



SfAA Newsletter

A Publication of the Society for Applied Anthropology

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President's Message



*By Alexander "Sandy" Ervin
University of Saskatchewan
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Applied Anthropology vs "Applicable Anthropology"

What are the meanings that we can assign to applied anthropology, and where, when, and how do we have the biggest impacts? These perennial questions occurred to me after introducing our distinguished keynote speaker Nahmad y Sitton, a Malinowski Award winner, at the recent CASCA/Cuba meetings. Dr. Nahmad is noted for his courageous stands on the rights of Indigenous peoples in Mexico and along with some other notables has influenced statements about human rights and justice through the United Nations.

Regarding really making an anthropological difference, it brought to my mind another SfAA member, the late Philleo Nash, former Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin, former White House Advisor on Race Relations at the Truman White House, and Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs during the Johnson Administration. He played a highly significant role in actually exercising direct power or considerable influence to bring about Native land rights settlement in Alaska. Significant action and its results could be tangibly observed.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s I did my PhD dissertation work in Alaska--an anthropologically-styled policy analysis of the emergence of the Alaska Federation of Natives and the Alaskan Native Land Claims Settlement Act of 1971. When Alaska was acquired from Russia no treaties were signed with Native peoples. Yet clauses in subsequent laws such as the Territorial and Statehood Acts stated that indigenous rights to land and resources had to be eventually settled. They did not, however, suggest any formulas for actually doing that. One undercurrent of the thinking, though, was that reservations were to be avoided because of the negative American legacy of treaties and reservations in the 1800s.

The 1960s, with the establishment of the State of Alaska in 1959 and a huge resource boom, led to the revenue-hungry state government feverishly seeking to select its 103 million acres from federal public lands by virtue of the Statehood Act. The problem was, this resulted in egregious infringements upon relatively untouched native subsistence and land uses. Some studies showed that cash-impoorished Alaskan Natives could depend for as much as 90% of their food from the land and waters

and food brought in could cost more than 200% of what it would cost in Seattle. Moves by the State and extractive resource companies enflamed multiple crises and conflicts of a collective Settler Alaska versus a collective Native Alaska.

Unfortunately, at the time Native peoples in Alaska did not have many settler allies or sympathizers in the state. At stake were the settler assumptions of enormous wealth and prosperity from an oil and resource boom versus the tragic historical lessons of what happened to Indian peoples in the lower 48 states. Those touting these miraculous futures used arguments and were aggressive in the same way as neoliberals today, although that ideology had not yet been articulated. Hovering over the controversies was a gradual recognition by state politicians and the media that some sort of equivalent to a Native treaty settlement might have to be established so that any lingering claims of sovereignty potentially “standing in the way of development” would be extinguished. The sorts of compensations being considered in the early to mid 1960s were appalling—suggestions of \$50 million in cash or 2% of oil royalties from Alaskan offshore drilling (yet none was being done at the time)—but no continuing land rights or ownership.

That’s where anthropologist Philleo Nash stepped in as Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (1966-1971) since he was also

responsible for the well-being of Alaskan Natives. As he recounted to me at the 1986 SfAA meetings in Reno, he directed BIA lawyers to work with those of the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Department of Justice to establish the Land Freeze of 1966 by presidential executive order. That halted all further selections from federal land by the State of Alaska until there would be some settlement of Native claims—either through the courts or through an act of Congress. This then provided the newly formed Alaska Federation of Natives with the absolutely necessary leverage while working with their lawyers, the State, the U.S. Congress, and commercial interests (especially oil and gas ones) to bring about a solution. That was the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 accompanied by a series of laws setting up national parks, national resource reserves, and other features for the federal stewardship of Alaska. Among other things, the settlement provided for 40 million acres of several land use types, cash, and continuing royalties up to a billion dollars for twelve newly-formed regional and many Native village corporations.

The Land Freeze had, among other things, been directly blocking oil and gas interests in their quest to build an overland pipeline from Barrow (now called Utqiagvik) and the North Slope bordering on the Beaufort Sea to Valdez in the south then to be loaded onto tankers to deliver to refineries in

the “Lower 48”. So as to break the impasse, oddly but ultimately out of clear self-interest, pressure was placed on Congress by petroleum companies to come up with a settlement that was much more to the benefit of Native peoples in Alaska than otherwise would have been the case.

It is not often known when anthropologists get to effectively apply their expertise, as did Philleo Nash, in such direct cases as this. Clearly, though, I would agree as some, such as Canadian judge Thomas Berger and anthropologist Joe Jorgenson, have written that there are still very major flaws to the detriment of Alaskan Natives in that land claims settlement. Yet none of them can be blamed on Philleo Nash. He served American Native peoples as best he could, and did so clearly; through his executive actions, he helped institute a much more just settlement in Alaska, given the powerful forces aligned against Native interests than otherwise would have been the case. Nash made a concrete, measurable difference and was entirely deserving as one of our first Malinowski winners. What he accomplished was much more than even this case illustrates. (For more on Philleo Nash see Applied Anthropologist and Public Servant: The Life and Work of Philleo Nash. NAPA Bulletin, 1991, by Ruth Landman and Katherine Spencer Halpern).

What about the rest of us? When I review my applied work, there is nothing that I could claim similar to Nash. I would guess that my reports have provided background, familiarizing knowledge for the organizations that commissioned them and that might have generally led to slightly better policy-making in some cases. It is also true that my work probably corroborated or reinforced the already-existing insights and contributions of other people in parallel fields such as indigenous affairs, social work, public health, urban planning, and environmentalism, as well as potential victims or beneficiaries of policies. Most of us have come to realize that in the applied/practicing field, we cannot view ourselves as “vanguardists” (as David Graeber puts it) leading the charge, as it were, to a better more progressive world. We may, though, collectively with allies contribute to establishing trends, and sometimes in concrete ways.

Again, to what extent is our work actually applied as compared to being potentially applicable? When you think about it, even many (perhaps the majority) of the articles in H.O. and P.A. are more applicable than they are applied, in that not much or nothing of the valuable insights or recommendations are actually put into action. That is not a cause for pessimism, though, because it just shows that anthropology is becoming a well-established policy science and needs to be placed on a par with

economics and political science, once again stressing the supreme importance of social impact.

Back in 1991 Robert Wulff and Shirley Fiske edited their excellent *Anthropological Praxis: Translating Knowledge into Action*, which showed through case studies how anthropological work did lead to very specific and beneficial outcomes. We could use something similar today to help sort out some of the issues that I raise here, as well as issues that have probably occurred to you readers at some time or other.

More on this topic in the Fall Newsletter.

SfAA Business

Our recent co-participation in CASCA Cuba has to be considered a success. Fifty of us met with about 450 Canadian colleagues, several hundred Cubans, and various others from as many as thirty different countries. Of course, even with the Canadian members, there was an overlap in SfAA members--for instance, myself and six other colleague and student Canadian members from my department. Following the CASCA (Canadian Anthropology Society) tradition, we met at the facilities of the local university, the Universidad de Oriente in Santiago de Cuba. Sessions were all integrated, but the SfAA had two keynote sessions—Dr. Salomon Nahmad and Dr. Josiah Heyman, with the latter repeating his Kearney

Lecture from the Philadelphia meetings.

Especially interesting to me was a roundtable in three languages—French, Spanish, and English—led by Québécois practicing anthropologists on the uniqueness and issues facing those doing work in non-academic, non-traditional settings. Roland Moore did an excellent job of representing us at that workshop. One piece of advice that he made is worth sharing here. He pointed out that in academic settings we often refer in shorthand to our methods as ethnography or participant observation and leave it at that. In practicing contexts operating with people unfamiliar with anthropology, it is essential to spell out in detail what exactly we mean by those terms and what precisely are the advantages of these approaches in creating a meaningful anthropological advantage. Good advice for us all.

Our participation in this experiment, meeting with other national anthropological organizations, as suggested by Tom May, can serve as a model for future collaborations. It is a large risk to move our annual meetings offshore these days because we are absolutely dependent on meeting revenue to cover our annual expenses in contrast to the previous times when institutional subscriptions had served that role. This way we can maintain our commitment to international networking and collaboration.

At the time of this writing, we on the Board are on the verge of appointing two well-qualified joint editors for our online SfAA Newsletter. This important publication has gone a number of years without an editor, but is still professionally compiled by staff members Neil Hann and Trish Colvin. Back in the 1990s, long-time editor Michael Whiteford, with his tongue lodged firmly in his cheek, would intentionally and immodestly refer to it as the “flagship” publication of the Society. Not exactly as Mike jokingly pretended, but certainly all three of our publications serve important and unique functions. Among other things, the Newsletter has served as a forum for opinion pieces related to applied and practicing anthropologies as well as up-to-date news.

Canadian Anthropology Society Meeting, Co-sponsored by the SfAA

Surmounting Language Barriers in Multicultural Panels

By Roland Moore, PIRE

In this brief note I wanted to share the distinctive experience of presenting in a multicultural, multidisciplinary and trilingual (French, Spanish, and English) roundtable at the CASCA meetings in Santiago de Cuba in May 2018.

The panel was organized by Marc-Antoine Lapierre (Association des anthropologues du Québec). The roundtable focused upon the integration of practicing anthropology in work outside of the academy, and participants included Marc-Antoine, Danielle Gratton (Labrri), Leonel Ruiz Miyares (Centro de Lingüística Aplicada, Santiago de Cuba), and myself.

I was uncertain how the discussion would flow, given the absence of many people who knew all three languages. However, the organizers implemented three strategies that seemed to overcome the substantial barriers implicit in such an attempt:

The first was for the panelists to spend an extended afternoon together in the day prior to their presentations, talking through what they were going to do and getting to know each other better. The second strategy was to lean on the linguistic talents of the master of ceremonies, Éric Gagnon Poulin (Université Laval), fully fluent in all three languages, filling in gaps and maintaining order as he kept shifting languages to keep the audience from losing the thread of discussion.

Finally, the organizers made a request of audience members to contribute to the overall success of the panel by identifying generous translators who were dispersed through the audience and would whisper summaries of what was going on to those around them. Rather than presenting the panel through simultaneous translation

headsets, we used a far more low-tech method to disperse the information throughout the audience, even if it seemed that no one other than the MC had all three languages fully under control.

Taking part in the panel as a SfAA member represented a wonderful opportunity to engage with new colleagues from Canadian institutions inside and outside universities and from the Cuban academic community as well.

Annual Meeting Update



By Michael Paolisso, University of Maryland 2019 Program Chair

The dog days of summer have arrived for many of us. Our thoughts may be filled with hopes of finishing summer work projects, plans for a final vacation, or simply of strategies for coping with heat and humidity. That you might not be thinking of our 2019 Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon, from March 19th to 23rd, is very understandable. However, as the meeting’s Program Chair, the Portland meeting is very much on my mind. Working with Program

Committee members, as well as local and regional professionals, I have been engaging in almost daily conversations about sessions and activities relevant to the meeting's program, Engaging Change in Turbulent Times. The willingness of all to share their expertise and offer assistance has been particularly rewarding and, as I learn more about Portland and the broader Cascadia region, I am more convinced than ever that this city and region are experiencing and responding to many of the applied social science issues of interest and concern to SfAA members.

In forthcoming newsletters, I will provide updates on specific program activities, events and tours, many of which I hope will have a strong local, regional, and tribal connection. Here, however, I would like to briefly report on some of the exciting topics that are beginning to shape the program. I hope you will find these ideas useful as you begin to think about your contributions to the program.

However, before doing that, I would first like to acknowledge and thank the Program Committee members for their work so far and for what they will continue to do to make this meeting a success. I encourage you to explore their linked websites and profiles; I believe you will agree with me that they represent a diverse range of perspectives, expertise and experiences. The Program Committee members are:

Eric Bailey: Eastern Carolina University
Jessica Black: University of Alaska Fairbanks
Steven Butts: University of Plymouth, England
Erve Chambers: University of Maryland
Susan Charnley: U.S. Forest Service
Alejandra Colom: Population Council and the Universidad El Valle, Guatemala
Deana Dartt: Live Oak Museum Consulting
Josh Fisher: Western Washington University
Judith Freidenberg: University of Maryland
Todd Harple: Intel
Antonie Jetter: Portland State University
Kathi Kitner: Google
James Loucky: Western Washington University
Elizabeth Marino: Oregon State University-Cascades
Charles Menzies: University of British Columbia
Riki Saltzman: University of Oregon and Oregon Folklife Network
Jeremy Spoon: Portland State University
Don Stull: SfAA Annual Meeting Coordinator
Kristin Sullivan: Washington State Humanities
Bryan Tilt: Oregon State University
Jason Younker: University of Oregon

Our program pipeline already includes planning for activities, tours, and sessions covering a wide range of

topics that should be of interest to meeting participants. A sample of these include:

- Critical applied research and advocacy on immigration, borders and refugees
- Tribal natural resource and heritage management
- Portland's policies and programs to address the challenges of homelessness and affordable housing
- Developing heritage arts apprenticeship programs
- Impacts of local technology firms on local economies
- New approaches in green innovation and sustainability
- Building broad-based and decentralized disaster and emergency response communities
- Increasing coastal resiliency to climate change impacts
- Food strategies to improve maternal health

Fall will soon be here and if your life is like mine that means increased work and a quicker pace of life overall. Very soon thereafter, the October 15th deadline for submitting proposals for sessions, roundtables, discussions, and workshops will sneak up on us, too often forcing us into last-minute efforts to pull together proposals for the program. I encourage you to take some time now and think about your contribution to our conversations in Portland about how these challenging and fast-changing times affect research and practices of anthropology and the applied social sciences. Reach out and engage colleagues now

engage colleagues now. Think about developing a preliminary proposal and share it with the relevant colleagues. A little email back and forth can take an initial idea a long way and leave you in good standing for finishing in the fall. It just might be a surprising tonic for these dog days.

I welcome any questions and would be happy to provide whatever support and feedback I can. Looking forward to seeing you in Portland!

Justification Toolkit



Ideas for Funding Your Trip

With limited travel and training budgets, a strong justification for attending educational events is more important than ever. Use the tools in this kit to help explain how attending **SfAA 2019** can improve your research, expand your professional network, and provide new perspectives on the future of applied social sciences. This toolkit will help you determine the full cost of attendance and identify key benefits the SfAA 2019 Meetings will provide.

Creative solutions may help your request get approved. Consider these options:

- Before meeting with your supervisor or department chair, prepare a plan that shows who will cover your duties while you attend the conference.
- Offer to prepare and deliver a short presentation/lecture and Q&A session for your colleagues to share what you learned and what your presentation entailed. This way, your coworkers will benefit from your attendance.
- Share speaker handouts with your colleagues.

We hope to see you in Portland this coming March!

Step 1: Review Talking Points

Use these talking points to convey to your supervisor why you should attend the Annual Meeting.

Workshops

Workshops provide in-depth learning opportunities taught by expert facilitators, and can be some of the richest, most productive learning spaces at the conference.

Education That Fits Your Needs

The Portland 2019 Meeting will feature more than 250 concurrent sessions. Through lectures, roundtable discussions, panel presentations, poster competitions, and more, attendees learn more of pressing local and regional concerns even as they reflect on the challenges we face in these turbulent times and identify opportunities to positively affect future outcomes, as per the conference's theme.

Learn From Your Peers

The SfAA Annual Meeting presents an excellent opportunity to learn from your peers about best practices, lessons learned, and the changes occurring within social sciences. Our speakers come from a variety of backgrounds and careers and can provide insights on challenges and solutions they have encountered within their programs, initiatives, or organizations.

Expand Your Network

One of the biggest benefits of attending Portland 2019 is the opportunity to meet face-to-face with colleagues from around the world. The conference provides an opportunity to network with peers and leaders during designated events and before, during, and after sessions. There are receptions each night: the local day reception on Tuesday; the Welcome Reception on Wednesday; the UNT reception on Thursday; and an awards reception on Friday.

Make Connections with Exhibitors

The Book Exhibit, which also hosts native artisans and international co-ops, is an open area where attendees can discover books, speak with publishers about their own work, identify new tools for teaching, and explore native crafts, all in one location. This exhibit is also a great place to network and grab a cup of coffee.

Get Involved with TIGs

Topical Interest Groups (TIGs) will be hosting annual meetings in Portland.

During these meetings, attendees can learn more about the work our TIGs do year-round and meet other educators and practitioners who have similar interests.

Step 2: Determine the Costs

[Fillable PDF](#) (Download PDF and save to be able to use the fillable form)

Step 3: Outline the Benefits

When showcasing the benefits of the conference, focus specifically on what you will bring back to your organization or department as a return on their investment. Or, for students, focus on how this conference will further your research, help you network, and generally aid your educational goals. Use the schedule and the [Conference Website](#) to answer these questions.

What sessions have particular relevance to the work you do?

Which sessions can teach you a skill and/or help your department, organization, or project team overcome current or future challenges?

Are there any speakers your organization would benefit from hearing or working with?

What exhibiting companies will be demonstrating the tools you use or are evaluating for future use?

What doors can networking events open for you and your organization?

How could increasing your involvement with SfAA benefit your practice and organization?

When considering these questions, keep these tips in mind:

- List specific sessions and explain how they will impact your practices or organization.
- Clearly make the connection between your needs and the benefits you are identifying.
- If the scholarship approver is outside of your department, don't assume they understand your goals or any technical terms. Spell out the impact for them.
- Passion is the best persuasion technique – let yours shine through in your letter.

Step 4: Draft Your Request

Customize this letter to show the costs and benefits you outlined above. [Word Document Download](#)

Dear **<Approver's name>**,
I would like to attend the Annual Meeting hosted by the Society for Applied Anthropology, taking place in Portland, Oregon, March 19-23, 2019. Portland 2019 brings together more than 2,000 applied social scientists, practitioners, scholars, and students to collaborate and expand their practice through education, knowledge-sharing, and networking.

This year's theme, Engaging Change in Turbulent Times, features presentation topics ranging from **<list relevant topic>** to **<list another relevant topic>**, and I am confident what I learn will be directly applicable to my work. After reviewing the conference schedule, I have identified a few sessions that I would like to attend:

- Session 1 and how it will benefit you and your organization
- Session 2 and how it will benefit you and your organization
- Session 3 and how it will benefit you and your organization

In addition to the educational benefits, the SfAA Portland 2019 conference is a great way to meet like-minded professionals and expand my network. It also creates an opportunity for our organization to share our work and lessons learned with the evaluation community.

In order to attend the conference and achieve my goals, I am seeking sponsorship of **<total amount you need>** for the following expenses:
Registration (before October 15):
Round-trip Airfare:
Transportation:
Hotel:
Meals:

The opportunity for me to develop a network of contacts and to gain knowledge in specific areas of evaluation makes my attendance at Portland 2019 a wise investment that will benefit our organization. Please

let me know if you have any questions or would like more information on this conference.

Sincerely,

<Your name here>

2019 Malinowski Winner



Dr. Spero M. Manson, 2019 Malinowski Award Winner; University of Colorado - Denver

The Malinowski Award will be presented to Dr. Spero M. Manson, School of Public Health, University of Colorado Denver. This Award recognizes the professional achievements of a senior scholar for a career in "pursuit of the goal of solving human problems using the concepts and tools of the social sciences."

Dr. Manson will deliver an address at the Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony on Friday, March 22, 2019, in Portland, OR.

Spero M. Manson, Ph.D. (Pembina Chippewa) is Distinguished Professor of Public Health and Psychiatry, occupies the Colorado Trust Chair in American Indian Health, and directs

the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health in the Colorado School of Public Health at the University of Colorado Denver's Anschutz Medical Center. His programs include 10 national centers, which pursue research, program development, training, and collaboration with 250 Native communities, spanning rural, reservation, urban, and village settings across the country.

Dr. Manson has acquired \$250 million in sponsored research to support this work, and published more than 250 articles on the assessment, epidemiology, treatment, and prevention of physical, alcohol, drug, and mental health problems over the developmental life span of Native people. His numerous awards include the American Public Health Association's prestigious Rema Lapouse Mental Health Epidemiology Award (1998), 3 special recognition awards from the Indian Health Service (1996, 2004, 2011), election to the Institute of Medicine (2002); 2 Distinguished Mentor Awards from the Gerontological Society of America (2006; 2007); the Association of American Medical Colleges' Nickens Award (2006); the George Foster Award for Excellence from the Society for Medical Anthropology (2006), and the National Institutes of Health Disparities Award for Excellence (2008).

Dr. Manson received his baccalaureate degree in Anthropology from the

University of Washington (1972), as well as masters (1975) and doctoral degrees (1980) in Anthropology from the University of Minnesota. He is widely acknowledged as one of the nation's leading authorities in regard to American Indian and Alaska Native health.

Call for Malinowski Nominations

The Society for Applied Anthropology considers each year nominations for the Malinowski Award. This Award is presented to a senior social scientist in recognition of a career dedicated to understanding and serving the needs of the world's societies.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is December 15.

A nomination should include a detailed letter, a curriculum vitae, letters of support, and sample publications.

A more detailed description of the Award and the nomination process is included on the SfAA web site at: <https://www.sfaa.net/about/prizes/distinguished-awards/malinowski-award/>

The Malinowski Award was initiated by the Society in 1973. Since that time, it has been presented to distinguished social scientists including Gunnar Myrdal, Sir Raymond Firth, Margaret Clark, and Conrad Arensberg.

The nominee should be of senior status, and widely recognized for

efforts to understand and serve the needs of the world through the use of the social sciences.

Please contact the SfAA Office if you have any questions or need additional information by calling (405) 843-5113, or emailing at: info@sfaa.net

Call for Sol Tax Nominations



By Jeanne Simonelli, Sol Tax Award Chair

I'm sitting in my Sol Tax Award rocking chair, a place to rest, rock and think, contemplating those who have served SfAA over the last twenty years or so. Some of these are past presidents; others are annual meeting chairs or publication committee leaders. Still more have their students in tow, year after year, attending meetings or working on the border or beyond and teaching the ways that activist anthropology can affect change.

The time has come to nominate the next Sol Tax Award winner, to get packets ready for the Tax Committee to peruse. If there is someone that you think just never stops and is the Society's rechargeable energizer,

please see the instructions below and get your nomination in. If you are thinking about it, let the office know that your packet is coming. We need to honor those who work, in the limelight and behind the scenes.

Sol Tax provided distinguished service to the field of applied anthropology. The Sol Tax Distinguished Service Award, initiated by the Society for Applied Anthropology in his honor, is to be presented annually to a member of SfAA, in recognition of long-term and truly distinguished service to the Society.

Nominees should be those who have made long-term and exceptional contributions in several of the following areas:

1. leadership in organizational structure, activities and policy development
2. central roles in communication with other disciplines or sub-disciplines
3. editing and publishing
4. development of curricula in applied anthropology
5. formulation of ethical standards of practice
6. other innovation activities which promote the goals of the Society and the field of applied anthropology

Each nomination should include:

- a detailed letter of nomination outlining the distinguished service accomplishments of the candidate
- one additional letter of support

- a curriculum vita that includes specific details regarding the nominee's service to the SfAA

Note: copies of publications and additional letters are not needed. Nominations are valid for five years from the date of submission. The deadline for receipt of all materials is October 1, 2018. Supporting documents will not be returned unless specifically requested. Please email nominations to:

Society for Applied Anthropology
Attn: Chair, Sol Tax Award Committee
Email: info@sfaa.net
Telephone: (405)843-5113
Fax: (405)843-8553

The Award winner will be announced at the 2019 SfAA Annual Meeting in Portland, OR, and will be invited to offer brief reflections about his/her career.

Please visit the SfAA website at www.sfaa.net to obtain additional information on the Award and prior recipients.

P.K. New Student Award



Continued on Page 10

Call for Papers

The [Peter K. New Student Award](#), an annual student research competition in the applied social and behavioral sciences. Honoring the late Peter Kong-ming New, a distinguished medical sociologist-anthropologist and former president of the SfAA, this award offers an incredible opportunity for students to showcase their research and publish their work. There are three prizes available for first, second, and third place winners. The first place winner of the competition must be available to attend the Annual Meeting of the Society in Portland, OR, March 19-23, 2019, and present the paper. The winner is also expected to submit the paper to the SfAA journal *Human Organization* for review and possible publication.

This competition is open to anyone registered as a student at the graduate or undergraduate level during the calendar year 2018. The research and the paper should use the social/behavioral sciences to address in an applied fashion an issue or question in the domain (broadly construed) of health care or human services. The first place winner of the competition will receive a cash prize of \$3,000. In addition, the winner will also receive a Baccarat crystal trophy. Second place will receive \$1,500, and third place receives \$750. All winners will receive a sum of \$350 to partially offset the cost of transportation and lodging at the annual meeting of the Society.

Award Submission
deadline: November 30, 2018.

[See here](#) for submission guidelines, eligibility requirements, information on criteria/judging, and the work of previous winners who have now been published: <https://www.sfaa.net/about/prizes/student-awards/peter-new/>.

Please submit your paper through the [Online submission form](#) by November 30, 2018.

ExtrACTION and Environment TIG

Engaging Change in Turbulent Times: Call for Sessions, Presentations, and Posters

What:

This year's SfAA meeting will be held in Portland, Oregon. SfAA's last Portland meeting was at the start of the Iraq War. Those of us who remember that time thought it couldn't get any worse. But today, as we face environmental turnarounds in the US and its repercussions worldwide, ExtrACTION and Environment invites you to join us as we compare and share our continuing work.

If 2016 celebrated increased protections and wins in the area of energy infrastructure, 2017 saw the protections we fought so hard to win reversed. 2018 kept the US fighting for

sustainability, justice, and even survival. More than ever, the mechanisms of extraction governance and accountability are under siege. In a time of climate change and popular support for sustainable living, the decisions being made in the US affect people and policy worldwide, as shared historical and contemporary processes structure and define emerging responses on a global scale.

As some nations and communities continue to vote to ban extreme extraction, activists, citizens and environmental groups must form local/legal alliances and take the fight into the courts. It remains critical that community members, practitioners and academics come together to share the knowledge and strategies that have led to wins and losses in the worldwide extraction arena.

To explore the environmental, social and political implications of extraction—including mining and fracking, water and air pollution and all related infrastructure and effects—we invite community studies, practical workshops, film screenings, poster presentations, theoretical and ethical analyses, poetry, prose and puppet shows; toxic tours and more.

How:

Take ownership of a topic area!

Option 1: Organize a session. Propose a topic and invite others to participate. All you need is a 100 word abstract.

Option 2: Propose an individual presentation on your work. All you need is a 100-word abstract. We'll form the actual sessions.

For now,

If you are interested in organizing a panel or workshop, or just an individual presentation, please send preliminary inquiries to Jeanne Simonelli (simonejm@wfu.edu)

Later, you'll be asked to send a title, a 100-word abstract explaining the panel's topic, and a list of potential participants. For workshops, also please specify what kind of facilities or resources you might need. For independent papers, please send title and 100-word abstract. More later on this!

For planning purposes, we would like hear from you ASAP, and to receive proposals before September 22, 2018. Participants will then be provided with instructions to submit to SfAA before the official October 15, 2018 conference deadline. ACT NOW!

Broad Areas to consider:

- Extraction and Activism: Global Responses to the Failures of Resource Extraction Policies
- Histories & Trajectories: How Extraction Past Shapes Extraction Present
- Making Sense of Extraction: Assessing the Risks
- Community Studies: Effects, Impacts & Experiences

• Alternative Futures

This year should be easier for those submitting individual papers, as there will be a button to click to indicate the TIG cluster you want to review your submission. Just select ExtrACTION and Environment

We anticipate news of "Oregon Day," to be held on the first day of the conference, featuring speakers and panel discussions from nonprofits, grassroots organizations, and independent researchers working on issues related to extraction and environment industries in the region. If you wish to participate in this, please contact Stephanie Paladino (macypal@gmail.com) NOW!

Immigration Initiative Column



By Don Stull; Chair, Immigration Initiative Committee

At our 2018 annual meeting in Philadelphia, the SfAA Board of Directors approved the following mission statement:

The SfAA Immigration Initiative will create opportunities for applied social scientists to affect policy on

immigration. Activities may include outreach, roundtable discussions, public forums, workshops for capacity-building and development of toolkits, press packets and briefings, and the formulation of guidelines for best practices to promote human wellbeing related to immigration. This will allow the SfAA to enhance the public impact of social science related to immigration in the United States and beyond.

Using the board's mission statement to guide its deliberations, the Immigration Initiative Committee made the following recommendations:

- The committee will institutionalize a session on the first day of the annual meeting, "local" day, that will focus on immigration issues specific to that area. "Local" does not refer just to the city where SfAA is meeting in any given year, but to the greater region in which it is situated. For the 2019 meeting in Portland, OR, for example, "local" encompasses all of Cascadia, which stretches from northern California to British Columbia. This regional focus means that the Immigration Initiative's session on each local day will be unique.
- Related to its local-day immigration symposium, the committee hopes SfAA can develop partnerships with organizations in Portland and Cascadia who are serving various immigrant communities or are dealing with issues related to immigration in their areas.
- The Immigration Initiative will work

- with SfAA members and other professionals to develop workshops to develop talents for those involved in immigration, but they might also appeal to wider audiences. Examples of talent-building workshops might include how to conduct town hall meetings around immigration; how best to talk to the media (print and electronic); and how academics can discuss immigration more effectively. To this end, the SfAA Board approved \$1,500 to defray lodging and travel costs for primary presenters at such workshops at the 2019 annual meetings. Workshop fees over and above direct costs would go back to the Immigration Initiative fund.
- SfAA membership is a rich repository of knowledge and talent related to migration and immigration, and the initiative will begin working with SfAA's executive director and staff to develop a clearinghouse for information and talent in these areas. Translators for languages other than Spanish are often in high demand and short supply for service providers in communities with significant immigrant and refugee populations. An SfAA clearinghouse could provide a valuable referral for translators to educators, healthcare providers, law enforcement, and other service providers.
- in conjunction with the clearing house, the Initiative Committee also discussed building a Web site that would include materials on immigration, people with resources,

people who are teaching courses and their syllabi. This would also be a place where we could post immigrant stories, not only stories of hardship, but also ones of success and of contribution to their new homes. Not all immigrants and refugees are people of color and poor. It is important to present well-rounded and balanced pictures of the complicated processes that shape migration and immigration.

- The Immigration Initiative will continue its regular column in the SfAA News, and this is a place where we can discuss the above proposals with our membership. We invite submissions from our members on immigration, migration, and related topics.

Anthropology of Higher Education TIG

By James McDonald, Co-Chair of the Anthropology of Higher Education TIG

SfAA 2018 Philadelphia

This year's conference in Philadelphia marks another extremely strong year for the Anthropology of Higher Education TIG with 31 organized events. Ninety-four papers were presented in organized sessions along with 38 roundtable contributions. The sessions were remarkably rich, covering an arc of topics almost too diverse to easily characterize. All of them, though, touched upon the diversity of higher education and the challenges of navigating a volatile environment.

The format for presentations is also evolving in some interesting ways. As in Santa Fe, we had two mini-cluster of sessions. This year the focus was on higher education leadership in one, and the international credentialing of health care professionals in the other. There were also seven roundtables, including two that were capstone sessions summarizing and examining how the different papers in each session came together.

The leadership mini-cluster had participants with intellectual backgrounds in communication, sociology, law, music, and anthropology / archaeology. Major session themes included adaptation and resilience within leadership and multiple identities in leadership roles. Perhaps one of the most anthropological presentations was delivered by a non-anthropologist – a Professor of English – who did a masterful deconstruction and analysis of the tenure and promotion process.

The health care credentialing mini-cluster major theme focused on preparing health care professionals for sustainable futures in a complex, global environment. Among the many topics addressed by papers and panelists was the thorny issue of understanding cultural differences beyond the surface notion of cultural competency.

As with previous years, the meeting was tied up with a final capstone session. Each capstone serves as a

reflection and building opportunity. When the higher education group kicked off in 2015 in Pittsburgh, the conference theme was “Continuity and Change.” Brian Foster and Don Brenneis put together a series of panels that focused on volatility and transformational change in higher education. At that meeting, there were three organized sessions, one capstone session, and an informal discussion about how the anthropology of higher education group might evolve within the SfAA: ten presentations and lots of interest. At that informal session, our main question was: were we one and done, or did the idea have legs?

From ten to 130+ presentations in three years is a remarkable building project. The capstone in Philadelphia focused on how we can best work to institutionalize our TIG. Fittingly, the theme of the 2018 meeting was “Sustainable Futures,” and that is our goal with the TIG as we move forward. We have succeeded in creating a new governance structure. We are working toward a centralized repository for our activity through a web site, a social media presence and listserv, and database management.

SfAA Portland 2019: Engaging Change in Turbulent Times

With the 2018 meeting barely in the rearview mirror, we need to already look ahead to the 2019 Portland meeting, whose theme is “Engaging Change in Turbulent Times.” That

certainly seems to fit thematically with the general thrust of the TIG.

Michael Paolisso (U of Maryland, mpaoliss@umd.edu) is serving as the Program Chair and Don Stull (U of Kansas, emeritus, stull@ku.edu) will serve as the Annual Meeting Coordinator. While we have explored session, roundtable, and capstone formats, we might consider experimenting with workshops, plenaries, and posters. Nothing should be off the table.

A few potential themes that have been discussed include:

- The role of athletics
- Internal and External Politics
- Changing Demographics
- Funding
- Sector Competition

Risk and Disasters TIG

By Jenn Trivedi, Melissa Sedlacik, & Thomas Hanson

The Risk and Disasters Topical Interest Group (R&D TIG) celebrates its fifth anniversary by looking back at another year of achievements and continued scholarly engagement. Since the 2017 SfAA annual meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Robert Barrios’ manuscript *Governing Affect: Neoliberalism and Disaster Reconstruction* was published, and AJ Faas was named to the SfAA’s Board of Directors. Many TIG members continue to serve as members in Culture and Disaster Action Network (CADAN), <http://cultureanddisaster.org/>, a growing network of academics and

practitioners working to support disaster professionals address complex issues related to risk reduction and disaster recovery. Our members have also presented their work at other conferences like the Third Northern European Conference on Emergency and Disaster Studies (NEEDS), the Hazards Workshop, the International Sociological Association (ISA) World Congress of Sociology, the Society for Economic Anthropology (SEA) annual meeting, the American Anthropological Association (AAA) annual meeting, the UAES World Congress, and others, helping to share disaster anthropology with a wide range of other researchers, practitioners, groups, and agencies.

The significance of risk and disaster scholarship was emphasized through the R&D TIG’s robust presence at this year’s SfAA annual meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. We were able to sponsor more than 120 risk and disaster panels and papers, which represented 12% of the conference’s total scheduled talks. The R&D TIG was also proud to host a plenary session, *Putting Knowledge into Action and Making Knowledge out of Practice: Theorizing and Operationalizing Sustainability in Disaster Mitigation*, and a round table, *Culture and Disaster Action Network: What Can We Learn about Culture from Practitioners’ Stories about Their Work on Disasters?*, which aimed to unpack challenges and create opportunities to bridge gaps between disaster scholars

and practitioners. As a direct pedagogical response to the 2017 Hurricane Season, the R&D TIG also sponsored a panel series titled, Living with Hurricanes. The four-part series examined the devastating impacts of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, and Nate among communities across the United States and Caribbean during the most dynamic and active hurricane season in recent history.

The annual meeting closed out with the R&D TIG business meeting and traditional welcoming of a new TIG co-chair. The meeting was held by returning co-chairs Jenn Trivedi and Melissa Sedlacik and newest co-chair Thomas Hanson. Over the past year, Jenn has joined the Delaware Disaster Assistance Team (DDAT) as part of ongoing efforts to better understand practitioner work and bridge the gap between academic research and practical response needs. She also completed rapid response fieldwork in Hawaii immediately after the false missile alert and conducted an analysis of that data along with her work on the Hazards SEES Type 2: Dynamic Integration of Natural, Human, and Infrastructure Systems for Hurricane Evacuation and Sheltering (NSF #1331269) with the Disaster Research Center.

Melissa, PhD student at the University of South Florida, accepted a full-time position with FEMA as an Emergency Management Specialist with the agency's Recovery Directorate's Reporting and Analytics Division's

Field Analytic Coordination Team. Since the 2017 Hurricane Season, she has provided analytic operational support for various Individual Assistance programs in Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. Thomas, a PhD Candidate at the University of Colorado Boulder, has finished his dissertation fieldwork examining wildfire management and climate change in Bolivia and is a visiting scientist in the Mesoscale and Microscale Meteorology Laboratory at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) examining on hurricane vulnerability communication.

As we look towards the future, we must first thank Roberto Barrios for all his work supporting the R&D TIG's growth over the last two years. We also thank Sarah Taylor for her ongoing work with the directory— an online resource highlighting R&D TIG members' diverse research expertise.

The directory, which also acts as a tool for increasing communication among disaster professionals, media outlets, and researchers, is available at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XPJUZMxj3KrbsORi8jJw3rNxmjFblwd3LfKkayGjmI/pubhtml>. If you're interested in being added, please contact Jenn Trivedi at jennifer.marie.trivedi@gmail.com

In preparation for the SfAA 2019 annual meeting in Portland, Oregon, the R&D TIG will continue to work towards bridging the gap between academics and practitioners through

diversifying the types of practitioners invited to the table to include those working within public policy, data and analytics, first responder, nonprofit, and nongovernmental arenas. We welcome researchers, responders, and other practitioners in these arenas to join us and to submit their work for next year's meeting.

We will also explore avenues and incentives to help practitioners to attend the annual meeting as well as develop a mentorship program to help newcomers better navigate through their conference experiences. In the spirit of outreach and networking, the TIG will also be working to strengthen with other SfAA partners through the organization of cross-TIG sessions either sponsored by multiple TIGs and/or related to particular methodological, theoretical, or topical issues that cross TIG boundaries.

SfAA members are invited to join our listserv and follow us on social media for R&D TIG news and updates:

- Listserv: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/disasters-and-applied-anthropology>
- Twitter: @RiskDisasterTIG (www.twitter.com/RiskDisasterTIG)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1481802688698765/>

San José State University's Training Program

SJSU SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

Master of Arts Program in Applied Anthropology

By A.J. Faas, Associate Professor & Graduate Coordinator, Dept. Of Anthropology, SJSU

San José, California, the city at the heart of Silicon Valley, is popularly associated above all with the technology industry. And there is no denying it—our city and surroundings are home to virtually all the titans of hardware, software, and digital media, as well as the countless startups and small businesses that are the key elements in the creativity and connectivity of this dynamic economy. But Silicon Valley and the Bay Area are much more than this. Surely the problems of income polarization, poverty, gentrification, and homelessness are now part of the image of the region. Yet so too is the innovative work of nonprofits, city and state government, and even the private sector in attempting to solve these persistent problems. We're also home to exceptional biodiversity and a variety of micro-climates—the Bay, the Santa Cruz Mountains, the Diablo Mountain Range, the rivers and creeks that run through our valley, the vast and intensive varieties of agricultural production—and the many

environmental concerns that come with managing the intersection of urban and natural features.

Our city and region are among the most ethnically diverse places in the world, with a long history of immigration from all over the globe that continues to enrich the diversity of our communities. And we are all guests on the lands of the Muwekma Ohlone, who have called this region home for many centuries. Together, though not always in harmony, our diverse communities and environments in San José, Silicon Valley, and the Bay Area have contributed to creating a world of promise and not merely a few hard problems that we have to reckon with as a society. And San José State University, founded in 1857—today the oldest public university on the West Coast—is a place where we learn and work toward utopian futures while confronting the vexing issues that impede these aspirations.

For 50 years, the San José State University Department of Anthropology has been working with students and community partners to develop projects in design and user experience, social justice, environment, food and agriculture, work, California history, forensics, and Native American initiatives, among other topics. In 2006, we developed our M.A. in Applied Anthropology program to train anthropologists to make meaningful contributions to resolving abiding problems, both

locally and globally. We train graduate students in an integrated approach to anthropology—synthesizing our multiple subdisciplines—and fostering the development of skills and knowledge that lead them to leadership and research positions in the nonprofit, government, and private sectors. Our students develop a special set of skills for investigating, navigating, and engaging the world in new and insightful ways, helping communities and organizations appreciate complex social, cultural, and environmental issues and deepen their understandings of those they serve. Our dedicated faculty provide rigorous training in theory and methodology, while mentoring students through internships, applied research projects, and their subsequent careers.

We offer advanced training in contemporary applied anthropology, research methods, and anthropological theory, using our integrated approach to advance an applied anthropology of the 21st century. We work with students to develop graduate committees, community partners, and cutting-edge research and project proposals based on their interests within the first year of the program and **offer several grants** to support student research. Our program structure also allows students to connect with faculty in other departments who can offer expertise in specific areas such as health sciences, geography, design, or urban planning. Students have the

option of completing a conventional M.A. thesis, conducting research that is both theoretically compelling and advances knowledge on important applied concerns; or developing an applied project with a community partner, for whom they develop an intervention or deliverable (e.g., a program design, report, multimedia resource), and which also entails a formal project report to the department upon completion. The goal is to encourage students to conduct projects that demonstrate their ability to address real-world issues and to transform that capacity into vibrant careers. Our rigorous and flexible approach may partly explain the rapid growth of the MA program over the years and the tremendous successes our alumni have achieved.

Selected Research, Projects, and Partnerships

Our **graduate faculty** have ongoing research projects and partnerships throughout the Bay Area and around the world. Nearly all our projects have included students who proceeded from research assistants to develop projects of their own under the umbrella of the broader study.

Applied anthropology at SJSU entails a reintegration of our subdisciplines and projects that addresses real-world issues in strategic partnerships across public, private, and nonprofit sectors. We believe this approach prepares students, faculty, and partners to meet the many challenges and opportunities

of the 21st century. To learn more about the M.A. program in Applied Anthropology at San José State University, visit our website (<http://www.sjsu.edu/anthropology/>), and look for our faculty, students, and alumni at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association in San José this November.

Interview with Tom May



Dr. Tom May

The Development of SfAA's Award Program, Annual Meetings, and Administration

Tom May served the Society until his death in February 2018. Initially he was Treasurer and then, starting in the mid-1980s, he managed the Society's business affairs. This led to him being Executive Director. The focus of this transcript was the development of his friendship and work relationship with Peter Kong-ming New and the innovation of the award which bears Peter's name; the creation of the Society's business affairs function; and Tom's perspective on organizing annual meetings, among other topics. Tom earned his PhD in Medical

Sociology from Tulane and was on the faculty of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City. In 1994, he was named to the David Rose Boyd Professorship in public health. He also did graduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh, where he first met Peter K. New. This interview, one of two, was done by Don Stull at Tom's home in Oklahoma City in September 2017. The original audio and transcript are located in the SfAA Collection at the Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky Libraries. The transcript was edited and abridged by John van Willigen.

STULL: Today is Friday, September 22nd. This is Don Stull and I'm interviewing Tom May for the Society for Applied Anthropology Oral History Project, in his home in Oklahoma City.

I know Peter Kong-ming New was very important in your professional growth and after you finished your PhD, you and he remained close. Can you talk a bit about how he influenced you? My understanding is that he's a major reason why you joined the SfAA.

MAY: He was an extraordinarily interesting person, and I didn't find out much about his background until later, just before his death, when he was doing a study of his grandfather. He was Chinese-American, was very tall and curious in physical appearance. He talked very little about his background when I first knew him. I started work for him in

the late spring of 1962, after finishing my master's. He had just arrived at the School of Public Health at Pittsburgh. He had joined a Social Science Unit. I went to work for Peter, that summer, as a research assistant. What I found going on there was a lot more to my own interests at the time. For example, that summer, we did a study of physicians and healthcare providers in Northampton County in Eastern Pennsylvania. I'm a graduate student, his research assistant. He rented an apartment in Allentown. We'd go over there, there's a kitchen. He brings all his utensils and we holed up there and worked all day long. Friday evening, we would get in a car, drive to New York City, and he'd stay with [an] old buddy from graduate school. We'd have mapped out an art exhibit Saturday morning, a matinee at student prices Saturday afternoon, an Off-Broadway play Saturday night, and then we'd go through this whole thing. Well, for a kid from Beeville, Texas, this is just, you know eye-opening and, and wonderful. And then go back Sunday night and do this project.

He was also very skilled at being Peter New, at taking a topic that the School of Public Health asked him to do. Why were health departments in small communities not functioning very well? So he took that, and we finished a report to the state health department, but also, he began to look at the types of issues that were brought to health departments at the county level, and began to see an

increasing secularization of the role of the physician. And we got a very good article out of that. And so, I found him a very attractive teacher in the sense that he could manage both those things simultaneously. He also, had a certain familiarity with elite boarding schools and prominent national universities that, without, what would you say, advertising, which I found very interesting. I did not necessarily come to that as a novice. I mean, we grew up at a time when, even if you were at St. Mary's University [in Texas], in my group, you were expected to read the New Yorker and know what was going on, that sort of thing. But, it was a very different type of graduate teaching, which I found, just responded.

Let me give you one anecdote. I've thought about this several times. In those days, when you were a graduate student, it was important to be up-to-date about the most current research. I'm in the library, looking at the stacks of new books, and here's a book called the Urban Villagers, by a person named Herbert Gans. It's about urban renewal in the North End of Boston. So, Gans goes there and lives while urban renovation is going on, you know, and, and I thought to myself damn, this is just what I would like to do. It's here and now, it's using applied social sciences, et cetera, et cetera.

The next day, I go charging into the office, and I have a little space right next to Peter, and before I started to work, I started telling him, "I've got to

tell you about this book I discovered." And so he stops what he's doing, and he said, "Well, who's the author?" And I said, "Gans." So he writes the name down and he said well, "What's it about?" And, so I go through the whole thing and he--we went through about an hour, he's asking me questions. Did he actually live there? What did he do? How did he take notes? You know, we went through the whole thing. So, I left that conversation thinking my God, you know, I've discovered this. It was just wonderful. A month later, I'm looking at the journals and run across a recent issue of the American Journal of Sociology. There's the articles, the book reviews. Gans's book is being reviewed, I said great, I leaf through it, the review is by Peter New. (Stull laughs) And I almost cried. I didn't want to go to work the next day. He never said a word about it. A couple years later, we were in Boston, at a sociology meeting, and he just was in a crowd, and he just very nicely grabbed my arm and went over and introduced Herb Gans. But it was that sort of allowing you to make the discovery, which I've always thought was iconic, of the way he went about it.

STULL: He must have been a rare individual.

MAY: He was. There's some background between the two of them, he and his wife Mary Louie New. Peter spoke very little about his background. Mary was totally different. The critical thing was that

she was a very big deal. When she was accepted at Berkeley for undergraduate school, was not permitted to stay in the women's dormitory because she was Chinese-American. This is 1944, so what they did with Chinese-American students was to house them with faculty as domestic servants. So, Mary took me by the place in Berkeley where she cleaned the kitchen for a math professor, in order to go to Berkeley. When she finished, she did a master's degree and then was recruited to run Dick [Richard] Remington's biostat lab at the University of Michigan. When I met them in Pittsburgh, she was under contract with Harvard School of Public Health, on this huge fertility study. She was a big deal in her field but again, as I say, people didn't often look at spouses separately. She was extraordinary in her own way. So the two of them were quite different, but quite unique.

STULL: I want to talk about Mary and about the founding of the Peter K. New Award trust.

MAY: Yes. I think that's a critical point, to set the background. I mentioned, in a prior correspondence, that I had uncovered the letter from the nominating committee, in I think 1981, to Peter, saying that he was now elected president, and that the vote had been tied between him and I believe it was Lisa Peattie, who was I think Sol Tax's daughter, [Editor: Robert Redfield's daughter] maybe somebody else. The vote had been

tied and they decided to flip a coin and Peter won, so he became president.

STULL: And they told him that?

MAY: Yes. I've got the copy of the letter for you. So he became president in 1981, at the time I was not that involved in the society.

STULL: But you were already a member though.

MAY: I was a member because they had published an article for me, I was the treasurer too, but the people who were making the decisions were largely people that I didn't know that well and were a bit older; Harland Padfield, Will Sibley, and folks like that. So, I was doing the usual sorts of thing. I was publishing like crazy. There was a four-year period when I put out, I think seven refereed articles and three chapters in books and things like that. I had two very good PhD students who were--three; two in sociology, one in anthropology. I had a courtesy appointment in adolescent medicine, so I was just banging away.

STULL: Can I back up for just a second?

MAY: Yes.

STULL: How did you get to OU?

MAY: Oh. So, I'm at Tulane, finishing up, in 1968. I finished my exam, I'm doing a dissertation, and there are a couple of things that come up that are possible. One was, a

position at the University of Buffalo, as kind of a low-level assistant, with the dean, and there I would be doing liaison with medical students and teaching medical history. Another was the University of Oklahoma, there a postdoc, in Tulane, working with my major thesis advisor at the time. And so he asked me to come up, because they were going to get an elective in history of medicine started and they were going to try to develop a history of medicine of the state of Oklahoma. So, for better or worse, I signed on with Oklahoma in the spring of '68. And then came up here that August, had a year off to finish the thesis, did some teaching of medical undergraduates on an elective basis, and then the School of Public Health started the following year. So I held joint appointments in public health and in the College of Medicine.

STULL: Social scientists in medical schools were pretty rare at that time, so you must have been a pioneer in that, in that movement of social science into medical education, education of medical students, and then putting medical sociology and things like that into medical schools.

MAY: Yes. Our point of leverage was the requirement that medical undergraduates have a course in the behavioral sciences. So, when I arrived, there was an informal grouping, mainly social psychologists, from over in psychiatry, and I was with them, and we put together a kind of slapstick course in behavioral

sciences, which all the medical students had to take. But principally, the idea was that they would, with my assistance, get this history of medicine of Oklahoma started.

STULL: [At that time] you're member of SfAA.

MAY: I'm a member and I'm the treasurer, but I was not that invested in the whole issue of whether or not SfAA is a separate entity or not, a decision that grew out of the problem with the Internal Revenue, in 1984. I don't recall, having a very, very strong opinion, to the point that I might disagree with Harland or Sibley or others. I thought that the people who had held those strong opinions, and that there would be blood on the floor, so to speak. That's my recollection of that particular decision.

Now, when the board elected not to dissolve their corporate status and join "triple-A", American Anthropological Association, then formed the National Association for the Practice of Anthropology. It seemed to me at the time, that this was not something that could exist side-by-side, without a lot of clashes. Looking back, I was struck with the fact at the time, there was a lot of cannibalism going on. For example, Society at the time, had a Mead Award, after Margaret Mead, which the Society started, and which was later joined with and jointly sponsored by the triple-A. They also had a Malinowski Award. At one of the board meetings shortly after 1984,

a former president comes to the board and says the leader of the School for American Research [Editor: Now called School for Advanced Research], would like to have a more applied orientation. His board members would like that. Why don't we jointly sponsor the Malinowski with the School of American Research. I didn't get involved in the fight, but I thought this was just bartering away, one of the things that they had to do.

A separate, second example, within at least a year, the sitting president of the Society, when we had a board meeting, had two chairs at the head of the table; one for himself and one for the president of NAPA [National Association for the Practice of Anthropology]. And I was struck with the fact that it was almost as if SfAA elected to be separate, but everybody was hovering around and trying to grab any of the available pieces. I remember being struck with that at the time and in going back over my notes.

STULL: Well, let's back up for just a second. You know, as you said, the Internal Revenue Service went to the American Anthropological Association, and said you all are managing the affairs of all these different groups, SfAA being one, but there were other ones as well, and that you're making money on this and so if you want to keep your, your nonprofit status, you have to either, dissolve your relationship with these organizations, or they have to become

part of your organization. Correct me at any point, if I'm wrong about that. And so that was 1982 and Harland Padfield was president and I may be wrong, so if I am, I want you to correct me, but Ted Downing and Sue Ellen Jacobs, and you, were, you were the treasurer then.

MAY: Correct.

STULL: And so it came to a vote. I was, like you in the '70s, in the '80s I was a member, but I wasn't all that active. But I remember distinctly, standing in the back of the room at, I guess it was at the SfAA Annual Meeting, it must have been, and there were all these heated discussions and we voted that we had been formed as an independent society in 1941 and by God, we were going to stay an independent society.

MAY: Yes.

STULL: It's often called the split of the triple-A, but it wasn't really a split, because we were just having--triple-A managing our books basically. Doing subscriptions and doing the kind of stuff that a business office would normally do.

MAY: Yes.

STULL: And so then we took our membership and left.

TO ACCESS THE FULL INTERVIEW GO TO THE ORAL HISTORY PAGE AT WWW.SFAA.NET