

Newsletter

Society for Applied Anthropology

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SfAA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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Generosity in volunteering time and energy to SfAA endeavors and generosity in initiating and providing financial support for SfAA programs is a remarkable feature of the SfAA membership. In this column I would like to thank the membership overall for its commitment to SfAA, its mission, goals, and activities. Specifically, I would like to highlight one such recent contribution and to announce a scholarship program that has resulted.

Dr. Sarah Robinson, immediate past chair of the American Indians Issues Committee and a continuing committee member, made such a financial contribution earlier this year to help support the participation of American Indians/Alaskan Natives in the annual meetings of the Society. At the spring board meeting, the Board of Directors voted to match Dr. Robinson's contribution and to establish an endowment from which we can draw upon the interest each year to support the program. A fundraising effort to supplement the initial contributions will be undertaken in the upcoming year.

Since the administration and operating procedures for the scholarship program are still being developed, we are adopting an interim procedure for awarding a few scholarships to cover registration fees for the 2001 meeting in Merida. We are now accepting requests from American Indians/Alaskan Natives who have submitted abstracts for the 2001 meetings to cover their registration fees for the meeting. Anyone who is an American Indian/Alaskan Native, who has submitted an abstract, and who wishes to be considered for this scholarship should write to the SfAA Business Office with a formal request. This request may be sent through e-mail <info@sffa.net> or regular mail (J. Thomas May, SfAA PO Box 24083, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73124). Included in the request should be

information about your paper title and abstract; the session—if any—you are included in; your tribal affiliation; names, addresses, and telephone numbers of two references; and a brief rationale for needing the support in order to participate in the annual meeting. The deadline for receipt of applications is January 15, 2001.

During the upcoming year, the Officers and Board of Directors of the SfAA will work with current co-chairs of the American Indians Issues Committee J. Anthony Paredes and Beatrice Medicine in consultation with other members of the committee on the development of the scholarship program. The Committee, the Board, and the Society thank Dr. Robinson for her generosity in creating this long overdue opportunity for American Indian/Alaskan Native scholars, whose peoples have been such a prominent part of the development of American Anthropology and the SfAA.

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Everyone reading this column is exceedingly aware that the ethics of anthropologists and other social scientists have come under close public scrutiny with the publication this month of journalist Patrick Tierney's book *Darkness in El Dorado: How Scientists and Journalists Devastated the Amazon* and his recent article in *The New Yorker* entitled "The Fierce Anthropologist" (October 9, 2000). Amid the plethora of ethical issues that have emerged as the focus of responses to Tierney's writing, informed consent by people with whom anthropologists work in the field is a specific issue that has attracted particular attention. In order to clarify how members of SfAA have addressed this very important issue, I have sent the following letter to the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

In response to Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban's 'Point of View' article (October 6, 2000), I would clarify that members of the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) since well before the Vietnam War have addressed very seriously ethical issues and have not ignored the importance of informed consent. Formed in 1941, the Society for Applied Anthropology is an example of a national-international professional organization that has grappled with professional and ethical responsibilities since its formation. The Society's first statement on ethics was published in 1949. As stated in its Mission Statement, "The Society has for its object the promotion of interdisciplinary scientific investigation of the principles controlling the relations of human beings to one another, and the encouragement of the wide application of these principles to practical problems, and shall be known as The Society for Applied Anthropology."

Professor Fluehr-Lobban reports that the American Anthropological Association's statements on ethics did not include an informed consent principle until the 1998 version of the code of ethics of the AAA. In contrast the Society for Applied Anthropology included a strong and clear consent principle in its 1983 Statement on Professional and Ethical Responsibilities. In this document, the first stipulation in the document reads, "To the people we study we owe disclosure of our research goals, methods, and sponsorship. The participation of people in our research activities shall only be on a voluntary and informed basis. We shall provide a means throughout our research activities and in subsequent publications to maintain the confidentiality of those we study. The people we study must be made aware of the likely limits of confidentiality and must not be promised a greater degree of confidentiality than can be realistically expected under current legal circumstances in our respective nations. We shall, within the limits of our knowledge, disclose any significant risk to those we study that may result from our activities."

Applied anthropologists have been well aware of the necessity of addressing informed consent issues in their research, wherever and with whomever the research was being conducted. This fact does not diminish the importance of Professor Fluehr-Lobban's serious attention to this very critical issue in anthropological research.

ON POWER, ANTHROPOLOGY, AND UNIVERSITIES

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The incredible structural power arrayed against unions became apparent as I tried to understand the ethnography of locals in Chicago. A multitude of laws, practices and highly paid consulting firms act as a management wall against organized labor. Even universities are not immune, as a look at any campaign to organize graduate assistants will show. Universities claim that working for them is not work, that organization interferes with mentoring relationships. If anyone is looking for a Ph.D. dissertation topic, I suggest a comparative study of mentoring relationships among universities with and without graduate assistant unions. I'd like to see some data.

We see the power of universities in other arenas as well—especially agriculture. About the time martial law was declared in Poland in the 1980's, when I was at the University of Iowa, I got interested in the Farmer's Union in that state. In the archives I read newspaper and magazine articles about the 'cow war' of 1931 and martial law. I went to the courthouse where the union leaders were tried and got copies of the evidence and proceedings. There was a change of venue because there could not be a 'fair' trial in the county of the accused where everyone was a member of the union. The court records showed that all the jurors that convicted the accused union leaders were members of the Farm Bureau. I started reading about the history of the Farm Bureau and kept finding connections to the Land Grant Institutions. About then, I dropped that line of inquiry. Someone, an anthropologist whose grandfather had been involved in the radical agrarian movement, asked me why I didn't write a book about it. I replied that it was too depressing. The story is too familiar to even be interesting. Power is arrayed against those without it to force compliance. But the unsettling part of it was that a whole propaganda machine was made to support these uses of power. Central to it were the Farm Bureau and the burgeoning sciences of agriculture that took as a doctrine, as holy as any that any theologians ever discussed, was that farms are businesses.

Now most of them may be because there are fewer and fewer family farms. The industrialized agriculture that Goldschmidt warned about fifty years ago in California is now a reality across our land and much of the rest of the world. In the control of food is real power. Monsanto can mount an educational program about genetically modified plants that is powered by a budget that could run a third world country or a university. They've even bought their own agricultural university to provide credibility.

In our studies of the swine industry, Kendall Thu and I wanted to provide accurate information for Iowa legislators. We wanted something that would stand up in a court of law, something that would stand up to the sneering agricultural economists and self-satisfied meat-science guys from the ag schools. When Kendall organized a meeting of 35 experts on air and water quality, social, economic, and health issues, everyone cautioned us that it wasn't enough to be accurate, correct, right. We had to be credible.

Circulating through informal networks, our story about the swine industry in North Carolina achieved the status of an underground classic before the Des Moines *Register* published some of it, and we started hearing from Deans and Department Heads at Universities and extension services throughout the Midwest, and state legislators who let us know that we lacked credibility because we'd gotten the wrong answer. As some farmers had put it, "those guys from the ag schools come and tell us that hog shit don't stink." That's the right answer. That's what was credible.

To be credible, we worked with a planning committee that included folks who knew all the right answers. Kendall undertook the challenge of getting funds and keeping all the parties involved. But we began to fear we were being absorbed into the process, becoming part of it. The price of credibility could be our independence and our ability to articulate a meaningful critique. We could see ourselves pulling our punches and developing accounts that would be credible, agreeable, acceptable, and maybe consequential. But not cogent.

We figured we could be either cogent or consequential but not both. We were echoing C. Wright Mills' essay on structural immorality in government (reprinted in *Power, Politics, and People: the Collected Essays of C. Wright Mills* New York: Oxford University Press, 1963. Edited by Irving Louis Horowitz.) He said you can stay outside of the process and understand it, or you can get involved in it and be

corrupted. His example? One senator Richard M. Nixon. That was in the fifties. Due to Kendall's unfaltering diplomacy and hard work, the conference did take place, the work got published, and into the hands of the legislators in Iowa and many other states. By then we were taking seriously the challenge of understanding the channels of information—how some signals get amplified and some damped.

Here's what we found out. The largest contributor to the Republican Governor's campaign fund was Iowa's largest industrial swine producer. The governor set up a shadow department of agriculture to report on swine production. It was filled with people from various commodity production groups. The governor provided funds to Iowa State University for research on swine issues. The dean of the College of Agriculture chaired the governor's livestock commission and provided 'credible' research for the governor to support industrial swine production so that industry could support him. We've told that story, and a similar one from North Carolina. We learned that no amount of accurate information in the hands of policy makers made any difference up against that kind of power structure. We were operating with a false model of the political process

When Land-Grant Universities take a hard-nosed stance against their workers organizing, we see the distance we've traveled between an ideal of universities serving the people in a democracy that the Morrill Act envisioned in 1862 and the contemporary reality of universities being tools of industry and management.

and the place of factual information in it. Iowa State was operating in the process as something beyond the familiar mission statement of universities - to create, disseminate and preserve knowledge. They were using it as a weapon against the weak. We opted for cogency when we edited our book, *Pigs, Profits, and Rural Communities*. As of the last

election, Iowa has a new governor of a different party and Iowa State has a new Dean of Agriculture. Kendall tells me that there is room for optimism.

There may be some room for optimism even in the face of industrialized agriculture. I've started looking at alternatives such as community-supported agriculture. Laura DeLind assures us that the Community part is overstated, and I think she's right. But there's still a lot left in the idea of a group of consumers contracting with a farmer to provide vegetables to them every week for more than half of the year. I noticed that one of the figures Laura cites is that there are at most 100,000 CSA members in the U.S. As I was discussing these figures with a colleague here at Penn State, I mentioned that as a percentage of the U.S. population that's about a decimal point with three zeros in front of a 3. Not much. Then she pointed out that CSAs got started only a few years ago.

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I didn't have to read far before I came across the ag economists and started laughing. It wasn't that funny. They were doing the same thing that the aggies from Ames did back in the 1920's and 30's. They were scratching their heads and wondering how a person could stay in business without imputing proper values to all the inputs—labor, rent, and so on. The problem with CSAs was that they were not proper businesses.

If CSAs continue growing at that rate, we'll have aggies telling us that Monsanto can organize CSAs more efficiently than any family farmer. Those big guys, they know how to do a business. They are credible. They're the guys from the ag schools.

When things like this happen, and when Land-Grant Universities take a hard-nosed stance against their workers organizing, we see the distance we've traveled between an ideal of universities serving the people in a democracy that the Morrill Act envisioned in 1862 and the contemporary reality of universities being tools of industry and management.

AUTISM AND ANTHROPOLOGY

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First identified and described in 1943, autism remains a relatively unknown disability. Nonetheless, it is a fairly common disorder of childhood, affecting (although estimates vary greatly) as many as 1 in 500 children in its various forms according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Distribution of the disease is unknown, with some claiming it is a disease peculiar to industrial society. What is clear is that children diagnosed with autism and related disorders are the fastest growing segment of all special education students in the U.S. The notable increase in the numbers of children diagnosed with autism and affiliated conditions (known either as Autism Spectrum Disorders or Pervasive Developmental Disorders) has prompted some observers to label it a major childhood epidemic.

While research on the etiology of autism and autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and possible medical interventions continues to expand in several directions, the reasons for the alarming growth in the number of diagnosed cases remains unclear. Because appropriate tools for routine developmental screening for autism/ASD have not been available until relatively recently, primary care and well-child providers are not trained to identify autism/ASD, existing diagnostic criteria are difficult to assess in

preschoolers, and there remains a strong reluctance to use mental health diagnostic labels with very young children, autism/ASD generally is unrecognized and not diagnosed until or after late preschool age.

In other words, a number of critical years of childhood development currently are allowed to elapse before the existing system for identification and intervention are activated. This is noteworthy because existing research consistently affirms that early intensive behavioral intervention is associated with the best outcomes. Moreover, local and national parent advocacy groups affirm that learning about autism, securing a diagnosis, and accessing the most effective interventions can be a prolonged and frustrating experience that produces considerable stress, alienation, and wasted intervention time for families with autistic/ASD children. It is our sense that anthropology offers a number of applied research skills that are highly pertinent to addressing current shortcomings in early identification and intervention with autism/ASD.



What is Autism? The story is often the same. During the first year of life the baby, usually a male, begins ignoring the people around him and prefers to play alone, lining up toys in rigid patterns over and over again, or turning toy cars and trucks upside down and staring intently as he spins their wheels for long periods of time. Any beginning speech usually halts and is sometimes replaced with repetitive babbling. He might jump and flap his arms excitedly as he watches a favorite video or television show, or begin to climb with unusual frequency. To an untrained, unsuspecting parent or relative, the curious play practices that develop can be explained away or ignored. But the major symptoms of the disorder in the second year of life, the lack of language development and social relatedness, are the common threads of worry that send many parents of children with autism/ASD looking for professional guidance.

Many times pediatricians presented with such concerns at an early age by nervous parents will recommend waiting it out, and suggest that these are acceptable deviations from typical development that the child will "outgrow". Or a referral for hearing tests might be made to rule out any suspected auditory problems, since the delayed language and inattention to environmental sounds can mimic symptoms of hearing loss. Eventually, but often only after many months or even years, parents find their way to neurologists or developmental specialists who make a diagnosis of autism or PDD and sometimes offer useful recommendations.

Autism is recognized as a neurological disorder with a yet unknown biological basis. It is defined as a complex developmental disability, characterized by *abnormal or impaired development in social interaction and communication and a markedly restricted repertoire of activities and interests* (American Psychiatric Association 1994). It is a spectrum disorder that can include a variety of manifestations and range from mild (difficulties interpreting social communication cues, such as facial expressions, and “quirky” behaviors and interests) to extreme symptoms (self-abusive behaviors and intense social withdrawal) in the individuals affected by the condition. People with autism often can have normal cognitive functioning. It affects boys four times more than girls. Stereotyped (repetitive and unusual) behaviors and impairments in social interaction, communication and imaginative play before the age of three remain the basic characteristics of autism.

Currently, only a minority of primary care providers (less than 30%) routinely conducts screening tests at well-child visits despite American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommendations for early screening. In a recent study by Howlin and Moore of 1,300 families with an autistic child that investigated parent help-seeking experiences, the average age at diagnosis was approximately six years. Less than 10% of these children were diagnosed with autism at the first parental discussion of symptoms with a physician or other health professional. Another 10% of these parents were told to wait and return if symptoms persisted. Few of these parents felt they received a comprehensive or even an adequate explanation of their child’s condition and prognosis. Research by Giacomo and Fombonne found that parents first become concerned about symptoms of autism/ASD when their children are, on average, 19.1 months (SD = 9.4) of age. Generally, however, a formal diagnosis of childhood autism is not made until 2-4 years after parents have recognized and begun coping with symptoms. Studies by Glascoe and workers show that during the pre-school period many parents of children who are later diagnosed with autism/ASD harbor strong concerns about their child’s speech and language abilities, general behavior, or other issues.

In general population studies, parents on the whole have demonstrated an ability to be both sensitive and specific in detecting developmental deficits in their children. The effects of socioeconomic status, parental education, and ethnicity on parent developmental expectations, identification of symptoms, and specificity of symptom description, however, remain unclear and warrant investigation.

Current research suggests the importance of examining how families understand and respond to autism/ASD symptoms during the early years *before their children are diagnosed*, as these understandings, attitudes and other responses will influence parental behavior. Gray, for example, examined 33 parents of autistic children in

Australia using Kleinman’s “explanatory model” to assess parents’ beliefs about autism with respect to the nature and onset of childhood symptoms, the etiology of the condition, and the expected outcomes parents had for their children. Gray found that parents’ explanatory models (i.e., their folk understandings) of autism varied in significant ways from those of biomedical providers. How parents specifically respond to varying perceptions of their children remains unclear as the actual impact of childhood autism on families varies. Existing efforts to examine autism in families pays scant attention to the impact of help-seeking stress borne of failing to receive an adequate response to parental concerns about autism/ASD symptoms.

Anthropology is well positioned methodologically to address a number of the important gaps in our current behavioral knowledge on autism. While autism researchers have employed various methods, including parent surveys, direct observation of child behaviors, filming of parent-interactions and child behavior patterns, and analysis of homemade family movies/videos, the major focus of family-based research has been on describing the symptomatic expression of autism. However, in order to develop empirically sound, socially matched, and culturally appropriate interventions during the early years that parents are confronting childhood symptoms of communication disorders, it is vital to determine: What factors (social, cultural, structural) shape the formation of family understandings of childhood autism/ASD symptoms? What role cultural and folk beliefs that parents hold about mental

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health, children, and illness causation have in shaping parental/family responses to autism/ASD symptoms? What resources families draw on and how well they cope with early autism/ASD symptoms? Most importantly, how do early family understandings of symptoms and the availability and use of resources shape child care patterns, coping strategies, help-seeking behaviors, and access to effective interventions in these families?

Unfortunately, the behavioral studies needed to answer these questions are sparse. Especially limited are studies that address these questions with reference to low-income populations, especially low-income minority populations

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(e.g., African-Americans and Latinos). Families from these populations are known to face significant social and economic challenges that hamper their ability to cope successfully with family illness, but specifically how these families understand and respond to early childhood symptoms of autism/ASD, how successfully they cope with the stresses of the confusing and emotionally trying symptoms of autism/ASD, and their ability to access and received appropriate interventions and resources are not well understood.

Additionally, it is not clear what the experiences are of low-income ethnic minority families with a child with autistic/ASD symptoms as they seek to access special educational and other resources, what specific barriers they encounter in this process, and how they respond to these barriers. While public health studies of ethnic minority populations have been found to be wanting in a number of areas, in the area of childhood communication disorders this is especially the case. With its emphasis on: a) intensive small-sample studies; b) rapport development; c) prolonged, naturalistic observational methods; d) casual in-context interviewing; and e) cultural patterning, interpersonal relations, social networks, and encompassing social structures, anthropology offers promise for addressing many of the pressing behavioral questions in applied autism research. Currently, our research team at the Hispanic Health Council in Hartford, CT, is developing a proposal toward these ends, but additional ethnographic studies of autism are needed.

THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND PEOPLING OF AMERICA BILL

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Senator Daniel Kahikina Akaka (D-HI)
U.S. Senate

Introducing a bill is just the beginning, I am finding out. Good ideas, intentions and support are only the first step in launching a new law or program direction or regulation. Sometimes it takes years to get a bill through the legislative process.

My boss, Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI), introduced a bill this year to require the National Park Service to undertake a theme study of the Peopling of America, S. 2748. Senator Akaka has strong views on diversity in American culture and the rights of indigenous peoples. He supports the Park Service's desire and efforts to broaden its perspective and interpretation of America's past, and accordingly he introduced a bill to direct the Park Service to identify regions, communities, sites, buildings and cultures that illustrate and commemorate key migrations and immigrations of peoples that built and are building the nation as we know it today.

The bill was introduced in April and almost immediately

the Energy and Natural Resources Committee told me they wanted to hold hearings on it, along with several other bills. I would like to acknowledge the support of the AAA Executive Board, and the hard work and help of Peggy Overbey, AAA Director of Governmental Affairs, in identifying witnesses and encouraging the testimony of Nancy Foner, (SUNY Purchase), who flew to Washington, D.C., to provide testimony on Senator Akaka's bill in May of this year. Nancy Foner's testimony was influential in convincing the Chair of the subcommittee (Sen. Thomas (R-WY)) that the topic is important and a worthwhile endeavor for public spending. I recommend visiting the Committee's Web site to read Nancy's testimony at <<http://www.senate.gov>>. Click on the Subcommittee of National Parks, Historic Preservation and Recreation, then scroll down to the May 11th date.

In addition, the National Parks Conservation Association was enormously helpful in supporting the bill in innumerable ways, from finding witnesses, to assigning interns to advance the bill in the House over the summer, to keeping me informed on potential sponsors in the House and putting me in touch with staff. They even assigned students at a local Washington, D.C. charter school in public policy to research the bill for a project.

At the end of the summer, enormous progress (so to speak) had been made. Not only had a sponsor introduced the same bill in the House, but there were two co-sponsors. And the lead Congressman was a Republican. I now understand that the bipartisan support of bills can be an advantage in moving them through the two bodies, so we did not object. The bill by now had passed the full Senate, by unanimous consent, in a package of bills that the Committee staff was advancing in order to force similar action on the House side. The House Resources Committee staff responded by dissecting the patchwork bill sent by the Senate, passing some bills selectively and amending others in packages that were favorable to the Republicans. I have heard twice now—always in rumor form—that the Peopling bill is “on the suspension calendar,” a shorthand phrase meaning that the House is ready to pass it by non-controversial means. Such rumors put us on alert that if the bill comes back to the Senate amended, it will have to be passed again by the Senate in its new form, and that may be unlikely, given the short timeframe and partisan log-rolling at the last minute.

The bottom line is that the Peopling bill has had a short and remarkably fast rise on the political calendar. There is wide interest from associations, the Park Service, community groups and support groups, and little resistance from the Republicans. I must also acknowledge help from within the Park Service to check the phrases and intent of the bill. Given this record, the Senator will introduce the bill again next session, and start over. I'll keep you posted.

MERIDA 2001

By Mark Grey
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The 2001 SfAA meeting in Merida is shaping up nicely. The numbers of registrations, papers and sessions are strong, particularly for an international meeting.

At the suggestion of our Mexican colleagues, we are planning a slightly different format for the meeting. Instead of running sessions non-stop from 8:00 am through the late afternoon, sessions will begin at 9:00 am and go until 1:00 pm. Then, there will be a two-hour break during which no sessions will take place. This will allow everyone to have a relaxed lunch and catch his or her breath before the sessions from 3:00 to 7:00 in the afternoon.

There will be important events every evening. Our hosts, the Autonomous University of Yucatan in Merida, are throwing a party for us on Wednesday night, March 28. Food and entertainment will be provided. On Thursday evening, there will be special joint plenary session presented by the School for American Research and SfAA. A reception will follow. Friday night is awards night, when we present the Malinowski and Margaret Mead Awards. Of course, a reception will follow. The grand finale on Saturday night is a party that will be hosted by the Governor of Yucatan. This party is scheduled to take place in the Merida convention center in downtown, and transportation will be provided from the meeting hotel. This will be a great chance for us to thank our hosts for the many efforts have made on our behave. It should also be a great party.

Tours are being arranged and information about these will be on the SfAA website in the near future. In terms of transportation to Merida, you are well advised to book flights early. If you are flying into Cancun, it is helpful to keep in mind that we are competing with the Spring Break crowd for seats and rental cars.

Thanks to all of you who are helping make this process go as smoothly as possible. I am confident the 2001 meeting will be one to remember.

FROM THE SECRETARY

By Willie L. Baber, SfAA Secretary
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As SfAA continues into evolve an organizational culture in which accountability and responsibility become fine-tuned to meet our organizational goals, you will learn in this

column about the actions and directions sponsored through you and the Board of Directors. The Board met Wednesday, March 22, and March 26, 2000, Cathedral Hill Hotel, San Francisco.

Several motions were passed: (1) Sue Estroff moved to have the Nominations and Elections Committee develop a plan to alert voters about the candidates' biographical and vision statements being available on the web to decrease the costs associated with paper and postal mailing. The motion was amended to state that the Nominations and Elections Committee should develop a short-range plan to cover the next few years. (2) Ed Liebow moved to ask Susan Andreatta to contact Mike Angrosino, Lucy Cohen, and Tony Paredes to develop a plan to move ahead on the SfAA Oral History Project. (3) Sandy Ervin moved to change the eligibility requirements for the Mead Award to an age of 45 years or less, and to 15 years post-terminal degree (vs. the current criteria of 40 years or 10 years post-degree). The motion carried. (4) Mike Whiteford moved that Rob Winthrop should proceed initially with two aspects of the PMA evaluation; (a) eliciting PMA feedback on its response to previous recommendations and (b) performing a comparative analysis of services and their associated costs among comparable professional organizations. (5) Sandy Ervin moved to attempt to renew the Environmental Anthropology Project and to accept the Working Group's recommendation. (6) Sue Estroff moved to ask Darby Stapp and Ed Liebow to continue to explore the possibility of establishing a cultural resource management internship. Unless indicated, all motions passed unanimously.

The following Committees presented reports: Consortium/Network of Applied Anthropology, Nominations and Elections, Malinowski, Awards, Department Support (abolished unanimously), American Indian Affairs, Environmental Anthropology Working Group, Membership, Publications, and Policy).

Additional reports: SfAA Oral History Project, Business Office, Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA), 2000 Annual Meeting, 2001 Annual Meeting, AAA-SfAA Cooperation, SfAA/SAR Plenary, Merida, PMA Evaluation, *Newsletter*, *Practicing Anthropology*, *Human Organization*, and Cultural Resource Management Internships.

At Sunday's business meeting the following actions were taken: (1) Linda Bennett moved that SfAA and AAA establish a Working Committee to develop a program of continuing education courses and workshops that will offer knowledge and skills development for students, practitioners, academic faculty members, and current students in targeted areas of applied and practicing anthropology. Membership will consist of three appointments from SfAA, three from NAPA, one each from the SfAA and AAA Boards. (2) Linda
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Bennett moved to accept a \$1,000 donation from Sarah Robinson, to be matched by SfAA and to become the beginning of fund raising, to fund projects that will further participation of American Indians in the SfAA Annual Meeting. (3) Don Stull moved that we allow members the option of receiving an electronic copy of the *Newsletter* in place of a paper copy. (4) Ed Liebow moved that the Program Chair-elect is made one year in advance so that training in apprenticeship to the current program chair occurs with the purpose of smoother transitions from one program to the next. (5) In addition to the above action motions, Linda Bennett appointed a subcommittee on public anthropology to stake SfAA's position vis-à-vis public anthropology (Willie Baber, Linda Bennett, Noel Chrisman, Alexander Ervin, Tony Oliver-Smith, Don Stull, Linda Whiteford). Unless indicated, all motions passed unanimously.

The following committees submitted reports: Leadership Training, Finance, Del Jones Award, International Standards, International Committee, Student Committee, Internet, and Membership.

Did you register for the 2001 Meeting online? For the first time, we have online registration and abstract submission for the Annual SfAA Conference. The Internet Committee, co-chaired by Satish Kedia and Ed Liebow, will report on the online registration process and may propose additional technological and money-saving solutions to SfAA programs and services.

The University of Kentucky Oral History Program proposes to become the repository for the oral history tapes and transcripts generated by the Society for Applied Anthropology's Oral History Project. The oral histories generated by the project would be processed, archived, and disseminated through the Oral History Program located in the Margaret I. King Library. John Van Willigan has offered to serve as liaison between the SfAA Oral History Project and the University of Kentucky Oral History Program.

The international Standards Committee (ISC), chaired by "candidate" Ted Downing, intervened in the World Bank requests for public input on policies. Until the Policy Kiosk, the Bank received comments directly and summarized the results. ISC will report on the Bank's decision to create its own version of the Kiosk and display public comments. ISC through the Policy Kiosk has changed the World Bank policy through the creation of a more transparent procedure.

Jerry Moles reports that the NeoSynthesis Research Centre (NSRC) of Sri Lanka, featured in the Tucson Annual Meeting in 1999, has initiated an international training program for analog forestry. Field courses were created for forestry planners and extension personnel from several countries. NSRC has a 20-year history of experimentation with sustainable management in over 50 villages in several climatic zones of Sri Lanka.

Items of particular interest are on the agenda for the November 18, 2000, Board Meeting: (1) The International Committee's report will include special goals and activities for the SfAA Annual Meeting in Merida, Mexico. Co-chairs of the committee are Dr. Gisele Maynard-Tucker and doctoral candidate Carla Guerron-Montero. (2) The Student Committee, chaired by Anne Ballenger, will hold elections for the 2001-2003 (2 year) term this January and all students are encouraged to apply with their resume/CV and a brief proposal for their intended position.

The Student Committee will propose two new goals: increasing student awareness of the Student Committee, and increasing student participation in Student activities. Included in this greater awareness is promotion of the Peter K. New Student Prize competition, and other student-related initiatives. These will include the Del Jones Award; the EPA Star Fellowships for graduate environmental study, Minority Academic Institutions (MAI) Fellowships for Graduate Environmental Study, and the Minority Academic Institutions (MAI) Undergraduate Student Fellowships. (3) Barbara Rose Johnston plans to submit a four-year project report to the Board. The EPA Project Report will include the need for new leadership and the need for continued EPA funding. (4) The Board will focus on results of the Biennial Review of the Professional Management Associates (PMA), presentations of PMA working procedures and projects, and recommendations.

REPORT FROM THE PA EDITOR

By Alexander (Sandy) M. Ervin
University of Saskatchewan



In keeping with the SfAA goal of increasing its international participation, in the next issue — Winter 2001 (Vol. 23, no. 1) will focus on Australia, and our fellow practitioners there. The issue is guest-edited by Sandy Toussaint of the University of Western Australia at Nedlands.

Australian Aborigines are the subject of the majority of articles—Diane Smith on economics and welfare policy, David Trigger, Robert Bowles, Nicholas Peterson, Jim Birkhead, Julie Collins, Peter Sutton writing variously on land rights and management, Ian McIntosh on efforts at reconciliation, Jane Mulcock on issues of cultural appropriation, and Sandy Toussaint on working with Aboriginal women. Lenore Manderson provides an overview of applied research on women's health in Australia, Oceania and South and East Asia through her dynamic institute in Melbourne. While having a different context, many of the issues of applied anthropology in Australia will resonate with the experiences of North American practitioners.

Covering the equivalent scope of about a half issue is a section edited by Riall Nolan and titled "Teaching About Application and Practice." It examines a variety of ways that some have taken or advocate changes in meeting student needs for relevant training in policy and practice. Jeanne Simonelli and Bill Roberts write about their innovations in community service learning and restructuring of their departments' curricula. Laurie Price reports on her survey of North American departments and demonstrates how little attention is paid to training for practice and methods in our major Ph.D. granting institutions. Riall Nolan advocates restructuring in training aimed at preparing students for projects and careers in development, and I, your humble editor, reflect on anthropological visions and our local attempts to mainstream anthropology and its training.

PA needs book reviewers for the items listed below. Contact me and I will send them, first come first served:

- Chambers, Erve. 2000. *Native Tours: The Anthropology of Travel and Tourism*. Prospect Hts. Ill: Waveland (137 pp.)
- Fisher, William H. 2000. *Industry and Community on an Amazonian Frontier*. Washington: Smithsonian Institution (222 pp.).
- Forman, Shepard and Romita Ghosh. 2000. *Promoting Reproductive Health*. Boulder CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers. (314 pp.)
- Greenwood, Davydd J., and Morton Levin. 1998. *Introduction to Action Research*. Thousand Oaks CA: Sage (274 pp.).
- Loeb, Paul Rogat. 1999. *Soul of a Citizen: Living With Conviction in a Cynical Time*. New York: St. Martin's Griffon (376 pp.).
- McMichael, Philip. 2000. *Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective*. Second Edition. Thousand Oaks CA: Pine Oaks Press. (364 pp.)
- Shell-Duncan, Bettina and Ylva Hernlund (Eds.). 2000. *Female "Circumcision" in Africa*. Boulder CO: Lynne Rienner (348 pp.).
- Toussaint, Sandy and Jim Taylor. 1999. *Applied Anthropology in Australasia*. Nedlands, Australia: University of Western Australia Press (296 pp.)
- Wedel, Janine R. 1998. *Collision and Collusion: The Strange Case of Western Aid to Eastern Europe, 1989-1998*. New York: St. Martin's Press (286 pp.).

The addresses and phone numbers for the editorial office of *Practicing Anthropology* are: Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, 55 Campus Drive, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 5B1, Canada; the office telephone number is (306) 966-4176; my home number is (306) 343-5944, the departmental fax number is (306) 966-5640.

LPO NEWS

By Carla Littlefield <clittlef@compuserve.com>
Littlefield Associates
Denver, Colorado

On December 6, 2000, the "Southern California Applied Anthropology Network" (SCAAN) will host a talk and discussion with Professor Walter Goldschmidt on the relationship between applied anthropology and anthropological theory. Dr. Goldschmidt, who will give the Malinowski address at the SfAA Annual Meeting in Merida, will discuss the contribution of applied work to social theory and the need to develop a theory of applied anthropology. He would like to hear from participants about their own applied experiences, especially how anthropology contributed to their successful results. Dr. Goldschmidt has published three books and many papers on theory, including *Man's Way*, *Comparative Functionalism*, and the *Human Career*. The talk will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Julie Heifetz in Bel Aire. New members are welcome. For more information about SCAAN and directions to the meeting, contact Gillian Grebler at <ggrebler@gte.net>.

The "Chicago Association for Practicing Anthropologists" (CAPA) is launching a reactivation. CAPA has had a small core of committed members who have stayed in touch with one another informally over the past few years. Rebecca Severson is leading the effort to recruit new members in the Northern Illinois area and plan a reorganization event. If you want to be a part of the excitement, contact Rebecca by e-mail at <rseverson@netzero.net>.

The "High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology" (HPSfAA) recently held its fall retreat at Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu, New Mexico. The weekend began with a field trip to Chaco Canyon, led by archeologist, Kurt Mantonya. Back at the ranch, anthropologist-novelist Susan Scott-Stevens introduced the captivating theme, "Storytelling and Anthropology." Participants shared unique stories that ranged from folk tales to experiences from the field. HPSfAA will hold its annual meeting at Estes Park, April 6-8, 2001. For information about joining the organization, contact president-elect, Emilia Gonzales-Clements, at <dsaiintl@aol.com>.

Plan to attend the LPO workshop/discussion session at the SfAA Annual Meeting in Merida. Representatives from five local and regional practitioner organizations (SCAAN, SCOPA, WAPA, HPSfAA, and MSAPA) will share their experiences in sustaining the health and stability of their organizations. Discussion will benefit members of existing LPOs as well as groups in developing or dormant stages.

To communicate about LPO news and issues, please contact the SfAA-LPO Liaison, Carla Littlefield, at the e-mail address above.

TIG FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

By Mary Riley <mriley88@hotmail.com>
Columbia College-Chicago

The past year has been an incredibly busy one in terms of news that touched upon the issue of indigenous intellectual property rights, including cases of corporations continuing to fight for patents on basmati rice, turmeric and other items that have been long acknowledged to belong to the public domain, advances in biotechnology and the controversy surrounding genetically modified foods. The TIG for Intellectual Property Rights will be sponsoring a Round Table Discussion at next year's SfAA Annual Meetings (to convene in Merida, Mexico, March 27—April 1, 2001). The subject of the Round Table Discussion will be *Globalization and the Challenge to Indigenous Claims to Intellectual Property Rights*. Watch this column for additional details concerning this upcoming event.

The concern towards defining and protecting traditional knowledge and the cultural heritage of indigenous groups continues to grow. In October, the Indian Arts and Crafts Enforcement Act was passed in the United States House of Representatives. If this bill were to become law, it would assist in safeguarding the authenticity of Native American art and craftworks by allowing Native Americans more legal recourse to deal with counterfeit art that is currently sold on the market. It is estimated that up to half of all art for sale today which claims to be "authentically Native American" is in fact, inauthentic and cheaply produced for mass consumption. The proliferation of fake Native American art and craftworks in the commercial market harms the economic livelihoods of Native American artists and artisans because the abundance of cheaply produced objects claiming to be "authentically Native American" by design drives down the prices that Native Americans can hope to receive for their non-factory (and basically more labor-intensive, expensively-produced) art. Watch and see what happens to this bill in upcoming months.

In related news, the Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism (IPCB) has developed the Indigenous Research Protection Act (IRPA), a "model regulatory tool developed to help American Indian tribes protect their genetic resources and peoples from potentially harmful scientific research activities conducted within their jurisdictions." Native American attorneys involved with the (IPCB) developed this Act. More information on how indigenous communities can use and adapt the IRPA to suit their needs can be found at <www.ipcb.org/pub/irpintro.html>.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is currently finishing its Report On Fact-Finding Missions on Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge (1998-1999), which provides to date an overview and status report of the recognition and protection of traditional knowledge and knowledge systems worldwide (broken down by geographic locale and/or continent). More information as to when the final version of the Report will be available can be found at the WIPO website, <www.wipo.org>. It is a very comprehensive and thought-provoking report, which will hopefully serve to influence evolving legislation, designed to protect traditional knowledge for years to come.

Because of the sheer volume of information that is on-line for those interested in the interrelated issues of indigenous rights, IPR, human rights, biodiversity and biotechnology, the National Science Foundation has announced that in early 2001 a global initiative will be launched to manage all of this information, which will be known as the Biodiversity Conservation Information System. Its web address is <www.biodiversity.org>. In addition, the Biodiversity Planning Support Programme will maintain an index of relevant sites at <www.undp.org/bpsp/thematic_links>.

It is my pleasure to pass on the good news that the Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions (SRISTI) and the Honey Bee Network, headed by Dr. Anil Gupta, recently received the Asian Innovative Gold Award from the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. SRISTI and The Honey Bee Network, based in India, have been working to support the intellectual property rights of indigenous peoples (especially farmers and other local experts) since the late 1980s. Their work has encouraged and bolstered the efforts of grass-roots activists and innovators working on a variety of problems, grounded by the common belief that through using traditional knowledge, creative solutions do exist for local economic and ecological problems. More information on SRISTI and The Honey Bee Network can be accessed at <www.sristi.org/honeybee.html>. You can also receive more information by contacting Dr. Anil Gupta, Coordinator SRISTI and Editor, Honey Bee, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad 380015, India.

There are several recent publications concerning several aspects of indigenous knowledge and intellectual property rights. The book *Language Death* by David Crystal (Cambridge University Press) discusses the decline of linguistic diversity globally and what we could lose in the process. The December 2000 issue of *Ecological Applications* 10(5) is titled "Traditional Environmental Knowledge" and discusses its practical application to

The proliferation of fake Native American art and craftworks in the commercial market harms the economic livelihoods of Native American artists and artisans.

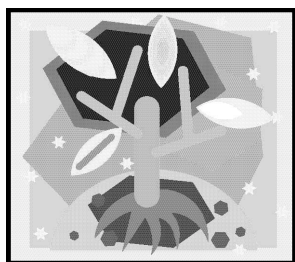
problems (price: \$13.75, available at <<http://esa.sdsc.edu/esapubs>>). Another book of interest to anthropologists, especially those working in Australia, is *Native Title Corporations: A Legal and Anthropological Analysis* by David Martin (ed.), which is available at <www.federationpress.com.au>.

I would like to announce the upcoming issue of *Cultural Survival Quarterly* (Winter 2001 issue, due to hit the newsstands on December 15th). This issue of *CSQ* is co-edited by Mary Riley and Katy Moran and contains a compendium of articles on practical issues involved in protecting the intellectual property rights of indigenous groups, discussing both legal and non-legal tools used to defend indigenous knowledge systems. Be sure to check it out.

A couple of other things: Regarding conferences and symposia, the conference *Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices* was recently held in Geneva (October 30—November 1, 2000). More information concerning the discussion, outcomes and future recommendations resulting from this conference can be found at <www.unctad.org>.

There is a call for papers for the Indigenous Knowledge Conference scheduled for May 28—30, 2001, Indigenous Peoples Program, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Abstracts are due on January 5, 2001 (250 words maximum) and should be sent to Priscilla Settee, Conference Coordinator, Indigenous Peoples Program, Extension Division, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada S7N 5C8; by fax at (306) 996-5567; or by e-mail (sent as an attachment) to: <Priscilla.Settee@usask.ca>.

Again, if anyone would like to contribute to this column appearing in the next SfAA *Newsletter*, please let me know by e-mailing me at the above address or by sending your contributions to: Mary Riley, Department of Liberal Education, 10th Floor, Columbia College, Chicago, Illinois 60605, You may also contact Tressa Berman (TIG Co-Facilitator) at the Women's Leadership Institute, Mills College, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, California 94613, or by e-mailing her at <borderzone@aol.com>. Also, please continue your contributions on-line to ANTHAP-3 at <anthap3@oakland.edu>.



SfAA ENVIRONMENTAL ANTHROPOLOGY PROJECT

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

The SfAA Environmental Anthropology Project has had a busy year sponsoring a number of technical assistance and applied research fellowships, presentations at public conferences and meetings, and drafting a strategic plan for the fifth and final year of the SfAA/EPA Cooperative Agreement. With over 40 technical assistance projects now completed we are beginning to understand the strengths and weaknesses of this endeavor.

One of the most important features of the environmental anthropology project has been its “technical assistance” mandate which requires structural relations that emphasize collaboration between “partners” (the anthropologist, project funders, community hosts, the applied social science community) and equal power and voice in negotiating common agendas and strategies to approach specific problems. Because much of this work has taken place in the communities where anthropologists live, their efforts to apply anthropology in their own “backyard” requires a sensitivity and responsibility that extends far beyond the time framework of the project. We hope in the year to come, to communicate more of the lessons learned from this disciplinary praxis experiment.

In this column I briefly report on efforts over the past six months to communicate environmental anthropology activities and findings in diverse public forms. This column concludes with a brief outline of project plans for year five. On May 25, 2000, SfAA Environmental Anthropology Fellow John Stone presented findings from his fellowship work in a paper entitled “Public Participation in Great Lakes Environmental Management: Seeking ‘Participatory Equity’ Through Ethnographic Inquiry” as part of an Environmental Justice session of the International Association for Great Lakes Research conference held in Cornwall, Canada. A revised version of this presentation will be published in a special issue of the *Journal of Environmental Science and Management*. For additional information, see John Stone’s fellowship report posted on the SfAA web site.

On July 31, 2000, Environmental Anthropology Fellows Kate Gillogly and Eve Pinsker gave a presentation on their fellowship findings entitled “Networks and Fragmentation Among Community Environmental Groups in Southeast Chicago” to environmental professionals attending the Chicago EPA “Social Science Seminar series” at Region 5 offices in Chicago. This social science Seminar series is organized by EPA social scientist George Clark and includes a monthly presentation from social scientists living and working in the region.

(continued on page 12)

In August 2000, former SfAA intern and current EPA policy analyst Michael Kronthal organized a Source Water Protection workshop as part of EPA's National Community Involvement Conference August 29—31, 2000, in San Francisco, California. The 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act established source water protection as the initial step in a multi-barrier approach to protecting the sources of people's drinking water. Source water protection relies on voluntary, local initiative to prevent contamination associated with local activities and land use. This session described an EPA project to provide social science technical assistance to traditional Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Nations working to protect ground water sources from contamination. (For additional information, see Kreg Ettenger's project report on the SfAA web site, and links to the Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force).

On November 16, 2000, Environmental Anthropology Fellow Patricia Townsend presented findings from her fellowship research in a poster session at the American Anthropological Association meetings entitled "Who is my neighbor?: Constructing Public Theologies for Superfund Sites." Townsend's research explores how churches and ecumenical and interfaith coalitions have played a significant, though under-reported, role in the response of communities to hazardous waste sites.

And finally, look for an environmental anthropology project session at the SfAA meetings in Merida. As indicated in our project reports over the past four years, the SfAA Environmental Anthropology project encourages anthropological involvement in U.S. community efforts to reclaim the commons. At the Merida meetings, we will explore recent environmental anthropology work that documents, assesses, or assists communities in their struggle to confront and combat ecodegenerative conditions in a session entitled "Community Struggles to Reclaim the Commons? Cultural values, social structures, and transformative ecopolitics in U.S. communities: lessons from the SfAA Environmental Anthropology Project." Papers will examine the presence and power of cultural values in ecopolitics by exploring the role of belief systems in shaping agendas and actions, the potential of coalition building in establishing community-based voice and implementing ecosystemic change, and the role of cultural disconnects in fracturing and contorting environmental decision making and management processes.

October 1, 2000, marked the beginning of the final year of the SfAA/EPA Cooperative Agreement. During the summer and fall, the SfAA Environmental Anthropology Project Advisory Committee and elected leadership held a series of conference calls to discuss the status of the project and develop plans for the final year of EPA funding. In this final year, SfAA Environmental Anthropology Project staff will be engaged in project-related presentations at public seminars and environmental/social science conferences

demonstrating the value of noneconomic social sciences in environmental planning and problem solving processes; working in collaboration with EPA to assess activities funded to date and develop policy-related briefings; and, produce a series of public outreach materials that emphasize the lessons learned from activities and work funded between 1996-2000. In addition to brochures and case study materials, project findings will be published in a special issue of *Practicing Anthropology*.

As of November 30, 2000, I will resign from my position as project director and be appointed to a policy/outreach consultant position to work solely on activities relating to information development and policy/outreach. Part of this work involves evaluating the efficacy of project-specific technical assistance, and I will be soliciting input from former project participants, mentors and hosts. If you have been involved in any of the SfAA project activities, please contact me at above E-mail address or (831) 335-1769.

The SfAA hopes to hire a new project director to continue to strengthen involvement in and access to environmental social science networks; manage remaining project activities, accounts, and complete SfAA and EPA quarterly reporting requirements associated with the fifth and final year of the current SfAA/EPA Cooperative Agreement (1996—2001); explore opportunities to renew or restructure contractual relationships with EPA; and, explore opportunities to fund interagency projects. Because this is a transition year, the SfAA will not be seeking new EPA project funds to support fellowships or internships during fiscal year 2001 (10/01/00—09/30/01).

MEAD AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Margaret Mead Award is being awarded for 1999 and 2000. This 1999 Award is being made retroactively. No nominations were received in 1999 and Dr. Paul Farmer was selected from among the current nominees for the 1999 Award. Dr. Kathryn Dudley has been selected for the 2000 award. The Margaret Mead Award Committee was composed of Jill E. Korbin (Chair), Phillipe Bourgois, Michael Kearny, and Alaka Wali.

Margaret Mead Award, 1999: Paul E. Farmer

Paul E. Farmer is the recipient of the 1999 Margaret Mead Award. Dr. Farmer, an Associate Professor in Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, is that rare combination of an anthropologist/physician, receiving both the M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University in 1990. As one of his nomination letters put it, "Dr. Farmer is at the forefront of scholarly efforts to understand the impact of social inequalities worldwide on emerging infectious diseases, and he is at the forefront of applied efforts to do something about these linked problems." Another letter praised Dr. Farmer: "Paul Farmer is a unique individual

whose intellectual talents, passion for justice, and commitment to scholarship and teaching seem to know no bounds.” Dr. Farmer has created a public voice for anthropology on important issues of worldwide disease and social justice while maintaining high credibility in scholarly circles in both anthropology and medicine. His first book, *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame* (1992, University of California Press) epitomizes his approach and has rapidly become a classic in the literature. His subsequent works are equally impressive. Dr. Farmer has contributed to the merging of policy and political critique without compromising either and demonstrating effectiveness and creativity in both. He unflinchingly confronts important challenges to applied anthropology and anthropology more generally, of bridging disciplines and worlds, and bringing medical care to chronically underserved, marginalized and stigmatized populations. Dr. Farmer’s work stands as a example of the very best of Margaret Mead’s legacy in its combination of accessible scholarly writing and high profile public service.

Margaret Mead Award, 2000: Kathryn M. Dudley

Kathryn M. Dudley is the recipient of the 2000 Margaret Mead Award. Kathryn Dudley received her Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1991 and is currently an Associate Professor of American Studies and Anthropology at Yale University. Dr. Dudley is recognized in particular for her book, *The End of the Line: Lost Jobs, New Lives in Postindustrial America* (1994, University of Chicago Press), which examines the impact of the closing of auto plants in the Midwest. Dr. Dudley situates the economic restructuring, and the ideology and meaning surrounding this restructuring, that has had such an impact on American society into a discussion accessible both to her anthropological peers and a broader public audience. This is evidenced by the wide range of letters in her nominating materials, including not only anthropologists, but also labor historians, rural activists, and Union leaders. Dr. Dudley follows in the footsteps of Margaret Mead’s efforts to understand her own society and explicitly ties her work to the tradition set by Mead. Dr. Dudley also has assumed a leadership role in the American Anthropological Association’s effort to set an agenda for future work on the American middle class, editing with Margaret Mary Overby, *Anthropology and Middle Class Working Families: A Future Research Agenda* (2000, American Anthropological Association). As one of her nominating letters noted, Dr. Dudley has “...a particular gift for understanding American culture in all its contradictory glory.”

COMING TO MERIDA? CENTRO GENESIS TO OFFER PRE AND POST CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

By Andrea Schuman <CTripleS@aol.com>
Center for Scientific and Social Studies

Conference attendees may want to plan an extension to their stay in Yucatan, taking advantage of the programs offered by Centro Genesis. Genesis can help you plan language and cultural studies or field trips throughout Yucatan. Language programs taught by native speakers are available in Spanish and Yucatec Maya, as are seminars (in English or Spanish) built around the rich history and unique environment of the Yucatan peninsula and of Mexico as a whole. Language programs are offered in both group and individual formats, with content tailored to the learners’ interests and level of ability (US college credit available). Center personnel will work with you to plan trips to archeological sites, exemplars of colonial architecture, nature reserves, and village handcraft centers. The center’s facility is in a small town fifteen minutes from Merida, with easy access to international, national and local transportation hubs.

The Center for Scientific and Social Studies (CTripleS) is Genesis’ US affiliate. We are available to answer any questions you or your students may have about the offerings of our sister organization in Yucatan, and to discuss the best ways of addressing your specific interests in the time available before or after the Merida meetings. CTripleS is a nonprofit organization formed to bring together expertise in the social and environmental sciences in assisting community members with limited access to technical knowledge to address the challenges they encounter in their daily lives. Activities are designed to support community problem solving through research and technical consultation, based on the conviction that enduring solutions to persistent problems are those that come from affected individuals themselves. Our partnership with Centro Genesis is one example of the multinational collaboration we attempt to build.

For more information, please contact CTripleS at the e-mail address above, or visit the Centro Genesis web site at <www.centrogenesis.com>.



SfAA WORKSHOPS: A POSITIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS

By CarlaGuerron-Montero
<cguerron@OREGON.UOREGON.EDU>
University of Oregon

At the SfAA Annual meetings in San Francisco last March, 22 students and nine professionals in different fields of anthropology met to discuss their future careers on a very lively and informal environment. The session/workshop was organized by Jeanette Dickerson-Putman (Indiana University-former Membership Committee Chair), Carla Littlefield (Littlefield Associates-current Membership Committee Chair), and Carla Guerron-Montero (University of Oregon-Student Board Representative/Student Committee). The event was sponsored by the Membership Committee, in an effort to increase and maintain student membership and participation. The session differed from other career-building sessions because it offered one-on-one counseling to students.

The immediate response of the participants was extremely positive. In order to find out more about the outcome of the session, I interviewed some of the participants (both practitioners and students) about their experiences during the event.

On average, the age of the students who attended the session was 25 years, the majority of them being undergraduate students and M.A. students (82% females and 18% males). Their fields of studies and interests fell into the area of applied anthropology: international development, business anthropology, immigration and refugees studies, and environmental studies. Students attended the session to learn about graduate school opportunities, as well as job strategies. They found the advice given by the professionals

This session, in addition to providing one-on-one counseling to students by practitioners, scholars and applied anthropologists from different expertise areas, will give them the opportunity to participate in a “mock job interview process.”

very reassuring and positive. According to one student, the advice he received was “excellent, highly informative and supportive.” What did students learn from their conversations with experienced and highly skilled professionals? They understood that there are innumerable opportunities in applied anthropology, and thus, that it was a wise decision to further their education in the discipline. Students learned that networking needed to be a fundamental component of their educational process. As one student expressed, she

found out “what skills to highlight, learned to be patient, how to conduct interviews— plus many other things.” One of the participants urged other students to become more involved in sessions and workshops “that emphasize practical skills.” For the future, students hoped similar or larger sessions would continue to be organized, assigning more time for personal interaction with professionals of diverse backgrounds.

The experience of practitioners who counseled in the event was also highly positive. Their willingness to participate in the session derived from their continual interest in promoting students’ interest in applied anthropology careers. As one counselor explained, she agreed to participate in the session for she found it “a terrific idea for students to be able to talk with a variety of working anthropologists as they formulate their career plans.” Professionals from different fields of expertise (including environmental studies, human rights, bioethics, migration studies, medical anthropology, archaeology and cultural resources) assisted students to “focus on their interests and to translate them into employment possibilities.” One practitioner conveyed to students that “career-building choices depend in part on a constellation of personal circumstances—household considerations, local employment conditions as well as interests, skills and experience.” Certainly, professionals not only advised students, but they also learned “how frustrated students are with the lack of useful employment market” and how the labor market “disconnects in academic departments.” Another participant found out that “students are graduating with excellent skills and with little encouragement.”

Students and professionals provided the Membership Committee with outstanding ideas to foster students’ participation and mentoring, a characteristic that has been a hallmark of the Society for Applied Anthropology.

With this idea in mind, I have organized (with the sponsorship of the Membership Committee and the Student Committee) a second Career Counseling and job interview session for the 2001 meetings in Merida. The session is entitled: “Where Do I Start? Student Career Counseling and Job Interview Session/Workshop.” This session, in addition to providing one-on-one counseling to students by practitioners, scholars and applied anthropologists from different expertise areas, will give them the opportunity to participate in a “mock job interview process.” A group of academics and practitioners will be available to replicate an actual job interview session with students, and to provide advice on the process.

Pre-registration for these events is required. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the SfAA Website (<http://www.telepath.com/sfaa>) by the beginning of January. For more information or if you are interested in volunteering your time as a counselor for the session, please contact me.

VOTING RESULTS FOR THE SOCIETY FOR APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY

By Allan Burns <afburns@anthro.ufl.edu>
University of Florida

As chair of the nominations and elections committee I received 569 Ballots from the business office on March 6, 2000. The ballots were then counted with the assistance of Julie Gray Burns, Polly French Doughty, Paul Doughty. The totals were reviewed by at least two people for each candidate.

Some ballots were not complete. Some members only voted for one candidate, others for a few, and several ballots marked both candidates in each box. A few comments were made on the ballots, including one that read "The color of this paper hurts my eyes!" Another decried the lack of true "practicing anthropologists" on the ballot.

The following are the winners for each position (a) President-Elect Noel Chrisman. (b) Secretary: Willie Baber. (c) Executive Board: Susan Andreatta. (d) Executive Board: Stan Hyland. (e) Nominations and Elections: Diane Austin. (f) Nominations and Elections: Pam Puntteney.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The University of Memphis, Dept of Anthropology, invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in Anthropology with a specialization in Applied Anthropology and Community Development, to begin Aug 2001, pending available funding. The U of Memphis BA & applied MA anthropology program offers concentrations in urban anthropology, medical anthropology, and public archaeology. Qualifications: Ph.D. by June 2001, specialization in areas such as (but not limited to) economic development, non-profits, housing, education, migration, and/or environmental issues, strong methodological skills, demonstrated excellence in research, outreach, and teaching. Culture area open, but must demonstrate a commitment to develop local research in the Mississippi Delta region. The U of Memphis is an equal opportunity/affirmative action educator and employer. Submit cover letter including statement of teaching and research exp and interest, full vita & names of 3 references, including phone/fax/email to: David H. Dye, Chair, Department of Anthropology, Memphis, TN 38152-6671; (901) 678-2080; fax (901) 678-2069.

FROM THE EDITOR

Will Sibley reports that Ruth Cernea has taken over as President of the Washington Association of Professional Anthropologists. She has an ambitious program for the 2000-2001 season, and Will Sibley reports she is off to a good start. Julia Sanchez is starting up the Career Advice Network (CAN) for anthropologists. CAN will be a web-based source of information on careers for people with degrees in anthropology or related fields. CAN's goal will be to put together those looking for jobs with information about potential jobs. Sanchez may be contacted at <sanchezj@ucla.edu>.

Former SfAA Board member Jim Carey wishes to alert members about EXCITE (Excellence in Curriculum Integration through Teaching Epidemiology). EXCITE is a collection of teaching materials developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to introduce students to epidemiology, and to teach them about public health. Information is available for grades 7-12 and undergraduate levels. The web site houses a set of tools for instructing your class in the principles and practices of epidemiology, including the scientific method of inquiry, basic biostatistics, and outbreak investigation. Exercises allow students to use what they have learned to solve real outbreaks. The EXCITE website is: <http://www.cdc.gov/excite/index.htm> For further questions about EXCITE, contact Gwen Ingraham, EXCITE Program Coordinator, Epidemiology Program Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mail Stop C-08, 1600 Clifton Rd., NE, Atlanta, GA 30333. <E-mail: GIngraham@cdc.gov>.

Many of you know that William F. Whyte, one of the founding members of the SfAA, died this past July. Tom May is preparing an obituary that will appear in the February issue.

As always, we are eager to promote the works of our members. Anthony J. DiBella's latest text, *Learning Practices: Assessment and Action for Organizational Improvement*, has just been published by Prentice-Hall. Congratulations, Tony.

That's about it. January 25, 2001, is the due date for receipt of materials for the next issue of the *Newsletter*. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mike Whiteford, Editor

The SfAA is currently available in two formats. Three weeks before it arrives in your mail, it is available on-line as an Adobe PDF. If you have access to Adobe Acrobat, you can print out this version and it will appear exactly as the mailed version. Within a day after the *Newsletter* arrives at the Business Office, all members should receive an e-mail its on-line availability. The Board would like to reduce the number of mailed copies. As Editor of the *Newsletter*, I would like to know your preference: continue receiving it by US mail or only have it available electronically. Please e-mail me <jefe@iastate.edu> with your thoughts concerning this issue.



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