

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 2004

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Message from Interim Chair Lawrence Greksa

As many of you already know, the department underwent some major changes over the summer. James Pfeiffer was recruited to direct the Mozambique portion of a multi-national HIV study which is being run from the University of Washington and Rachel Chapman obtained a position in the Anthropology Department at the University of Washington. Shortly afterwards we learned that our chair, Tom Csordas, had accepted a position in the Anthropology Department at the University of California, San Diego. We wish all of them well.

The impact of the loss of three faculty members on our ability to maintain our undergraduate and graduate programs was obviously of great concern to all of us. However, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Mark Turner, stated his strong commitment to maintaining and building upon our strong program. We are all excited and optimistic about this opportunity and believe we can build an even stronger program in medical anthropology. Our first step was to request permission to conduct an external search for a senior person to be the new chair and that request was approved. Dean Turner asked me to be the interim chair and requested that Cynthia Beall and I co-chair the search committee. The advertisement of the chair position is described at:

<http://www.case.edu/artsci/dean/searches/anthropology05.html>

Please feel free to notify us of anyone that you think might be appropriate for the position. We hope to identify finalists this semester and begin interviewing candidates in the spring.

Dean Turner also decided that this would be an appropriate time to conduct an external review of the department. The dean has constituted a highly distinguished committee consisting of:

Susan Scrimshaw, Dean, School of Public Health, University of Illinois

Carol Worthman, Professor of Anthropology, Emory University

Harvey Fineberg, President of the Institute of Medicine and past Provost and Dean of the School of Public Health at Harvard

Terrence Deacon, Professor of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley

The external reviewers will be here on November 4th—5th.

Although Dean Turner does not want us to make any other tenure-track hires until the new chair is in place, he did give us permission to hire a temporary replacement position in international health. He recognized that we needed someone with expertise in this area to provide training and guidance to our students with an interest in international health, as well as someone to represent the department in our M.A./M.P.H. joint program with the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the School of Medicine. A description of this position can be found at:

<http://www.case.edu/artsci/dean/searches/anthropologyVisitor05.html>

This is an exciting time. We will keep you informed of events and hope that everyone will feel free to participate in this process.

From the Editor's Desk.....

The department welcomed 13 new graduate students to our program this fall. You can read about this interesting and diverse group of students on page two.

Kathleen J. Dowdell

news tip

According to *USA Today*, Baby Boomers will become the wealthiest group of elders in history. By 2030, the year that the last of the Boomers reaches age 65, the number of Americans age 65+ will reach 71.5 million, double the 35.6 million today. They will also control 40% of disposable income and 77% of private investments.

**new
graduate
students**

David Bell: David joins us with a BS in Spanish and anthropology from Vanderbilt University. His interests are in public health and international health. David is in the joint MPH program.

Darcie Debevec: Darcie has a BSN from Gannon University. More recently she attended McGill University to study anthropology. She is interested in reproductive health and biomedicine.

Bridget Haas: Bridget has a BA in anthropology from New York University and an MSSA from Case. She is interested in psychological anthropology, particularly studies of refugees and trauma.

Janelle Highland: Janelle joins us with a BA in anthropology from Ohio State University. Her interests include urban health, health disparities, and globalization.

Stephanie McClure: Stephanie has a BS in physical therapy from Washington University and a Masters in Public Health from St. Louis University. She is interested in public health, African American women's health, and health disparities.

Megan Nordquest: Megan has a BA in psychology and philosophy from Miami University and an MA in Social Sciences from the University of Chicago. She is interested in psychological anthropology, death and dying, and bioethics.

Valerie Robinson: Valerie joins us with a BA in English from Rhode Island University and a BS and MS in biology from Cleveland State University. She is interested in women's health cross culturally.

Michael Rueschman: Michael has a BA in anthropology from Wright State University. His interests include aging and chronic disease. Michael is in the joint MPH program.

Laura Santurri: Laura has a BA in interdisciplinary anthropology from the University of Akron. She is interested in chronic disease and clinically applied anthropology. Laura is in the joint MPH program.

Diana Sepehri: Diana joins us with a BS in math and biology from Bates College. She is interested in healing and traditional medicine in the Middle East and Central Asia.

Corine Sinnette: Corine has a BA in anthropology from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. She is interested in health policy and planning in Anglophone Caribbean. Corine is in the joint MPH program.

Margaret Winchester: Margaret has a BA in anthropology from Skidmore University. She is interested in HIV/AIDS in Africa and disease prevention.

Patricia Wolford: Patricia joins us with a BS in anthropology from Northern Kentucky University. She is interested in Africa and African immigrant health care experiences.

**graduate
news**

Elizabeth Olson participated for ten weeks in the National Science Foundation field training program in Bolivia for quantitative methods in cultural anthropology. She spent half of her time working among the indigenous, forager group of the Tsimane'. The other half of her time was spent observing hospital births in a small tropical town and constructing a Likert survey to measure the attitudes and perceptions of birth, hospitals, doctors and midwives held by pregnant women. She plans to use data collected to test one element of her dissertation question. In 2004/2005, Elizabeth will serve as Vice President of Graduate Student Senate, planning a variety of activities. She is also serving as a representative of the GSS on the Faculty Senate Research Committee.

**graduate
news**

David Kaawa-Mafigiri will begin his dissertation fieldwork in early 2005. He has received funding from the World Health Organization's Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, Social, Economic, and Behavioural Research. His project "Social Networks and Social Support for TB control in Kampala, Uganda" will examine the ways in which social networks and social systems are affected by and are affecting TB treatment-seeking.

Kate Masley received a National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant to conduct her dissertation fieldwork. Her project "Living the 'Latina Paradox' An Ethnography of Pregnant Latinas in Cleveland, Ohio" will examine the links between Latina pregnancy management practices, life experiences, and ethnicity, as they relate to infant health outcomes.

Mara Buchbinder received an Anthropology Department Urban Health Summer Research Grant to support her summer project "Understanding Children's Experiences of Cancer through Therapeutic 'Animal' Camp." Mara volunteered at the Gathering Place's Animal Camp program for children who have had or currently have a loved adult with cancer. Mara, Peter Lawson, and Maggie Zraly have been working as research fellows at the Hanna Perkins Center for Child Development under the guidance of Dr. Jeff Longhofer. Mara has been working on preliminary research and design for an ethnographic project on daycare experience, while Peter and Maggie have been developing a comprehensive evaluation of the Center's mental health consultation program.

Alex Bridges, fourth-year graduate student, with assistance from a Phi Beta Kappa Grant for Student Research, spent five weeks conducting a small pilot study of monasticism in Ladakh, a Tibetan Buddhist region of India's western Himalaya mountains. This was Alex's fourth trip to Ladakh since 1997, continuing his preliminary research on monastic lifestyles and religious experience. In addition to the pilot study, Alex was able to establish relationships with monasteries of the Gelukpa and Kargyudpa sects of Tibetan Buddhism, a comparison that he hopes to make the central theme of his dissertation fieldwork.

With support from the Eva L. Pancoast Memorial Fellowship, fourth-year graduate student Sarah A. Rundall spent five weeks in Ladakh, India doing preliminary fieldwork for her dissertation. During her trip she volunteered at The Namgyal Institute for People with Disabilities (NIPWD), helping analyze data that has been collected in 139 villages and interacting with people with disabilities from villages throughout Ladakh that are involved in programs implemented by the NIPWD. Sarah plans to conduct her dissertation research in Ladakh, doing a comparison study of the experience of disability in Buddhist and Muslim families.

This summer Michelle Nebergall traveled throughout Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, and Montenegro with a group from Northwestern University. She attended seminars on Balkan culture and history conducted by scholars from the region, toured major religious and historical sites, visited an Adriatic island to learn about maritime culture, and conducted interviews with adolescents and young adults about the wars that took place there in the 1990's. Since returning, Michelle has remained in contact with friends and colleagues she met on her trip. She is using the information she gathered to develop her dissertation research question, which will examine how Croatian and Bosnian adolescents are developing politically and socially amid the changes taking place in these newly independent, post-war states.

This summer Sarah Rubin traveled to South Africa to do pre-dissertation/exploratory research on pregnancy, motherhood, and HIV/AIDS. She spent nine weeks traveling around the country working with Dr. Claire Penn, Dr. Robert Thornton, and others at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

**faculty
highlights**

Dr. Sharon Dean, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Anthropology, has become the Executive Director of the Cleveland Artists Foundation.

As of fall semester 2003, courses in linguistic anthropology are now available, rounding out Case anthropology to a four field department. In addition to developing and introducing a linguistic anthropology curriculum, the Anthropology Department will soon be opening its Linguistic Anthropology Laboratory in Mather Memorial 204. Headed by Dr. T.S. Harvey, it will serve as an invaluable resource for teaching and training undergraduates and graduates in linguistic anthropology, ethnography and qualitative research. Equipped with a Dell work station, the latest linguistic and data analysis software, digital transcription hardware, video editing software, a wide variety of digital as well as analog portable audio recorders, a digital Mini-DV video recorder, digital camera, an assortment of high tech microphones, headphones and tripods, the lab will provide a work space for technical and methodological training in data collection, organization and analysis, allowing students preparing to undertake research projects to acquire the skills and techniques they need. In addition to serving students, the lab will also function as a technological resource for faculty research projects.

alumni

Kathy Oths (Ph.D. Case, 1991), a medical anthropologist at the University of Alabama, has just been promoted to full professor. She recently completed a volume with Altamira Press entitled *Healing by Hand: Manual Medicine and Bonesetters in Global Perspective*.

obituaries

Joanna T. Skilogianis, Ph.D. passed away last May. Joanna received her Ph.D. at Case in 2001. She had been working at the Centers for Disease Control in their Maryland office. Joanna is survived by her husband, Douglas DesJardin and their two sons, Alexander and Constantine.

**graduate
discourse**

Last spring, Graduate Discourse was awarded \$200 by Graduate Student Senate to host an interdisciplinary cocktail hour at the Tree House in Tremont. The event was well-attended and enjoyed. Graduate Discourse has kicked off the fall semester by electing a new Executive Committee: Sarah Rubin, Administrative Representative; Mara Buchbinder, Advocacy Representative; Charlotte Haney, Professional Development Representative; Marisa Abbe, Social Representative; Peter Lawson, Graduate Student Senate Representative.

To submit news or for more information, contact Kathleen J. Dowdell at kathleen.dowdell@case.edu or by phone at 216-368-2264.

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