

Newsletter

Society for Applied Anthropology

Volume 16, Number 3

November 2005

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Donald D. Stull [stull@ku.edu]
University of Kansas



*Don,
Okay. We're ready for your piece on tobacco farmers who eat chickens-- or chickens who eat tobacco farmers. It can be short and it doesn't need to be sweet, but we look forward to receiving a couple of inspirational paragraphs.*

*Many thanks...
Mike*

As you might guess from this recent e-mail, I am writing this letter "from the field" which in my case is both anthropological and agricultural. In July I returned "home" to Sebree to continue my long-standing research on the social consequences of the ongoing changes in the agricultural economy of rural Western Kentucky, as exemplified by poultry and tobacco production.

You will be pleased to learn that despite exhaustive research, I have yet to find the remains of a single tobacco farmer in a chicken house. However, preliminary evidence does indicate that tobacco farmers are fond of unborn chickens. Perhaps you will be more surprised to learn that while I have been consuming gallons of coffee every morning at Good Ole Boys and learning that "baccar" plants can strut (not good) and "buzzard" can "nest" in your burley (very good if you can get away with it), SfAA officers, committees, and our business office have been hard at work.

In response to Hurricane Katrina, I asked Diane Austen, Jennifer Weis, Jeanne Simonelli, and Linda Whiteford to serve on an Ad Hoc Taskforce on Disaster Response. Specifically, I asked them to explore responses to Katrina that may follow from the notice to the general membership, and to 1) recommend avenues to publicize the pertinent disaster/rapid response expertise of our membership; 2) to explore a possible coordinating role for applied disaster studies; and 3) to identify other response mechanisms our members may wish to use. Through their efforts, a series of disaster-related sessions were organized for the 2006 annual meeting. Thanks to existing SfAA and AAA lists, at least one CDC practitioner was able to locate persons with

| <i>IN THIS ISSUE</i> | <i>Page</i> |
|---|-------------|
| SfAA President's Letter | 1 |
| AAA/SfAA Commission on Applied And Practicing Anthropology | 2 |
| Participant Evaluation Results 2005 Meetings | 4 |
| A Ray of Hope | 5 |
| Anthropology & Cultural Competence in Health Care | 7 |
| "Minding Your Business" - Student Travel Awards | 8 |
| COPAA News | 9 |
| From the Desk of Will Sibley | 9 |
| Student Committee Report | 10 |
| Report from the PA Editors | 10 |
| NAPA News | 12 |
| Announcements | 13 |
| From the Editor | 14 |

necessary expertise. Jennifer Weis, student representative to the SfAA Board of Directors, surveyed members on how local communities helped evacuees meet their needs.

SfAA Treasurer Diane Austin has a long history of research in Louisiana and is there now. Diane has been in touch with the Louisiana Environmental Action Network, the Southern Mutual Help Association, and the United Houma Nation about working with the SfAA to involve students in their ongoing efforts. She is presently exploring options for an organized effort over winter break. The SfAA Board of Directors will consider and act on taskforce recommendations at its semiannual meeting in Washington, D.C., on December 3.

During her tenure as SfAA president, Linda Whiteford established the Special Committee on Professional and Scholarly Outreach. In Santa Fe, the board instructed me to meet with the president of the American Anthropological Association to explore how our two organizations might work together to our mutual benefit. I contacted Alan Goodman, incoming president of the AAA, early in the summer, and since then we have e-mailed and talked on the phone on several occasions. We will meet on Sunday, December 4, to discuss concrete possibilities. Alan and I hope we will be able to meet again in Vancouver. I believe it would be in the best interest of both the SfAA and the AAA if their presidents met formally at each organization's annual meeting. Over the remainder of my term, I will also try to reach out to other professional associations.

These are just a few of the things going on with SfAA. You will read about a good number of others throughout this issue. If you will be at the AAA meetings next month, do stop by the SfAA table to say hello and catch up on SfAA doings. Until then, as we say in Kentucky, "Don't chew yer baccer twice."

AAA/SFAA COMMISSION ON APPLIED AND PRACTICING ANTHROPOLOGY: FINAL REPORT AND AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE

By Noel Chrisman
[mailto:noelj@u.washington.edu]
University of Washington



The future well-being of the AAA and SfAA depends on maintaining and increasing the active membership of as many anthropologists as possible. It is particularly important to serve the professional needs of applied and practicing anthropologists because they constitute a large, growing, and important segment of our discipline. Moreover, they are making significant intellectual contributions that cannot be ignored. Applied and practicing anthropology have been core parts of the discipline since its early days.

As a service to the profession, the AAA proposed to the Society for Applied Anthropology, the principal independent organization for applied anthropologists, that the two collaborate to strengthen programs and services for these anthropologists. In 2001, Louise Lamphere (then President of the AAA), Linda Bennett (then President of the SfAA), and Noel Chrisman (President-Elect of the SfAA) initiated the AAA/SfAA Commission on Applied and Practicing Anthropology. The commission reached its time limit and concluded its meetings, but not its work, in April 2005 at the SfAA meeting in Santa Fe.

Commission members included presidents and former presidents of many applied and practicing anthropology organizations including sections of the AAA such as the National Association of Practicing Anthropologists, the Society for Medical Anthropology, and the Council on Anthropology and Education. In addition, the Washington Association of Professional Anthropologists, the longest-standing Local

Practitioner Organization (LPO), was represented on the commission. The Consortium of Practicing and Applied Anthropology Programs also played a central role.

One key achievement was to promote the significance of applied anthropology by expanding visibility of applied and practicing anthropologists' work at the AAA and SfAA meetings through workshops, round tables, presentations, panel sessions and invited talks including an all day panel on advocacy and back to back workshops on organizational and substantive advances in applied anthropology. In addition, the commission sponsored a booth at AAA and SfAA meetings so applied/practicing organizations could display their accomplishments. This was particularly significant for LPOs who did not have access to an affordable communication mechanism.

Second, a web portal was created that will offer a single referral source for links to professional organizations, special interest groups, resource centers, job/funding opportunities, and a directory of practicing anthropologists as a means to keep them in touch with colleagues sharing similar interests. The object of portal (see draft www.fiu.edu/~wiedmand/appliedanthronet/index.htm) is to showcase applied/practicing information available across a variety of organization websites.

A third achievement was to demonstrate that applied organizations could work well with each other and with the AAA. In fact, during the existence of the commission, the AAA made a number of changes to strengthen applied and practicing anthropology with regard to programs and services.

The commission set in motion several important activities that we hope professional organizations will take up for the good of applied /practicing anthropology:

- Better communication between AAA and SfAA must exist. It is not enough for the presidents of the SfAA and AAA to maintain informal relationships. The commission demonstrated that a "bridge group" can facilitate communication to advance applied and practicing anthropology initiatives
- A home for the web portal needs to be identified. A committee made up of members of many organizations and seen as independent from any particular society should oversee the portal.
- It is important to increase the visibility of LPOs and other practicing groups such as the Federal Anthropologists at the annual meetings of the AAA and the SfAA.
- It is also crucial to continue organizing sessions, roundtables, and other sources of information at both annual meetings to present the challenges and opportunities of practicing anthropology to the broadest possible audience. These activities will help practicing anthropologists feel more comfortable at meetings and strengthen a community of scholars.
- The field of applied anthropology requires a better plan for basic education, continuing education, and specific training opportunities for professionals.
- Departments need support as they begin to rethink training in applied anthropology. The commission began conversations with department heads at an AAA meeting. What is needed next is a mechanism whereby departments can get help as they examine and then change their academic programs to more strongly present the knowledge and skills for applied and practicing anthropology.
- We need to develop an ongoing tracking system of anthropology graduates to discover what anthropologists are doing after graduate education and how many are involved in applied anthropology activities on a full or part time basis. Currently there are estimates that more than fifty percent (and up to about seventy percent) of anthropology graduates go into practice. In order to have better data, the commission began working with the AAA to develop such a tracking system to document where people work and what kinds of work they do.
- We need to grow our community of practice by promoting communication among anthropologists. In order to become more visible we must also promote communication between anthropology and the public. Work needs to begin on a broad-based directory of applied and practicing anthropologists. We should make it easy for the media and public service organizations to locate anthropologists who have expertise on particular topics, populations, and issues.

The AAA/SfAA Commission on Applied and Practicing Anthropology marked a successful collaboration between the AAA, some of its constituent organizations, and the SfAA. We accomplished a lot, but left much to be done. The purpose of this report is to urge societies and their members to take on these exciting organizational challenges. Commission members were Noel Chrisman (Chair), Marietta Baba, Linda Bennett, Tim Bolding, Don Brenneis, Mari Clarke, T.J. Ferguson, Louise Lamphere, Ed Liebow, Mark Nichter, James Peacock, Amanda Ritchie, Jean Schensul, Susan Squires, Linda Whiteford, and Dennis Wiedman.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANT EVALUATION RESULTS FOR 2005 ANNUAL MEETINGS IN SANTA FE

By James W. Carey, Ph.D., M.P.H.* [jfc9@cdc.gov]
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Ruthbeth Finerman, Ph.D. [finerman@memphis.edu]
University of Memphis

**Disclaimer: The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

As in 2004, participants in the 2005 SfAA meeting, held April 5-10 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, were invited to complete an anonymous evaluation of the conference's strengths and weaknesses, to aid planning for future meetings. The 2005 SfAA conference attracted a record high 2050 registrants. An estimated 425 local Santa Fe residents also attended the meeting but were not required to register. Only 88 registered participants completed the evaluation, but this feedback was extremely helpful.

Slightly over half of the respondents were employed in academic settings; others worked for governmental or non-governmental organizations or some other entity. Most were SfAA members, but many hold memberships with the conference's co-sponsoring associations, including NAPA, CONAA, PESO, SCRA, HPSfAA, and SOHA. Most were US residents, but 11 were from international settings.

Fully 84 percent of the respondents found the meeting environment friendly and welcoming, and 80 percent approved of the conference site. More than three-quarters rated the overall quality and value of this meeting as "good."

Respondents gave strongly positive reviews of the meeting registration process, the printed program, and the length of the conference. Most gave the scientific oral presentations favorable ratings, but less than half rated the scheduling of presentations as "good." The book exhibit and poster sessions drew mixed ratings, and the plenary sessions were rated less favorably. Over half did not attend a plenary and several cited conflicts between plenary panels and other events. Few respondents attended the organized tours, video screenings, workshops, author book signing, student committee meetings, and/or student luncheon with past SfAA presidents, but those who attended these events rated them as "good" or "neutral."

Because of the size of the 2005 meeting, events had to be scheduled in several venues. Respondents gave meeting hotels a favorable review, but ratings were lower for the quality of session rooms and the cost of lodging.

While slide and overhead projectors were provided in all session rooms, local rental fees for computer graphics projectors were very high. Thus, to keep meeting registration costs down, presenters were asked make their own arrangements if they wanted such technology for their sessions. A large number of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the level of technical equipment support.

Nearly all respondents offered written comments. A solid majority praised the program, meeting atmosphere and conference setting. A few cited concerns about "boring" presentations, the scheduling of sessions in different hotels, or inadequate audiovisual support.

Roughly half of the respondents listed the overall program or specific panels, workshops or plenary sessions as the most positive aspect of the meeting. Several specifically praised the incorporation of local culture and community into the program. Others listed the meeting site, the conference atmosphere, or the chance to meet with colleagues as the most appreciated aspect of the meeting.

Most complaints focused on the use of multiple venues for events. A minority critiqued program scheduling, the quality of specific presentations, the cost of computer projectors, or the cost of lodging.

A minority of respondents joined the conference in time to participate in Santa Fe Day, which featured local speakers and sessions open to the public. Still, those who had attended these events praised both the activities and community outreach efforts.

Sixty-five respondents offered advice for future meetings. Most specified a preference for single venues, inexpensive lodging, careful program scheduling, and comprehensive audiovisual support. More specific requests included: host an online message board to facilitate pre-conference networking; include maps of venues in the printed program; include blank paper in the printed program for taking notes; list sessions in the program by topic or "track"; organize videos into a single screening; list affiliations on badges; provide a larger message board plus writing materials for leaving notes; provide opportunities to evaluate speakers; provide an employment center; offer shuttle transportation for less ambulatory registrants; and recruit more Fellows in planning.

The 2005 meeting survey offered a forum for concerns and suggestions, and responses suggest that the 2005 meetings were a success for most respondents. The Society will study all recommendations for planning future conferences. Additional comments are welcome; please contact the SfAA Business office at <info@sfaa.net>. Full report available on web at <www.sfaa.net/sfaa2005/sfaa2005evaluation.pdf>.

References

Finerman, Ruthbeth and Carey, James W. (2004) SfAA Membership Committee Report: Results of the SfAA 2004 Meeting Evaluation. *Society for Applied Anthropology Newsletter* 15(3): 15-17.

A RAY OF HOPE FROM AN IMPROBABLE PLACE

By Paul Durrenberger [edp2@psu.edu]
Pennsylvania State University

Katrina brought us enough news of class, race, and geographic oppression. What can we do about it besides bulldozing New Orleans? One ray of hope comes from another port city often hit by hurricanes, Charleston, South Carolina. Charleston? Bastion of the South, incarnation of ignorance, backwardness, and the third world? The city watched over by the pedestal statue of that champion of slavery, John C. Calhoun and guarded by the reactionary Citadel? Yes, but in spite of those reasons, not because of them.



It is no mistake that the Chamber of Commerce's glass-clad offices overlook the State House in Columbia. True, the Chamber is dedicated to stamping out the last vestiges of union representation in the least unionized of all states. That makes the state a model for the rest of the United States. That's the threat, not the hope.

The ray of hope comes from the modern union hall of the International Longshoremen's Association Local 1422. ILA. Yes, the ones you read about in the inner pages of the newspapers while Katrina was hogging the front pages. The ones that are Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) charges, ratting each other out, and going to jail. How can any hope shine out from such a hopeless union in such a hopeless town in such a hopeless state? It comes from the thousand or so black men and some 22 women of the local who work the docks, the lymph nodes of the global economic system. If the ports don't work, the economy doesn't function. Everyone on all of the world's waterfronts knows that.

Suzan and I are learning and telling the story of the Charleston 5. Not the five members who were kept under house arrest awaiting trial on felony charges after a violent encounter of police and dockers in January 2000, but everything around those five. The day after the encounter, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 of Los Angeles, offered their support to Ken Riley, the president of the local. Soon other ILWU locals joined in.

Church-going Riley, who imbibes nothing stronger than Diet Coke, began to learn about the power of solidarity among dockers in California and the rest of the world. The International Dockers Council joined the fray, with their locals in Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Australia, and other lands.

It all started when a Danish shipping firm contracted with a non-union stevedore to cut costs. Local 1422 members could not see their jobs fall into non-union hands. They began to picket. The company knew that was an empty threat. But it wasn't long before they had to ask the Port Authority for increased security. The Port Authority had asked the Charleston Police to help, and the State Law Enforcement Division joined in until that night of 19 January 2000, 660 riot-equipped cops faced 200 dockers. The inevitable happened.

The shipping company settled with the union in Charleston when a Spanish docker handed the skipper of one of their ships a letter that said his workers could not unload a ship that had been loaded by unskilled workers. It was too dangerous. The company saw the writing on the wall. Meanwhile a State's Attorney with a taste for power and the religious right if not God on his side had overseen George W. Bush's election campaign in South Carolina and hungered for the governor's mansion. He indicted "the five" on felony charges.

Dockers from around the world wrote to the governor and the AFL-CIO sponsored a rally in Columbia. The establishment saw that it would be more trouble than it was worth if the five saw the inside of a courtroom, proclaimed the state's attorney an embarrassment, and dropped the charges. Without worldwide solidarity, it wouldn't have turned out that way. Without worldwide solidarity the scabs would still be unloading containers in Charleston and the ILA local would not have the work. The Chamber would be able to crush one of the power points of unionism in the South. Instead of a thousand black people having good jobs, none would.

So the message of hope is a message of solidarity across the world as working people around the planet join together to protect their shared interests.

Ken Riley won his battle, but he knows that if he stops there, it will come back to his local again and again and again until one day they will not win. And then it will be all over. So he remains watchful, not only for his members and his local. He works with a coalition of members - even in Canada - to repair the weaknesses of his union. He works with other unions and other dockers because he knows that unless the global economy treats all workers well, no worker is safe from its rapaciousness.

We want to tell this story in all of its complexity to let people know that there is hope amidst the miseries political and natural disasters. That hope is in us. Together.

ANTHROPOLOGY AND CULTURAL COMPETENCE IN HEALTH CARE

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



A few facts:

- Research on diagnostic tests and surgeries in 10 states, with controls for geographic access has found that health care providers appear to give less intensive care to African American patients compared to white patients.
- A study of 1.7 million hospital discharge records for 77 disease categories found that African Americans were significantly less likely than whites to receive a major therapeutic procedure; overall, African Americans were found to receive fewer services than whites.
- A study of Mexican Americans with myocardial infarction found that they were 40% less likely than whites to receive thrombolytic therapy.
- A study of ethnic variation in care found that African Americans were less likely to receive even low discretion care (e.g., for clinically urgent health problems like appendicitis and abdominal aortic aneurysm).
- Even with adjustment for socioeconomic status, in a three state study Latinos were found to be less likely than non-Latinos to undergo major medical procedures.
- In a study of diabetics and non-diabetics African Americans were found to be significantly more likely to undergo amputations and less likely to receive lower-limb arterial revascularization.
- In a teaching hospital study, Latinos with long bone fractures were found to be twice as likely as non-Latinos to receive no medication for pain and minority cancer patients were found to be less likely to receive adequate analgesic medication for pain.

All these studies and many others are described in *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care* produced by the Institute of Medicine. This book and others like it in the burgeoning field of health disparity research reveal the *triple burden* faced by devalued ethnic minority populations seeking health care in the U.S.: 1) they are significantly less likely to have health insurance than whites, and so accessing care is a major challenge (and while adequate acute care is hard enough to come by, preventive care is all but impossible for those who are not insured); 2) in the health care system, ethnic minority patients face individual and institutional discrimination at every level, much of which is unconscious or hidden but leads to statistics like those reported above); and 3) culturally competent health care is in especially short supply.

What is culturally competent health care (CCHC)? The Commonwealth Fund has defined CCHC as “the ability of systems to provide care to patients with diverse values, beliefs and behaviors, including tailoring delivery of care to meet patients’ social, cultural, and linguistic needs.” At present, there are major gaps between the health care systems in place around the country and what would be considered culturally competent care in light of local ethnic diversity. Yet, the need for health care providers to meet the needs of ethnic minority patients is inescapable, as seen in the changing ethnic composition of the U.S population. While individuals of white, European and related heritage accounted for about 75% of the U.S. population at the time of the 1990 national census, current trends suggest that by the year 2030 whites will comprise only 60% of the population. At that point, almost one in five North American will be Latino. Since culturally competent health care is seen as being better health care, unless health care systems adapt, the quality of care will continue to drop as the American population diversifies.

Recognizing these realities, there has been a strong push in health care systems to: 1) develop principles and standards of culturally competent care; 2) implement curricula to train health care providers in culturally competent care and to evaluate their adherence to learned approaches; 3) conduct research on the contribution of cultural competency to reducing disparities in health and health care

Society for Applied Anthropology

provision; 4) publish and disseminate reviews of best and promising culturally competent practices; 5) identify strategies to overcome linguistic and cultural barriers, and 6) develop organizational structures to support culturally competent care. Notably, a number of applied anthropologists have been involved in these efforts, although they have rarely led the push for cultural competency and the elimination of health disparity.

Exemplary of the anthropological contribution to cultural competence in health care is the three-volume set produced by The California Endowment. Edited by anthropologist M. Jean Gilbert of California State University, Long Beach, these three manuals include a set of principles and recommended standards for culturally competent health care education, a resource guide, and a manager's guide for running a culturally competent health care institution. Also of note is the contribution by anthropologists Mary-Jo DelVecchio Good, Byron Good and Anne Becker to the Institute of Medicine report on ethnic health disparity. Within the Society for Medical Anthropology a taskforce has been formed to also work on these issues. Many other individual anthropologists have also addressed aspects of the larger problem.

While anthropologists have long called for the development of culturally competent care, and have shown through their research the consequences of culturally incompetence care, and while Anne Fadiman's *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* has become a very popular text in medical schools concerned with doing something about "the diversity issue," the distinctive anthropological voice on health disparity and cultural competence in health care is not very loud. For the most part it has been drowned out by much more aggressive initiatives from other disciplines. Often, the approach to culture taken by these other disciplines resembles the now discredited essentializing approach abandoned by most anthropologists over the last decade or more. Herein lies the opening for a renewed effort to apply anthropology to the recreation of a more competent health care system for all.

"MINDING YOUR BUSINESS" - STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

By J. Thomas May [tom@sfaa.net]
Executive Director, SfAA

Each year, the Society sponsors four travel scholarships for students to attend the annual meeting. Each scholarship is valued at \$500 and may be used to offset travel expenses. The scholarships are funded by two endowments that carry the names of two very prominent former members - Edward Spicer and Del Jones.

The Competition for the travel scholarships is open to any student who has had a paper abstract accepted for the annual meeting program. All eligible students are contacted by e-mail in early December and provided with a copy of the procedures and guidelines. This information also describes a timetable for submitting applications and the review process. The review is usually completed by late January and the winners are notified immediately.

On the SfAA web page there is additional information on the Spicer Travel Awards and the Del Jones Travel Awards (click on "awards"). That part of the page also includes information on past winners of the travel scholarships.



COPAA NEWS

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

The Consortium of Practicing and Applied Anthropology Programs (COPAA) announces the launching of its new website <www.copaa.info>, with Christina Wasson (U of North Texas) as Webmaster. Sunil Khanna (Oregon State U) now serves as the Virtual Community Monitor for COPAA's bulletin board.



COPAA has submitted abstracts for two panel sessions at the SfAA meetings in Vancouver: (1) *Allies on the Front Line: Perspectives from our Community Partners* (organized by Susan Hyatt (IUPUI), Karen Quintiliani (CSU-Long Beach), Judith Freidenberg (U of Maryland) and Margaret Graham (UT—Pan American) and (2) *Tenure and Promotion for Applied Anthropologists: Preparation for and Documentation of Scholarship* (organized by Elizabeth Bird (U of S Florida) and Linda Bennett (U of Memphis) with panelists Elgin Klugh (Montclair State U.), Kerry Feldman (U of Alaska, Anchorage), Ann Jordan (U of North Texas), Sherylyn Briller (Wayne State U), Stan Hyland (U of Memphis), Sunil Khanna (Oregon State U), and Nancy Romero-Daza (U of S Florida)). COPAA will assist in organizing the Friday morning 2006 Departmental Poster Session at the SfAA meetings.

We'll be in touch with departments early in 2006 regarding plans for the poster session.

FROM THE DESK OF WILL SIBLEY

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

The 2005-2006 season began with a well-attended social gathering, which has been followed so far with two monthly meetings --- the first dealing with historical archeology, and the second with the state of affairs following the hurricanes along the Gulf Coast.

The speaker at the latter meeting, long-time WAPA member Adam Koons, has recently returned from a number of years engaged with social and relief programs in Africa, and is now engaged with an NGO with involvement along the Gulf Coast.



Normally, meetings are held in the evening on the first Tuesday of the month at the Sumner School located across the street from the National Geographic Society building in Washington, D.C. Members often congregate for supper nearby before the meeting. Information about meetings for visitors to Washington may be obtained by e-mailing our President John Mullen at (wapapresident@yahoo.com). On November 29, there will be a reception and meeting at the Sumner School, with the hope that early arrivals for the AAA meetings will join us for the evening.

Finally, we note with regret that suitable candidates did not emerge for the 2005 competition for the WAPA Praxis Award --- an award for a singular project in which anthropology played a critical role in its success. However, plans are already underway for the 2007 competition, and information should be available on the WAPA website early in 2006. The website address is currently as follows <www.smcm.edu/wapa/>. The Praxis Award is specifically aimed at applied professionals, and it carries a cash stipend.

STUDENT COMMITTEE REPORT

By: David M. Hoffman
[david.m.hoffman@Colorado.edu]
University of Colorado—Boulder



The student committee has been working on a number of important aspects of the upcoming SfAA Annual Meeting in Vancouver, B.C. While I am sure most of you are not yet gearing up for our ensuing venture to our northerly neighbors, the student committee has been quite active in our planning for the event. First, it is very important that I remind everyone that the first annual “Student Endowed Award” will be given by the SfAA student committee at this year’s meetings. This is the only prize given by the SfAA that is administered entirely by students, and we encourage all students planning on attending the meeting to apply! The Student Endowed Award consists of \$175 travel stipend for travel to the annual meeting and a one-year SfAA membership, which includes a year’s subscription to the journals *Human Organization* and *Practicing Anthropology*. All currently enrolled students are eligible for the award, and it is not limited to anthropology students. In essence, this award is aimed at supporting the attendance and involvement of students in the SfAA annual meeting and the society itself. For more information on the Student Endowed Award, and several other student awards, please visit <www.sfaa.net/committees/students.html>.

Second, the student committee highly encourages both faculty and students interested in learning more about student opportunities in the SfAA to peruse our new and more accessible webpage. The student committee webpage can be found on the left side of the SfAA’s main page <sfaa.net>. Click on the “Students” tab and you can browse through several pages of information. A quick perusal will provide you with information on student opportunities, awards, and activities related to the annual meetings, how to become a student member, information on graduate programs in applied anthropology, and access to the “student web forum.” We want to especially highlight the student web forum as a place where students can ask questions, post grant and job opportunities, discuss theoretical and practical issues in applied anthropology, and generally communicate with like-minded students.

Finally, we are happy to report that over the past few months we have contacted about 20 social science departments and student anthropology clubs at universities in Western Canada in anticipation of the annual meetings there this coming spring. We are currently communicating with them in order to ensure the attendance of Canadian anthropology students, create important links with their institutions, and to get some help in finding “student friendly” activities and lodging in the Vancouver area. In the very near future we will be sharing this information in the student section of the SfAA webpage. Stay tuned!

It has been a busy fall for all of us on the student committee. We are really looking forward to all of your submissions for the Student Endowed Award. On behalf of the Student Committee, I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season!

REPORT FROM PA EDITORS

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

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



Almost fifty years ago, Anthony F.C. Wallace completed an unusual study of local response to disaster in his book *Society for Applied Anthropology*

Tornado in Worcester: an exploratory study of individual and community behavior in an extreme situation. Published by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences (1956), it documented the response of a Massachusetts city to a deadly tornado, and was perhaps one of the first anthropological accounts of how communities respond to catastrophic events. With 23 hurricanes/tropical storms, unmeasured feet of snow, tons of sliding mud, and the destruction of a whole segment of a country by earthquake, this year will likely set its own record by giving rise to more disaster-related studies, reports, needs assessments, and impact analyses than any other. We hope that some of these will appear in upcoming issues of *Practicing Anthropology*.

Coincidentally, the fall issue of *PA, Tourism Partnership, Collaboration, And Advocacy: Meeting Local Needs From The Inside Out* went to press the week that Hurricane Katrina struck. Sending the page proofs out to some of the authors was tricky: they were out of contact in Louisiana and Mississippi, and some of the editing is a bit imprecise. We apologize to authors who find typos or omissions in their work. Our cover photo is of a project in Lafayette, Louisiana, which was spared the worst of Katrina, but felt the wrath of Rita, and the issue is dedicated to all of our colleagues working, living and doing research in the area. As the response to "Katrina" continued, *PA* and SfAA used some of our lists and contacts to identify colleagues whose work, like that of AFC Wallace, might help contribute to culturally acceptable clean-up and rebuilding.

Individual and community behavior in an extreme situation might also describe the content of part of the forthcoming winter issue. *The Commitment to Social Action in Palestine: Programs and Practice* features articles and reports based on the experience of those working in engagement with local communities, in community projects, and with political advocacy in the West Bank and Gaza. The selections capture the difficulties and dilemmas of working in the midst of "war-like conditions," and bring home some of the cultural and logistical complexities of trying to build and administer a changing society. We are pleased to be able to bring you the writing of Palestinian colleagues whose work might not otherwise reach an international audience.

Just as this issue allows Palestinian practitioners to share their work, future issues can feature yours. With the annual American Anthropological Association meeting scheduled soon in Washington, D.C., many of you are finalizing paper or poster presentations that describe and discuss applied, practical or public significance of your work. Most sessions allow 15 minutes for presenters to tell their story, which is equivalent to a 3,000-3,500-word paper. This is exactly the length of papers we want for *Practicing Anthropology*, so please send us a copy of your paper for us to review and consider for publication. Those of you who are preparing posters usually have great visuals such as photographs, tables or graphs that summarize data you put into context by talking with people who stop to read the poster. We encourage you to take the basic components of the poster story you've worked hard to condense and convert the verbalized story context into a paper you can submit to us for review.

The AAA is an example of just one of many professional meetings that will occur between now and March 2006, when the Society meets for our annual meeting. Don't wait for the meeting to take place before you submit your work to us at *PA*, and remember to look out for work from your colleagues that you think should be reviewed by us and encourage them to contact us.

One of the themes we have been interested in exploring in greater detail in some future issue, or perhaps as a component of future issues, is what we can learn from the "failures" we professionals have experienced and often talk about with our colleagues but rarely publish. Many of us personally learn a great deal after investing the effort to understand what went wrong when an initiative, project or program failed. Those lessons help us retool and rethink our approach to individual or collaborative work on the problems and issues that are a large part of our professional lives. We would like you to share with us at *PA* your stories and reflections about "failures" that you have experienced and that may provide broader lessons useful for current practitioners and students.

Failure is one of the words that have been tossed around since the recent hurricanes. Many of you are connected in some way to the communities that were destroyed or devastated. A Wake Forest faculty member who went to help clean out his New Orleans family homes described the experience of walking through the neighborhood as like being in an episode of the Twilight Zone. Yet as hard as the experience was personally, he was also looking with anthropological eye at the process taking place around him, and using it as a teaching tool. In this way, what might be seen as a failure gathers some benefit to it, and we trust that anthropological practitioners will have much to contribute to future rapid response policies. We look forward to hearing from you.

NAPA NEWS

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



NAPA has had a very busy fall, perhaps busier than other years. In just a few weeks the first annual EPIC conference will be held. EPIC 2005 (Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Conference) is sponsored by Microsoft and Intel, with co-sponsorship from NAPA. The conference will convene in Redmond, WA, November 14th & 15th, and will bring together anthropologists and others who are engaged in thinking about the practice of anthropology and the theoretical and methodological development of ethnography in industry. This is a very exciting venture with an international group of presenters that promises to further our knowledge and understanding of the ways in which ethnography and ethnographers contribute to consumer and corporate work settings. Importantly, the EPIC 2005 conference represents a watershed for practicing anthropologists who have worked in corporate and industrial settings for many years, and often have felt that their contributions to the discipline have gone unnoticed or, worse, been discounted and devalued. EPIC 2005 formally recognizes the importance of their work, for both industry and anthropology. Proceedings of the conference will be published by the AAA and will be available on AnthroSource, and thus will be available to the widest audience possible.

December promises to be equally exciting. In addition to getting ready for the upcoming AAA meetings and all the activity involved with that, such as organizing workshops, scientific paper sessions, invited session, etc., this year NAPA has been working with the AAA Practicing/Professional Work Group (PAWG) to organize a booth for the meeting exhibit hall targeted to anthropologists interested in or working in practicing or professional roles. Although NAPA has had its own exhibit booth for several years, this booth promises to be bigger and better, with on-line resources, instant mentoring, resources, and contacts to local practitioner organizations, publications, and lots more. But most importantly, it represents a significant step forward for all anthropologist who work outside of traditional academic anthropology departments, and especially those who work outside the academy altogether. Every year, more and more anthropology graduates, at all levels of training, enter the labor market and seek employment as practicing or professional anthropologists. Most are anxious to build careers as practicing/professional/applied anthropologists (whatever you want to call them) and they are looking to the AAA and to NAPA to help them succeed in this goal. We believe this exhibit booth is one way to serve this sector of the profession.

Of course, this is all in addition to the "usual" work of NAPA, which this year includes formal acceptance of our five year strategic plan, formulation of the various groups needed to implement the various strategies outlined in the plan, and a kick-off of the real work - the action steps necessary to transform the plan from ideas and dreams into realities. I wrote about our strategic plan in my last SfAA newsletter column, but now it's time to move from words to doing. The world of practicing/professional anthropology is changing, and changing rapidly in some sectors, and NAPA intends to take a leadership position in furthering the position of anthropologists in this evolving world. Join us on December 3rd, for the NAPA Business meeting where we hope to formally "unveil" our strategic plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Call For 2006 Malinowski Award Nominations. The Society invites nominations for the prestigious Bronislaw Malinowski Award. The deadline for receipt of nominations is January 15.

The Award honors the lifetime achievements of a senior social scientist. The honoree is invited to present an address to a plenary session of the annual meeting of the Society. The description of the Award notes that candidates "should be closely identified with the social sciences, whether from within or without the academy.

The career of the nominee should reflect a broad concern for the human condition and achievements which further the application of the social sciences to solving human problems."

An appropriate nomination package should include a 2-3-page letter of nomination detailing the history and accomplishments of the nominee. The package should also include a completed curriculum vita and 5-7 letters of support. A sample of the most important publications of the nominee (a maximum of five complete publications) should be included. The package may include a copy of the title pages of additional journals or reports. Please contact the SfAA Office for additional information on the appropriate contents of the nomination dossier (405) 843-5113.

The Society first initiated an award to honor Bronislaw Malinowski in 1950, noting that he had been one of the original members of SfAA and prior to his death, "one of its strongest supporters". The focus of the Award shifted in the early 1970's to an honor for a senior social scientist. Previous recipients have included Gonzalo Aguirre Beltran, Gunnar Myrdal, Edward Spicer, Margaret Clark and Conrad Arensberg. Please send your nomination package to Society for Applied Anthropology, Attn: Prof. Lenore Manderson, Chair, Malinowski Award Committee, P. O. Box 2436, Oklahoma City, OK 73101.



The American Philosophical Society Library Resident Research Fellowships for conducting research in its collections. The Society's Library is a leading international center for historical and anthropological research in the history of American science and technology and its European roots, as well as early American history and culture. The Library has significant holdings in linguistics, anthropology and Native American languages, including the papers of Franz Boas, Frank Speck, Elsie Clews Parsons, and others. The Native American manuscripts equal about twenty per cent of the total manu-

script collections in the Library. Approximately 350 tribes and languages are represented, some in great depth. Items date from the sixteenth century to the present, with the greatest concentration from the periods 1780-1840 and 1890 to the present. While the primary emphasis of these collections is linguistics, supporting and independent materials constitute no mean portion of the whole.

The fellowships, funded by a number of generous benefactors, are intended to encourage research in the Library's collections by scholars who reside beyond a 75-mile radius of Philadelphia. The fellowships are open to both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals who are holders of the Ph.D. or the equivalent, Ph.D. candidates who have passed their preliminary examinations, and independent scholars. Applicants in any relevant field of scholarship may apply. The stipend is \$2,000 per month, and the term of the fellowship is a minimum of one month and a maximum of three, taken between June 1, 2006 and May 31, 2006. Fellowships are usually of one month in duration, and seldom exceed two months. Fellows are expected to be in residence at the Library for four to twelve consecutive weeks, depending upon the length of their award.

Applications are due no later than March 1, 2006. This is a receipt deadline. Applicants will be informed by mail whether all materials were received. For additional information call (215) 440-3443 or send an email inquiry to jjahern@amphilsoc.org. Notification is sent in May. Complete application information and forms are available at our website: www.amphilsoc.org/grants/resident.htm. The receipt deadline is March 1. Applications will be evaluated based on the quality of the project, the letters of recommendation, and the relevance of the Library's collections to the project. Address applications or inquiries to: Library Resident Research Fellowships, American Philosophical Society Library, 105 South Fifth St., Philadelphia, PA 19106-3386. Telephone: (215) 440-3400.



2006 Oak Human Rights Fellowship: Human Rights And The Environment.

The Oak Institute for the Study of International Human Rights at Colby College is soliciting nominations and applications for the Oak Human Rights Fellowship for the Fall of 2006. The Oak Fellowship provides an opportunity for prominent practitioners in international human rights to take a sabbatical leave from their work and spend a semester (September - December 2006) as a scholar-in-residence at Colby College. This provides the Fellow time for reflection, research, writing, and teaching. Following the period of the award, it is expected that the Fellow will return to his or her human rights work.

For the fall of 2006, the Oak Institute seeks a human rights practitioner working on environmental issues that affect the rights of individuals and communities. Possible areas of expertise include, but are not limited to: exposing or mobilizing against environmental dangers to human health, preserving ecosystems on which traditional communities depend, environmental justice, indigenous rights and the environment, rehabilitation and compensation for environmental damages, and the application of rights-based approaches to environmental protection.

Applications from those who are currently or were recently involved in "on-the-ground" work at some level of personal risk are encouraged. The Oak Fellow's responsibilities include teaching an informal course on the human rights issue on which the Fellow works, participation in a lecture series or symposium in the Fellow's area of expertise, and becoming part of the intellectual life of the campus, particularly with our students. The Fellow will receive a \$32,000 stipend and College fringe benefits, including round-trip transportation from the Fellow's home site, apartment housing for a family, the use of a car, and meals on campus. The Fellow will also receive research support, including office space, a computer, library facilities, and a student research assistant.

Nominations and applications should be sent to: Kenneth A. Rodman, Director, or Kate O'Halloran, Associate Director, Oak Institute for the Study of International Human Rights, Colby College, Waterville ME 04901, Email: oakhr@colby.edu, Phone: (207) 859-5310, Fax: (207) 859-5229. Completed applications must arrive no later than January 13, 2006. More information, including application, is available on the Institute's website at <http://www.colby.edu/oak>. Final selections should be announced by April 30, 2006.

FROM THE EDITOR

The careful reader of the *Newsletter* (and I assume this applies to all of you) will note that I begin many columns with some observation of the weather. After all, it is something we do in the upper Midwest. "Nice day we're having" or "Whew! It sure sf hot (or cold) today" are how conversations begin. Garrison Keillor, after all, has made many dollars writing about just these things. Anyhow, it's early November and it is a simply gorgeous fall day in Ames. About half of the trees that are going to drop their leaves



have already done so. Those still in the process of shedding their foliage have colors that are worthy of being photographed for inclusion in coffee-table books. Students are walking before my window in paraphernalia much more in keeping with the finery usually worn in early September. Any time now we can expect a good snowstorm and memories of days like this will quickly retreat to some far recess in my brain.

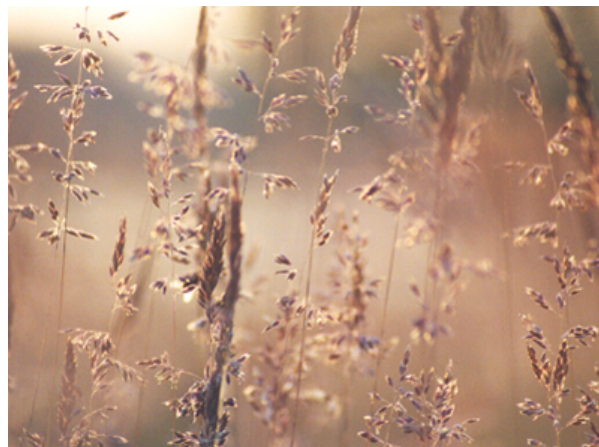
In the May 04 issue of the *Newsletter*, there was an article about the creation of an Advancement Committee that the SfAA leadership has commissioned to work on fund raising projects for the Society. The committee has moved rather slowly (and I say this with some embarrassment as I am chairing - I like to think of my role as co-chair, but that's not really the case - this operation). We are currently doing two things. First, we are working with the SfAA administrative office and the Board of Directors to identify potential donors. We are not talking about good citizens who might contribute \$25 or even \$1000, but perhaps colleagues who might make a substantially larger commitment.

Second, a key to the success in raising monies is to have a short list of projects that will resonate well with donors. We think that there are two things that might be a good place to start. First, would you as members be interested in building an endowment that would allow the SfAA to bring more students to the meetings. Along these lines, we like the idea of building up the endowments of the Spicer and Jones awards. Second, we believe that having a healthy fund to bring international colleagues to our meetings would make sense and a call for support would be attractive to many of our members. Please give me your thoughts on these items and feel free to suggest other projects that we might consider.

I hope to see many of you at next month's meetings of the American Anthropological Association. If not there, we all look forward to the annual SfAA meetings in Vancouver, BC. Finally, as always we appreciate receiving materials for the *Newsletter* and would welcome materials for the February issue. Please get things to me by January 24, 2006.

Mike Whiteford [jefe@iastate.edu]

Photograph by Iowa State Student John Schmitz



The SfAA *Newsletter* is published by the Society for Applied Anthropology and is a benefit of membership in the Society. Non-members may purchase subscriptions at a cost of \$10.00 for U.S. residents and \$15.00 for non-U.S. residents. Checks or money orders should be made payable to the Society for Applied Anthropology.

All contributions reflect the views of the authors and not necessarily viewpoints adopted by the Society for Applied Anthropology, the institutions with which the authors are affiliated, or the organizations involved in the *Newsletter's* production.

Items to be included in the *Newsletter* should be sent to: Michael B. Whiteford, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, 202 Catt Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1301, E-mail: jefe@iastate.edu. Telephone: 515/294-43220; fax 515/294-1303. The contributor's telephone number and e-mail address should be included, and the professional affiliations of all persons mentioned in the copy should be given.

Changes of address and subscription requests should be directed to: SfAA Business Office, P.O. Box 2436, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-2436 (405/843-5113); E-mail [<info@sfaa.net>](mailto:info@sfaa.net). Visit our website at [<http://www.sfaa.net/>](http://www.sfaa.net/).

Society for Applied Anthropology
P.O. Box 2436
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-2436

**Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oklahoma City, OK
Permit N. 1010**