

THE ANTHROPOLOGIST

The College of Arts & Sciences

Case Western Reserve University

A newsletter for faculty, students, alumni, and friends of the Department of Anthropology

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Fall 2003

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Fall Focus: Anthropology welcomes T.S. Harvey

Growing up, I looked out from my upstairs bedroom window onto the inner city of Newport News, Virginia, where I found myself a part of a community living in and limited by poverty. I chose college as a way of understanding those limits as much as I did to overcome them for my family's sake and mine. In the process, my educational pursuits and life goals were colored and unified by field studies experiences I had in Virginia migrant labor camps and among the Maya of Southern Mexico and Guatemala. Like a mirror, these experiences cast back my life in a new light, in a way that made it less harsh, more tolerable, even shareable.

In 1993, a college class trip to migrant labor camps on the Eastern Shore of Virginia gave me a glimpse into the plight of Central American agricultural laborers in the US. Men, women and children were living in dehumanizing labor camp conditions and faced an incalculable number of work-related illnesses and injuries. This experience imbued me with a thankfulness that I never thought I could have for my inner-city home life and defined my career pursuits and the uses to which I would put my education. From that moment on, my goal was to become a researcher and an educator with the aim of discovering ways to bridge the gaps between differences of social power, culture, and inequalities of communication

that contribute to the building of cross-cultural barriers and make problems of public-health difficult to resolve.

In 2000-01, a Fulbright scholarship enabled me to conduct my dissertation research on language use in health care among the K'iche' Maya of highland Guatemala. When I returned to the US, a Ford Foundation fellowship in 2000-03 provided me with the resources to write up my dissertation. Today, with a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia in 2003, the view from my window has changed. My resolve is to remain connected to them, and in doing so, to change that.

My research interests involve analyses of expressions of wellness, illness and care in disputed domains, where western biomedicine meets competing and conflicting indigenous therapeutic models of healing in the New World (Mesoamerica). My topical areas of specialization include linguistic anthropology (the ethnography of language use in health care, cross-cultural communication, sociolinguistic analysis of doctor-patient / healer-wellness seeker interactions, discourse analysis, and semantics); medical anthropology (the ethnography of western biomedicine and indigenous therapeutic care, critical analysis of biomedical neocolonialism and the medical construction of the patient, and symbolic representations of the body and embodiment); and socio-cultural anthropology (socio-cultural theory, the anthropology of religion, shamanism, ritual and spiritual healing, humanism, and the phenomenology of experience). I look forward to adding my experiences, interests, and specialization to those of others in anthropology at Case to make a great department even better.

From the Editor's Desk.....

Our focus story for this issue is about our newly hired Assistant Professor T.S. Harvey. Professor Harvey shares experiences that helped shape his life's direction. If you have the opportunity, please stop by and welcome him to the department.

Kathleen J. Dowdell

**new faculty
teaching**

Native American Cultures (357/457) Sharon Dean
 Seminar: Language in Health and Illness (530) T.S. Harvey
 Human Evolution: The Fossil Evidence (375/475) Yohannes Haile-Selassie

fall courses

Introduction to Human Evolution (103)	Cynthia Beall
Native American Cultures (357/457)	Sharon Dean
Anthropology of Health and Illness I (480)	Atwood Gaines
Being Human: An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology (102)	Melvyn Goldstein
Introduction to Human Evolution (103)	Lawrence Greksa
Introduction to Statistical Analysis in the Social Sciences (319)	Lawrence Greksa
Human Evolution: The Fossil Evidence (375/475)	Yohannes Haile-Selassie
Seminar: Language in Health and Illness (530)	T.S. Harvey
Introduction to the Anthropology of Aging (304/404)	Charlotte Ikels
Japanese Culture and Society (352/452)	Charlotte Ikels
Anthropological Approaches to Religion (372/472)	Jeffrey Longhofer
Anthropological Research Design (504)	Janet McGrath
Being Human: An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology (102)	James Pfeiffer
Introduction to International Health (359/459)	James Pfeiffer
Evolution (225)	Patricia Princehouse
Archaeology of Eastern North America (202)	Brian Redmond
Independent Study in Laboratory Archaeology I (380)	Brian Redmond
Health, Culture, and Disease: An Introduction to Medical Anthropology (215)	Christina Saunders Sturm
Archaeology: An Introduction (107)	Jim Shaffer
Ancient Civilizations of the Near East (331)	Jim Shaffer

graduates

Marisa Abbe and Elizabeth Carpenter were awarded an Urban Health summer research grant. They conducted their research with individuals at Magnolia Clubhouse, a psychosocial rehabilitation program in Cleveland. They became participant observers and also conducted in-depth interviews in order to understand how adults who suffer from serious mental illnesses contribute to and interpret the work-related ethos within the clubhouse as it relates to processes of recovery and how illness identity is mediated by becoming a member of the clubhouse.

Ramya Gurumurthy received an Eva L. Pancoast Fellowship to travel in India this summer. She was in India for two and a half months, living primarily at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi and traveling to Haridwar, Rishikesh, the Himalayan Mountains, Jaipur, Rajasthan, Agra, Mathura, Brindavan, Bangalore, Chennai and the Ramanashram.

Peter Lawson was elected Student Councilor for the executive board of the Society for Urban, National, Transnational/Global Anthropology (a section within the American Anthropological Association). He will start his two year term at the AAA meeting this fall in Chicago.

Heather Lindstrom was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship to the Grantmakers in Aging Annual Conference from October 22-24, 2003 in Cleveland. The fellowship includes full accommodations and expenses, an opportunity to present her own research, and a way to meet signifi-

graduates

players in non-profit organizations that are involved in granting funding for aging research and programs. She will also get to write summaries of one to two conference sessions that will be published in the conference proceedings. Participants in the conference include leaders from non-profits like the Cleveland Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Kate Masley spent part of her summer at the National Science Foundation Summer Institute for Research Design in Cultural Anthropology at the Duke University Marine Lab in Beaufort, North Carolina. During the three weeks, she learned a great deal about research design and methodology from the directors, Jeff Johnson, Russ Bernard, and Sue Weller. She also worked on her NSF grant proposal and met amazing friends.

Michelle Nebergall worked on the Victory Over Violence Art Program at Rozelle Elementary this summer collecting ethnographic data (observations, interviews, focus groups) while evaluating the program. She also received a grant from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation called the Humanities at Work Practicum Grant. This grant allowed her to do a more in-depth program evaluation than originally planned, thus shaping her career as a scholar and her future anthropological research interests. She also received the Innovation Fund from Case's Medical School Office of Urban Health. The Innovation Fund is provided for by funding from the St. Luke's Foundation. She was eligible for this award as a dual degree student in the MPH program. As part of this award, she will be presenting the project evaluation at Innovation Day at the Medical School, and talking about how anthropological methods help us to understand the Rozelle sixth grade students' responses to the program.

Last April, Elizabeth Olson presented a paper entitled "Female Genital Cutting: Global Debate and Medicalization as a Harm Reduction Strategy" at the Central States Anthropological Society's committee on Anthropology of Religion during the annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky.

Michelle Osborn received an Eva L. Pancoast Fellowship in the spring of 2003, granting her the opportunity to conduct exploratory research in sub-Saharan Africa's largest slum, Kibera, located in Nairobi, Kenya. For two months, she interned with Kibera Community Self-Help Programme, a grassroots organization tackling issues related to HIV/AIDS. While interning, she devoted much of her time to exploring the synergistic relationship between poverty and AIDS and its impact on Kiberan culture and community.

Jennifer Shaw has been working in Alaska since May as a seasonal interpretive ranger at Katmai National Park and Preserve on the Alaska Peninsula, just north of the Aleutian Islands. Her work at the park includes leading visitors on guided walks of key cultural sites in the park, conducting a program on the Katmai Wilderness Area and giving tours of the Valley of 10,000 Smokes. She spent the month of June at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, conducting an educational program on medicinal and nutritional uses of native plants with children and teens. In July, she returned to Katmai where she will remain until the end of September.

Allen Tran presented a paper entitled "Disclosing Identities, Identifying Disclosure: HIV-positive Bisexual Men" at the American Anthropological Association meeting in New Orleans.

Last spring, Maggie Zraly was awarded an Eva L. Pancoast Fellowship. She traveled to Rwanda where she was a Community Health Intern with the American Refugee Committee. At the ARC-Rwanda headquarters in Kigali, she participated in UNHCR Gender-Based Sexual Violence Task Force meetings and learned about issues of microfinance for refugees. Most of her days were spent in a refugee camp in the small northern town of Byumba, which is the current home for over 15,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo. While there, she provided technical assistance on ARC's HIV/AIDS prevention program, interviewed community health workers about sexual violence and women's decision-making, and learned about camp life. She also briefly visited another refugee camp in western Rwanda near Kibuye, where an additional 15,000+ Congolese refugees currently reside.

events

Professors Csordas and Jenkins hosted a department “welcome back” party at their home in Shaker Heights on September 6.

On September 21, Maggie Zraly, Peter Lawson, Elizabeth Carpenter, Antoinette Barnes, Michelle Osborn, Sarah Rubin, Brad Casucci, Hormazd Sethna, and Mara Buchbinder participated in the Cleveland AIDS walk/run, raising over \$400 for local AIDS organizations.

faculty highlights

- Professor Rachel Chapman has been instrumental in helping to develop Victory Over Violence, a domestic violence awareness program for adults.
- Professor Csordas received a Walter Nord grant to develop a joint teleconference seminar in the spring of 2004 with Dr. Irma McClaurin of Fisk University. The course is tentatively entitled “Multicultural Diversity, Social Inequality, and the Pursuit of Health in Global Perspective.”
- Professor Janis Jenkins was nominated to the National Scientific Review Panel on Treatment and Services, *National Institutes of Health*, and to the Editorial Board, *Society for Medical Anthropology*.

alumni

Jacklyn Chisholm has been appointed associate vice president for Case’s newly created Center for Community Partnerships. This center will interact with the university, community groups and local institutions to build strong and binding relationships.

new students

Mara Buchbinder – Dartmouth College; Brad Casucci – University of Iowa; Joseph Galanek – University of Idaho; Charlotte Haney – University of Houston; Sarah Rubin – University of California, Berkeley

graduate discourse

The fall semester is off to a great start for Graduate Discourse. The group met new students at a gathering at the Winking Lizard in August and also had a “welcome back” pot-luck dinner featuring an eclectic and impressive array of culinary talent and even better conversations. Graduate Discourse has a number of exciting things planned for fall semester, including a series of Professional Development seminars organized by Professor McGrath, faculty participation at Graduate Discourse meetings, a student workshop for AAA papers for those participating in AAA in Chicago, and more opportunities for bonding and mentoring through social events. They look forward to a stimulating academic year together!

contact

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