PRESIDENT’S LETTER

By Linda Whiteford
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Some experiments fail. This one appears to be on its way to doing just that. I guess that is why we conduct experiments. This experiment is how to fund the dance at the annual meeting. Note I write “the dance at the annual meeting,” not the annual dance at the meeting. Over the years we have hosted a number of wonderful dances at the annual meetings, but they are costly. So in recent years they have been less frequent. Our experiment is to sell tickets to the dance in order to pay for the band, thus avoid cutting into revenues generated for the operation of the Society. Our hope was to sell tickets to meeting participants as they registered for the meeting. This would allow the local arrangement folks in Dallas to know how much money they had in time to arrange for a band.

When I last checked, we had sold 12 tickets. Not enough for a band. Not enough for a DJ, or even a saxophone player. So, unless something happens fast, this will be an experiment that fails. And there will be no dance.

On a more upbeat note, at the November meeting the Board of Directors made a number of suggestions of potential sites for our 2006 meeting. This is significant in many ways: First, our annual meetings are extremely important to the Society’s overall financial well-being. A meeting that fails to generate projected revenues makes keeping to our budget difficult. Second, 2006 is scheduled to be our “international” meeting, one that takes place outside of continental United States. Third, our international sites are designed to increase international access to the Society’s activities, as well as to bring current members into attendance. And, fourth, they often lose money for the Society. So, finding the best international site is very important. That’s why I am asking for you to give the Society some feedback about some of the sites being considered.

They are each spectacular sites and any one in even the short list that I am including here could be successful...if you attend. So I am asking: Would you attend a meeting in Lisbon, Portugal? Would you attend a meeting in Dubrovnik? How about a meeting in

IN THIS ISSUE

SfAA President’s Letter 1
Suppose They Did a Study and Nobody Cared 2
The Acid Test of Democracy 3
The Stepchild of Health Research 5
SfAA Membership 7
AA/SfAA Commission on Applied And Practicing Anthropology 7
Report from the HO Associate Editor 9
Charter of the Applied/Practicing Information Portal 11
NAPA Highlights 12
Consortium of Practicing and Applied Anthropology Programs (COPAA) 12
LPO News 13
Student Committee Report 14
SfAA Electronic Forums 14
TIG for Intellectual Property Rights 15
From the Editor 16
Vancouver? Those are just three of the sites being considered, and I think they are each fascinating in their own ways. What do you think?

I’ll sign off by saying that I look forward to seeing you next month in Dallas!

“Did you sign up for the SfAA dance? I did!”

SUPPOSE THEY DID A STUDY AND NOBODY CARED

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Back in the wistful days of the 1960s, a rose-colored anti-war slogan that gained purchase among the tie-dyed and long-haired masses (including my friends and me) averred “Suppose they gave a war and nobody came?” Unfortunately, during my lifetime so far, the boys (and girls) in their multi-colored macho fatigues have never failed to show up in droves for the wars given by generals, presidents, and other war mongering potentates that sadly have wafted often across the bawl rooms of modern history. By contrast, a different “suppose statement” has been realized time and again. This one concerns our own arena of play, research: “Suppose they did a study and nobody cared?” Since no small amount of what I have done during my waking hours for the last 18 years has focused on the often brutal intersection of drug use and HIV infection, let me pull out an example from each of these health arenas to delve a bit into the issue of research ignored.

In broad strokes at least, we know how to prevent AIDS: consistent protected sex using a barrier method and no direct or indirect sharing of drug use paraphernalia (as well as the elimination of iatrogenic risk) would take a sizeable bite out of HIV incidence. And we have the research to prove it! Lots of it! However, who is listening? Recent reports indicate that Americans have grown complacent about safe sex. Among gay men, for example, a community that provided the leadership in the 1980s in getting people to heed research prevention messages, there are discomforting increases in AIDS diagnosis rates for the first time in ten years.

Overall, in 2002, over 42,000 new AIDS cases were diagnosed in the U.S., a jump of over 2% from the previous year. Poorer communities of color are especially hard hit. Women comprise a growing share of the AIDS burden, with the disease now being the leading cause of death for young Black women 25-34 years of age. Are significant new efforts being launched to assist this population in avoiding risk? Not that I’ve noticed.

Until recently, the public health goal had been to cut the annual rate of new HIV infection cases in the U.S. down to 20,000 by next year. The chances of meeting this goal at this point are less than slim. In fact, indications are that risky behaviors are up not down. Syphilis outbreaks around the nation, for example, suggest condom messages are going unheeded. In my own state of Connecticut, high numbers of chlamydia and gonorrhea cases in older teenagers and younger adults suggest evidence-based prevention messages are being ignored. And here is the really bad news: 15% of new HIV cases are thought to involve drug-resistant strains of the pathogen that Jacques Liebowitch once frustratingly called “a strange virus of unknown origin” (i.e., human immunodeficiency virus, which, of course, we now know, as retroviruses go, is not so strange, nor of completely unknown origin, if still ultimately being an illusive and highly adaptable foe). Globally, the AIDS pandemic is killing more people than ever, as it spreads rapidly in Eastern Europe, India, China and elsewhere. Over 40 million people worldwide are living with HIV infection, 5 million of whom were infected within the last year.

Where can new money to fight AIDS come from? In 1998, the U.S. Office of National Drug Control received $1 billion from the government to develop illicit drug use prevention messages targeted primarily at youth to be placed in the mass media. A series of ads, slick and polished, were shot and we have been watching, listening to and seeing them all over the place ever since. Was the money well spent; that is did the ads lower drug use among youth? The evidence suggests that not much was accomplished with the ads. Robert Hornik, a researcher at the University of Pennsylvania found that while 80% of teens in the study reported seeing the ads at least once a
week, there was no correlation between exposure to the ads and lower drug use rates.

Further, while parents were found to generally like the ads, the promotions did not impact the level at which parents planned to monitor their children. That is the one variable that consistently has been shown to be associated with lowered teen drug use. Not finding the results of the Hornik study to be to their liking, the federal sponsors of the ads, like many public decision-makers when confronted with contrary research evidence, have decided to ignore them and keep making new ads.

Sometimes social and behavioral research has an impact. Sometimes it is disregarded. Thus, getting syringe exchange accepted and implemented in about 150 cities in the U.S. is an example of the successful transfer of research knowledge into meaningful social change. Only getting syringe exchange implemented in about 150 or so cities, when the need is far greater, is an example of the failed transfer of research knowledge into social change. Why did research lead to the adoption of syringe exchange in some places that it was needed and not in other places with a similar need? To address this question we must develop a better understanding of what configuration of social conditions, methods, resources, etc. promotes the use or under-use of research findings so that we can do research that matters, that has an impact on the social problems around us.

This is, of course, not a new issue. As John van Willigen notes in his book Applied Anthropology, under-use of research results “is a consistent problem in the policy research realm.” He and others have suggested some key ways to overcome this problem. They are using supportable, well-described methods, getting findings out in a timely fashion, developing an action plan with clearly phrased and achievable recommendations, and getting findings into the hands of the right people, those in a position to act who are willing to learn from research findings.

These are all critical, but there are questions that remain: how best to describe qualitative methods to non-researchers and how to implement them in a manner that makes their findings convincing; how to “move” findings that run counter to the claims of powerful institutions; how to present research findings to the media so that the resulting messages to the public are the intended messages; how to balance science and politics; how to communicate effectively with intervention staff who may have little patience for research? Focusing in and getting a better understanding of the nexus between research and the utilization of research knowledge by the public, decision-makers, and the media remains an important if poorly explored domain in applied anthropology. To have a bigger impact (which often our findings warrant), we need to fill this gap in our research armature.

This discussion does not emerge from random musing on the work of applied anthropology. It is a response to involvement over the last three years in a rapid ethnographic assessment project that was designed to identify and spark public health responses to local gaps in existing AIDS prevention efforts (sometimes referred to as the “hidden edge” of the epidemic). Funded by the federal Office of HIV/AIDS Policy, the project has been implemented in over 40 cities around the country.

Almost all of these local projects have produced useful findings on the intersection of particular population groups, locations, and times of hidden risk, but their impact on local AIDS prevention efforts have varied significantly. Multisited projects like this are not only important for responding to locally varied public health challenges, they also provide a natural laboratory for identifying the key variables in the relationship between research and needed change. Such an undertaking, implemented with adequate funding, could help put us in the coveted position of being able to ask, “suppose we did research and it made all the difference in the world?”

**THE ACID TEST OF DEMOCRACY**

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There’s a T-shirt that proclaims “Those who cast the votes decide nothing. Those who count the votes decide everything.” That’s attributed to Joe Stalin who could throw a convincing one person, one
vote election just like the American Anthropological Association does, and win every time by controlling the nominations. Like the Bush family, he also controlled who counted the votes. Joe Stalin is the figure that came to mind when a Chicago union leader explained to me about democratic centralism. I saw the central part, but I couldn’t figure out where the democratic part was.

That’s what Suzan Erem and I are studying now with a grant from NSF. We continually ask, “where’s the democracy?”

About a year ago I reported in these pages that Chicago’s International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 705, under the leadership of Jerry Zero and his slate, passed a resolution against the then impending war in Iraq.

We saw democracy in membership meetings and stewards’ meetings where anyone could speak up. We saw it at the bylaws meeting where people debated and voted on the rules that govern the union. The meeting was raucous, but surely democratic by any measure. The members weren’t letting anything happen behind their backs.

We saw democracy in the frontlines of class warfare where management sat at the bargaining tables opposite negotiating teams composed of very articulate truck drivers and negotiators. We saw it in the nominations meeting where it took two people to get a slate on the ballot—one to nominate and one to second rather than the impossible hurdles we saw at other locals. We saw it in the concern of all the reps and officers with representation and contract enforcement. “The way to get re-elected is to provide excellent service,” more than one person told us. And they did. They won impossible grievances. One case was so impossible that everyone explained why it could not be won, but the guy won! “Sometimes you catch lightening in a bottle,” an old timer said, “and you don’t question it too much...or expect it to ever happen again.”

Throughout we heard about the “fucking” feeder drivers who drive the big rigs between UPS depots. The adjective always went before the noun, no matter who was speaking. Except feeder drivers. We met them at the picnic that launched the campaign to reelect Jerry Zero and his slate for a third term. They introduced themselves as “the opposition.” We went to their depots and rode with their reps. When they put up an opposition candidate, we tried to get in with them, but they weren’t having us.

We were interested in the politics of obligation that we had seen in other locals but found that something else was going on here. No obligation went with saving a guy his job or getting a good contract or anything else. It’s just what a union does. It’s not a favor that you need to think about repaying.

As the campaign heated up we had no compunction about pitching in to help Jerry Zero and his slate. We went to leaflet early in the morning and late at night and helped with a phone bank in between. This put us cheek by jowl with the folks we were trying to understand, on the front lines of democracy, getting out the vote.

Early one morning at the gate to one of the barns, a feeder driver who was leafleting for the opposition got in my face and hissed, “Doesn’t this cross the line between objectivity and advocacy? Taking sides?”

I tried to act like a teamster. I stood my ground nose to nose, didn’t flinch, stared into his eyes and said, “We discussed data.” Indeed we had. Participant observation won. And we couldn’t have learned half as much being aloof.

We polled reps. “My barns are solid,” each one around the breakfast table after a leafleting reported.

“We discussed data.” Indeed we had. Participant observation won. And we couldn’t have learned half as much being aloof.

Suzan went to Chicago for the vote count at Teamster City. I had to stay at Penn State and teach. I made it through my classes until Saturday, the day before Pearl Harbor day. I could imagine the scene at the auditorium, and tried to stay busy, but called
Suzan’s cell phone four times asking for news. The phone was off. She didn’t get the messages. Early in the evening she called.

“We lost,” she said dejectedly, “I gotta go.”

I was stunned. So was everyone else. The “fucking” feeder drivers won.

When a Chicago reporter asked a labor studies guy what the upset meant, he said that the fact that an opposition slate could win an election meant that 705 was in fact reformed, democratic, and no longer run by the mob.

I don’t think that’s it. What does this tell us about democracy? I think it tells us that elections are not the acid test of democracy. Of the 20,000 members about 8,000 returned mail ballots. That’s about the same 40% that vote in U.S. presidential elections. In a post-election survey, we heard stewards say, like the 60% of Americans and most American Anthropological Association members who don’t vote, that it doesn’t matter who wins. The American Anthropological Society has elections but to get nominated you have to make it past a gauntlet of guardians of equality that would make the old 705 mobsters or Joe Stalin blush. In that process it doesn’t matter who you vote for but who gets nominated. That example shows just how easy it is for a well-organized minority to control elections.

Elections are not where democracy is built or lost. That happens at negotiating tables, in grievance hearings, in the management of collective assets, in the determination to spread the benefits of real democracy by political involvement and opposition to wars in Iraq, organizing against Bush, solidarity with other unions, the Labor Party and civic groups. It’s giving working people more control of their work and their lives by getting good contracts and enforcing them. It’s in not being blind to economic atrocities and being with the people in class warfare. That’s democracy. The 705 elections? We don’t know. We have to wait to see what they mean for 705.

THE STEPCHILD OF HEALTH RESEARCH

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As the average woman or man on the street what medical research is and odds are good that you will get a rapid, reasonably accurate and positive response. Medical research, you’re likely to be told, studies diseases and new treatments for them. Moreover, although admittedly not universally, your respondent will think medical research is a good thing, even if the specific new medicines, surgeries, or other treatments it produces are seen as painfully overpriced (or at least frustratingly under covered by health insurance).

By contrast, ask the same passerby what social and behavioral health research is and you will probably produce a furrowed brow, a blank look, and a fumbled answer that veers off target by a wide margin. What is wrong with this picture? Plenty, because medical research is often extremely expensive, especially if its focus is the clinical treatment of an existing disease. However, the key elements in the development and spread of many diseases (e.g., AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, many cancers, pulmonary and cardiovascular problems, diabetes, etc.) are human beliefs and behaviors, social relationships, and socially constructed living and working conditions. Consequently, social and behavioral patterns are the critical arenas for the development of preventive interventions, many of which are far less costly (both in terms of dollars and human suffering) than medical treatment. And, in cases where medical treatment is not available, prevention is the only medicine.

If people are concerned about improving health and cutting health costs and every poll says they are, why is social and behavioral health research so obscure, undervalued, and often denigrated? This is a question that my fellow researchers and I at the Hispanic Health Council grapple with every day as we conduct social and behavior studies of pressing public health issues like the causes of malnutrition among inner city youth or the attitudes about pregnancy among pregnant teenagers and their family members. If we are to stop the spread of AIDS, we ask, is it not vital to know the precise behaviors and social contexts that propel the movement of HIV from one person to another? If we are to address the mental health problems of youth, it is not imperative to assess the obstructions to accessing mental health...
care faced by young people? If we know that barrier methods (like condoms) are very effective in preventing sexually transmitted diseases (including AIDS), is it not essential to know why people avoid using them? If rates of asthma are far higher among one inner-city population than another, would finding out why provide insight for slowing the significant spread of this dangerous, breath-robbing disease?

Not surprisingly, throughout work the anthropologists, epidemiologists, psychologists, and other public health researchers at the Hispanic Health Council (HHC) answer these questions in the affirmative. For the last 25 years, researchers at the HHC have undertaken social and behavior research on a wide yet changing array of threats to the health and well-being of the people of the greater Hartford area. When this work began, for example, AIDS was unheard of, as were some of the behaviors (such as exchanging sex for crack cocaine) that have contributed to its rise as a major cause of illness and death locally and beyond. By sharply focusing research attention on identifying and carefully describing the on-the-ground behavioral and social factors that put people at risk for HIV infection, Hispanic Health Council researchers, along with colleagues and collaborators in numerous universities and research centers, have identified a series of preventable behaviors that contribute to the spread of HIV. Moreover, because this kind of research is not carried out with the narrow goal of developing new knowledge for knowledge’s sake, but is fundamentally concerned with putting that knowledge to immediate use for the public good, applied social and behavioral health research has helped to establish approaches for lowering risk and for slowing the spread of disease.

Today, for example, we have falling rates of new HIV infection among many populations (including injection drug users) in Hartford and elsewhere in the Northeast because of the implementation of these evidence-based prevention methods.

Consequently, it comes as a bit of a surprise to discover that the Traditional Values Coalition (TVC), a conservative policy organization that claims to represent more than 40,000 member churches, included two grants awarded by the NIH to the Hispanic Health Council on its “hit list” of 200 studies it is asking the Justice Department to investigate. TVC called the grants on the list “smarmy projects” and alleged that collectively they comprise at least $100 million in wasted federal funds. Says TVC’s Executive Director Andrea Lafferty, who appears to be well-schooled in the fine art of producing catchy sound bites, “We have nameless, faceless bureaucrats doling out money like a federal ATM to do things like study the sex habits of Mexicans before and after they cross over the border. This doesn’t pass the straight-face test.”

If people are concerned about improving health and cutting health costs ... why is social and behavioral health research so obscure, undervalued, and often denigrated? ... If we know that barrier methods ... are very effective in preventing sexually transmitted diseases, is it not essential to know why people avoid using them?

Since we never thought of AIDS or the other grave threats to health as laughing matters, we’ve never found it hard to keep a straight-face in this kind of work—except when hearing that having a grant application successfully pass the withering process of rigorous peer review is about as challenging as withdrawing money from an overly generous ATM. At a minimum, it is clear that Lafferty and TVC just don’t understand social and behavior health research. But beyond that, as stressed by Congressman Henry Waxman (D-Calif), the TVC effort to impose conservative religious values on the federal scientific research process is a form of “scientific McCarthyism.” Waxman, seeing the hand of a government insider assisting TVC in compiling their list, issued two outraged letters to Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson insisting that he stand up to TVC and support the NIH.

In the same vogue, Alan Leshner, the former head of one of the NIH institutes (NIDA) and now the director of the American Association for the Advancement of Science warns, “We can’t have moralizing and ideology trump science when it comes to protecting the public health. It’s vitally important that we understand the processes by which public health problems spread if we’re ever going to get a handle on issues as important as HIV/AIDS and drug abuse.”

While we have not yet figured out why social and behavior research is not better understood, we constantly see the tangible benefits of doing it. Without question, the rewards of being involved in this kind of work come from making concrete contributions to the health of the community. Still, being better understood would be nice too.
SfAA MEMBERSHIP

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Our Committee seeks to strengthen the Society through activities that enhance the meaning and value of membership. Since most memberships stem from registration for the annual meeting, the spring 2004 conference offers a fresh opportunity for both recruitment and retention. We plan several new or enhanced initiatives for meeting participants.

This year, members of the Board of Directors and the Editors of all Society publications will wear conference name tags with identifying ribbons. The badges are intended to help all meeting participants more easily spot officers who can provide information or assistance. We encourage our members to look for officers and editors wearing these tags and to share their views and suggestions on this and future conferences.

Two new features will be added to the registration process. We have asked the SfAA Business Office to furnish a designated space and personnel offering “Information and Assistance” at the conference registration desk. This will allow attendees to quickly locate a troubleshooter who can answer questions and resolve problems, should any arise. Also, new meeting satisfaction survey will be distributed during conference registration. We urge our members to complete the brief questionnaire so that the Society can improve the quality and efficiency of the annual meetings. Our committee will prepare a detailed report on survey results for publication in the Newsletter. More importantly, all survey findings and recommendations will be incorporated into planning for future conferences.

The meeting will also feature enhanced outreach to students and the members of other organizations. Student members who attend the annual meeting will again enjoy a special reception and student-oriented workshops. In addition, students attending this year’s meeting will be offered a designated hub where participants can congregate and distribute information. Another portion of the meeting survey will solicit student feedback to enrich their conference experience. We also plan to make a special effort to welcome the members of other organizations who attend this year’s joint conference. A stronger emphasis on hospitality will ensure that all such participants enjoy the meeting and welcome opportunities for future inter-organizational collaboration. Among other benefits, other organizations participating in the joint meeting will receive their own space for registration and information dissemination, and officers on the SfAA Board of Directors will personally welcome the members of all participating organizations.

Our committee is now reviewing other strategies to promote membership recruitment and retention. One option is to sponsor conference symposia and poster sessions which feature public and private sector agencies. Such opportunities to promote the work of agencies may encourage administrative support for agency-based practitioners to attend the annual meeting and maintain their membership in the SfAA. Graduate training programs in applied anthropology will also be invited to sponsor SfAA gift memberships for their students, to encourage participation in the annual meeting and to foster leadership for the future of the Society.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Individuals interested in working on these and other issues are encouraged to contact the SfAA President for assignment to the committee.

AA/SfAA COMMISSION ON APPLIED AND PRACTICING ANTHROPOLOGY

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It has been a long time since I reported on the AAA/SfAA Commission. I used to do it in the President’s Column. The Commission was the result of Louise Lamphere’s (then-President of the American Anthropological Association) approach to Linda Bennett (President) and me (President-Elect) at the 2000 SfAA meeting in San Francisco. She wondered whether we could work together to advance applied and practicing anthropology within the discipline and in the wider world. We agreed, and the two Boards approved. We constituted a committee of SfAA and NAPA leaders to propose next steps, and followed through by appointing Commission members who then met for the first time at our Annual Meeting in Merida. Each organization chose four people who had long involvements in anthropological societies and were drawn from across anthropology.
The Presidents (including Don Brenneis AAA President) were part of the Commission. Later, when Dennis Wiedman took the practicing seat on the AAA Board, he joined us, as did Linda Whiteford when she became SfAA President. Other members are Marietta Baba, Linda Bennett, Tim Bolding, Don Brenneis, Mari Clarke, T.J. Ferguson, Louise Lamphere, Ed Liebow, Mark Nichter, Jim Peacock, Amanda Ritchie, Jay Schensul, Susan Squires, and me as chair. You will recognize most of these names as Presidents or former Presidents of anthropological organizations related to applied anthropology. Ritchie and Bolding are new members, added after we decided we needed the voices of Masters prepared applied anthropologists.

I will send you our official charter if you ask, but more briefly here’s what we’re about. I think of our overarching task as the promotion of applied/practicing anthropology. Part of this is to see if we can make some changes in the AAA since that organization has an influence on how anthropologists and the public conceive of anthropology. One of the ways we approach this is through attempting to influence departments to better prepare applied anthropologists. We have a subcommittee that has made a presentation at the meeting of department heads and we are partnering with NAPA (National Association of Practicing Anthropologists—a section of the AAA) to offer advice to departments about how to accomplish this.

Another central part of what the Commission does is to collaborate with others to increase opportunities for applied and practicing anthropology educational opportunities at all levels. For undergraduate and graduate students, this means working with the departments. For faculty, for anthropologists who want to make a transition to an applied career, and for current applied/practicing anthropologists, we promote workshops and other continuing education opportunities. For example, we act as a clearing house to rationalize workshop offerings at AAA and SfAA meetings. A goal is to create some guidelines about what information might be needed and a variety of ways to disseminate the information.

The Commission promotes the NAPA instant mentoring that occurs at both the AAA and SfAA annual meetings. We continue to present sessions, roundtables, and panels at annual meetings to raise both consciousness and interest in applied careers. (Go to our panel in Dallas on Friday from 10-1:30, it’s called Anthropologists as Advocates: A Debate, parts I and II). You may have visited our booth in the exhibit area of the Chicago AAA meeting. We’ll have one in Dallas too; look for the big blue and white banner.

We are very close to producing a web site that will promote applied anthropology to students, faculty, practitioners, and the public. It will serve as an information clearing house for resources pertaining to applied and practicing anthropology by steering the user to appropriate web pages. It will be independent of any group or association and will be accessible by link from the front pages of the AAA and SfAA web sites (and we imagine from other organizations too). Its purpose is to provide up-to-date information about a broad array of applied anthropology resources from the growing network of organizations and practicing anthropologists that constitute a community of practice. It will point users toward the information they want rather than provide primary information.

It is hoped that this page will increase the efficiency and decrease the work of organizations collecting applied anthropology resources by enabling them to see what others are doing in specific topical domains. This can be done through web site specialization. For example, the SfAA is tilted toward academic issues whereas NAPA is aimed more at independent practitioners. Clearly these are interrelated, but both groups do not have to post the same information. One reason this initiative is so exciting is that anthropological organizations will collaborate to provide the best and broadest information to a wide audience without a large amount of unnecessary duplication. (Yes, of course there will be duplication. After all, we are all interested in applied anthropology.) It is hoped the site will stimulate networking within our community and make our activities more visible to the public.

Finally and significantly, the existence of the Commission has smoothed interorganizational relationships. The Commission, like other committees, promotes interpersonal relationships among its members. These personal relationships have been brought into play as informal channels of communication to solve problems that might not have been solved otherwise. In part this is also a consequence of the presence of current and past presidents sitting at the table. The Commission agenda is also advanced be-
cause Dennis Wiedman and Linda Bennett sit on the AAA Board and are former members of the SFAA Board. Interlocking directorates are sometimes a good thing.

For more information, visit our booth, attend our session.

REPORT FROM THE HO ASSOCIATE EDITOR

By Robert Hackenberg  
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In place of a message from HO's editor Don Stull, now completing his sixth and final year of service, we are preparing a message for him and also for the membership. It is appropriate that those of us who have served with him should honor his lasting achievement in leaving us with a superior behavioral science journal. We hope to do more than offer a plaque of paste-up snapshots signed by the staff or provide a quickly consumed bottle of Woodford Reserve, his favorite Kentucky libation.

Since a cash honorarium is beyond our slender means, we have chosen to offer him a gift “in kind”. As HO Associate Editor for the same six years, my primary contribution has been to manage the production of special issues of the journal. It was Don’s suggestion that I continue to do what I do best with Beverly’s assistance—prepare a final commemorative special issue of HO.

The product will be Vol. 63, No. 4, Winter, 2004. Beverly and I have chosen a set of mid-career professionals who represent a continuous tradition of research, publication and application of results to a wide range of practical problems. But we want more than a recital of those shopworn terms that provide applied anthropology with a mantra.

We want to address “the vision thing”. We must keep in mind the recent admonition from Margery Wolf, “Anthropology is a discipline being challenged from many sides to either become something more than it is at present or else fade away.” That quote is intended, like many others of recent vintage, to focus our attention on the future—knowing that it will yield a murky vision at best.

The title we have chosen for our commemorative issue reflects the lowest common denominator in prediction—a title on which everyone can agree. It was coined by a professional minimalist several decades ago. Our source is Mort Sahl and our title is The Future Lies Ahead: Applied Anthropology in Century XXI.

In responding to this challenge, our contributors have been asked to speculate on the future contribution of applied anthropology to their particular segments of the behavioral spectrum. For a fresh viewpoint, we have asked each to include reference to the work of younger professionals who are already building the future of the discipline.

Essays in our commemorative volume are being prepared by each of the following, whose names are offered with a brief introductory note although we suspect that none is required.

- Bonnie McCay (Rutgers), an authority on aquatic resources and marine environments, writes on issues pertaining to their survival and continued capacity to sustain the lives of peoples who rely on them for primary subsistence.

- Craig Janes (Colorado, Denver), a medical anthropologist, considers the interplay between state systems of health promotion driven by assumptions that underlie global capitalism and their impacts on populations in Central Asia.

- Elois Ann and Brent Berlin (Georgia) concentrate on the preservation of biodiversity in Mayan areas of Mexico and Central America. Their recent work seeks to secure benefits for indigenous communities from collection and processing of medicinal plants.

- Louise Lamphere (New Mexico) has established a tradition of research on the entry and adaptation of immigrants, minorities and women to the changing work environment within the US. She is currently exploring participatory means to incorporate members of these groups in the research and development process.

- Diane Austin (Arizona) asks who benefits from the use of natural resources when owners are vulnerable minorities and ethnic groups. Her re-
search examines issues of environmental and employment equity among Native Americans and Hispanics in the Southwest.

◆ Linda Whiteford’s (South Florida) current studies involve the health consequences of natural hazards and the evacuation of mass populations as a consequence of natural disasters. Maternal and child health issues in Ecuador and Central America are her special concern.

◆ Robert and Beverly Hackenberg (Arizona) look at the commercialization of world heritage sites and emergence of NGOs as shadow governments are symptoms of a global process incorporating both cultural and natural resources.

◆ Conrad Kottak (Michigan) conducts studies of political ecology processes in Brazil and Madagascar. He has more recently undertaken community research within the US (The Center for Ethnographic Study of Everyday Life). The impacts of mass media, both in the US and abroad, are central themes in his studies.

◆ Josiah Heyman (Texas, El Paso) examines the transnational and multicultural implications of the volatile border region that lies between the US and Mexico. His present focus is on the shifting balance in the exercise of power by local and national agencies in both countries and its consequences for Hispanics caught within them.

◆ Michael Agar (Maryland) continues his study of the narcotics trade and drug addiction within the US. His current research explores conceptual and theoretical models which predict and interpret growth processes in the production, marketing and consumption of manufactured addictive drugs.

◆ Roger Sanjek (Queens) has brought urban anthropology up to the present with his demonstration that ethnographic research can capture and analyze the richness and complexity of a world city - his own borough of Queens in the megalopolis of New York.

As a preview of coming attractions, a double session will be presented at the Dallas meetings under our working title, “The Future Lies Ahead.” Papers will be given by each of our first seven contributors. The work of Kottak, Heyman, Sanjek and Agar is promised for inclusion in HO 63:4. If sufficient pages remain, our departing Editor has been recruited to provide final thoughts on the collection.

Contributors were chosen from the limited universe of persons with whom we (Beverly, Rob and Don) have become familiar over the past six years. Some evidence validating our choice was provided by the immediate acceptance of each person invited. There was no “B” list. Reflecting on my mission, which was to give Don a festschrift of sorts, I came to a positive realization after the fact.

It is my personal view, which I share with the founders of this society and with Don Stull, that as applied anthropologists we are first of all behavioral scientists. Our journal has grown from the harvest of contributed manuscripts received from the membership. These tend to distribute across three major subfields of research: medical, urban, and development anthropology.

Though they were not selected with that template before us, contributors to our commemorative column can be comfortably sorted into those categories or combinations of them. Each, to my mind, represents creative vitality in meeting the challenge to apply the principles of human relations to practical problems as our founders intended.

If these subjects guide the course of our future, it will reside in good hands.

I am sure that our departing Editor will be gratified by this gift issue of HO. If not, he may still savor the upward mobility provided by his recent transition to President-elect of our Society. And we will see that he is properly soothed with a contribution of Woodford Reserve.

“The Future Lies ahead” will be presented at the Dallas SFAA meetings in two sessions, Thursday, April 1, 8:00 - 9:45 and 10:00 - 11:45. Don Stull’s discussion will close the second session.
CHARTER OF THE APPLIED/PRACTICING INFORMATION PORTAL

By Noel Chrisman [noelj@u.washington.edu]  
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The AAA/SfAA Commission on Applied/Practicing Anthropology identified the development of a web portal as a specific project that will help promote a stronger presence for applied and practicing anthropology in the profession. This Charter outlines the key principles concerning the purpose, ownership, registration, and administration of the portal.

The portal will consist of a set of web pages that offer up-to-date information and links to resources that are of interest to applied and practicing anthropologists. These are now on a diverse array of web sites related to the application of anthropology by the sub-disciplines of cultural, physical, archaeological and linguistic anthropology, special interest groups like cultural resource management, contract archaeology, medical and environmental anthropology, as well as other disciplines and organizations. This web site will complement rather than duplicate the information and support services on the web pages of the major professional organizations. The portal will have a distinct domain name and design so that is clear the portal is not owned by the SfAA or the AAA.

The SfAA has generously offered to host this portal on the same server that is used to host the SfAA web site. For domain registration purposes, the SfAA will be identified as the registrant, will pay the minimal annual registration fee, will be authorized to designate a suitable technical contact, and the SfAA web master will be identified as the portal’s administrative contact. However, it should be understood that this is solely for the sake of conveniently administering the domain registration and in no way construed as SfAA ownership of the web portal. The portal is to be jointly owned and operated by SfAA and AAA, guided by a set of operating principles and content guidelines to be approved by the AAA/SfAA Commission, based on recommendations from the Information Portal Advisory Committee in consultation with the Portal Working Group.

The purposes of the Applied/Practicing Anthropology Information Portal are to: 1) promote a stronger presence for applied and practicing anthropology in the profession; 2) to serve as a central information clearinghouse to resources in applied/practicing anthropology for the profession, students and the public; 3) to facilitate networking between these organizations in order enhance the coordination, management and development of support services for applied/practicing anthropologists; and 4) enhance the visibility of applied and practicing anthropology to the general public, such as potential employers, media, etc.

The portal will be accessible via hyperlinks located on the top pages of both the SfAA and the AAA and any other organization that so desires. Specific links and content will evolve over time. Operating principles and content guidelines will be developed by the Information Portal Advisory Committee in consultation with the Portal Working Group. The principles and guidelines will be approved by the AAA/SfAA Commission. Contents will be developed by members of the Portal Working group and Advisory Committee. Any person may make recommendations for inclusion. Initially, the set of page contents reviewed by the AAA/SfAA Commission in 2002 will serve as the starting point.

The Information Portal Advisory committee will insure that the applied, professional, practicing perspectives and resources of all of anthropology are properly represented. Committee members are drawn from the sub-disciplines of cultural, physical, archaeological and linguistic anthropology, special interest groups like cultural resource management, contract archaeology, medical and environmental anthropology, as well as other disciplines and organizations. It will consist of, at the minimum, three members of the AAA/SfAA Commission. Initially, these are Dennis Wiedman, Mark Nichter, and Ed Liebow. Other members should represent the professional organizations, professional anthropology employment sectors, or interested professional/applied anthropologists. The Chair will be one of the Commission members.

The Information Portal Working Group will be appointed by the AAA/SfAA Commission on the recommendation of the Portal Advisory Committee. It will be composed of the webmasters of the participating organizations. At minimum, it will include the three web masters of the SfAA, AAA, and NAPA. Currently these are Neil Hann, Eliot Lee and Lorie Van Olst. Initially, the SfAA webmaster will be the portal’s lead webmaster.

Every three years a public announcement soliciting interest in voluntarily serving as the domain host server and lead webmaster shall be made. Upon recommendation from the Portal Advisory Committee
the appointment or reappointment shall be made by the AAA/SfAA Commission.

If the AAA/SfAA Commission dissolves, the Executive Boards of the AAA and SfAA will assume responsibility for the Information Portal.

NAPA HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Liebow
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NAPA President

Big changes are afoot in the world around us and in the professional practice of anthropology. This has prompted NAPA leadership to take stock of achievements and resources, and to reassess the priorities set in 1996-97. Our resources, including significant reserves of money and volunteer talent, need to be invested wisely to expand our membership by offering valued services.

We have a couple of tools at our disposal to translate our collective wisdom into action, one is the annual budget and the other is our strategic plan. I’ll have more to report next time about NAPA’s updated strategic plan, but here are a couple of highlights about this year’s budget. The 2004 budget has two important items.

First is a modest – but material – investment in the activities of the Committee on Public Policy for the coming year, as this group develops a full-blown proposal for a permanent public policy center. Up to this point, planning for such a center has been supported solely by the volunteer efforts and in-kind contributions of committed SfAA and AAA members.

The NAPA Board has followed the planning process closely, because we strongly believe that it is a valuable service to our members and to the profession to increase the impact and visibility of anthropologists on public policy through the development of a policy center. The center, a plan for which can be found at: <http://www.aaanet.org/committees/ppc/center/index.htm>, will ultimately provide a home for anthropological policy work to include: policy monitoring, analysis, advocacy, training and internships, a policy information library, and policy collaboration between academic and practicing anthropologists from all sub-fields and NGOs, grass roots organizations, government agencies, private businesses, and other academics and practitioners from other disciplines. But translating this vision into action depends on more than the kindness of strangers. It takes money to create the infrastructure from which to make a persuasive case to donors that such an undertaking is worth supporting. The NAPA Board is providing some seed money over the next year to help create this infrastructure.

Second is a substantial investment NAPA will make in the coming year to the AAA digital publishing initiative known as AnthroSource. As you know, NAPA produces the Bulletin, an occasional monograph series that covers a wide range of topics of interest to professionals and students. The move to a digital platform will make the whole series of NAPA Bulletins available online to readers and database searches, increasing the visibility of this work and making sure that practitioners’ insights are acknowledged as part of the conventional wisdom.

Eventually, AnthroSource will also make it possible to gain access to data sets, the “applied anthropology working paper” archives that have been compiled at the University of Kentucky and elsewhere, along with audio, photo, graphic, and video content. Of course, there are complicated issues concerning functionality, privacy protection, intellectual property, and finances yet to be resolved, and NAPA is represented on the steering committee tackling these issues.


CONSORTIUM OF PRACTICING AND APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY PROGRAMS (COPAA)

By Linda Bennett
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The Department of Anthropology, University of North Texas, will host the fifth annual meeting of the Consortium of Practicing and Applied Anthropology Programs (COPAA). The meeting this year will be
held on Tuesday, March 30th, beginning around noon on the UNT campus. Anyone who is interested in joining the meeting may contact me at lbennett@memphis.edu. To learn more about the Consortium, please log on to our website at www.copa.info.

COPAA is sponsoring a panel discussion at the SfAA meetings in Dallas on the theme of “Structural Trends in Anthropology Departments and Programs: Expansion and Contraction,” organized by Barbara Miller and me. Panelists Judith Freidenberg (University of Maryland), Michael Whiteford (Iowa State University), John van Willigen (University of Kentucky), Ben Blount (University of Georgia), Brent Weisman (University of South Florida), Ronald Loewe (Mississippi State University), Linda Bennett (University of Memphis), and Barbara Miller (George Washington University).

The session is scheduled for Friday from 10:00-11:45 in the morning. Panelists will discuss recent and current developments in their departments with regard to (1) expansion through new degree programs, broadened hires, or new concentrations, and (2) contraction through mergers with other departments or significant reduction of faculty positions. The panel will address approaches for warding off efforts to limit departments’ efforts to educate students in applied anthropology within these home institutions. Finally, panelists will suggest ways in which SfAA can advocate effectively to retain and expand applied programs.

Please join us for the panel presentation and discussion.

LPO NEWS

By Carla Littlefield
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The “High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology” (HPSfAA) will hold its Spring Conference in Estes Park, Colorado, April 23-25, 2004. The theme for the Conference is “Generations: Continuity and Change.” Keynote speakers are Paul Spicer and his wife, Lori Jervis, applied anthropologists with the American Indian and Alaska Native Programs at UCHSC. The Conference chair is Lorraine Poulson. For conference packets, including call for papers and registration forms, see the HPSfAA website at www.hpsfaa.org.

At SfAA’s 2004 Annual Meeting, HPSfAA will sponsor a forum co-organized by Pam Puntenney and Leni Bohren titled, “Re-framing the Debate: Engaging People in Sustainability.” Panelists for the forum also include Bob Trotter (NAU), Eva Freidlander (Planning Alternatives for Change), Riall Noland (Institute for Global Studies and Affairs), Tim Finan and Priti Biswas (BARA, AZ). The forum invites debate on identifying where anthropology can make a difference in a global society concerned with achieving more sustainable patterns of development at the individual and institutional levels.

“Sun Coast Organization of Practicing Anthropologists” (SCOPA) members are mourning the loss of one of their founders, Patricia Sorrells, who passed away in December 2003 after a long illness. Sorrells earned both her MA and PhD at the University of South Florida (USF). Her doctoral dissertation, completed in 1993, studied the introduction of water buffaloes to the United States and expressed her abiding interest in wildlife conservation and community education. In addition to her activity with the World Wildlife Fund, Sorrells taught at St. Leo College in Pasco County, Florida, and also at Hillsborough Community College.

SCOPA continues to collaborate in several endeavors with other Tampa Bay anthropological organizations, especially the University of South Florida (USF), Department of Anthropology. Currently getting attention is a large urban development proposal by a group called “Civitas” to develop 157 acres of urban property in Tampa, lying between downtown Tampa and Ybor City. A meeting in January brought together practicing anthropologists involved in planning, housing, neighborhood networks, transportation, and cultural and historic preservation to discuss establishing a task group to promote a full social impact assessment of the proposed project. SCOPA members continue to serve as mentors and internship supervisors of USF students in Applied Anthropology. SCOPA’s LPO status helps to maintain a net-
work of practitioners who make such undertakings possible.

Alvin Wolfe, who provided the SCOPA notes, added the following news about individual SCOPA members. Alayne Unterberger, Executive Director of the Florida Institute for Community Studies, was named by the editors and staff writers of the Tampa Tribune as one of 25 business and arts professionals to watch in 2004. Alvin says, “But most SfAA Newsletter readers already knew that she is one to watch every year.” William Michaels was recently named Director of the St. Petersburg History Museum. To join SCOPA, contact Glenn Brown at <gbrown@childrensboard.org>.

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

STUDENT COMMITTEE REPORT

By Jennifer Weiss
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As we prepare for SfAA Annual Meetings in Dallas, the Student Committee would like to call your attention to several opportunities for student exchange:

Student Conference Welcome and Orientation. This friendly session is designed to familiarize all students to the SfAA Conference with information about conference events, activities and session organization, as well as to welcome students to the annual meeting. Panelists will provide their own tips and perspectives for choosing sessions, workshops, business meetings, receptions, and open forums. In addition, panelists will provide suggestions for practices that will reap the most benefits from your participation and experiences at the annual program. All students are welcome and encouraged to join us for this informative session.

Student Opportunities in the SfAA: the Annual Student Committee Business Meeting. This year, the Student Committee has combined our annual business meeting with an information session highlighting the many ways students can participate in the SfAA and the multiple opportunities for professional development that the SfAA offers students. We also welcome discussion on current Student Committee business including the development of a new SfAA student endowment and award, web-site development, student recruitment, and the election of new Student Committee officers.

“Got Grants?” An Information Session for Students Searching for Research Money. Join students and professionals as we share information about grant databases specific to applied anthropology, as well as suggestions for maneuvering through the grant proposal writing process. Locating funding opportunities is difficult, and this session hopes to demystify the process as well as provide a map of funding opportunities for students to utilize throughout their careers. Students and others are encouraged to share their own funding resources to contribute to a compilation that will be posted on the Student Committee’s webpage.

Seventh Annual Past Presidents & Student Luncheon. The SfAA Conference Committee continues, for the seventh year, to generously sponsor lunches for 25 students and available past presidents of the SfAA. This luncheon is always filled with lively discussions in a casual setting, and students and past presidents alike enjoy the opportunity to learn about current research and advocacy interests in the field of applied anthropology. Interested students should sign up at the registration desk in Dallas.

Finally, as the 2004 Annual Meetings draw nearer, we encourage everyone to visit the Student Forum section of the SfAA Forums, located under “Forums” on the SfAA website www.sfaa.net. Recent topics of discussion include “Affordable lodging in Dallas 2004” and “Student research/internship/training opportunities 2004.” This is a wonderful resource for students to visit on a regularly basis to learn about up-to-date opportunities and share their own experiences.

SFAA ELECTRONIC FORUMS

By Neil Hann
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Webmaster, Society for Applied Anthropology

Improving our electronic forms of communication continues to be a priority of SfAA. One of our more recent “experiments” has been the electronic forums on the SfAA web site. These forums allow registered users to post discussions on a defined set of topics. Currently, there are three active electronic forums - Students, SfAA 2004 Annual Meeting, and Applied Anthropology Policy.
Electronic forums have a number of advantages. Users can read and post messages at their leisure instead of wading through numerous e-mails, which is common with e-mail list-serves. In addition, it is easier to see the history of a particular topic discussion. Electronic forums also allow for a more thorough and rich discussion compared to other electronic methods. The only real disadvantage is that it takes a little discipline to periodically check the forums for new posts and discussion topics.

We have just barely tapped the potential of our electronic forum discussion capabilities. If you are interested in starting a new forum on an applied social science topic, simply e-mail us at forums@sfaa.net. We will be happy to help get your electronic forum up and running. We only ask that those who might be interested in starting a forum also be willing to help monitor the forum to make sure it stays on topic.

To access the electronic forums, go to the SfAA website at http://www.sfaa.net/ and click on “forums.” We hope you enjoy the discussions.

TIG FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

By Mary Riley [mriley88@hotmail.com]  
University of Chicago-Illinois

This is a short note to inform everyone that the American Association for the Advancement of Science has recently published the AAAS Handbook on Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge. It is titled Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Property: A Handbook on Issues and Options for Traditional Knowledge Holders in Protecting their Intellectual Property and Maintaining Biological Diversity. Download it at http://shr.aaas.org/tek/handbook/.

The conference “Imperialism, Art & Restitution” will be held at The Harris Institute for Global Legal Studies at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri, convening 26-27 March 2004. This international symposium focuses on the issue of whether major works of art acquired during the Age of Imperialism and now held by major museums should be returned to the source nations. Subjects for discussion include the Elgin/Parthenon Marbles in London, the Bust of Nefertiti in Berlin, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). There is no charge for attending the conference, but all travel and lodging expenses are borne by conference attendees. For more information, or to request a conference registration form, please contact Linda McClain, Office/Conference Manager, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Harris Institute for Global Legal Studies Washington University, One Brookings Drive, C.B. 1120, St. Louis, MO 63130 USA, Phone: (314) 935-7988 / Fax: (314) 935-7961, or by E-mail at lmcclain@wulaw.wustl.edu.

The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (Sixth Session), convenes in Geneva, March 15-19, 2004. Documents are available at


If you would like to submit any news to the TIG for IPR column, please get in touch with me.
FROM THE EDITOR

The caucuses are over, the candidates have flown off to sell their messages of better and cheaper health care for us and global prosperity and good cheer to others, the media had packed all of their expensive broadcasting toys, Peter Jennings is no longer broadcasting from inside the very handsome interior of the Iowa Statehouse, and I no longer dread picking up my telephone only to have to quickly hang up on a prerecorded message about one or another of the presidential aspirants. We’re enjoying a little downtime right now, but I imagine that we Iowans will soon begin to miss pontificating about why the rest of the country should play close attention to our political predilections.

Will Sibley reports that the Washington Associate of Practicing Anthropologist (WAPA) continues to prosper, with monthly meetings on varied topics. “Early in January, we had our annual winter social gathering, graciously hosted by Ruth and Michael Cernea in their home in Bethesda, MD. The newest news is that we have a President-Elect for the June 2004-June 2005 WAPA ‘season.’ As you may know, we have a tradition that requires alternately female and male Presidents. As Rob Winthrop, current President, is clearly male, we needed a female President for the next term. The President-Elect is Judith Freidenberg, professor of anthropology at the University of Maryland. Highly qualified for the position, Judith has been especially effective in bringing students into WAPA affairs. We all look forward to her tenure beginning in June 2004 at the end of Rob Winthrop’s term of office.”

Anyhow, it’s bitterly cold as I write this column and I can hardly wait to see Dallas a couple of months from now. The Program Committee is in overdrive to ensure that we have an engaging program, along with sufficient evening diversions. I look forward to seeing many of you next month.

Mike Whiteford [jefe@iastate.edu]