

Society for Applied Anthropology Newsletter

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SfAA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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The following is the text from my address to the Society for Applied Anthropology members attending the annual Business Meeting on April 24, 1999: I have been imagining this moment for a year now, admittedly with considerable trepidation. But over the past few weeks I have found myself happily anticipating "taking over the reins" of the presidency of the Society for Applied Anthropology. It has become clearer and clearer to me that being the President of the Society provides a very rare opportunity to initiate — or probably more accurately, to foster — some ideas about which I feel very strongly. In my short time today, I would like to briefly present two ideas I plan to focus on over the next two years.

Before I talk about these ideas, though, I would like to thank you. I thank the Society for Applied Anthropology members as a whole for showing your confidence in me by voting for me. I would also like to thank the faculty and students in my own Department of Anthropology at the University of Memphis. They are here in force at the meetings, and they have been enormously supportive of me as I have anticipated becoming President.

I would feel ill-prepared for the challenges of this position if I had not had as much tutoring from John Young over this past year. Thanks to his help — and to e-mail — I have been able to gain a much closer sense of the day-to-day workings of the Society. So I thank John especially. I also very much appreciate Tom May, Neil Hann, and LaDonna King and the SfAA Business Office for being so available to me in answering my many queries and for regularly keeping me informed about a myriad of issues. Many of the past SfAA Presidents, through e-mail messages or talking with me at these meetings, have been quite encouraging as I embark on one of the biggest ventures of my life. I thank them all warmly.

Willie Baber deserves a very special thanks. I cannot imagine a better meeting in which to become President of the Society. The meetings were a wonderful mix of stimulating, yet relaxed, atmosphere. Thanks, Willie, for doing

such a great job as Program Chair for this year's annual meeting.

One of the many benefits of being so close to the inner workings of the Society this past year is that I can report to you with confidence that the Society is at a great point in its esteemed history. Because of the strong efforts of previous Presidents and Boards of Directors, the Society has incrementally moved into new topical arenas; attracted new constituencies; garnered expanded visibility; and advanced anthropological perspectives in areas such as public policy, to mention a few really notable accomplishments. I have been particularly pleased in recent times to see SfAA making more meaningful connections to students, practitioners — including M.A. practitioners — and international members and potential members. The results of these direc-

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tions are very clear as we glance through the annual program this year.

At the same time, there is much more that we need to do in order to bring the diverse interests and needs of our various constituencies adequately into the Society's services and activities. The SfAA mission statement very succinctly lays out the immediate and long-term goals of the Society. As I have read and then listened to reports from the many particularly active committees at this meeting, I feel certain that we are making major headway in addressing these goals. And we are having notable successes.

I should add, as you have heard from SfAA Treasurer Dennis Wiedman (see this *Newsletter*), these many new initiatives have been undertaken while also keeping the Society fiscally sound. This is particularly important.

So what would I like to see happen that is "new" over the next two years? My first idea is not really new. Erve Chambers, myself and others have been talking for many years now about establishing what we have been calling a "Consortium of Applied Anthropology Programs." It seems that each year at these meetings the idea reemerges, and we hold yet another enthusiastic discussion. A couple years ago Erve and I even went so far as to tentatively plan an initial meeting of a small group of leaders from a handful of departments having an emphasis upon applied anthropology in order to brainstorm about the Consortium concept.

Today I would like to make a public commitment to help move the Consortium idea along in some significant ways over the next two years. That is, with your input and your help. What might be some of the potential benefits of an active and effective Consortium?

(1) *Joint sharing of too-limited resources, such as faculty expertise.* They might occur, for example, through short-term faculty exchanges.

(2) *Cultivation of new approaches to graduate (and possibly undergraduate) education and training in applied anthropology.* The "Guidelines for Applied Anthropology Training Programs" undertaken by John van Willigen and many others a few years ago is a good model from which to work.

(3) *Cross-fertilization of student groups.* This is already occurring more and more, thanks to the outstanding work of the Student Committee since it was formed at the York meeting in 1990. It would be really wonderful to see more sessions organized at the annual meeting that draw upon the work of student from multiple departments.

(4) *Practicum exchanges between practicum-based programs.* There is a strong need for this type of interchange, and I think an effective exchange system could be developed with a modicum of organization.

(5) *Training in specific research methods for faculty*

and students. With respect to faculty, Bob Trotter, Laurie Price, and their colleagues at Northern Arizona University have already provided ethnographic methods training through a series of workshops. There is a great deal more that we could do in this area.

These are only a few of the many potential benefits I envision developing out of such a Consortium. I very much look forward to getting feedback from SfAA members regarding this idea.

For the time being I am steering away from the thorny question of the kind of structure such a Consortium might entail, and the even thornier question of which applied programs might participate and which might not. I think the most ideal structure can logically and fairly be decided upon after we have some extensive discussion among ourselves as to the goals and potential benefits of such a Consortium and how we could best go about organizing it.

Therefore, between now and our November Board meeting I will be soliciting ideas from SfAA members about this initiative. Please do be in touch with me about it.

My second initiative is in some ways much more chal-

lenging and, I must admit, idealistic. For years — especially during the time I was in Washington, D.C. in the 1970s and 1980s and very involved in WAPA — I wondered why anthropology as a discipline was not taking a greater lead in the education and training of students to be more knowledgeable and skilled in *inter-cultural mediation and conflict resolution.*

By and large, we seem to be leaving this to other disciplines, with relatively little input from our own experiences in dealing with cultural variation as a critical factor in conflict resolution. As a start, I will be collecting information about what has been accomplished already within anthropology and within some of our "sister" disciplines such as sociology, various clinical fields, history, international and diplomatic services, and communications, to mention a few.

At this point I envision the SfAA fostering the creation and expansion of a select handful of programs across the country (and possibly internationally) that would focus on the application of anthropological perspectives in the education and training of graduate students at the M.A. and Ph.D. levels in inter-cultural mediation and conflict resolution. Needless to say, the horrors in Kosovo and Yugoslavia today, among many other similarly atrocious and formidable examples, brings the message home to us that overall human beings do not seem to be doing very well in preventing or ameliorating inter-cultural conflicts that have horrific consequences. Anthropology and its "sister" disciplines should be at the forefront of helping to make a difference here, but *through mediation approaches.* This could only be achieved through inter-disciplinary efforts. I think the SfAA by building upon its history and its current goals is the right organization to take the lead in such an initiative.

For years I wondered why anthropology as a discipline was not taking a greater lead in the education and training of students to be more knowledgeable and skilled in *inter-cultural mediation and conflict resolution.*

"Why should we take the lead?" you might ask. Anthropology has a great deal to offer not only because we are attuned so sharply to inter-cultural differences, but also because much of our work is carried out within the context of small groups such as families, villages, neighborhoods, and regions. In my vision, I see us building upon our understanding of both peaceful and conflictual interaction of human beings within small groups as we address large group intercultural conflicts such as between ethnic groups and nation-states.

I do hope I will get your reactions to this basic idea. Over the next few months I will be mapping out a feasible approach to developing and implementing such an initiative.

Neither of these two initiatives will succeed without the active leadership and participation of SfAA members. Given my experience with SfAA, especially over the past decade, I do not doubt that we will get your support, leadership, and active participation in these new undertakings.

I am really looking forward to serving as your President and working with you over the next two years.

REPORT FROM THE SfAA SECRETARY

By Amy Wolfe <ami@ornl.gov>
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The SfAA Board of Directors met twice during the Tucson Annual Meeting, in an all-day session on Thursday, April 23 and in a half-day session on Sunday, April 26. Numerous committee chairs, the director of the EPA-SfAA environmental anthropology project, and several other Society members reported to the Board. Board members discussed issues raised by these individuals as well as a wide array of other matters. This article summarizes key points of discussion.

The General Business meeting, held on Friday, April 24, marked a turnover in the Board. Linda Bennett became President, as John Young shifted to the role of Past President. Executive Committee members James Carey and John Sherry rotated off the Board, replaced by newly elected members Ed Liebow and Sue Estroff. Tom Leatherman, who had been Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, and Rob Winthrop rotated off the Board. New Nominations and Elections Committee members are John O'Neil and Alaka Wali; the new Chair is Allan Burns. Carla Guerron-Montero, former Chair of the Student Committee, was elected as the Student member of the Board. Board members approved a motion to accept these election results and destroy the ballots. In addition, prior to the Tucson meetings, the Board elected Tom Arcury as Treasurer-elect. Tom will succeed Dennis Wiedman on January 1, 2000.

Past SfAA President Tony Paredes led a successful effort to return to the original language of the preamble to

the Society's by-laws. The preamble language changed as a result of the recent membership vote to implement a package of revisions to the Society's by-laws. Tony thought that the resulting change unnecessarily severed an historic tie to the Society's founders and weakened the eloquence of their phrasing. At the General Business meeting, members voted to restore the original preamble language for its dignity, historic value, and to support the mythic charter of the Society.

As the Treasurer's Report indicates, the financial status of the Society is good. However, now that the financial goal of transferring money to Society Trust funds has been achieved, the Board decided that the Society's main financial goal should be to build a reserve fund amounting to twice the Society's annual expenditures. The Board also passed two motions with regard to its business and operations office, administered by Project Management Associates (PMA). First, the Board intends to continue its contract with PMA after the current contract expires. Second, the Board expressed its appreciation of the work that PMA staff Tom May, Neil Hann, and LaDonna King do on behalf of the Society.

Board members discussed several current and future Society publications. Alexander (Sandy) Ervin will continue for another term as editor of *Practicing Anthropology*. Don Stull discussed modifications to enhance the readability of *Human Organization* as well as the status of future issues. Michael Whiteford nearly always seeks input for the *Newsletter*. A Classics of *Practicing Anthropology* volume, edited by Patricia Higgins and Tony Paredes, will be published as an SfAA monograph this fall. The Board discussed two other potential publications, a volume deriving from the Environmental Anthropology project to be written or edited by Barbara Johnston and a manuscript edited by Tom Weaver that contains a compilation of the papers presented by Malinowski Award winners.

The Board made several decisions with regard to Society Committees and Topical Interest Groups (TIGs). It re-authorized the International Standards Committee, chaired by Past President Ted Downing, for another two years. And, the Board endorsed the formation of two new TIGs, on Forced Migration and Human Rights as well as on Food and Agriculture. These TIGs will be led by Lucia Ann McSpadden and Gary Stephenson, respectively. Board members also expressed their appreciation to Robert Alvarez, who is ending his term as Chair of the Malinowski Award Committee. They also accepted the Malinowski Award Committee's recommendation to present the Malinowski Award to Maria Eugenia Buzzoli Vargas de Wille in the year 2000.

On other fronts, the Board decided to explore exchanges and linkages between SfAA and other organizations at annual meetings and in other venues. And, if the quality of the videotape of the Presidents' Forum on Affirmative Action (held at the Tucson annual meeting) is adequate, the Board wishes to make it available for purchase.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Dennis Wiedman <WiedmanD@FIU.edu>
Florida International University

The 1998 Report. 1998 is the first in five years where expenditures exceeded revenues. Overall, we had revenues of \$415,000 and expenditures of \$460,000, a difference of \$48,000. Forty thousand of this was a transfer of dollars to the Awards Trust following the profitable sales of equities in 1997. Basically, expenditures were \$8,000 more than revenues. Revenues primarily declined in membership dues and subscriptions to *Human Organization*. On the other hand, increased costs were incurred with the hosting of the international meetings in San Juan, and with additional costs in the Business Office. The increased costs of the meetings in San Juan, fewer memberships, and fewer subscriptions total nearly \$30,000 in decreased revenues.

The meetings in San Juan, as is often the case with international meetings, cost more to operate. Only \$1,300 was realized over expenditures, as compared to a \$15,000 profit from the prior year. With fewer new members joining at the meetings, and issues concerning when the fees are paid, income from membership dues was \$12,000 less than in 1997. The Business Office incurred \$4,000 more in operating expenses than budgeted.

Publications continue to be an important source of revenue, especially *Human Organization* that grossed \$72,000. This was \$7,000 less than the prior year, and \$17,000 less than 1996. This is a decrease of 20% in the last two years. The second year of the Cooperative Agreement with the EPA totaled \$137,000. From the indirect SfAA earned \$4,150.

The Society has two trust funds: the Peter New Trust Fund and the Applied Anthropology Awards Trust Fund. Both are separately maintained and accounted for. Trusts provide the vehicle to receive and manage tax-exempt donations. At the end of 1998 the Peter New Trust had a value of \$70,000, the Awards Trust \$88,000. With the \$40,000 transfer to the Annual Awards Trust in 1998, both trusts can now produce sufficient interest and dividends to support the awards. This means that operating budget funds no longer need to pay for these. This is a significant financial milestone for the Society.

The Sol Tax Award campaign was begun in 1998. For each dollar contributed, the trust will match a dollar. So far we have received donations and commitments of \$6,900. We are nearly 60% towards the goal of \$12,000. We intend on reaching this by the end of 1999.

The wise investment strategies of the Business Office, and the favorable stock market, continue to be quite beneficial to us. Twenty-five thousand dollars were earned from interest and dividends on the reserve fund.

From a more critical perspective though, as reported last year if we exclude the EPA contract, the sales of stock, and interest investments, in 1997 we spent \$16,000 more

than derived from revenues. In 1998 this would be \$29,000. This means that monies derived from investments paid for operational expenses. Without revenue gained from these assets an increase in membership dues would be needed. However, with favorable proceeds from the Tucson meeting, a dues increase is not anticipated.

At the beginning of 1998, our total fund balance in the reserve fund was \$461,000. At the end of 1998, the balance was \$413,000, a decrease of \$48,000. \$40,000 of this was a transfer of funds from the sale of equities in 1997 into the Awards Trust. This decline is in contrast to the past four years where we were able to add to the fund balance. With the increased operating expenses and decreased fund balance, at the end of 1998 our fund balance dropped below one and half times the amount required for one year's operating expenses. In Tucson, the Board voted to pursue the goal of having two times the amount of annual expenditures in the reserve fund. This would provide a secure financial future for the Society. Based on the 1998 operating budget of \$280,000, the goal would be \$560,000.

The Society is in a sound financial position, however, plans need to be made to reverse the decreasing revenues from membership dues, and publication subscriptions, while increasing revenues from monograph sales and other innovative sources.

1999 Budget. The 1999 budget adopted by the Board of Directors in November maintains the same general expenditure levels as in 1998. The *Classic Issue of Practicing Anthropology* is funded for publication in 1999. Two new initiatives received funding: the development and maintenance of the SfAA web pages, and the enhanced development activities of the Business Office, such as the Sol Tax award. The 1999 projected expenditures total \$422,000, which is within a \$1,000 of the operating expenses of 1998. My duties as Treasurer are nearing completion. Treasurer-elect Tom Arcury will take over officially on January 1, 2000. With the enthusiastic teamwork of the members and officers, the duties of Treasurer are greatly facilitated.

Thank you very much.



Board meeting

MINDING YOUR BUSINESS

By Jude Thomas May <sfaa@telepath.com>
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The dues that you pay. The SfAA Office prepared and presented to the Board in April in Tucson a report on the membership dues structure of the Society. The report included information comparing SfAA membership benefits and dues rates with other national/international social science associations. The conclusion? Members of SfAA get a better bargain for their dues than any other comparable professional association.

SfAA members receive a core membership package which includes two quarterly journals, a quarterly newsletter, discounts on annual member registration and discounts on publications (monograph series). The annual dues rate is \$42.00 for regular members and \$25.00 for students.

The comparable dues (undiscounted) in the American Anthropological Association is now \$120.00 per year with benefits including one journal and one newsletter, as well as enrollment in a specialized "section". The American Psychological Association has an annual dues level of \$54.00 per year with benefits that include one journal and a newsletter. A credit may be applied to the purchase of additional journals. The base membership fee in the American Sociological Association is \$48.00 for which members receive one journal (selected from a choice of 9), membership in a specialized "section", and the option of purchasing additional journals.

The leadership of the Society has maintained tenaciously this "bare-bones" dues structure for 15 years. The last previous dues increase was in 1985. At that time, the Board made a commitment to retain an economical dues threshold that would be affordable to young professionals and students. Since that time, the Board has resisted suggestions for membership dues increases, focusing instead on locating alternative sources of revenue when additional funds were required.

For example, the Board generated new dues revenues by introducing the "sustaining" category (without changing other dues levels). This membership category is appropriate for members who can afford to make an additional contribution (tax deductible) with their annual dues. The Board has also sustained an earlier policy stipulating that plans for new projects should include as well a method for generating the revenues that will be required. Reflecting this policy, the costs of the new Sol Tax Award will be subsidized largely from donations.

In the discussion at the meeting in April, the Board stressed the importance of maintaining an economical dues structure for young professionals and students. There are no plans to raise the dues in the immediate future. SfAA members will continue to receive an exceptional benefit package for their membership dues.

SfAA CONFERENCE 2000, SAN FRANCISCO — "GLOBAL AND LOCAL HISTORIES: APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY ACROSS THE CENTURIES"

By Laurie Price <laurie.price@nau.edu>
SfAA Program Chair
Northern Arizona University

For more than a century, the study of human culture has been a force for insight and positive change in the world. In 2000, that world is marked by: global connectedness, computerization, increasing concentration of wealth and power, environmental onslaughts (and consciousness of such), deep pockets of domestic and ethnic violence, quieter forms of social alienation, persisting racial, gender and other social injustice. The theme of this conference is understanding the past to negotiate the future, with special attention to our impact on policy design and advocacy. In areas such as public health, sustainable development, natural resources, cultural resource management, education, and global migration, considering local and global histories is critical to better assisting clients and reaching SfAA goals.

Our organizational history emphasizes the value of multidisciplinary approaches and partnerships. The agenda invites attention to domains we have personally and collectively examined and attention to planning and directions for the future. As practitioners, scholars, agencies, institutions, communities, and grassroots organizations, the conference will help us plan for the coming decade, century, millennium. Our gathering will be strengthened by co-meeting with the Society for Community Research and Action, and with the Society for Medical Anthropology.

The theme of this conference is understanding the past to negotiate the future, with special attention to our impact on policy design and advocacy. Our organizational history emphasizes the value of multidisciplinary approaches and partnerships.

Celebration of Methods and a Public Voice. The conference invites examination of both "classic" and current projects, with special attention to identifying key successes and lessons learned. We will explore and celebrate our impressive collective experience in using scientifically rigorous research methods to conduct both formative and intervention studies of human behavior. As applied researchers, program designers, administrators, and policy advocates, we have discovered appropriate methods for community development, culture brokering, mediation, leg-

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islative and media advocacy, co-management, participatory action research. Many of us also have come to understand what it means to be involved with government forums and programs. Public anthropology – the campaign to develop a louder voice for anthropological insights outside the discipline — is an area where academics and practitioners have common ground. Public advocacy has been part of the social science picture since at least the 1920s, with Boas' work against racism and Clifford Shaw's campaign for environmental management of crime. Sessions and papers are encouraged that address diverse experiences with applied social science methodologies, interventions, training, and advocacy roles. Contributions also are invited that report cutting edge efforts to refine the methodological and theoretical interface between qualitative and quantitative methods, e.g. CDC's new software, AnSWR.

Cities in Applied Anthropological Perspective.

Cities are packed with opportunities and problems, and each city has a significant history all its own that impacts the work of anthropological practitioners. Practitioners have much to say about urban schools, AIDS prevention and services, refugee/immigrant assistance, and urban violence. A combined conference/public plenary session is being planned on "cultures of violence," hopefully to include local leaders from the Bay Area. Urban projects of diverse type and location are encouraged to use the SfAA conference as a forum, including projects in the Bay Area and other Pacific Rim locales.

How can we increase the role and usefulness of anthropologists in urban planning and city-level decision making/advocacy? This is potentially an excellent match, but is underdeveloped, as Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown pointed out at the 1998 AAA. Local governments also are invited to become involved in the dialogue.

Healthy Lives. Human misery in the world is bimodal. For at least 20% of the global population, the central problem is clear: severe and persisting hunger, arising from lack of access to land or jobs. Ethnic violence and refugee distress are on the rise, as well. What are applied anthropologists doing to address problems of hunger, ethnic tensions, and unemployment? For many Americans and others in the "North," human misery is associated with social alienation and depression, feminization of poverty, chronic illness, tobacco and other substance abuse, racism, discrimination, ballooning incarceration rates, and violence at home, at school or in the streets. Sessions and papers are welcome that revisit these issues, with attention to history and "lessons learned."

Business, Development, and Corporatization. Microenterprises have become a key intervention approach in poverty reduction programs, including some at the grassroots level. Big business, as well, is increasingly interested in social science, e.g. *USA Today* recently called anthropology degrees a "hot asset" in the rapidly changing

world of corporate business (2/18/99). "Companies are starving to know how people use the Internet or why some pickups, even though they are more powerful, are perceived by consumers as less powerful." (Ken Erickson, Center for Ethnographic Research). Many international development programs (e.g., InterAmerican Foundation) are seeking new strategies based on collaboration with the private sector. Despite this trend, there are many situations in which privatization, corporate collaboration, and deregulation have created monsters of unfairness and unforeseen evils. Managed care in the U.S. is a business arena where carefully collected qualitative information is much needed. At SfAA 2000, debate is invited about the issue of "going corporate." Papers are encouraged which shed light on the history, ethics, limits, and ideal kinds of collaboration with business entities.

Natural Resources: Advocacy and Co-management. Continuing work is needed on the recent SfAA themes of environment and political ecology. Special attention is invited to: lessons learned from conservation projects, effective legislative and media advocacy techniques, ethnobotanical/ faunal disappearance or preservation, indigenous co-management and community-based development, rural and environmental "participatory" appraisal and monitoring methods, practitioner relationships with environmental NGOs and agencies.

An area of special concern is the loss of indigenous cultural capital — traditional environmental knowledge, languages, and oral traditions.

Tourism and Public Education. Public education has always been a concern of archaeology and ethnology, e.g. Boas' expeditions were funded by a museum. However, museum displays/warehousing, ethnotourism, and heritage tourism have become a risky endeavor over the past twenty years as more groups claim a more active role in constructing their own cultural identities and history. What are the lessons we have learned from involvement in such activities, how will these activities evolve in the future, and what are the pitfalls/dangers for the anthropologist working in these domains? The extremely mixed consequences of tourism have been documented ethnographically by sociologists, anthropologists, and others for several decades now. What successes can we report in "turning the tide" of the more harmful outcomes, though policy studies, political advocacy, NGO facilitation, innovative planning approaches, or other strategies?

Global Connectedness: Computers, Ethnicity, Community. Silicon Valley, south of San Francisco, is the heart of the computer vortex. How have applied anthropologists been working with, on, and through computers to achieve their goals? What issues of information access arise with universal connectedness? Where are the dissenting voices, critiques of planned obsolescence, and of not-so-positive computer impacts in the lives of communities?

How can we increase the role and usefulness of anthropologists in urban planning and city-level decision making/advocacy?

Networks of applied anthropologists, and the SfAA, are increasingly international. The SfAA encourages participation of colleagues from distant locales. What more is needed to secure mutually beneficial working relationships across the miles? In regard to global community, practitioners and scholars with experience in mediation, and/or in policy efforts in multiethnic settings are especially invited to share their knowledge and insight. Sessions on this topic will complement a policy skills workshop tentatively planned for Wednesday morning of the conference.

The SfAA invites interested individuals to suggest additional themes of interest to: Program Chair, Dr. Laurie J. Price, Department of Anthropology, Box 15200, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ 86011. Please join us in San Francisco, California, March 21-26, in the year 2000!

LPO NEWS

by Carla Littlefield <clittlefield@compuserve.com>
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Representatives from seven local and regional practitioner organizations attended SfAA's annual LPO luncheon in Tucson. Discussion centered around the informal survey of LPO leaders in March asking what services and support SfAA could offer and what involvement the LPOs want in SfAA. Representatives confirmed that the major service currently provided by SfAA is keeping the LPOs connected, primarily through the *Newsletter* column and the annual luncheon. Because recruitment is always a challenge, LPOs benefit from publicity of their activities in the *Newsletter* column. Several LPOs requested linkage between the SfAA web site and their own local web site. This will be explored with the SfAA Business Office.

The survey indicated that LPOs have had varying degrees of involvement with SfAA, including co-sponsorship of annual meetings, LPO-sponsored sessions and workshops at annual meetings, serving as officers of SfAA, and participating on the annual meeting program committees. WAPA collaborated on the policy effort that is now reflected in a committee and a column in the SfAA *Newsletter*. Luncheon participants enthusiastically supported further collaboration on special projects, outreach activities, and workshops. Specifically, they proposed an LPO session or workshop at SfAA's next annual meeting to address important LPO issues, e.g., recruitment, web site development, newsletters, organizational structures, and tax exempt status.

The "Sun Coast Organization of Practicing Anthropologists" (SCOPA) announced that their web site is up and running. Created by Terry Redding, the web site includes the SCOPA membership list, individual member information, and a membership application. Future plans for the site include adding SCOPA programs and projects as well as activities of its members. Check it out at <[\[hsc.usf.edu/~aunterbe/scopa/index.html\]\(http://hsc.usf.edu/~aunterbe/scopa/index.html\)>. SCOPA has decided to focus each year's activities, projects, and meetings around a special theme or topic. In the upcoming year, they will highlight the contribution which anthropology brings to the workplace and the impact of the anthropological perspective on members' respective professions and practice.](http://</p></div><div data-bbox=)

The "Washington Association of Professional Anthropologists" (WAPA) will confer its biennial Praxis Award at a special reception in Chicago during the American Anthropological Association's annual meeting. The Praxis Award recognizes outstanding achievement in translating anthropological knowledge into action as reflected in one project. WAPA encourages anyone holding at least an M.A. degree in any subfield of anthropology to apply for this prestigious award. Individuals, groups, or organizations where at least one anthropologist worked on the project may apply themselves or nominate others. The contribution of the anthropologist to the success of the project should be clearly indicated. Application deadline is September 10, 1999. The award carries a cash stipend. Further information and an application with additional instructions may be obtained from the WAPA webpage: <<http://www.smcm.edu/wapa>>. You also may contact Mari Clark at <mariclark@aol.com>.

To submit information for the LPO News column or communicate about LPO issues, please contact me, SfAA-LPO Liaison, at the above e-mail address.

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

By Rob Winthrop <rhwinth@mind.net>
Cultural Solutions
Ashland, OR

Incoming president Linda Bennett has appointed a number of new members to the SfAA public policy committee, while encouraging those members of the original committee (whose appointments expire in 1999) foolish enough to want to continue this work to do so. Now that I am stepping down as chair of the committee, it seems a useful time to report on what we have accomplished, and what tasks lie ahead. I expect that a new committee chair will be appointed shortly.

The Board charged the public policy committee with "enhancing the effectiveness and visibility of applied anthropologists in the policy domain." Beyond that, the committee was directed to pursue various tasks, among these: (1) organizing meeting sessions and workshops, and assembling curricular materials related to public policy; (2) developing guidelines for SfAA concerning the review and endorsement of public policy positions, and reviewing position papers proposed for board endorsement; (3) encouraging public policy dialogues within SfAA; and (4) proposing strategies to increase our policy effectiveness as indi-

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viduals and as an organization. We have done well on some, not so well on others.

Sessions and training. Committee members have organized a number of policy-related sessions at both the AAA and SfAA annual meetings. Policy-related sessions at the 1999 Tucson meetings organized by committee members included "New Actors in International Development Lending"; "Tobacco: National and International Anthropological Perspectives"; and "Translating Anthropological Insight Into Policy." We also have a committee whose task is to assemble training materials on public policy appropriate for anthropologists. The policy committee decided last month to hold a half-day workshop on policy skills and issues at the beginning of the 2000 SfAA meeting in San Francisco. Kendall Thu (University of Iowa) will chair the workshop organizing committee.

Policy statements. When the committee was assembled in 1997 the SfAA board requested that we formulate a reasonable review process for policy statements proposed for endorsement by SfAA. To this end, the committee developed and the board adopted a set of procedures and guidelines for the review of such statements. This should help to improve both the quality of our public policy statements and the effectiveness with which they are reviewed and disseminated. (The guidelines and procedures for policy statements appeared in the January 1998 SfAA *Newsletter*.)

Meanwhile, since the committee was formed in 1997, the board has approved several policy statements:

In March 1998 through the work of the American Indian Issues Committee and the Public Policy Committee the Board submitted a statement to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs regarding proposed changes to tribal sovereign immunity.

In April 1998 through the work of the International Standards Committee, with some support from the Policy Committee, the Board approved a major response to the International Finance Corporation's proposed revisions to its social and environmental policies. SfAA followed this effort by sending a delegation to Washington to meet with World Bank Group / IFC officials.

In September 1998 the Board endorsed a statement opposing legislation that would alter conditions for agricultural "guest workers." This statement resulted from work by Joe Heyman of our committee and other colleagues.

In April 1999 the Board submitted comments to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget regarding proposed regulations mandating new data-sharing requirements in federally funded research. While SfAA submitted its own statement, we did work in tandem with AAA on this matter.

By June 1999 the policy guidelines and procedures, together with the texts of all recent policy statements ap-

proved by the board, should be posted on the SfAA web page, <<http://www.telepath.com/SfAA/>>.

Policy dialogue. The committee took no action to encourage dialogues on policy issues in SfAA publications, through this seems a worthwhile goal. We did, however, resolve to use the SfAA web site to provide resources on public policy and information on policy positions adopted by the board, and to enable an on-line debate among SfAA members regarding both particular policy issues, and strategies and techniques for increasing our policy effectiveness.

Strategies. Here the committee's main accomplishment was the creation of a goal's statement, adopted by the board in 1998. (This gem-like document also appears in the January 1998 *Newsletter*.) This statement argued that to increase applied anthropology's policy effectiveness, we should place primary emphasis on improving the policy-related skills and engagement of our membership, rather than relying primarily on SfAA as an organization to speak on policy issues.

During my fall 1998 report to the board some board members suggested the need for a more specific strategy to guide SfAA's policy efforts. The committee has agreed to propose a more specific long-term strategy, while also identifying a set of key policy issues to provide a focus for the organization's efforts over the next year.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues on the public policy committee for their hard work and friendship over the past two years: Paul Durrenberger (Penn State Univ.), Merrill Eisenberg (University of Arizona), Josiah Heyman (Michigan Technological University), Lucia Ann McSpadden (Life and Peace Institute, Uppsala), Hugh Plunkett (USAID), Sara Stoutland (Kennedy School / Harvard University), Roger Walke (Congressional Research Service), and Kevin Wells (Oregon Legislature). It's been fun.

TIG FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

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

The Anthropology and IPR TIG has been quite active this year with our first official sponsorship of a SfAA session: "Culture Up Against the Law: Intellectual Property Rights and Indigenous Peoples." Session participants would like to extend special 'thanks' to Professor Robert Hershey, Professor of Law (University of Arizona) for agreeing to serve as Discussant, and thereby stimulating a lively and critical exchange. Apologies to SfAA members who may not have been informed of our business meeting, which did not make it into the final program.

Those in attendance proposed the following re-structuring of the TIG and its listserve operation: I will continue to serve as President until next year's meetings. Because

of the massive amounts of information coming out on IPR, the group thought it best to appoint key "point people" to serve as conduits for information related to specific fields. These include the following volunteers: David Cleveland for biodiversity, Anthony McCann for ethnomusicology/performance, Tressa Berman for museums/art and David Stephenson for the law. Any suggestions or additional volunteer efforts will be greatly appreciated. Anthony McCann (Smithsonian/University of Limerick) has also graciously agreed to take over the listserv operations when he returns to Ireland in July. There will therefore be a temporary suspension of listserv activities while we make the transition.

We also plan to construct a web-site that will link through the SfAA web-site and connect researchers in IPR to a host of other related sites. In this way, we hope to make as much information available to our constituents without duplicating effort. Please look for these exciting new changes as we work collectively to re-vitalize our scholarly activities - "we" means "you." Looking forward to your input and participation.

Conference News: The Native American Art Studies Association meetings will sponsor a panel session on "Indigenous Arts and the Politics of Possession" for the 1999 meetings to be held in Victoria, British Columbia. For further information, please contact me at above e-mail or phone (602) 543-6026.

NEW TIG for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

By Garry Stephenson <garry.stephenson@orst.edu>
Oregon State University

It's official! The promising yet tentative SfAA Food and Agriculture interest group has organized. The SfAA Board has given its nod and a core group met during the recent SfAA conference. What's more, it already has a listserv and a web site is forthcoming — the 90's equivalent of a brochure and a business card.

The Food and Agriculture Interest Group will offer SfAA members opportunities for exchanging ideas, strengthening connections, and integrating efforts. The group plans to sponsor workshops and sessions at future SfAA meetings, stimulate publications and more. Consistent with SfAA's mission, it will serve as a hub for applied anthropologists engaged in food and agriculture issues related to small scale or industrial cultures in the U.S. and abroad.

From its statement of purpose, the group is organized to examine ... *from an applied perspective, the human dimension of food and agricultural systems, dietary behaviors, food and agricultural issues as they effect urban and rural communities, and the role of food production and distribution systems in human adaptation.*

Those interested in the Food and Agriculture interest group are invited to join its listserv — FOODAG-L. To

join, type the following command in the body of the message:

SUB FOODAG-L your first name last name

For instance, SUB FOODAG-L Margaret Mead

Send it to: <listserv@mail.orst.edu>. The initial goal for the group is to do a few things well. Creating an infrastructure to enhance communication is a first step. Involvement from the membership will determine future actions. Questions about the Food and Agriculture Topical Interest Group can be directed to me.

REPORT FROM THE HO EDITOR

Donald D. Stull <stull@lark.cc.ukans.edu>
University of Kansas

Robert Van Kemper kept warning you in last year's SfAA *Newsletter* that he was passing the editorial baton to someone new. Well, the transition has indeed occurred, and thanks to Van, Neil Hann, and Tom May, it has been about as smooth as those things can be, which is to say, we survived. Our first issue of *Human Organization*, Volume 58, No. 1, Spring 1999, should have reached you in March, and the summer issue is due out in June.

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the new editorial staff. Let me start with my two editorial assistants, Karla Kral and Norma Larzalere. Karla is a native of Akron, Ohio, and holds a B.A. in anthropology and a certificate in women's studies from the University of Akron. She earned her master's in anthropology from the University of Kansas and is presently a doctoral student in sociocultural anthropology at KU, studying transnational migration between northern Mexico and southwest Kansas. Norma is a third-generation Japanese-Canadian from Vancouver, BC, Canada. She holds a degree in piano and music theory from the Royal Conservatory of Toronto, and bachelor's and master's degrees in Japanese language and literature from the University of Kansas. She is also a doctoral student in sociocultural anthropology, studying the lives of women and children in the new town of Tsukuba Science City, Japan.

Karla, Norma, and I run the *HO* office at the University of Kansas, or should I say that it runs us. Our mailing address is: *Human Organization*, Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-2110, USA. *HO's* e-mail address is <humanorg@ukans.edu>. The office phone is 785-864-2631; fax is 785-864-5224. Should you wish to contact me directly, my e-mail is <stull@lark.cc.ukans.edu>. My phone is 785-864-2641, and my fax is the same as the above.

Also at KU is Laura Kriegstrom, our design editor. Laura is responsible for *HO's* "new look." Laura is a graphic designer and cartographer with many years of experience in publications production and design. Under her guidance, we have "opened *HO* up" by increasing type size and lead-

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ing (height between the lines), modifying headings and subheadings, and changing how tables and figures are set off from the text. Laura, by the way, is my wife.

Neil Hann, of the SfAA office, returns as *Human Organization's* production editor. Neil collaborated with Laura in the design make-over. He works closely with our office and with Capital City Press, Montpelier, Vermont, where the journal is printed, to make sure the trains run on time — and the ride is smooth. Without Neil, *HO* would never “get put to bed,” or “get out the door.” (I know, I know, my metaphors are shamelessly mixed, but, hey, I'm the editor.) Without Neil's experience and wisdom, his patient and forgiving nature, and most of all his good humor, that first issue never would have come out. We are all in his debt.

Robert A. Hackenberg and Jeffrey L. Longhofer have kindly (and perhaps not so wisely) consented to serve as my associate editors. Bob is in charge of “Advancing Applied Anthropology,” which will be a regular feature of *HO*. It is designed to stimulate fresh thinking and invite dialogue on the formulation, implementation, and consequences of application and practice in anthropology and related social sciences. Bob has gotten the dialogue rolling with a provocative discussion of “Strategies and Game Plans,” in the Spring 1999 issue, and “Globalization: Touchstone Policy Concept or Sucked Orange,” in the upcoming Summer issue. Comments or contributions should be sent to Robert Hackenberg at <hackenbr@spot.colorado.edu> or mailed to him at the Department of Anthropology, CB 233, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309.

Jeff Longhofer is overseeing the *HO* Web site, <<http://www.unt.edu/humanorganization>>. You can visit this site to view the contents of upcoming issues, consult the guidelines for manuscript submission, or comment on recently published articles. Over the next couple of years we will use the site to disseminate more widely the journal's contents. Jeff is relocating from the University of North Texas to Case Western Reserve, but when he gets settled in, expect to see more activity on our Web site — and a new Web address.

We are six months into our new duties and increasingly familiar with them.

By summer's end, I hope we can say that *Human Organization* and its new staff are comfortable with one another. We will process manuscripts promptly and bring completed works to publication as rapidly as possible. To do that we'll need your help — in sending us the best of your work and in reviewing the submissions of your colleagues carefully and promptly. Together we will ensure that *Human Organization* remains a primary source of literature in the applied social sciences.



REPORT FROM THE PA EDITOR

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

Curtis Wienker (University of South Florida) has overseen a project having a gestation similar to an elephant's. Since before I became editor, he has been working with Cuban colleagues dealing with translation difficulties and logistic problems created by a pointless boycott. This summer, Curtis co-edits with Dr. Antonio Fuentes, a distinguished biological anthropologist, a special issue on applied anthropology in Cuba. Most of the articles deal with the applications of archaeology, museology, biological, and bio-medical anthropology.

The one exception is provided by Lourdes Serrano Peralta and Dulce O'Halloran Gonzalez who trace the historical trends of sociocultural anthropology in Cuba. Biological anthropology is illustrated by Antonio Fuentes's article on anthropometry devoted to the needs of Cuban school children and in the design of buses and bicycles. It is also seen in a holistic and multidisciplinary public health study for peri-menopausal and menopausal women done by Margarita Carmanente Moreno and Leticia Artilles Visbal, and through the applied work of the Department of Human Growth and Development in Havana as described by Estrella Posada and Antonio Berdasco. Armando Rangel Rivero tells us of the work of the Montané Anthropological Museum at the University of Havana where the use of collections, collaborations with other faculties, museology and public archaeology all serve the Cuban people.

One striking feature of the articles is a sense of the pride in Cuban identity and a strong focus on public service that you would not similarly find among North Americans. I suspect that we North American applied anthropologists have much to learn through more exchanges with the Cuban people and our professional colleagues there. Relevant to this, will be a timely piece, supplemental to Fuentes and Wienker's collection, by Miguel Vasquez, a board member of SfAA and on the faculty at Northern Arizona State University. Recently having visited Cuba and impressed with the accomplishments of the Cuban people especially in their education and health care, Miguel speculates on future avenues of collaborative anthropological research and practice for Cuban and American colleagues.

Fortuitously, I have separately received three articles by sociocultural applied anthropologists relevant to the Caribbean and Central America. So, I have decided to title the whole issue *Practicing Anthropology* in Cuba and the Caribbean Basin. One of the supplemental articles is by Dinorah Martinez, formally of Northern Arizona University and now in a doctoral program at the University of South Florida. She describes the value of anthropology in a program of outreach dentistry in the Dominican Republic.

An article by Finnish anthropologist Anja Nygren documents conflicting agendas confusing the development of co-management practices among the Nicaraguan government, non-government agencies, and, more important, peasant farmers living adjacent to the forest preserve in question. A third article comes from Pamela Downe, an anthropologist in the Women and Gender Studies Department here at the University of Saskatchewan. She describes a novel twist on advocacy emerging from her research on prostitution and HIV/AIDS in Costa Rica. The women, already oppressed, were stigmatized by the government as virtual "vectors." Yet they were able to successfully resist a program to register them with health cards. They did this by "appropriating" and even expanding Downe's research to their benefit.

We have several books available for review. Contact me if you are interested in reviewing them. They are:

Toussaint, Sandy and Jim Taylor (eds.)
1999 *Applied Anthropology in Australasia*. Nedlands, Western Australia: University of Western Australia. 296 pages.

Wedel, Janine R.
1998 *Collision and Collusion: The Strange Case of Western to Eastern Europe 1989*. New York: St. Martin's Press. 286 pages.

The addresses and phone numbers for the editorial office of *Practicing Anthropology* remain (temporarily at least): Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 5A5, Canada; the office telephone number is (306) 966-4176; my home number is (306) 343-9140; the departmental fax number is (306) 966-5640; ervin@sask.usask.ca is my E-mail address.



Linda Whiteford and students from the University of South Florida

A FAREWELL NOTE FROM THE STUDENT COMMITTEE 1996-1999

By Carla Guerron-Montero <yachac@hotmail.com>
University of Oregon/Bocas, Panama

The members of the Student Committee 1996-1999, would like to deeply thank all of you for your support and collaboration in making these past years a successful period for the Committee. We would like to take this opportunity to show our appreciation to those who were instrumental in contributing to our many accomplishments. We would like to give thanks to past-presidents Jean Schensul and John Young for their unconditional support and encouragement. We also wish to thank the current president, Linda Bennet, who as President-elect wholeheartedly validated our work. We are certain that under her guidance, the Student Committee will continue to flourish.

The work of the SfAA Business Office was invaluable in making our work run smoothly. We wish to thank Tom May in particular for his inestimable assistance and ideas. We are thankful to the Society's treasurers Carla Littlefield and Dennis Wiedman for their guidance in budgetary means. We wish to acknowledge Mike Whiteford and Alexander Ervin for constantly supporting and promoting student publications. We also thank a number of Committees which have been specially interested in students and their participation. To name but a few: the Membership Committee, the International Committee, the International Standards Committee, as well as the Policy Committee.

These past years were very productive for the Student Committee, and were particularly fertile for students. The development and maintenance of more avenues for student participation and representation are among the long-term goals of the Society. Consequently, the Society has placed strong importance on student-related issues. We believe our Committee has contributed to the fulfillment of these goals through a number of activities. We developed a Constitution for the Student Committee. Jane Morgan, our former treasurer, was instrumental in the drafting of the constitution. This past February the Student Committee held elections, and a new committee was appointed at the 1999 Annual Meetings in Tucson. Both processes, along with the creation of solid communication channels, will certainly guarantee the continuity of the Student Committee.

In addition, we organized a number of activities at the 1997, 1998 and 1999 Annual Meetings. All of these events were important steps towards the creation of a space exclusively aimed to students. Workshops, special events, sessions, and social gatherings, were among the many events we planned. We would like to express our gratitude to Program Chairs Edward Liebow, Becky Joseph and William Baber. Their guidance and support were essential in successfully organizing these activities.

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Of particular importance was the creation of the Communications Committee. The Communications Committee was an active, fertile and creative group at all times. They developed and managed the first student website of the Committee with professionalism and dedication, and contributed in more ways than it is possible to mention to the cohesiveness and continuity of the Student Committee. We wish to recognize the outstanding work of Chester Bateman, Adelia Falda, Lei Yan and David Venider during these past years.

The Student Committee supported student publications in a number of ways. We maintained a regular student column in the student newsletter, under the direction of student editor Tony Hebert. We published a special edition of *Practicing Anthropology*, entirely dedicated to graduate students' work. I was the editor of this issue. In addition, we periodically published student work in our website.

Personally, I am grateful to Tony Hebert, Nitza Diaz, Jane Morgan and the members of the Communications Committee for their contributions to the Student Committee. These years have been of hard work and dedication, and we have seen very important results. Certainly, this tradition will be continued by the new appointed committee. Kurt Mantonya <kurtbec@cornhusker.net> or <kmanton1@bigred.unl.edu> is the new Student Committee Chair. Please contact him with any concerns.

As student representative, I am grateful for your trust, and guarantee you that I will continue to work for the well-being of students. If you have any suggestions or concerns, please contact me at <yachac@hotmail.com>.

HOT ASSET: ANTHROPOLOGY DEGREES

By Del Jones

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Don't throw away the MBA degree yet. But as companies go global and crave leaders for a diverse workforce, a new hot degree is emerging for aspiring executives: anthropology. The study of man is no longer a degree for museum directors. Citicorp created a vice presidency for anthropologist Steve Barnett, who discovered early warning signs to identify people who don't pay credit card bills.

Not satisfied with consumer surveys, Hallmark is sending anthropologists into the homes of immigrants, attending holidays and birthday parties to design cards they'll want. No survey can tell engineers what women really want in a razor, so marketing consultant Hauser Design sends anthropologists into bathrooms to watch them shave their legs.

Unlike MBAs, anthropology degrees are rare: one undergraduate degree for every 26 in business and one anthropology Ph.D. for every 235 MBAs. Textbooks now have chapters on business applications. The University of

South Florida has created a course of study for anthropologists headed for commerce. Motorola corporate lawyer Robert Faulkner got his anthropology degree before going to law school. He says it becomes increasingly valuable as he is promoted into management.

"When you go into business, the only problems you'll have are people problems," was the advice given to teenager Michael Koss by his father in the early 1970s. Koss, now 44, heeded the advice, earned an anthropology degree from Beloit College in 1976, and is today CEO of the Koss headphone manufacturer.

Katherine Burr, CEO of The Hanseatic Group, has masters in both anthropology and business from the University of New Mexico. Hanseatic was among the first money management programs to predict the Asian crisis and last year produced a total return of 315% for investors. "My competitive edge came completely out of anthropology," she says. "The world is so unknown, changes so rapidly. Preconceptions can kill you."

Companies are starving to know how people use the Internet or why some pickups, even though they are more powerful, are perceived by consumers as less powerful, says Ken Erickson, of the Center for Ethnographic Research.

It takes trained observation, Erickson says. Observation is what anthropologists are trained to do.

ON COMPUTERS AND BEING IGNORED

By Anthony Paredes
<Tony_Paredes@nps.gov>
Florida State University/
National Park Service



I have been stewing over this for a while. It was gratifying that Editor Whiteford was "painfully reminded" of my SfAA presidential letters on computer mania, in his frustrations with information technology, as he reported in the August 1998 *Newsletter*. The impulse to write an "I-told-you-so" letter to the editor was almost irresistible. But, I resisted. Then, to my amazement, in the next two succeeding issues of the *Newsletter*, first John Young then Merrill Singer took up the critique of what computers are doing to us without ever once mentioning my earlier pieces on the subject. I knew that computerized bibliographic search "tools" were quickly obviating practically everything written before about 1982, but this is ridiculous.

Unfortunately, maybe some read my essays (SfAA *Newsletter* August 1994, November 1994, February 1995) as merely slightly daft Luddite rantings and ravings. They were not attacks on technology. They were about uncritical, unselective adoption of technology. Most important,

they were about the dire economic and political consequences of so much concentration of so much wealth and power that has come from so many gullible people being so enchanted by so much computer magic—and what that means for human adaptation and adaptability. As I read Young and Merrill, this is their underlying theme as well. It is frustrating to be ignored when you said it first. Maybe even my sympathetic colleagues did not think I was serious when I wrote in February 1995, “Just as much of twentieth-century history... can be read as the response, reaction, and aftermath of the excesses of industrial capitalism, so too, I predict, the twenty-first century will experience a huge aftershock of the excesses of informational capitalism.”

Anxious that SfAA not be left in the lurch whenever the rest of the world caught on to what was happening, I appointed David Hakken to organize a group for SfAA to begin an anthropological examination of the issues. Apparently, that committee is moribund. Now, John Young reports, there is something called the “SfAA Internet Committee.” Sounds like we are “going native.” Of course, we must “speak the native language,” but, I caution, we must not lose our anthropological objectivity in the study of what is happening to society as a consequence of computer technology. Somehow, we have got to get outside the system and look at the big picture. To quote from a very thoughtful piece by Richard Ford (*The New York Times*, Dec. 27, 1998, p. 9),

A palpable fear...is that in this high-velocity atmosphere we'll suffer vital qualities of our character to become obsolete: our capacity to deliberate, to be patient, to forgive, to remain, to observe, to empathize, to gauge cause and effect... We fear we'll have no use for these qualities in a world where fully functioning citizenship seems chiefly to require access to the Internet.

Maybe my informal, humorous tone in past commentaries on the computer age kept some readers from taking me seriously. Whatever the case, whether credited or not, it is very gratifying to see Whiteford, Young, and Singer take up again the deeper societal questions about the Information Age that I first raised in the pages of this publication in 1994. Thirty years ago, my good friend Steve Schensul used to tease me, “Tony, you have always been two weeks ahead of your time!”



To the Editor:

And so. There was always an “and so” at the meetings of the Society for Applied Anthropology in Tucson.

An array of better than average topics – no fuzzy buzz-word tropes.

And round tables and chairs carefully articulated around breakfast and coffee served on the lawn.

And unique presentations given with craft – slides, power point, overheads, cartoons – audience-friendly stuff this.

And place to rest hidden away for comfort with a pool-side view, and Texas, make that Arizona, sun, sandal, summer-soccer weather.

And parties every day and evening.

And so, and so, did I say learning took place, too?

And so, about next time, do you have parties down on the list yet? And trips? And trope-less research? And people?

And so.

Most respectfully submitted,

Linda Marie Small
Tucson, Arizona

DELMOS JONES (1936 – 1999)

By Robert Hackenberg
<Robert.Hackenberg@Colorado.EDU>
University of Colorado
and
Donald Stull <stull@lark.cc.ukans.edu>
University of Kansas

(With the assistance of N. B. Jane Schneider, Louise Lenniham, Mary Lou Jones, Mary Lee Robbins, and Beverly Hackenberg)

Delmos Jones, long time Professor of Anthropology at the Graduate School of the City University of New York, succumbed to a lingering illness on February 4. His life exemplified the full range of activities that define the finest qualities of our profession. We share with the SfAA membership a profound sense of loss that he is no longer among us.

While he leaves a substantial body of research and publications, he would prefer to be remembered for his continuous efforts to improve the human condition. These were exemplified by his last professional assignment: Co-Investigator in charge of the community studies portion of the national evaluation of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's *Fighting Back* initiative.

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Fighting Back was an attempt to prevent substance abuse by adolescents in ghetto neighborhoods of 14 US cities, begun in 1988 with a multi-million dollar grant. Del's evaluation sought to locate patterns of community organization, which contributed to the revitalization of urban core areas ravaged by the abuse of drugs and alcohol. He never lost faith in the capacity of the disadvantaged, if empowered, to innovate solutions to their own problems.

Del was a graduate of San Francisco State College (1959). He received the MA degree from the University of Arizona (1962) and the Ph.D. from Cornell University (1967), which also granted him a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship in the Southeast Asia Program. His doctoral research was completed among the Lahu in northern Thailand (1965) to whom he returned in 1970 and 1978. In 1975, he pursued fieldwork among the Australian aborigines.

Del joined us in the Anthropology department of the University of Colorado, Boulder, as an assistant professor (1967-1970). He moved next to CUNY, where he rose to the rank of professor and entered *emeritus* status in 1997. Among his many achievements there, he was most gratified by the receipt of two consecutive NIMH Research Scientist Development Awards, (1972-1976, 1977-1982).

In later years, Del committed his energies to intervention in the African-American ghettos of New York City. He was concerned with effective self-organization, and the challenge presented to leadership by the progressive dispersal of community members. After 1975 he published exclusively on these issues and identified himself as an urban anthropologist.

Del overcame many obstacles in his pursuit of professional success. Perhaps because of this, whether he was among the hill tribes of the Golden Triangle or the neighborhoods above 125th Street, he wrote often and thought much about the capacity of the individual to pursue and initiate variations on cultural themes. He frequently confronted simplistic assertions to the contrary with the rejoinder that, "Two Crows denies this."

Always soft-spoken, his gentility was known to all. But it concealed a sharp wit and an effective capacity for self-defense. We recall an episode of many years past when a manuscript Del had circulated for comment was crudely plagiarized by a reader who raced the material into print. Del's calm response has become a classic among his friends: "It's true that he stole my idea... But it's also true that I can have *another* idea." And he went on to have many.

Born in Birmingham as an African-American, he was always concerned with the social construction of race differences, but was never embittered by them. During the Days of Rage, Watts and the Black Panther Movement, his involvement was analytical rather than activist. His commitment to non-violence was sincere, and his devotion to Martin Luther King was a passion. In 1968, and for years after, he proudly wore a lapel pin proclaiming, "I Have a Dream." And indeed he did. And we remain grateful that he taught us to share it with him.

In a fitting tribute from his friends and colleagues, Del was chosen to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for the Anthropology of North America. It was conferred at the Philadelphia meeting of the American Anthropological Association, December 5, 1998.

To honor his memory and in the spirit of Del's abiding concern for the professional development of students, the Society has established the Delmos Jones Memorial Scholarship to assist a student member of SfAA with travel costs to present a paper at its annual meeting.

Each year's recipient will be selected by a committee after review of abstracts submitted to the program chair by student members. Selection criteria will reflect Del's professional interests and commitment. The scholarship will be financed with contributions from the Society's members; to be matched (1:1) from the Awards Trust.



ERIC W. WOLF, 76, AN ICONOCLASTIC ANTHROPOLOGIST

By Robert McG. Thomas, Jr.

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Eric R. Wolf, an accidental anthropologist whose cultural studies of Latin American peoples and European peasants helped enrich an already eclectic field even as he challenged some established cultural assumptions, died on Sunday [March 7, 1999] at his home in Irvington, N.Y. He was 76 and had taught at Lehman College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. The cause was liver cancer, his family said.

For someone who had had an intense fascination with the sometimes striking cultural differences of diverse peoples since his grade school days in polyglot Vienna and his teen-age years in strife-torn Sudetenland, Dr. Wolf -- whose father was Austrian and mother Russian -- did not immediately see anthropology as his natural academic outlet.

Even after he came to the United States with his parents and settled in Jackson Heights, Queens, Dr. Wolf, whose father had operated a textile factory in the Sudetenland before the 1938 Nazi takeover, saw biology as the best bet to explain human differences.

But after enrolling in Queens College planning to major in biochemistry, he stumbled into an anthropology class one day and realized that the broad field embraced just about everything he was interested in, which was just about everything about every aspect of the human experience.

After interrupting his education to serve with the Army in the Alps in World War II, Dr. Wolf received a degree in anthropology in 1946 and went on to Columbia University on the G.I. bill, receiving a doctorate in 1951. Before joining City University in 1971 as a distinguished professor, he had brief teaching stints at the University of Illinois, the University of Virginia, Yale University and the University of Chicago and nine years as a professor at the University of Michigan.

By then he had already established his reputation as an innovative and iconoclastic academic, whose credentials included helping to organize one of the earliest Vietnam teach-ins, at Michigan in 1965.

His 1959 book about Mexico, for example, *Sons of the Shaking Earth*, raised eyebrows among established anthropologists -- even as it established a fertile trend -- by drawing on archaeology, history and other alien fields to trace the diverse cultural development of Mexico. It is a reflection of the book's power, as well as of Dr. Wolf's clear and graceful writing style that it is still used in introductory anthropology courses.

Culture, as Dr. Wolf came to see it, was a far more dynamic process that involved endless practical, psychological and other reactions to changing economic and other conditions.

In writing the book, Dr. Wolf not only made unorthodox use of scholarship from other fields but also refined some of his own unorthodox ideas about the very nature of culture. Long seen by anthropologists as a stable set of attitudes and practices that defined various peoples and differentiated them from others, culture, as Dr. Wolf came to see it, was a far more dynamic process that involved endless practical, psychological and other reactions to changing economic and other conditions.

To Dr. Wolf, who outlined his position in a 1964 book, *Anthropology*, the notion of unified and unchanging cultures amounted to little more than misleading ethnic stereotyping, sweeping generalizations that failed to notice or account for the variety of differences within a single culture.

Having concluded that established cultural anthropologists tended to neglect many nonconforming elements of a given society, Dr. Wolf helped rectify things with his 1966 book, *Peasants*, which traced the common threads of peasantry in otherwise diverse European cultures.

In 1982 he developed another favorite theme, the sometimes cataclysmic impact of colonial capitalism on indigenous

cultures, with *Europe and the People Without History*, which tracked the impact of colonial economic expansion on less developed societies.

If Dr. Wolf was a champion of the idea that all people, even tribal societies and peasants, are equally important, he also practiced that philosophy in his life as a teacher or, as he saw himself, as a perpetual student for whom life was an endless and delightful field trip.

A brilliant man known for his charming and uncanny ability to make even ordinary people feel he was intensely interested in them, as indeed he was, Dr. Wolf was such a nurturing teacher that he was the preferred go-to guy when his students came up with brilliant but untested ideas. While other professors, they knew, might dismiss such brainstorms as harebrained, Dr. Wolf could be counted on to become as excited as they were.

Even after his retirement in 1992, Dr. Wolf, who was awarded a \$375,000 MacArthur Foundation "genius grant" in 1990, continued his quest for new answers to old questions, among them the explanation for the Nazis' rise to power.

Finding parallels between the rise of Nazi Germany and both the widespread human sacrifice by the Aztecs and the development of a frenzied tradition of Potlatch feasts in the Pacific Northwest, Dr. Wolf examined them in his last book, *Envisioning Power: Ideologies of Dominance and Crisis*, published this year by the University of California Press.

Dr. Wolf, whose first marriage ended in divorce, is survived by his wife, Sydel Silverman; two sons from his first marriage, David, of Burlington, Vt., and Daniel, of Los Angeles; two stepdaughters, Eve Silverman of Wilton, Conn., and Julie Yorn of Santa Monica, Calif., and three grandchildren.

A TRIBUTE TO ERIC WOLF

By Merrill Singer <Anthro8566@Aol.Com>
Hispanic Health Council

It was with great sadness that we learned recently of the passing of Eric Wolf, one of the leading and most influential anthropologists of our era. Without doubt, Eric's most noted contributions were in the area of anthropological theory. His *Europe and the People Without History* is among the top ten most influential theoretical books by an anthropologist written in the second half of the Twentieth Century. Early reaction to *Envisioning Power: Ideologies of Dominance and Crisis*, his last volume (he also completed a book of essays just prior to his death) suggests that it too will become an anthropological classic.

But what of Eric's impact on applied anthropology? Were his ideas a force in the application of anthropology to the solving of human problems? As I read the work of my colleagues, especially those like myself who are involved

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in applied research on substance abuse, Eric's comprehensive vision, his constant urging that we look up from the microscopic worlds of our immediate ethnographic focus to the encompassing and transforming arenas of historic social interconnection, power, and labor, are profoundly evident. So too, his keen insight that social relationships are causal in their own right and not merely contextual frames for the actions of autonomous individuals or groups. For example, Alisse Waterston's superb *Street Addicts in the Political Economy* and Phillippe Bourgois' award-winning *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*, clearly were written in the shadow of Eric's unparalleled ability to see both the forest (political economy) and the trees (on-the-ground, ethnographically observed behaviors in cultural context). The influence is evident as well in Paul Farmer, Margaret Connors and Janie Simmons' impactful *Women, Poverty and AIDS: Sex, Drugs and Structural Violence*.

As the latter book suggests, with the emergence of AIDS, and of the recognition that drug use was a primary source of new HIV infection, Wolf's work has emerged as a powerful influence on studies of structural factors in drug and AIDS risk. Efforts by anthropologists like Stephen Koester in Denver, Robert Carlson in Columbus, Ohio, Michael Clatts in New York City, and our research with street drug users in Hartford stand as unclouded testimony to Eric's conceptual contributions to this arena of applied work. This point is abundantly clear as well in *The Political Economy of AIDS*, an edited volume in which I specifically employed Eric's analyses to develop an anthropological understanding of political economy and its critical role in the AIDS epidemic.

Beyond drugs and AIDS research, Eric's core ideas, his ability to pull together far flung literatures and conceptions, and his elegant phrases have been central to developments in the broader field of medical anthropology over the last 15 years. Most notably, this is evident in the rise of critical medical anthropology as seen in volumes like *Medical Anthropology and the World System* by Hans Baer, Ida Susser, and myself.

As these references suggest, Eric's scholarly writings have played a major role in my own work. I was never Eric's student in the usual sense of that word, but in the more important sense of being someone that I learned a great deal from — by which I do not mean a specific quantity of information but rather a way of thinking about and applying all kinds of facts and knowledge — Eric most certainly was my teacher. Fortunately, several years ago, at an AAA gathering in his honor, I had the opportunity to tell him so and he seemed quite glad to know of the ways his works have been adopted and used in applied anthropology.

Those who know of Eric's life are aware that at times he was not always treated well by our discipline. Nor did he always receive the recognition he deserved for the activist role that he played in some important social events (e.g., the Vietnam War campus teach-ins). However, those times are passed and it is now evident to all that Eric Wolf will be an enduring presence in anthropology in both its theoretical and applied domains.

1999-2000 MARGARET MEAD AWARD

By Will Sibley <shadyside@aol.com>

The Margaret Mead Award, offered jointly by the American Anthropological Association (AAA) and the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA), is presented to a younger scholar for a particular accomplishment, such as a book, film, monograph, service or film, which interprets anthropological data and principles in ways that make them meaningful to a broadly concerned public. The award is designed to recognize a person clearly and integrally associated with research and/or practice in anthropology. The awardee's activity will exemplify skills in broadening the impact of anthropology -- skills for which Margaret Mead was admired widely.

Nominees for the award must be under 40 years of age on January 1, 2000, or have received the Ph.D. degree after January 1, 1990.

Nominations for the 1999-2000 Award are now invited. To be considered, each application must include (1) the nominee's curriculum vitae, (2) letter(s) or recommendation describing the accomplishment and documenting its impact on relevant publics beyond the discipline and (3) other supporting materials, e.g., a book or film.

Nominees will be judged using the following criteria: (1) intellectual quality, (2) clarity and understandability, (3) the extent or depth of impact and (4) breadth of impact.

The selection committee consists of two members from the Society for Applied Anthropology and two members from the American Anthropological Association. Please send nominations and four copies of supporting material to the Mead Award Selection Committee at the following address: Society for Applied Anthropology, Box 24083, Oklahoma City, OK 73124. Phone: (405) 843-5113; Fax: (405) 843-8553; E-mail: <sfaa@telepath.com>.

Deadline for receipt of all materials is July 15, 1999. Supporting material will not be returned unless specifically requested.

The 1999-2000 Award winner will be announced at the 1999 Annual Meeting of the AAA. Presentation of the award plaque and stipend will be made jointly by the SfAA and AAA during the Annual Meeting of the SfAA in Spring 2000.



MARGARET MEAD AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 1979 John Ogbu (Award originated with SfAA)
1980 Brigitte Jordan
1981 Nancy Scheper-Hughes
1982 Mary L. Elmendorf (Award becomes joint with AAA)
1983 Ruthann Knudson
1984 Sue E. Estroff
1985 Susan C.M. Scrimshaw
1986 Jill Korbin
1987 Myra Bluebond-Langner
1988 Alex Stepick III
1989 Mark Nichter
1990 Wenda Trevathan
1991 Will Roscoe (Award become every-other-year)
1993 Leo R. Chavez
1995 Katherine A. Dettwyler
1997 Philippe Bourgois
1998-99 No candidate selected
(Award again becomes an annual award. Announcement of the winner is made at AAA meeting; presentation of award and stipend follows at the next SfAA meeting).

ONLINE GRADUATE DEGREE IN HEALTH SCIENCES

By Andy Miracle <a.miracle@csuohio.edu>
Cleveland State University

Beginning August 1999, Cleveland State University will offer a new online graduate degree – the Master of Science in Health Sciences – through the Department of Health Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences. Starting with the fall semester, students may take the entire graduate program via the Internet, with the exception of one 10-day intensive seminar that must be taken in Cleveland.

The new online master's degree is ideal for practicing health care professionals who want to enhance their career options and achieve increased excellence in the provision of patient services. The online courses have been developed to allow motivated students in outlying areas and those with inflexible professional and personal commitments to pursue graduate education.

Working professionals may complete the degree in two years or less. Required courses include such topics as culture and health care, research methods, leadership, evolving technologies and change in health care, and outcomes assessment. Elective courses cover legal issues and clinical issues, among others.

Students now have a choice. The Master of Science in Health Sciences is offered as both an online and a tradi-

tional on-campus degree. Students may either take courses online or on the Cleveland State campus to fulfill the degree requirements.

All of the pertinent information about the new graduate degree is on the web at <<http://www.csuohio.edu/mshealth>>.

Two courses will be offered in the fall of 1999, and three to four courses will be offered each term beginning in spring 2000. The fall courses are HSC 501: Issues in Health Sciences and HSC 505: Culture and Health Care. Course descriptions are available on the web site.

Please consult the web site for application forms and more information, or use email <healthsci@csuohio.edu>, write or call: Department of Health Sciences, Cleveland State University, 2501 Euclid Avenue, Room 101, Cleveland, OH 44115, USA. Telephone is (216) 687-3567. Fax is (216) 687-9316.

6th QUALITATIVE HEALTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The 6th Qualitative Health Research Conference will be held April 6-8, 2000, at the Banff Conference Centre, Banff, Alberta, Canada. Keynote speakers include Arthur Frank and Sue Estroff. Papers for oral or poster presentation to be submitted by December 1, 1999. See our website <www.ualberta.ca/~iiqm> for details. Abstracts may be submitted by e-mail to qualitative.institute@ualberta.ca or by mail to: Dr. Janice Morse, International Institute for Qualitative Methodology, 6-10 University Extension Centre, University of Alberta, 8303-112 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2T4.

FIELD RESEARCHERS NEEDED FOR PROJECT WORK

Context-Based Research Group is seeking anthropologists for short-term research projects around the country. Using anthropological field techniques, Context assists companies and non-profit institutions in better understanding the lived experience of their constituents. We seek to provide the insight customer-led organizations need to stay connected and responsive to the people whose interests they serve.

The pay is very competitive for private sector work and the projects are interesting. Recent studies have included women's attitudes about the outdoors and how listeners classify and categorize music. Future projects may include work on adolescent health and sexuality, the dynamics of building design and construction decision-making, and family vacation choices.

A subsidiary of Richardson, Myers & Donofrio (a marketing communications firm in Baltimore), Context was

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formed in partnership with two Rutgers University cultural anthropologists. To be included in the company's researcher database, please complete the form located on our web site at <www.anthrojob.com>. If you have any questions, e-mail <context@rmd.com>. If you have the appropriate experience for one of our projects, Context may call you to participate.

WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH

1999 Summer Institute on Nursing Research, Sociocultural Considerations Partnership, Methods, and Policy -- June 14-16, 1999 University of Washington Health Sciences Center, Seattle, Washington. Entire Institute: \$395/\$375 Single day: \$150/\$140* 21 contact hours. Graduate Credit: \$609/\$585**

Women's health research in the next millennium will focus on enhancing our understanding of the relationship between sociocultural environments and women's health. In order to explore the multidimensional contexts of women's lives, skills are needed to : 1) identify relevant research topics with participation of community members, 2) develop and implement appropriate research strategies, and 3) disseminate findings to affect social change. This three day institute is designed for individuals interested in conducting, evaluating, and influencing policy based on women's health research. Teaching methods include lecture, panel discussion, case studies, dialogue, and poster presentations. Individuals may register for continuing education contact hours or, for an additional fee, college credit (2 graduate level quarter credits). For a brochure or more information: CNE, T303 Health Science Building, Phone (206) 543-1047, Fax (206) 543-6953. Email: <cne@u.washington.edu> <www.son.washington.edu/~cne/conf/conf.html>

RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Each year the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides millions of dollars of support in the form of grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements for public health research and other activities. Many of these funding opportunities can potentially involve social and behavioral scientists, including anthropologists. Although funding announcements may be posted at any time of the year, the majority of new programs tend to be announced from April through July because of federal fiscal year cycles. Persons interested in CDC funding opportunities should select the "Funding" button on the CDC home web page <<http://www.cdc.gov/>>. Because CDC funding announcements often are open for limited application acceptance periods (e.g., typically one to two months), researchers should consult the web site listing on a regular basis to learn about new opportunities as soon as they become available.

FROM THE EDITOR

By all accounts, the recent meetings in Tucson were an unqualified success. Paid enrollments set an all-time high, the sessions seemed well attended, the weather was gorgeous, and the overall ambience was spectacular. If you were there, you know I am being modest in my recounting; if you didn't make it, perhaps participation under conditions like these will spur you into attending next year's meetings in San Francisco. (See Laurie Price's tantalizing description of next year's gathering).

In Tucson the mid-day buffets in the pool area and a happy hour that (literally) spilled out into the same pleasant courtyard contributed significantly to a blending of social and professional discourse. The jointly-sponsored reception of the Florida schools, officially honoring icons Gil Kushner and Paul Doughty, was high-lighted by tasty snacks, plenty of material for libations and the wonderful guitar-playing and singing of Bryan Page. It clearly demonstrated that anthropological comradery overshadows other types of competition between that state's institutions of higher education.

Kudos to Program Chair Willie Barber and his associates for their stellar work in organizing the meetings. As always, the behind the scenes efforts of Tom May and his crew of loyal Oklahomans kept things moving with barely a blip or a hiccup.

The meetings were occasioned by various rites of passage. John Young, our unflappable president for the past two years, handed the gavel of office to his successor Linda Bennett. Beneath John's calm exterior we have seen a very capable and efficient administrator, who is kind to pets and the elderly, but brooks no patience with post-modernists. Thank you, John, for your labors of love for the Society. Linda's administration will move the Society into several new areas – please see her inaugural column for specifics. This will be the last annual meeting for out-going Treasurer Dennis Wiedman. Along with Past President Jay Schensul, Dennis was instrumental in walking the Society through an important strategic planning process a while back and for the past several years his watchful eyes have kept us from becoming too budgetarily complacent. At the Annual Business meeting several members of the Executive Board, as well as individuals who served diligently on committees which oversee essential parts of running our Society, were thanked for their efforts in continuing to make this operation so successful.

I hope this *Newsletter* finds everyone eagerly engaged in summer-time activities, but not too busy to put their fingers to their keyboards and write something for the next issue of the *Newsletter*. The next deadline for receipt of materials will be August 5 and, as always, I eagerly hope to hear from you.

Mike Whiteford <jefe@iastate.edu>

Scenes from the Tucson Meetings



SfAA Recording Secretary Amy Wolfe



Michael Cernea & Thayer Scudder



Linda Bennett & John Young



Laurie Price & Tony Oliver-Smith



Noon-time buffet



Past President Will Sibley



SfAA Newsletter Editor



Children's mariachi



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

Changes of address and subscription requests should be directed to: SfAA Business Office, P.O. Box 24083, Oklahoma City, OK 73124 (405/843-5113); E-mail [<sfaa@telepath.com>](mailto:sfaa@telepath.com).

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