.edu]



Mike Whiteford with new grandson, Andrew H. Whiteford, born July 26, 2006

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, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, 202 Catt Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1301, E-mail: jefe@iastate.edu. Telephone: 515/294-43220; fax 515/294-1303. 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>](mailto:info@sfaa.net). Visit our website at [<http://www.sfaa.net/>](http://www.sfaa.net/).

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