

# Society for Applied Anthropology Newsletter

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## SfAA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Linda Bennett <lbennett@Memphis.edu>  
University of Memphis

The Society has a full and exciting agenda for the year 2000. We eagerly anticipate the 2000 Annual Meeting in San Francisco (March 22 through March 25). With an especially large program planned, sessions will begin on Wednesday morning. The expanded schedule is due in part because the Society for Medical Anthropology is meeting with us this year. Program Chair Laurie Price has not only put in yeoman's service in the mountain of work that goes into planning the annual program, she has also been as responsive as possible to requests for changes in the final program. The preliminary program is on the SfAA web site <[www.sfaa.net](http://www.sfaa.net)>. Many local anthropologists and non-anthropologists from the San Francisco Bay Area are helping out in the local arrangements for the program.

Among the diverse and numerous special sessions being planned for the meetings, I'd like to mention three. Professor María Eugenia Bozzoli de Wille, Departamento de Antropología, Universidad de Costa Rica, will receive the Malinowski Award during the Friday evening awards ceremony and will deliver the Malinowski Lecture. A special session in honor of Virginia Olesen, University of California, San Francisco, will be held on the topic of "Women and Health." And the Peter K. New Student Paper Award will be given; the recipient will be announced at the meeting and the paper will be presented.

We are already planning the 2001 meetings which will be held in Mérida, México, from March 28 – April 1. Mark Grey, University of Northern Iowa, will be Program Chair for those meetings. Because of the highly enthusiastic response the Society received from colleagues in Mérida, the SfAA Officers and Board of Directors voted at our meeting in Chicago to hold the 2001 meetings in Mérida, even though it will be a

year earlier than our regular cycle of international meetings. Professor Francisco Fernández Repetto, Dean of Anthropological Studies of the University of Mérida, has been particularly supportive of our meeting there, as has the Rector of the University. I remember with great fondness our 1978 meetings which were held in Mérida.

A special event already planned for the 2001 meeting is a jointly sponsored SfAA-School of American Research plenary session in on "Community Building," with a reception. Stan Hyland, University of Memphis, will chair the plenary session. As plans develop for the plenary, we will provide more details.

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Between now and the San Francisco meetings, we will be holding a brainstorming meeting here in Memphis on the “consortium initiative” with representatives of nine departments of anthropology that have a major commitment to education and training in applied anthropology. For this initial meeting, representatives will be coming from the University of South Florida, University of Kentucky, University of Maryland, American University, Wayne State University, Oregon State University, Northern Arizona University, California State University at Long Beach, and University of Memphis. I have been calling this initiative “a consortium” of applied anthropology programs, but “network” is probably a more appropriate term. I am envisioning this initial meeting leading to an inclusive network of many more programs, including possibly some outside of the traditional confines of anthropology. Our Memphis meeting will be February 10-12, and is being subsidized entirely by the departments of each representative and the University of Memphis’ Department of Anthropology.

At the Memphis meeting, we will be discussing the following issues:

- new possibilities and directions in anthropological practice
- better understanding how applied programs work
- exchange of internship/practicum opportunities
- possible periodic exchanges of faculty
- cooperation in research activities and development
- assisting other departments in developing applied programs
- possible joint sharing of resources across our programs
- cross-fertilization of student groups
- cultivation of new approaches to education and training in applied anthropology
- identifying the knowledge and skills students need to acquire from applied programs in order to become employed and do well in their career
- working with university administrators to convince them that such programs are worthwhile and need support
- potential for seeking outside support for the development of the consortium.

We will address both overall conceptual issues of where we should/could be going with our programs and, very importantly, an agenda and schedule for seriously attempting to implement these ideas.

Hopefully building on the initial discussions at the Memphis meeting, participants will hold an open forum Wednesday evening at the San Francisco meet-

ings on the same topic. We will make a report on our earlier meeting and broaden the discussion to other programs and ideas. I strongly urge you to consider participating in the forum.

I look forward to seeing you in San Francisco.

## SECRETARY’S REPORT

By Amy K. Wolfe <ami@ornl.gov>  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory

The SfAA Board of Directors met on Saturday, November 20, 1999, in Chicago. Many issues were discussed and the Board heard reports from a number of committees. This article summarizes some of the highlights of that meeting.

President Linda Bennett thanked committee chairs and committee members who rotated off the Board — Rob Winthrop (Policy Committee), Robert Alvarez (Malinowski Award Committee), Carla Guerron-Montero (Student Committee), Jeff Longhofer (Internet Committee), Diego Vigil (Margaret Mead Award Committee), Chester Bateman (Student Communications Committee). Linda expressed special thanks to Dennis Wiedman, the Society’s outgoing Treasurer, highlighting his efforts in long-range planning and tying the long-range plan to the Society’s budget. Tom Arcury began his official duties as Treasurer in January. Among the new committee chairs are Jim Greenberg (Malinowski Award Committee), Jill Korbin (Mead Award Committee; Sue Estroff is the AAA chair), Paul Durrenberger and Linda Lampl (Public Policy Committee), Willie Baber (Del Jones Memorial Fund), and Pat Higgins (Monograph Series). The Board agreed to establish a new, five-member Sol Tax Award Committee.

Allan Burns, chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, provided the Board with a proposed slate of candidates. The Board approved the slate, allowing time for fellows’ suggestions for other candidates. Ballots have been mailed to the membership. The Board voted to approve the budget as prepared by Dennis Wiedman and discussed by the Finance Committee. It also agreed that the president and treasurer have the authority to decide on expenditures from the Society’s contingency fund. After discussing the merits and problems associated with socially responsible investments, the Board agreed to transfer 5% of its reserve funds to socially responsible investments, and to revisit the issue in a year. Further, the Board voted to increase fees for non-members from \$85 to \$95 and for student non-members from \$30 to \$40. Fees for members of the Society will not change.

Every other year, there are new bids for *Human Organization* production. Because it appears that a 3–5% annual savings is possible with a different company, the Board agreed to terminate its current contract, do a printing with the new company, and evaluate whether the new company meets the Society's needs. The Board agreed to ask Mike Whiteford to continue producing the *Newsletter* for the next three years. Thankfully, Mike agreed.

Laurie Price, program chair for the 2000 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, updated the Board on plans for that meeting. She discussed plans for a plenary session on culture and violence, efforts to involve local practitioners, and ideas for open forums.



The Board voted to hold the 2001 Annual Meeting in Mérida. By holding that meeting in Mexico, the Society will be altering its usual sequence of holding off-US mainland meetings every fourth year. However, the likelihood of strong local institutional support was a key factor influencing the Board's decision. The Board also selected Atlanta, Georgia, as the 2002 annual meeting location.

Board members voted to increase the number of waivers for annual meeting fees from 17 to 20. Program chairs and their committees have the discretion to choose how to expend the funds available for waivers. However, for the San Francisco meeting, the American Indian Affairs Committee will use the three additional waivers to assist students. To encourage attendance by students who may be unable to afford the meetings, the Board is investigating other student travel fund initiatives.

Jeanette Dickerson-Putman described efforts undertaken by the Membership Committee and Carla Guerron-Monterro (Membership Committee, and the Board's student representative) to encourage student membership and participation in the Society. The Board also agreed to consider ways to encourage membership upgrades.

The Board voted unanimously to elect Theresa Trainor as a Fellow of the Society, noting her untiring efforts on behalf of the Society in developing and implementing the EPA-SfAA Cooperative Agreement.

Barbara Johnston discussed the status and prospects for the Society's Environmental Anthropology program. As of November, Barbara was managing 18 grants under the Environmental Protection Agency-SfAA cooperative agreement. In addition to project oversight and development, Barbara is focusing her efforts on information dissemination. One by-product of efforts to develop new projects is an increased interaction with federal agency personnel through which Barbara and Theresa Trainor (US EPA) can highlight how social science can contribute to agency endeavors. Because key decisions about continuing the cooperative agreement on the horizon, the Board established a committee to analyze and provide advice on options for proceeding. Committee members are John Young, Linda Whiteford, Tony Oliver-Smith, Tom Arcury, and Ed Liebow. Barbara will serve as a technical advisor to the committee.

On behalf of the Internet Committee, Ed Liebow and Satish Kedia reported a variety of initiatives aimed at supporting the Society's goals in the shorter- and longer-term. Among their ideas are enhancements to the Society's web page options for enhancing inter-organizational linkages via the web.

Linda Bennett reported on continuing efforts to forge a formal collaboration between the Society and the School of American Research. Several ideas are under discussion, including the possibility of SAR hosting a plenary session at SfAA's 2001 annual meeting (see President's Letter for details).

## MINDING YOUR BUSINESS

By Jude Thomas May <tom@sfaa.net>  
SfAA Business Office  
Oklahoma City, OK

The Officers and the Board of the Society are pleased to announce that Ms. Melissa Checker of New York University has been selected as the winner of the Peter Kong-ming New Student Research Competition for 1999. Ms. Checker's winning submission is entitled, "It's in the Air: Redefining the Environment as a New Metaphor for Old Social Justice Struggles".

Ms. Checker is a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology at New York University where her major professor is Owen M. Lynch. Ms. Checker will present her winning paper at a special session during the annual meetings of the Society in San Francisco, California, March 22-26. At that time, she will

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be presented with a monetary prize (\$1,000) and an engraved Steuben crystal trophy.

The data for Ms. Checker's paper were collected during a field research project involving a group of African American environmental justice activists in Georgia who were protesting the contamination of their community. She has a long-standing interest in this area, having completed earlier a master's thesis on an environmental justice group in Brooklyn.

Ms. Checker received her undergraduate degree (cum laude) from the University of Pennsylvania with majors in English literature and urban folklore. She matriculated at New York University after working for four years in Northern California with several non-profit groups.

The jurors for the New Competition also awarded second place to Ms. Karen Schifferdecker, a doctoral student at the University of Connecticut. Ms. Schifferdecker's submission is entitled, "Poison in the Honey: Gender Ideologies and Sexual Relations Among Youth in Dar es Salaam". Her research is being directed by Penn Handwerker in the Department of Anthropology.

The New Competition and Award is sponsored annually by the Society. It honors a former president of the Society, the late Professor Peter Kong-ming New. The Competition is made possible by a generous bequest from Prof. New's widow, Mary Louie New. Each year, the Competition accepts submissions from graduate and undergraduate students in the United States and abroad. The Competition is juried by a panel of distinguished social scientists. The Award was started in 1990. Since that time, the papers of several of the winners have been reviewed and published in the Society's journal, *Human Organization*.

You may obtain additional information on the Award and the Competition by contacting the SfAA Office, or by visiting our web page <[www.sfaa.net](http://www.sfaa.net)>.

## **A TRIBUTE TO SOL TAX**

By Darby C. Stapp <[Darby.Stapp@pnl.gov](mailto:Darby.Stapp@pnl.gov)>  
PNNL Hanford Cultural Resources Project Manager  
Richland, WA

**I**t is a fitting and timely tribute that the SfAA has decided to name its Distinguished Service Award after the late Professor Sol Tax. Dr. Tax will be remembered for many things from his remarkable career, including the international journal *Current Anthropology* and the concept of action anthropology. Yet, while Tax is a central figure in the applied field, you

would not know it from the amount of space devoted him by authors of anthropological textbooks. Articles in journals do appear from time to time, but few anthropologists, in particular the younger among us, seem even to know who this great man was. This sad state of affairs should be corrected, and Tax's vision for anthropology revisited.

### **The SfAA has decided to name its Distinguished Service Award after the late Professor Sol Tax.**

Among his important contributions, I find that the concept of action anthropology continues to be especially relevant in today's world. Tax began to promote this approach to anthropological practice in the 1940s and 1950s when he called on anthropologists to enable "disaffected and distressed groups to take charge of their own destinies in their own ways" (Lurie 1973). He envisioned our field in service to cultural groups as facilitators to their agendas — perhaps assisting in the identification of problems from the group's own perspective, and helping to develop solutions that make sense to the community. Anthropologists might provide technical expertise, or share ideas for solutions, or help find financial resources for the group. In short, the role is that of a consultant, rather than a researcher (though Tax did expect anthropologists to bring their experiences back to anthropology and learn from it).

In 1973, Nancy Lurie (1973) suggested that "it may be that what we designate as action anthropology is really what anthropology as a whole is becoming". Twenty-five years later, we know that this prophecy has not fully been realized. On the other hand, our field may be closer to it than many of us recognize, both because action anthropology tends to go unnamed as such, and because it tends to be low profile in practice. In my own experience, I know many anthropologists assisting Native Americans in the development of their own programs whose work fits within the action anthropology paradigm. I suspect that if we polled applied anthropologists working in non-academic settings (and who certainly outnumber those employed in academia), we would find many whose work is congruous with Tax's concept. If this is the case, why don't most of us who are helping groups achieve self-determination use the rubric of action anthropology, or connect our current practice to Tax's development of the concept? For some rea-

son, action anthropology fell out of view as a paradigm for the work of our discipline. In part, its fall may be attributable to the increasing tendency of applied anthropologists to splinter into specialties and topical interest groups (look at the index in the NAPA/SfAA 1996 Directory of Members to see how far we have gone in this direction). The result has been a decline in broader thinking about frameworks that unite our practices.

I encourage applied anthropologists to begin to reverse this splintering. Action anthropology provides one fruitful approach that would benefit from our continued methodological and theoretical development. Such development is not the mandate of any particular segment of our field — it must instead be a collective effort. Those anthropologists out working in communities and organizations need help and support from the academic profession. Similarly, the profession needs the knowledge that anthropologists outside the academy are generating if we are to continue to grow as a field.

I know I am not alone in applauding the SfAA for naming the Distinguished Service Award after Sol Tax. The award will bring increased recognition to Tax and perhaps stimulate younger generations of anthropologists to explore and consider his many ideas as they take our field into the future. In that spirit, I will leave you with some words from Tax (Hinshaw 1979) that I have found particularly useful.

- To serve one's fellows, contribute as you can knowledge of the choices available to them; to learn about one's fellows, observe the choices they make.
- Have the respect not to decide for others what is in their best interests; assume you will never understand them that well.
- But do have the courage to protect wherever possible the freedom of others to make those decisions for themselves; and even to make mistakes.
- For oneself, avoid premature choices and action; assume there always is more knowledge to be brought to bear on any matter than is currently available.

#### *Cited Works*

Lurie, Nancy Oestreich. 1973. "Action Anthropology and the American Indian" in *Anthropology and the American Indian*. James, Officer (ed.) San Francisco: Indian Historian Press.

Hinshaw, Robert (ed.). 1979. *Currents in anthropology: Essays in Honor of Sol Tax*. The Hague: Mouton.

## TIG FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

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

Our Anthropology and Intellectual Property Rights Group will undergo some changes this year, and we hope that those who are interested, will become an active part of the change. This means nomination and election of new officers and volunteers to help Anthony McCann manage the information funneled to the listserv (which I understand will be up and running again by the time of March meetings). I would also like to call on my colleagues to infuse our fledgling TIG with new ideas and energy. To make room for the new, I will be resigning my post as President as of the March meetings. The past two years have seen us through the establishment of a listserv, and now a website in the making. We sponsored and hosted a session last year, and will sponsor an Intellectual Property Open Forum this year, to be held on Wednesday, March 22, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Please check the SfAA meeting schedule for room assignments and the time and place of the business meeting. Hope to see you there.

In related IPR news, Anthony has forwarded information on national and international issues, such as UNESCO and ICSU information on biocultural diversity. Sophia Huyer, Executive Director, Women in Global Science and Technology informs us of the following: "The gender advocacy group at the World Conference on Science in Budapest worked hard at and was very successful in getting references made to women's activities and contributions — including the value of traditional knowledge. The groups involved were UNIFEM, the Once and Future Action Network, the Gender Advisory Board of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development and Women in Global Science and Technology." For more information, please visit the web sites at: <[www.wigsat.org/ofan/ofan.html](http://www.wigsat.org/ofan/ofan.html)>, <[www.wigsat.org](http://www.wigsat.org)>, <<http://gab.wigsat.org>>.

In news related to the protection of Native Intellectual Property, the Peruvian government is drafting new IPR protections. An article by Abraham Lama was posted to the IPS News Bulletin, and mentions that the bill, if passed, would "make Peru the third nation in the world to possess such legislation, after the Philippines and Bolivia. But unlike the Bolivian and Philippine laws on access to genetic resources, the Peruvian bill recognizes native communities' own-

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ership of the knowledge they and their ancestors have developed.” For more information, contact Julio Cesar Centeno <jcenteno@telcel.net.ve>.

Call for Symposia and Papers: The ISE 7th Congress planning Committee calls for symposia and/or papers on the following: ethnobiology of human health, intellectual property rights and ethnobiological research, conservation of biological and cultural diversity, sustainable development of plant resources and research protocols. Conference dates are October 23 - 27, 2000. Send abstracts or for more information contact: <rstepp@uga.edu> (University of Georgia). To send your news and announcements, please contact Anthony McCann <atanthony.mccann.ul.ie> (University of Limerick, Ireland).

## SfAA INTERNET COMMITTEE

By Satish Kedia <skkedia@memphis>  
and Ed Liebow <liebow@policycenter.com> Co-Chairs

We have taken several steps recently in our new role with the SfAA Internet Committee in concurrence with the business office and with our predecessors on the committee. As you may have noticed, the SfAA web site moved to a new server <sfaa.net> in October 1999. The new web hosting service provides expanded capacity and functionality as well as a number of other benefits, including faster access for users, better usage reporting, capabilities for secure online transactions, better scripting capabilities, better management of e-mail, more server storage space, key word search capabilities, potential for some online database access, and more. The Business Office reported that in January 2000 alone, the SfAA's homepage had more than 12,000 successful hits.

The Internet Committee has confirmed its current membership. The current committee roster includes: Tom Arcury, Diane Austin, Chester Bateman, John Brett, Neil Hann, Ann Jordan, Jeff Longhofer, Terry Redding, John Sherry, and Susan Weller. We would like to thank Jeff Longhofer, our previous committee chair, for his stewardship and vision, and hope that we can live up to the expectations that have been created. Neil Hann has been instrumental in enhancing and maintaining our internet capabilities and deserves much Kudos.

The committee will focus on two sets of issues in the coming year. First, we plan to make some recommendations for several short-term, concrete actions that can be taken to use Internet to support the Society and its members. Second, we plan to examine sev-

eral longer-term trends in Internet-based electronic communications and their implications for future action planning. The short-term actions include topical discussion groups, publications support (*Newsletter*, *Practicing Anthropology*, *Human Organization*, occasional monographs), book order support, annual meeting support, and expanded support for content areas (e.g., Environmental Anthropology). Longer-term trends and Implications include support for inter-organizational linkages, electronic publications, and internet management models (centralized vs. decentralized) and their staff, resource, and administrative requirements.

Neil Hann has been working on creating electronic discussion forums for the Society. One can review the work accomplished on this project at the old site at: [http://www.telepath.com/sfaa/cgi\\_local/Ultimate.cgi](http://www.telepath.com/sfaa/cgi_local/Ultimate.cgi). We still need to decide what discussion forums to include (up to a total of 9) and identify moderators for those discussion forums who could check periodically to ensure that the discussions stay on track. We will discuss this further at the upcoming SfAA meetings and will be soliciting volunteers. We will be gathering at the Annual Meeting in San Francisco and will continue our dialogue (consult the final program for the exact time and venue). All are welcome to join in the discussion. Please send any comments regarding SfAA internet site to our webmaster Neil Hann <neil@mmcable.com> or either of us (Satish Kedia or Ed Liebow).



## SAN FRANCISCO- LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS SES- SION, FARM TOUR, & DINNER

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

The Food and Agriculture TIG will be presenting a local agriculture and food system theme to activities at the conference in San Francisco. A session entitled “Development of a Local Food System: How do we get involved?” is scheduled for Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. It explores the value of local food systems as an alternative to the industrial food system noting its benefits for small farmers and communities and encouraging anthropologists to become involved. It features three distinguished local practitioners presenting their perspectives on the issue. The panel includes: Judith Redmond, farmer and Direc-



tor of Public Affairs CAFF-Community Alliance with Family Farms; Sibella Kraus, Executive Director of CUEASA-Center for Urban Education About Sustainable Agriculture; and Marion Kalb, Market Development Specialist for the Southland Farmers' Market Association.

A tour scheduled for Thursday morning offers the opportunity to experience the Bay Area's local farming and food system. The tour will visit local small farms and follow the "food chain" to markets and other local food outlets. The cost for the half-day tour will be determined by the number of participants but will be kept below \$25.

On Thursday evening, in keeping with the local food theme, we'll have dinner at Oliveto Restaurant and Cafe, one of San Francisco's great restaurants noted for its Mediterranean cuisine and direct linkages with local small farms. Food from farms visited earlier in the day on the tour may be part of our dinner. The restaurant is offering us a fixed price dinner for \$35 plus gratuity, taxes and wine. The group room is limited to 20 people.

The tour and dinner are separate activities; participate in one or both. For more information or to reserve a spot on the tour or dinner, contact Garry Stephenson, <[garry.stephenson@orst.edu](mailto:garry.stephenson@orst.edu)> or (541) 766-3551. Space for both activities is limited and will be reserved on the first come first served basis. Advance deposits will be required to satisfy local commitments.



**PUBLICATIONS  
COMMITTEE  
UPDATE**

By Ruthbeth Finerman <[finerman@memphis.edu](mailto:finerman@memphis.edu)>  
The University of Memphis

As its title implies, the SfAA Publications Committee is charged with the oversight of all Society publications, including the *Newsletter*, *Practicing Anthropology*, *Human Organization*, and the SfAA Monograph Series. Committee duties include recruiting qualified editors, nurturing the growth of Society journals, and fostering the production of high quality publications.

One of the Committee's most important tasks is to conduct periodic searches for new Editors. The Society has been extremely fortunate in recruiting outstanding candidates for these positions. Last year, Donald Stull took the helm as Editor-in-Chief of *Human Organization*, and the Executive Board renewed

Alexander (Sandy) Ervin's tenure as Editor-in-Chief of *Practicing Anthropology*. This year, Michael Whiteford agreed to serve a second term as *Newsletter* Editor. All three infuse these publications with vision, creativity and relevance (yes, even you, Mike). During the coming year, the Publications Committee plans to work with the Business Office on an initiative to promote journal subscriptions and expand awareness of the Society.

Most recently, the Publication Committee has worked to revitalize the SfAA Monograph Series. The Society will soon release a volume on *Classics of Practicing Anthropology: 1978-1998*, edited by Patricia Higgins and J. Anthony Paredes. Articles originally published in *PA* and selected for this compendium remain remarkably fresh and innovative, demonstrating the real potential of applied anthropology. Another work in progress highlights the Malinowski Award. Tom Weaver edits this volume, which features the public addresses of award winners. Future contributions to the Monograph Series may include a proposed text on applied anthropology and human rights, edited by Carol Nagangast. Another possible publication may reflect on outcomes from an SfAA research fellowship on "The Role of Interfaith Councils and Religious Groups in Superfund Site Identification, Assessment and Remediation." Barbara Rose Johnston, Director of the SfAA Environmental Anthropology Project, will supervise production of this potential volume. SfAA members are encouraged to contact the Publications Committee with proposals for other innovative publications.

At present, members of the Publications Committee include: Ruthbeth Finerman, Thomas Arcury, Sandy Ervin, Sue Estroff, Laurie Krieger, Patricia Marshall, Donald Stull, Alaka Wali and Michael Whiteford. Finerman chairs the committee through 2001. As Editors, Ervin, Stull and Whiteford serve as ex officio Committee members. Alaka Wali, Monograph Series Editor, will complete her term in 2000, as will Arcury and Marshall. Krieger will remain on the Committee through 2002, and Estroff will serve as Committee liaison to the Executive Board through 2003. This year, Patricia Higgins will assume Wali's duties as Monograph Series Editor. Additional Committee members are needed. If you are interested in serving, please communicate with SfAA President Linda Bennett through the Business Office, or contact Ruthbeth Finerman, SfAA Publications Committee Chair, Department of Anthropology, Campus Box 526671, The University of Memphis, Memphis, TN 38152; Phone (901)678-3334; Fax (901)678-2069.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ANTHROPOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

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

The SfAA Environmental Anthropology Project Fellowship Program is pleased to announce the commencement of two new fellowship projects. Dr. Patricia Townsend has been awarded a research fellowship to explore “The Role of Interfaith Councils and Religious Groups in Superfund Site Identification, Assessment, and Remediation.” The project will involve development of an annotated bibliography that will consist of case studies, thesis, dissertations and public documents involving social justice environmentalism at SUPERFUND sites. This includes those archival works that document the historical role of religious groups in identifying environmental hazards and organizing community-based struggles to gain information and access to technical assistance. This annotated bibliography will be published on the SfAA website. Please forward your suggestions concerning relevant material to Patricia Townsend at <pkt2@earthlink.net>.

This project also involves ethnographic fieldwork to document the history of public participation, issues, and outcomes as part of a broader effort to develop case

study analysis of the role of interfaith councils and religious groups in SUPERFUND site identification, assessment and remediation. Currently the sites are identified as Love Canal, New York, copper mining wastes on the Clark Fork River in Montana, and the Army Depot site in Memphis, Tennessee. Sites for the case studies may change as the project develops. While each site is intrinsically interesting, comparative analysis of the communities and their social justice/ecopolitical history allows consideration of a number of questions, including what effects do the policy statements of national religious bodies have at local level?

The project design reflects the SfAA’s requirement that fellowship projects involve collaborative and participatory approaches to design, fieldwork, and reporting. Townsend will be working with key members of the environmental and religious communities to elicit their views on the role of religious groups in identify-

ing environmental hazards, and in organizing community-based struggles to gain information and access to technical assistance. Townsend will also collaborate with other social scientists on the fieldwork and analysis of one or more case studies. SfAA members with expertise on the issues or familiarity with the Love Canal, Clark Fork River, or Memphis communities are asked to contact Dr. Townsend at the e-mail address above.

The SfAA has also awarded a technical assistance fellowship to Dr. Carmen Burch to support collaborative work with the Zuni Nation on the “Exploration of spiritual, social and cultural values as driving forces in wetland protection on Native American lands.” The Zuni have developed a plan for framing resource management and wetland protection efforts attuned to local decision-making processes and with scope for incorporating community cultural and religious views on wetlands. However, the Zuni Conservation Project must still operate within the larger institutional matrix laid down by state and federal policy. This raises questions concerning to what degree, and in what ways state and federal policies and actions hinder or facilitate Zuni efforts?

This project proposes delineating tribal perspectives regarding appropriate wetland management policies, and contrasting these views in relation to state and federal water management perspectives and agendas. Specific

objectives include the description of the components of culturally appropriate paradigms for sustainable resource management in the local context and the exploration of how these paradigms guide tribal activities directed toward wetlands management. The project further hopes to identify factors promoting or constraining the implementation of culturally-appropriate wetland resource management regimes in the context of overall watershed health.

This fellowship has been developed in collaboration with the Zuni Department of Natural Resources Research Committee. Its emphasis, the documentation of the interface between tribal and state/federal agencies in the context of a specific project, is designed to complement work in ongoing Zuni Cultural Area Wetlands Project (EPA funding to restore a culturally significant wetlands site). Anticipated project activities include a review of the environmental and social science documents and published literature pertain-

**Townsend will be working with key members of the environmental and religious communities to elicit their views on the role of religious groups in identifying environmental hazards, and in organizing community-based struggles.**



ing to wetlands and the Zuni. An annotated bibliography will be prepared using bibliographic software which includes the above, and other related case studies, reports, thesis and dissertations that explore efforts to incorporate Native American spiritual and cultural values in water resource management efforts. Because of the sensitivity of issues related to religious concerns, specific research activities at Zuni will be reviewed, evaluated, and planned with the collaboration and advice of the local community-based mentor.

Informal and semi-structured interviews with Zuni Department of Natural and Cultural Resources staff will provide baseline information on local resource managers perspectives on problems tied to the implementation of culturally appropriate management regimens. Interviews will be conducted with representatives from regional, state and federal agencies responsible for water resource management to gain their perspectives on water policy, wetland protection, and riparian rehabilitation issues on Pueblo lands. Parallel topics will be explored through interviews with the environmental science community and coalitions actively involved with wetlands protection. An analysis of research data will be undertaken with the participation of the community-based mentor.

Subject to Zuni approval, avenues for the presentation of research findings include the Society's annual meetings, local forums, and a case study jointly authored with the community-based mentor. Copies of a final report which will include bibliographic reviews will be submitted to EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds (OWOW), the SfAA, regional, state, and federal agencies who have contributed to the fellowship work, and the Zuni Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. SfAA members interested in learning more about this project or contributing their own knowledge and expertise can contact Carmen Burch at <Carmburch@aol.com>.

## REPORT FROM HOEDITOR

By Robert Hackenberg  
<hackenbr@spot.Colorado.EDU>  
and Donald Stull <stull@lark.cc.ukans.edu>

In recent months *Human Organization* has received requests to publish sets of manuscripts exploring a major topic. The proponent is expected to serve as guest editor and the package itself becomes a special section if accepted. Most often, the submissions will originate in invited sessions presented at annual meetings of the SfAA or a similar venue.

The argument for occasional in-depth coverage arises from the rapid expansion of applied anthropology and the proliferation of topics addressed by the membership of SfAA. Our annual meetings give equal status to a diverse set of subjects. Medical, urban, rural, environmental, industrial, managerial, occupational, commercial, and ideological topics are prominent within a much more inclusive universe. Boundaries are further dimmed and disappear when we receive reminders from prominent members that SfAA and its journal were intended to accommodate "applied behavioral science" and not applied anthropology alone.

**We believe that a balance can be struck between in-depth coverage and individually submitted manuscripts.**

At present *HO's* table of contents reflects this cafeteria of offerings extracted from our mailbox and subjected to quality control via peer review rather than screening for subject matter. While this process is intentionally democratic, it yields an editorial product which is neither cumulative nor focused.

We believe that a balance can be struck between in-depth coverage and individually submitted manuscripts. Subjects for broadened treatment may be proposed by editorial and advisory boards or by members at large. Topics recently proposed and offered here as examples include the following: 1) the fate of pastoral people confronting competing development activities; 2) the consequences of forced resettlement for displaced communities; 3) implications of bi-national industrialization on the US-Mexico border; 4) survival of organic food producers in an agribusiness environment.

There follows some suggested ground rules to guide possible proponents and to assist the editors in screening proposals. The justification for a topical section resides in its theme. *HO* is dedicated to "application of scientific principles controlling human behavior to practical problems," as it says in SfAA's articles of incorporation. The theme should be consistent with the purpose of the journal and the proponent must make a case for its appeal to a significant segment of the membership.

We should recognize the formative nature of applied social science. Theories and methods and examples of the "middle range" with easily perceived applications to problem situations in comparative environments should be preferred. Similar problems

(continued on page 10)

recur across the spectrum of world communities. Shortages of food and water, health services and employment, housing and sanitation are found in abundance in Asia, Africa and Latin America and less frequently at home. An ideal special topic would document the cross-regional application of a common intervention. A recent example is the success of the Grameen Bank: this microenterprise loan program which began in Bangladesh has now become universal.

The quest editor-to-be occupies a pivotal position in the presentation of a topic for consideration. The introductory essay must provide a convincing rationale. It must contain a synopsis of the problem with references to the critical literature. It should explain important gaps and indicate possible insights and solutions to be presented in the work of the contributors. It should underscore themes and processes that provide linkage across the set of contributed essays.

The contributors should offer specific treatments of the theme lodged in a well-documented context. They should provide analysis that explores the roots of the problem and opens the door to either possible or actual interventions. Insights identifying strategies that either worked, or failed to work or might have worked, have special value to applied practitioners.

Each essay must possess “stand alone” quality as a well-constructed statement that provides substantial arguments exploring and expanding the theme. Essays may be cross-referenced but overlap, redundancy and repetition are not acceptable. Space is always at a premium.

A topical section is not a monograph and will never approximate the coherence and thematic development of the work of a single author. Each of the essayists is entitled to employ a personal style (see John Van Maanen 1988, *Tales from the Field*, for alternatives). Still proponents and invited contributors should remember that their proposals may fall victim to the same defect that triggers the rejection of many edited volumes: disconnected essays with heterogeneous subject matter providing no compelling reason for appearing together.

The proportion of *HO* space to be allocated to topical sections will not be reserved in advance. We have no preconceptions on this subject. Our goal remains the same: to publish the highest quality manuscripts presented to us. Articles proposed for topical sections will be subjected to the same peer review as unsolicited material. We do not intend to accord them a competitive advantage.

Persons intending to submit a collection on a special topic should contact us early in the process. Before sending manuscripts, editors should write Rob-

ert Hackenberg or Don Stull, describing the collection and its contents. The description should address the significance of the topic for applied social science and include detailed abstracts of the proposed manuscripts with brief bio-data on the authors.

## REPORT FROM PA EDITOR

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

The Spring issue of *PA* is an Editor’s choice selection titled “Expanding the Frontiers of Anthropological Practice.” Two interesting and unusual contributions especially illustrate the title. Daniel LeBas, an M.A. student in anthropology at the University of Nevada, is a specialist in removing insect colonies that threaten human activities. He describes both his professional work and his policy research surrounding the expansion of Africanized Honey Bees (sometimes inappropriately labeled “killer” bees) into the U.S. LeBas shows many anthropological implications in this interspecies tension. As a second example, Michael Brooker of Montreal has parlayed his anthropological training into a consulting business that focuses on weight reduction. He does this partly by exploring with his clients the relationships of weight gain to culture.

Vivian Rohrl expands the notion of action research with class projects involving students and the residents of an ethnically mixed zone in San Diego, California. Pellegrino Luciano and his colleagues have been investigating the behavior of intravenous drug-using prostitutes in New York City and have recommendations for reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS. Marion Dobbert of the University of Minnesota explores the “Darwinian spiral” and effectiveness of two evaluation projects that dealt with education.

**I would like to encourage readers to contribute short commentary pieces (3-6 double-spaced pages) on practicing issues, especially those likely to foster debate.**

Also about evaluation, Barbara Knox-Seith, writes of her work with not-for-profit organizations that provide services for Hispanic clients in Seattle. Again relevant to human service agencies and Hispanic people, Mikel Hogan-Garcia and Cynthia Schienberg,

describe an organization in Southern California that has been built consistently using anthropological principles from its beginning.

John Young, the SfAA's immediate past president, provides an article about core values that dictate the norms of interaction in Chinese business. It pays particular attention to cultural notions of situation and time and the problems Americans may have in dealing successfully with Chinese counterparts. This issue will also contain book reviews, "Sources," and Rob Winthrop's column, the "Real World," will likely reflect on the WTO events in Seattle.

Although space in *PA* remains tight regarding special issues and individually submitted articles, I would like to encourage readers to contribute short commentary pieces (3-6 double-spaced pages) on practicing issues, especially those likely to foster debate.

Those who send me books for review from the U.S.A. should declare on the package that it is an academic book for review with no commercial value. It gets a bit expensive paying duty for these books out of my own pocket, yet then only have to turn around and send them back to the U.S. once I have found a reviewer. (Our voracious Canadian Department of Revenue is always looking for some new thing to tax. Rumor has it that they are now considering the rubber tips on crutches). Lately I have stopped collecting these books at the post office and I presume they are now being returned to the senders. The publisher must legitimately wonder why I am not accepting them. Now they will know. Most books do make it through the gauntlet without duty charges, but it has been a bit of crap shoot. A solution might be to have a book review editor located in the U.S. Any volunteers? Also, should you wish a book to be reviewed, be sure to address it to the Editor of *Practicing Anthropology*. Otherwise, it is impossible to decide whether the books are intended for review or for my own use.

The addresses and phone numbers for the editorial office of *Practicing Anthropology* are: Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, 55 Campus Drive, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 5B1, Canada; the Office Phone: (306) 966-4176; Home Phone (306) 343-5944; Departmental Fax: (306) 966-5640.



## THE POLITICAL ECOLOGY OF NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

By Robert M. Emanuel <emanuel@u.arizona.edu>  
University of Arizona

**E**nvironmental conservation has taken on a new style in the last few years. It has gone from being a field dominated by biological sciences, planners, foresters and others in the natural sciences fields to incorporating a diverse covey of social scientists — applied anthropologists among them. At the forthcoming SfAA meetings we host such a session that will highlight three case studies of new and innovative approaches to conservation research, planning and advocacy that include insights gained from political ecology and social sciences research in the U.S.-Mexican borderlands and Australia. Our panel is primarily made up of students from the Applied Anthropology Program at the University of Arizona and will be moderated by James Greenberg, editor of the *Journal of Political Ecology*. The Political Ecology Society will sponsor this session.

## STUDENT CAREER COUNSELING SESSION IN SAN FRANCISCO

By Jeanette Dikerson-Putman <jdickere@iupui.edu>  
Indiana University-Indianapolis

**T**he Membership Committee will sponsor a Student Career Counseling Session at the annual meeting in San Francisco. The session will take place on Thursday March 23rd from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Check at the Registration Desk and/or the Meeting Program for the location of the Session. The Counseling Session is intended to provide one-on-one advice and guidance to students about employment in applied anthropology both inside and outside the academy. Approximately ten applied anthropologists, working in a variety of contexts, will each volunteer one hour of their time to talk with students about their jobs and the types of preparation and skills one would need to perform these jobs. Each anthropologist will also offer suggestions on the preparation of curriculum vitae. Interested students will find a list of participating anthropologists and the times that they will be available for counseling at the Registration Desk for the Annual Meeting. Please come and join us for what we hope will be a successful service for our student membership.

## LPO NEWS

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

At least two regional (local) practitioner organizations are planning annual meetings in the Spring. The Northeastern Anthropological Association (NEAA) will hold its 40th Annual Meeting at York College, CUNY, in Jamaica, New York, April 13-16. Highlights include prizes for graduate and undergraduate papers; invited speaker, Ken Good, on "The Yanomami at the Millennium"; and keynote speaker, Michael Blakey, on "Anthropology's Dilemma on the Eve of the 21st Century." The preliminary program is listed on the website: [www.york.cuny.edu/~divale/nea](http://www.york.cuny.edu/~divale/nea).

The "High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology" (HPSfAA) is celebrating its 20th annual meeting, to be held at the YMCA Center in Estes Park, Colorado, April 7-9. The spectacular scenery of Rocky Mountain National Park will provide a backdrop for the conference titled, "20 in 2000: A Retrospective and a Futuring." Featured are co-keynote speakers, John Van Willigan and Robert Trotter. For more information, see the HPSfAA website: [www.colorado.edu/AppAnth/HPSfAA](http://www.colorado.edu/AppAnth/HPSfAA). HPSfAA also publishes a referred journal, *High Plains Applied Anthropologist*. The editor, Deward Walker, Jr. is currently seeking articles in all areas of applied anthropology as well as commentaries, short communications, and book review essays. Direct inquiries to Dr. Walker at [walkerde@spot.colorado.edu](mailto:walkerde@spot.colorado.edu).

The "Washington Association of Professional Anthropologists" (WAPA) holds monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at the Charles Sumner School, located at the corner of 17th and M Streets, NW, in Washington, D.C. See their website for information about coming events, officers, and committee chairs: [www.smcm.edu/wapa](http://www.smcm.edu/wapa).

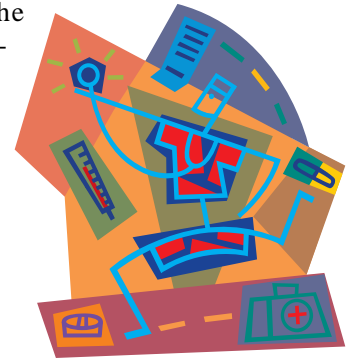
SfAA is inviting LPO leaders to the annual LPO luncheon to be held in conjunction with the SfAA Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The event brings together representatives from most of the active LPOs to share and discuss common issues, concerns, and new directions. Contact Carla Littlefield by March 10, 2000, to make reservations for your LPO representative.

To submit information for the LPO News column or communicate about LPO issues, please contact me.

## POVERTY AND HEALTH: A CALL TO ANTHROPOLOGICAL ACTION

By Merrill Singer <Anthro8566@aol.com>  
Hispanic Health Council

In the classic social science model, researchers are urged to remain value-free, neutral observers who avoid bias by remaining emotionally and socially distant from the subjects of research. Ethnography, which emphasizes an experience-near orientation, challenged this distant-observer approach and instead emphasized participant-observation as the distinct standard of anthropological research. Ethnography is predicated on the epistemological assumption that certain types of social insight are clearest when gained through directly and intimately sharing in the daily activities and concerns of research subjects.



Even within ethnography, of course, limits have been suggested on the nature and type of involvement appropriate for researchers because of fear that a value-free, objective orientation be completely lost. However, these limits have been challenged by several brands of value-explicit applied anthropology, including both advocacy anthropology and action anthropology, on the grounds that value-free research is neither achievable nor desirable. From this perspective, the assertion is made that in a conflicted social situation, especially in settings in which gross inequalities, painful structural violence, and intense social suffering are the norm, neutrality is, in fact, a kind of partisanship on behalf of the status quo. Building on this orientation to applied research, some critical anthropologists working in the health arena have argued for an engaged approach to disciplinary work. It is not sufficient simply to understand health and social issues, they maintain, rather our ultimate objective must be to use our skills and the products of our research in the cause of changing culturally inappropriate, oppressive, and exploitive patterns in the health arena and beyond. Lest this approach be seen as inherently unscientific, it bears stressing that central to the engaged participation model is the assumption that the researcher gains useful insight through ac-

tive and committed involvement in activities like direct service/care delivery or advocacy.

In this light, and in keeping with the emergent spirit of building a public interest focus in anthropology, that I would like to raise the issue of rampant disparities in health and health care among the U.S. poor, especially among impoverished people of color. The ultimate causes of these disparities merits further study, but without doubt, an immediate cause is unequal access to health insurance.

A recent Commonwealth Fund study, for example, found that the overall rate of uninsurance in the U.S. is 18%. However, while the rate is 14% for whites, for African Americans it stands at 24% and for Latinos the rate soars to 38%. Similarly, while 26% of white adults in the U.S. lack a regular doctor, the rate for African Americans is 39% and for Hispanics it is 46%. Moreover, twice as many African Americans as whites report that access to specialty medical care is a major problem for them. As a result, ethnic minorities, who are significantly over represented among the poor, have far less access to health care than do whites on average. Flowing directly from this inequality are the high rates of infant mortality, chronic and acute diseases, and higher mortality rates.

**The infant mortality rate in the U.S. is now 6 per 1,000 live births for whites and Hispanics; rates for Native Americans and African Americans are 10 and 14.**

Indeed, the statistics on racial disparities in health and health care are fairly striking. Nationally, according to the Commonwealth Fund study, the infant mortality rate in the U.S. is now 6 per 1,000 live births for whites and Hispanics; but the rates for Native Americans and African Americans are 10 and 14 per 1,000 live births respectively. Notably, a breakout of the Puerto Rican infant mortality rate reflects a figure closer to that of African Americans than other Hispanics. Similarly, rates for low-birthweight babies (less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces) are: 6% for whites but 13% for African Americans.

In light of these figures it is important to note that 84% of white women receive first trimester prenatal care but only 71% of African American women do. Adult statistics are also revealing. The survival rate for early-stage lung cancer patients, for example, is 14% for whites but only 11% for African Americans. Notably, African Americans are less likely to receive surgical treatment for lung cancer than are whites. Overall, while 18% of whites rate their health status as

poor, for African Americans and Hispanics this rate is 25% and 24% respectively. Importantly, while 60% of whites are satisfied with their current health care, only 48% of African Americans and 44% of Hispanics are satisfied. Moreover, 19% of African Americans reported that they would receive better health care if they were of a different ethnic group compared to only 3% of whites.

Recently, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and Rep. John Lewis of Georgia introduced legislation to Congress to provide \$350 million to the National Institutes of Health to examine the causes, consequences, and solutions to health and health care disparity. While anthropological support for this effort is desirable, equally important is a commitment among medical and other applied anthropologists to lend their numerous skills to the various local and regional efforts designed to address the problem of critical health and health care disparities.

In Hartford, CT, for example, a Department of Health initiative to carefully examine disparity and to identify the most pressing health and health care issues in the city has three medical anthropologists on a research development team composed of nine members. Many other anthropologists around the country are also involved in such efforts but, given the special ability of anthropologists to conduct experience-near, on-the-ground research with disadvantaged, hidden, out-of-treatment and other medically underserved populations and to develop culturally sensitive and social targeted interventions, there is an enormous need for far greater involvement of anthropologists in this work. Engagement in this issue provides an important opportunity for applied anthropologists to demonstrate nationally and locally the value of our discipline in addressing significant public issues.

## 2001 MEETINGS IN MÉXICO

By Mark Grey <grey@csbs.csbs.uni.edu>  
University of Northern Iowa



Although many of us are only now making plans to attend the San Francisco meetings, it is not too early to be thinking about the 2001 meetings. Block out the period of time from March 28 through April 1 to attend next year's meetings in Mérida, Mexico. If everything goes according to plans, we will use the Fiesta Americana as the host hotel. The theme of the meeting will be "Conflict and Accord in the Postglobal Age." More information will appear in future issues of the *Newsletter*.

## WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ANTHROPOLOGISTS (WAPA)

By Will Sibley <Shadyside@aol.com>  
President (1999-2000)

**W**APA continues to offer an attractive and informative series of monthly meetings in Washington. Monthly meetings are being held at the Sumner School, a reconstructed school building in downtown Washington, ordinarily on the first Tuesday of each month. Out-of-town guests are cordially invited. Prior to each meeting, there is an optional dinner party at a nearby restaurant/bar and following each meeting, members of the audience reconvene at the same site for post-meeting talk and libations.

In December 1999, our speaker was Tom Killion, who heads the repatriation program for the National Museum of Natural History. Though recognizing that not all cases proceed so amicably, Killion discussed repatriation issues with the Cheyenne, which resulted both in the transfer and reburial of Cheyenne skeletal materials and artifacts, but also the voluntary leaving of additional materials at the museum — so that both Cheyenne and others can continue to view and learn from them. Killion discussed in some detail the ways in which the repatriation process is altered the roles of museum leaders and workers, and their relationships with the Native American groups involved as well as with the general public.

In January 2000, Gretchen Schafft (one of WAPA's founders) delivered a moving account of her research concerning anthropologists' roles in Nazi Germany. With a German colleague, Gerhard Zeidler, she has worked since the early 1990s in archival sites in Germany, Poland and the United States. In addition, interviews have been undertaken, in a process often found to be most difficult. Schafft's research raises troubling questions about the relationships between scientists and the policies of their national governments. How ought scientists, anthropologists included, respond if/when their government engages in inhumane behavior.

During the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association held in Chicago in November 1999, I presided over WAPA's 1999 Praxis Award presentation.

The Praxis Award is bestowed every other year to an anthropologist who has done an outstanding project applying anthropology to important human affairs. The 1999 winner was Dr. Virginia Nazarea, a member of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Georgia. Nazarea's project was called the Memory Banking Project. Her project, based initially in the Philippines, involved collecting cultural behavior, beliefs, ritual, and agricultural practices associated with plant materials being collected and preserved to ensure the continuation of genetic diversity of important plant materials. Nazarea was able to persuade her biological and agricultural colleagues of the critical importance of preserving the cultural context of plants as well as the plant materials themselves. At the awards ceremony, Nazarea was accompanied by her daughter and by her colleague Robert Rhodes, himself a former Praxis winner.

**The 1999 Praxis Award winner was Dr. Virginia Nazarea, a member of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Georgia. Nazarea's project was called the Memory Banking Project in the Philippines.**

In 1999, the selection committee also named a winner of Honorable Mention. This award was bestowed upon Robert Trotter of the Department of Anthropology at

Northern Arizona University, along with a number of colleagues from around the world. Their task was the reexamination and redevelopment, for the World Health Organization, of the International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps. The original version of the Classification had been found to have a very poor fit in many cultural circumstances around the world. Using a variety of anthropological research techniques, Trotter and his colleagues accomplished a major revision of the standards.

Also in 1999, two additional individuals received mention. Shirley Buzzard was recognized for her efforts in facilitating the joining of non-profit groups with corporate businesses in cases involving international economic development. Finally, Richard Warren was recognized for his role in utilizing anthropological approaches in gaining rapprochement between contending parties in San Luis Obispo, CA, on the issue of how to respond to and deal with issues of homeless persons.



## SPEAKING TO THE POWERFUL

By Peter J. Nebergall <zigeuner2@juno.com>  
Columbia, MO

In Vol. 10, No. 3 of *SfAA Newsletter*, Paul Durrenberger and Kendall Thu gave us an anguished, eloquent clarion call against the obfuscatory incestuous meaninglessness that pervades so much of cultural anthropology. I recommend their article, “Why We’re Worried About Cultural Anthropology,” to all.

It is not my place to reprise it; we could all add verses to the long, sad song. I would merely point out that while we are, faster and faster, chasing each other’s tails, ‘til we melt like puddles of butter into the ground, our leaders, much amused, are perfectly happy to see us so distracted. Thus we do not question them.

As scholars, we stand in direct succession to the “King’s Wise Men.” For millennia, rulers put questions of policy to their scholars for debate. Sometimes they listened, sometimes they didn’t, but the issues were debated, and sometimes “the voice of reason” was followed. That is not so likely today.

When the Wise Men are not there to advise the Ruler (remember Morgenthau’s *Truth and Power?*), or if they are more interested in arguing opaque points of political advocacy, their Rulers will proceed without them. If the Wise Men keep it up, the Rulers get out of the habit of consulting them; indeed they may decide they are not worth the expense of supporting. They may reduce their budget.

Any scholarly discipline that does not actively engage the world outside its walls quickly lapses into academic irrelevance. This world and its leaders need reasoned advice, solidly based in our core skill -- ethnographic observation. We may not like a policy, or its implications, or even like our leaders very much — but we owe it to our country to provide timely and relevant advice. That advice is indeed “applied anthropology.”

Such application can be a recitation of anthropological fact to people previously unaware of same; or it can be a “hands on” study of a current, real world problem. I write for many publications and organizations, some having to do with military affairs. The subject of “peacekeeping” has been frequently covered, and the writers, often serving military officers, have taken a wide variety of positions, some calling for reply. Remember, these people make and execute our foreign policy — these are the people we need to reach.

For *Defending America*, I have written on terrorism in the age of the state, learning from the mistakes of Vietnam, on the dangers of the mind-set that says “it’s better ‘cuz it’s MADE IN AMERICA,” on the social observations of Marine General Charles Krulak, and on the odd proposal to establish a “Pax Americana,” as an alternative to endless peacekeeping.

I would be happy to share these papers.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A NATIVE SOLUTION TO FIRE MANAGEMENT – SYMPOSIUM IN HOBART, TASMANIA, JULY 2000

By Greg Lehman  
<glehman@postoffice.dpiwe.tas.gov.au>  
Project Manager, Aboriginal Partnerships  
World Heritage Area

Tasmania’s Parks and Wildlife Service and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council invite managers, researchers and indigenous communities to participate in an inter-disciplinary forum which will consider the role of Indigenous knowledge, technologies and people in contemporary fire management. The symposium will be held in Hobart, Tasmania — a city on the doorstep of one of the world’s most beautiful wilderness areas.

In Tasmania, as in other places where fire management is a critical issue, the effects of many thousands of years of human intervention in the landscape are poorly understood and often overlooked. Articulation of scientific and historical understanding with indigenous experience is in its infancy. The symposium will explore the enormous implications for social and economic risk management, concepts of biodiversity and the place of people in the natural world.

This symposium is the first major component of the World Heritage Area Aboriginal Partnerships. Entitled “Native Solutions — Indigenous Knowledge and Today’s Fire Management,” the event will be held in Hobart from July 6-8 of this year.

(continued on page 16)

The event is intended to provide an international platform for people involved in land management, including local communities and researchers, to explore the diverse array of issues relating to fire management — with a focus on the knowledge and participation of indigenous people. The outcomes of the symposium will be particularly important over coming years as more emphasis is placed on partnerships with Aboriginal people in managing reserved land. The symposium will also showcase new fire management strategies which are being developed for addressing dual objectives of risk minimization and conservation of natural and cultural values in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

In recent years an increasing understanding has been developing of the role of Indigenous people and traditional practices in fire ecology. In Tasmania, tentative steps are now being taken toward evaluation and experimental re-introduction of practices which parallel the burning regimes maintained by Aboriginal people over the past several thousand years. However, any proposal for active reintroduction of fire into an area where exclusion has been a key management principle over recent decades will require careful planning and considerable consultation.

Risks to public safety and assets, threats to fire sensitive vegetation and the implications for biodiversity conservation are all important issues for debate. At a more profound level there are questions raised about the ethics of active landscape manipulation, the objectives of biodiversity management and how we value wilderness landscape.

The symposium will have an interdisciplinary theme. It will therefore appeal to a wide range of Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers and practitioners in areas including land management, fire and vegetation ecology and environmental values. Indigenous people and members of other communities with interests in the management of natural and cultural values are also anticipated to make significant contributions.

Papers and workshop proposals are invited to explore issues in fire management including, but not limited to:

- uniting indigenous knowledge and contemporary management practices
- articulation of scientific and indigenous values
- ethics of landscape intervention
- valuing biodiversity
- case studies of indigenous participation
- models for fire management/development
- influencing World Heritage values

A range of field trips will be offered into the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. These will be led by respected authorities in a range of disciplines including fire ecology, biodiversity, alpine and grassland ecology, Indigenous heritage and earth sciences.

Reviewed papers and proceedings of the symposium will be published to provide a useful record of the symposiums outcomes.

Early registrations of interest should be made by e-mail to: <glehman@dpiwe.tas.gov.au>. Please refer to the URL that follows <<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/manage/manage.html>> for further information.

## NEW RESOURCE AT CDC

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published an important new resource entitled, the “Compendium of HIV Prevention Interventions with Evidence of Effectiveness.” This document provides a list of state-of-the-art HIV prevention interventions that have been shown to be effective through rigorous behavioral and social science research. The document is available on the CDC’s division of HIV/AIDS Prevention website. The link is <[http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/hiv\\_aids/pubs/hivcompendium.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/hiv_aids/pubs/hivcompendium.pdf)>. Persons may also request paper copies of the Compendium from NPIN (the former CDC AIDS Clearinghouse) after December 1999. The NPIN website is <<http://www.cdcnpin.org>>. Their phone is (800)458-5231

coming soon!!

## CLASSICS OF PRACTICING ANTHROPOLOGY: 1978 - 1998

edited by

PATRICIA J. HIGGINS & J. ANTHONY PAREDES

Orders will be taken through the SfAA web site or by calling the SfAA Business Office at (405) 843-5113



## THE MARGARET MEAD AWARD

By Jill E. Korbin < jek7@po.cwru.edu >  
Chair, 1999 Margaret Mead Award Committee  
Case Western Reserve University

For those of us who think that anthropology too often goes unrecognized, it is well to remember that for many years Margaret Mead had a place on the list of best known women in the world. She was also the best known anthropologist, bringing anthropology fully into the light of public attention. The Margaret Mead Award celebrates the continuation of this tradition of bringing anthropology to bear on wider societal and cultural issues. The official announcement for this award will appear later this year in *Anthropology News* and the *Society for Applied Anthropology Newsletter*. However, now is the time to be thinking about candidates for this prestigious honor.

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

Nominees for the award must be under 40 years of age on January 1, 2001, or have received the Ph.D. degree after January 1, 1991. Each application must include (1) the nominee's curriculum vitae, (2) letter(s) or recommendation describing the accomplishment and documenting its impact on relevant publics beyond the discipline and (3) other supporting materials, e.g., a book or film.

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

The selection committee consists of two members from the Society for Applied Anthropology and two members from the American Anthropological Association.

Past recipients of the Margaret Mead Award are:

1979 John Ogbu  
1980 Brigitte Jordan  
1981 Nancy Scheper-Hughes  
1982 Mary Elmendorf  
1983 RuthAnn Knudson  
1984 Sue E. Estroff  
1985 Susan C.M. Scrimshaw  
1986 Jill E. Korbin  
1987 Myra Bluebond-Langner  
1988 Alex Stepick III  
1989 Mark Nichter  
1990 Wenda Trevathan  
1991 Will Roscoe  
1993 Leo R. Chavez  
1995 Katherine A. Dettwyler  
1997 Philippe Bourgois

## THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

(This is a re-posting. Please note new open and close dates. If you applied for this job previously, your application is under consideration and it is not necessary to reapply)

*Job No.* 17283 (Temporary Appointed Position)

*Job Title:* Research Associate

*Department:* Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology (BARA)

*Salary:* \$30,000 - \$35,000

*Benefits:* Yes

*Hours:* 40

*Opening:* 11/23/99

*Closing:* 3/10/00

### *Position Summary:*

Applied environmental anthropology, specifically the application of applied methodologies to the study of human-environmental interactions, is a growing research area offering tremendous potential to qualified individuals. The Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology at the University of Arizona is seeking candidates for a research associate position within its Environmental Studies and Natural Resource Management program. The program currently has eight active research projects with federal agencies and tribal governments. The successful candidate will possess the knowledge and experience to become involved immediately in two of the following projects, depending on interest and expertise: -A multi-year study of the impacts of off-shore oil and gas activities on southern Louisiana residents. - The U.S. component of a multi-year international comparative study

(continued on page 18)

of environmental values, natural resources (including fisheries) and policymaking. – A multi-year study of the impacts of climate variability and change on Native American tribes in the southwest. BARA guarantees funding for this position for two years with an expectation that the research associate would work with other faculty members to write proposals for grants that would fund his/her position into the future.

*Duties and Responsibilities:*

- Directs, monitors and participates in research activities including data collection, evaluation and analysis.
- Assists faculty researchers in the planning and designing of research projects, establishing priorities and recommending schedules, timetables and costs.
- Assists faculty researchers and works independently in the preparation and writing of research proposals for new funding sources.
- Co-authors or authors research papers and manuscripts for publications: presents them at conferences and workshops.
- Supervises, monitors or coordinates as needed work of subordinates.
- Contributes to BARA's teaching mission through mentoring.

*Minimum Qualifications:*

- Ph.D. degree in a field appropriate to the area of assignment, with demonstrable knowledge of and experience with natural resource issues in the United States.
- Strong background in U.S. natural resource and environmental issues and policy.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Evidence of the ability to carry out all phases of the research process.
- Experience in participatory community research and innovative approaches to research and teaching in environmental anthropology.
- Demonstrable knowledge of research methods, statistical analysis and development of research databases.
- Demonstrable knowledge of software and database programs, particularly Windows 95 or 98 and Microsoft Office Professional (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access).

To apply, please submit cover letter, resume, names and addresses of three references to:

**Chairs, Search Committee**

BARA/Anthropology, Room 316  
The University of Arizona  
P.O. Box 210030  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0030  
FAX: (520) 621-9608

Please reference job number 17283. For consideration, complete requested documentation must be received by midnight of the closing date.

**CANON NATIONAL PARKS SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE**

Are you a Ph.D. student in need of scholarship support? Is your research in either the biological, physical, social, or cultural sciences? Is your research on issues related to and important to the future of the National Park System? If so, you may be eligible for a Canon National Parks Science Scholarship of \$25,000 per year to complete your research, for a maximum of three years and \$75,000.

The 2000 competition is focused on the following four broad research topics: Biological Sciences: What role do small parks play in the long-term viability of migratory species? Physical Sciences: What physical resources and/or processes are most important to monitor, in order to evaluate ecosystem integrity in national parks? Social Sciences: How does the employment of specialists versus generalists impact the organizational effectiveness of the National Park Service? Cultural Sciences: How does natural and/or prescribed fire affect the preservation of archeological resources? In 2000, eight scholarships will be awarded, two per broad research topic. Copies of the 2000 Announcement and Application are available through the National Park Service website <http://www.nps.gov/socialscience/waso/acts.htm>. Applications must be postmarked no later than June 1, 2000.



## FROM THE EDITOR

Well, the Iowa caucuses are over and I'm sure that's a relief to all of you. It certainly is to me. It's going to be a nice not to have hordes of reporters following candidates across our campus, and I'm still waiting for the secret service people (or the university's maintenance crew) to come retrieve some cables that were left dangling down the back stairs after Al Gore made a visit to our building a couple of months ago. I had grown tired of cartoons of reporters interviewing pigs. (Gary Larson, where are you when we need you? At least his animals often sounded smarter than the people). I'm sure many of you grew weary of news broadcasters interviewing three people in a diner (one of whom must be attired in a cap promoting a tractor or an herbicide and dressed in the requisite coveralls) and quickly concluding they'd actually taken the political pulse of Iowa. Some would even venture further by suggesting that their sample was reflective of the thinking for much of the country before they'd quickly and smugly say, "Back to you, Peter". Some restaurants, motels and food joints will miss the commerce, but not all. Several of these businesses are still smarting from being stiffed by campaign organizations from the 92 and 96 elections. (If you'd reneged on sending in your pledge for the Dukakas campaign, please pay up. It's never too late.) At least one colleague of mine in political science will probably lament no longer being pestered for snappy sound bites. As applied social scientists, watching the Iowa caucus process might be insightful in learning about what not to do.

At the fall Business Meeting I was asked to stay on for another term as Editor of the *Newsletter*, and I have agreed to do so. It made me think about how I got to do this in the first place. A number of years ago I was participating in a methods course that Bob Trotter was hosting at Northern Arizona. While partaking of refreshments one evening in a Flagstaff watering hole, then-President Carole Hill asked me if I would consider being editor. My response was to reach for my beer and whine about being already over committed. Apparently, because it wasn't a firm "no," Carole assumed I'd answered in the affirmative because a month or two later I received an appreciative note from Tom May urging me to start thinking about the next issue and giving me some suggestions on what I should do next.

It has been a joy getting to know and being able to work with so many colleagues, and it definitely compensates for the frantic periods that regularly occur when we are wrapping up issues and I swear I'll never

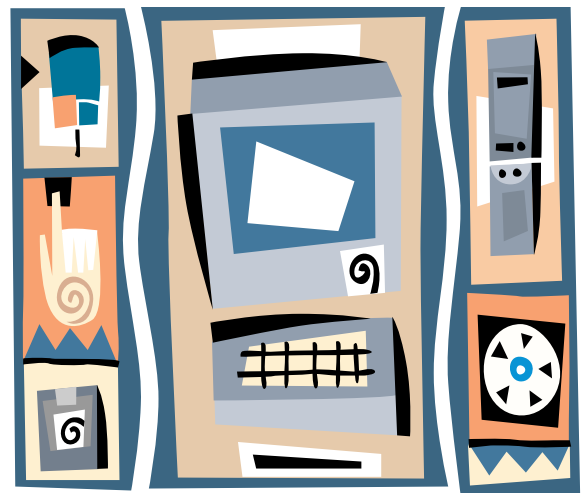
do this again. As always, the *Newsletter* depends on its loyal subscribers for material.

In addition to expressing my appreciation to folks who send me materials, I would like to thank several individuals who help with the production at this end. Jackie Comito, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Iowa and one of my former students here at ISU, has worked with me as an untitled Associate Editor for a number of years. In addition to doing editing, and helping me with page layouts for each issue, she has written columns and cajoled countless others into submitting materials. I appreciate her efforts to no end. My long-suffering secretary, as if she is not busy enough, gets pulled in at the last minute to type materials and proof-read. She does this with good humor and always says something like, "Well, this is an interesting issue". Thank you, Linda Haglund.

A note just in: Sally Robinson encourages people to attend her NAGPRA symposium on Friday evening, March 25. Among other things, they will be discussing intellectual property rights and setting up and running museums. Other issues will look at how to balance the interests of Native Americans, government and the general public.

The May issue is our next number. Because we will be meeting in March, I hope to have some interesting materials from the San Francisco gathering. Please try to get me materials *by April 25*. I thank you in advance and am looking forward to seeing many of you in a couple of months.

Mike Whiteford <jefe@iastate.edu>



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

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**See you in San Francisco  
March 21- 26**

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