

THE ANTHROPOLOGIST

The College of Arts and Sciences

Case Western Reserve University

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

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Spring 2004

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Spring Focus: Anthropology and Fisk University

Students who signed up for ANTH 376/476 (“Multicultural Diversity, Social Inequality, and the Pursuit of Health in Global Perspective”) volunteered for a social and a technological experiment as well as an academically rigorous experience. The course is a collaborative seminar that links Case students with students at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee via live teleconferencing. Fourteen students (ten at Case and four at Fisk) meet once a week on Thursday afternoon, under the eye of the camera and the guidance of Dr. Thomas Csordas, Chair of the Department of Anthropology at Case and Dr. Sheila Peters, Chair of the Department of Psychology at Fisk. Two classrooms become one, as students talk about disparities in health status and health care as they are affected by gender, race, class, politics, and religion in the U.S. and globally. In preparation, they have read *Pathologies of Power*, by Paul Farmer and *Dying for Growth* by Jim Kim et al., as well as works by Thomas Csordas, Chris Dole, James Pfeiffer, and Nancy Scheper-Hughes.

Students interact in real time and can see each other on 30-inch screens set up in both classrooms. “We’ve all adjusted to the technology now,” says Elizabeth Carpenter, a doctoral student in Psychiatric Anthropology. She observes, “There’s a lot of good discussion in the class, and exchange takes place on an academic and a personal level, in terms of our experiences of inequality.” Aided by Blackboard, a course management software program that enables group communication via the web, students in the class are working together on presentations about mental health, reproductive health, and health policy.

The seminar was developed through a Walter Nord grant that Dr. Csordas received from Case’s University Center for Innovation in Teaching and Education. This class is just the beginning of a five-year-long collaboration between Case and Fisk. In mid-April, Dr. Csordas submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of Education for a U.S.-Brazil exchange program for 32 students. Participating institutions, in addition to Case and Fisk, are the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul in Porto Alegre and the Federal University of Bahia in Salvador. Says Csordas, “One goal of this project is to develop a cohort of students who will go on to make significant contributions to the understanding of multicultural diversity and social inequities, while maintaining an international perspective in their work.”

From the Editor’s Desk.....

This spring Professor Csordas taught an internet-based collaborative, distance-learning course entitled *Multicultural Diversity, Social Inequality, and the Pursuit of Health in Global Perspective*. Read more about this exciting endeavor in our Spring Focus on page one and about our new staff member, Meredith Holmes, on page four.

Kathleen J. Dowdell

alumni

Christopher Dole has accepted a tenure-track appointment as an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at Amherst College.

Elisa J. Gordon, Ph.D. was awarded a five-year Career Development Award from the National Institutes of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases to enable her to obtain an MPH and conduct research on "Self-Care and Outcomes Among Kidney Transplant Recipients."

Craig M. Klugman, who received an MA in anthropology at Case and a Ph.D. in medical humanities at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Ecology at the University of Nevada, Reno. He is also Chair of the Academic Programs for Nevada Center for Ethics and Health Policy. His areas of interest are bioethics, death and dying, and public health policy.

Heather Lindstrom received a two-year fellowship in the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) of the Centers for Disease Control beginning July 1, 2004. She will begin four weeks of intensive training before being assigned to a specific area where she will blend research and applied work as a learning/training opportunity. The EIS was founded in 1951 and provides epidemiological expertise domestically and internationally in all areas of public health.

spring courses

Visual Anthropology, Art and Aesthetics (379/479)	Katia Almeida
Globalization, Development, and Underdevelopment: Anthropological Perspectives (388/488)	Katia Almeida
Darwinian Medicine (302/402)	Cynthia Beall
Health, Culture and Disease: An Introduction to Medical Anthropology (215)	Rachel Chapman
Anthropology of Health and Illness II (481)	Rachel Chapman
Topics in Anthropology of Health and Medicine Topic: Diversity in Health (376/476)	Thomas Csordas
Contemporary Theory in Anthropology (362/462)	Atwood Gaines
Being Human: An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology (102)	Melvyn Goldstein
Introduction to Human Evolution (103)	Larry Greksa
Anthropology of Nutrition (369/469)	Larry Greksa
Language, Culture, and Communication (220)	T.S. Harvey
Ethnographies of Mesoamerica (355/455)	T.S. Harvey
Death and Dying (318/418)	Charlotte Ikels
Ethnicity, Gender, and Mental Health (345/445)	Janis Jenkins
Seminar in Medical Anthropology: Trauma (530)	Janis Jenkins
Culture, Behavior, and Person: Psychological Anthropology (371/471)	Jeffrey Longhofer
Being Human: An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology (102)	James Pfeiffer
Seminar in International Health: Community Health Program Design (510)	James Pfeiffer
Methods in Archaeology (321)	Brian Redmond
Independent Study in Laboratory Archaeology II (381)	Brian Redmond
Urban Anthropology (334/434)	Christina Saunders Sturm
Archaeology: An Introduction (107)	Jim Shaffer
Roots of Ancient India: The Archaeology of South Asia (333)	Jim Shaffer

graduates

Mara Buchbinder's manuscript, of which she is first author, was accepted by the *Journal of Adolescent Health*. It is entitled: "Assessing Adolescents with Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus: A Multiple Perspective Pilot Study Using Visual Illness Narratives and Interviews."

Kate Masley presented a paper at the Society for Medical Anthropology and Society for Applied Anthropology Joint Meeting in Dallas, Texas entitled "Exploring Pregnancy Management Among Latinas and Treating Them as Experts."

Michelle Nebergall and Sarah Rundall received Eva L. Pancoast Memorial Fellowships, an annual award given to support travel. Michelle will be traveling to Croatia and is planning site visits to refugee organizations in Zagreb and surrounding areas in September or October of 2004. Sarah will be traveling to Ladakh, an ethnic Tibetan region of the western Himalayas, in India. Both will collect pilot data that will be used to develop their dissertations.

Michelle Nebergall presented a paper at the Society for Medical Anthropology and Society for Applied Anthropology Joint Meeting in Dallas entitled "Ethnographer, Advocate, or Cultural Activist: When Participants Define the Anthropologist." This paper, which was co-authored by Professor Chapman and Maggie Zraly, was based on research they conducted among adolescents participating in a peace-promotion program at school.

Liz Olson presented "Holistic Healing and Ritual in the Salt Lake Valley: Transformative Features of Ritual" at a session held by the Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness at the American Anthropological Association meeting in Chicago. She has been selected to participate in the inaugural National Science Foundation (NSF) Summer Field Training in Methods of Data Collection in Cultural Anthropology in Bolivia May-August 2004. The Program of Cultural Anthropology of the NSF exposes students to a range of data collection methods. Under the leadership of Ricardo Godoy and other faculty, training will take place at an established research site in the tropical rain forest of Bolivia.

Jennifer Shaw will return to Lake Clark National Park this summer on the Alaska Peninsula to work and continue planning her dissertation research with Alaska native youth. In May she will attend the Fifth International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences in Fairbanks. She invites everyone to stop up for a visit and a salmon bake.

September 29, 2003—Jonathan Friedman, "Paradoxes of Real Existing Globalization: Elite Discourses, Grassroots and Back Streets."

events

November 4, 2003—T.S. Harvey, facilitator, Anthropology Departmental Roundtable.

January 28, 2004—William McGrew, "Chimp Culture and the Evolution of Human Culture."

February 19, 2004—Stuart M. Plattner, "The Cultural Anthropology Program at NSF."

March 23, 2004—Arthur Kleinman, "Global Mental Health: An Anthropological View."

April 9, 2004—MaryJo DelVecchio Good, "Indonesia Sakit (Indonesia in Pain): Interpretations of States of Crisis by Indonesian Contemporary Artists."

faculty publications

Professor Goldstein's book *A Tibetan Revolutionary* (April 2004) can be found at the book webpage: <http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/9933.html>.

M.C. Goldstein. "Sino-Tibetan Relations in the Twentieth Century." In M. Rossabi (ed.) *Governing China's Multiethnic Frontiers*. U. of Washington Press, March 2004.

M.C. Goldstein, B. Jiao, C.M. Beall, P. Tsering. "Development and Change in Rural Tibet: Problems and Adaptations. *Asian Survey*, 43:5, October 2003.

M.C. Goldstein. "On Modern Tibetan History: Moving Beyond Stereotypes." In A. McKay (ed.) *Tibet and Her Neighbors* Sterling Publishers, 2004.

M.C. Goldstein. "When Brothers Share a Wife," newly reprinted in *Annual Editions: Anthropology 2004/05* E. Angeloni (ed.) McGraw-Hill, 2004.

new staff

Meredith Holmes has been moving down the hall toward the department's main office since she started working at Case in December 1998. For two years she occupied room 243 as Managing Editor of *Ethos*. When Dr. Csordas's and Jenkins's terms as co-editors of *Ethos* ended in December 2000, she moved to room 204 to manage the Navajo Healing Project. Her contact with *Ethos* authors had been very businesslike, so, as Project Manager, she enjoyed getting a more personal sense of the field researchers working in Navajo land. When the final phase of the project ended, she moved into room 238 as a part-time assistant. She will help with grant proposal and manuscript preparation and help Barb and Kathie with the day-to-day running of the department.

student events

The Anthropology Department hosted its second mixer for graduate students in the humanities and social sciences on March 26th. It is hoped that this event becomes a tradition within the department. The mixer was well-attended by students from a variety of disciplines including history, music, psychology, and sociology. Students took this wonderful opportunity to share perspectives on everything from childhood disorders to choral arrangements with peers from the university. A great time was had by all!

graduate student senate

This organization represents the graduate student body and is an active member of the Faculty Senate Research Committee, participating in policy and guideline formulation and revision. Liz Olson, GSS representative, and other members are currently drafting a new policy and guidelines regarding group and co-authorship procedures, communication, and dispute resolution.

graduate discourse

Graduate Discourse has been awarded \$250 from the Graduate Student Senate to support graduate, student-led social activities at Case.

contact

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