

THE ANTHROPOLOGIST

A newsletter for faculty, students, alumni, and friends of the Department of Anthropology
Case Western Reserve University College of Arts and Sciences

SPRING 2011

After 26 years Professor Charlotte Ikels

who has been on the faculty in the Department of Anthropology since 1985, is retiring at the end of this academic year.

Professor Ikels will be greatly missed by both the department and the CWRU community as a whole. In addition to her primary appointment in the Department of Anthropology, she has secondary appointments in the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and in the Center for Global Health and Diseases. She has also played a key role in the Asian Studies Interdisciplinary Program, including directing the program since 2007. Within the department she has long directed the Qualifying Examination for our graduate program.

Professor Ikels has an outstanding national and international reputation based on her excellent and innovative work studying the interface of family, culture and the elderly in Chinese society, both in the People ' s Republic of China, Hong Kong, and among immigrants in Boston. She was one of the three founders of the Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology, and served as one of its three senior editors for ten years. The JCCG is now a highly-respected, peer reviewed journal.

Professor Ikels ' research contribution has been impressive. In 1983 she published a widely cited comparative study of Chinese in Hong Kong and Boston titled *Aging and Adaptation: Chinese in Hong Kong and the United States*. In the mid-1980s through the early 1990s Professor Ikels was part of a large National Institute on Aging funded research project that set new methodological standards for the cross-cultural study of aging. She was one of the co-authors of the resulting publication in 1994, *The Aging Experience: Diversity and Commonality Across Cultures*. This volume was the winner of the 1995 Richard A. Kalish Award for Innovative Publication granted by the Behavioral and Social Sciences Section of the Gerontological Society of America. Dr. Ikels conducted the project ' s case-study of Hong Kong.

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Lawrence Greksa, PhD

Chair and Professor

Vanessa Hildebrand, PhD

Assistant Professor

Lee Hoffer, PhD

Assistant Professor

Charlotte Ikels, PhD

Professor

Jill Korbin, PhD

Professor

Janet McGrath, PhD

Associate Professor

Jim Shaffer, PhD

Associate Professor

STAFF

Kathleen Dowdell

Barbara Reebel

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DR. CHARLOTTE IKELS continued

In 1996 Professor Ikels published a major study of changing patterns of urban life in China, *The Return of the God of Wealth: The Transition to a Market Economy in Urban China*, which won the 1996 Leeds award from the Society for Urban Anthropology. In 2004, she published an edited volume titled *Filial Piety: Practice and Discourse in Contemporary East Asia*. This volume is widely used and cited for its illuminating reexamination of the institution of filial piety in the rapidly changing East Asian societal context. More recently, Dr. Ikels began a major new research project on the development of the field of bioethics in China.

A FAREWELL LETTER A Special Place by Charlotte Ikels



It was a sunny day in Denver in late November 1984, and I was standing in the pre-registration line at the AAA registration counter. A man came up to me, identified himself as from Case Western Reserve University, and said that they (members of the Anthropology Department) wanted to talk with me. An impromptu interview followed during which I was invited to come out to Cleveland to give a talk.

I got on the phone with my husband to discuss a possibility neither of us had given much thought to – the possibility of a commuting marriage. We both had the same reaction – at least check out the department, see what it was like. I went and gave the job talk, I got the offer, and I accepted it. We decided that one year of commuting was something we could deal with. If the situation proved unsatisfactory, we could easily end it.

FAREWELL LETTER FROM IKELS continued

Well, it is now 26 years since I assumed a position at Case Western Reserve University. Clearly the situation proved satisfactory, and I learned that I was part of a special place. Way back in the 1980s the department was famous for its collegiality – nearly two-thirds of the faculty regularly ate lunch together in Thwing. Over the years the lunch group fragmented as various responsibilities drew people away, but the collegiality never faltered. It is that that kept me coming back. It is that that enriched Continental Airlines. It is that that I will miss when I sit at my computer in Cambridge and read The Daily.

I think that that collegiality has also been important for our students – both undergraduate and graduate. In choosing their classes or composing their doctoral committees, students have not had to worry about factionalism or philosophical differences among departmental faculty. Hopefully that collegiality has also helped our office staff keep the train on its tracks despite the myriad interruptions of both students and faculty. (Barb, can you scan this and send me the PDF? Kathie, I don't understand why they want this. Kim, my computer just froze!)

I believe I am about to make history. According to local informants I will be the first person to retire from the department since the merger of Case and Western Reserve in the 1960s. While I may not be physically present, I hope to remain an active participant in the life of this special place.

ANTHROPOLOGY SPOTLIGHT LECTURE SERIES

Applying Anthropology to Real World Problems

This year's Applying Anthropology to Real World Problems lecture series was delivered by Susheel Jain on April 5th. Mr. Jain received an M.A. in Medical Anthropology in 1985 and later studied health policy and economics at the RAND / UCLA Center for Health Policy Study.

His talk, Medical Anthropology Applied: How Major Healthcare Companies Use Medical Anthropology and Don't Know It, was based on over 20 years of experience working in the fields of health economics and health policy. These lectures are possible through the generous support of Mr. Jonathan Plimpton, Managing Director, International Business Management, Inc. and a 1970 graduate of Anthropology of Western Reserve College.



Susheel Jain

DR. EILEEN ANDERSON-FYE

Eileen Anderson-Fye participated in roundtable discussions and delivered a paper titled, "Issues in the Study of Culture and Body Image," at a small international conference on child body image in Satra, Sweden in October 2010. She was named chair of the Condon Award Committee through the Society for Psychological Anthropology.

DR. CYNTHIA BEALL

Cynthia Beall was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship to support studies on recent human evolution at high altitude. In its eighty-seventh annual competition for the United States and Canada the Foundation has awarded 180 fellowships to artists, scientists, and scholars. The successful candidates were chosen from a group of some 3,000 applicants. (www.gf.org)

The BBC TV science program Horizons "Are we still evolving?" featured a segment on Professor Beall's research on Tibetan adaptation to high altitude hypoxia. A video of that segment is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=bluE_lqFwuE along with links to the other segments including one describing ongoing evolution in the residents of Framingham, MA. (Yes, the narrator does mispronounce her name as "Beel". The pronunciation is "Bell".)

Professor Beall will begin a three-year term in May on the Advisory Council for the The National Academies' Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education (DBASSE). DBASSE seeks to advance the frontiers of the behavioral and social sciences and their applications to public policy. The Division's work is organized around four broad areas: behavioral sciences, social sciences, education, and national statistics. (www7.nationalacademies.org/dbasse/)

DR. VANESSA HILDEBRAND

Pilot program in graduate research training in global health

The provost approved a proposal submitted by the Global Health Alliance, with anthropology as one of the components of the alliance, to the Interdisciplinary Alliance Investment Grant competition. Anthropology proposed a two-year pilot program designed to create an enhanced graduate program in Medical Anthropology and Global Health by exposing students to research in both local and global settings early in their graduate careers. The research projects are being directed by Professor Vanessa Hildebrand. The initial group of students in the program are first year student Sarah Miller and second year student Jenny Zabel. Projects in both Cleveland and Kenya will focus on how knowledge of infertility figures into the experience, understanding, and course of seeking treatment. In Cleveland the project will more specifically examine the way that women who are delaying childbearing perceive of the future of their fertility. In Kenya the project will address the confounding issue of schistosomiasis in dealing with infertility. Ruth Magtanong will be the on-site project director while the research is being conducted in Kenya.

FACULTY NEWS continued

DR. JANET MCGRATH

Janet McGrath will devote fall semester to data analysis and writing up current results from the Center for Social Science Research on AIDS (CeSSRA) project. CeSSRA is in its fourth year and has completed 12 months of follow up of a cohort of men and women on HIV medications at two sites in Uganda. An ethnographic substudy has just begun of 40 persons across the two sites. This substudy will examine the context of daily drug use in more detail.

DR. JENNIFER FURIN

Anthropology adjunct faculty member launches campaign to reduce TB-related stigma

On March 24th, Jennifer Furin and the TB Research Unit launched a new campaign to reduce stigma related to tuberculosis. The campaign-called "I am TB" was designed using ethnographic research and the input of persons whose lives have been affected by TB. The goal of the campaign is reinforcing positive messages about people with TB. The program is also supported by Dartmouth University and the National TB Programs of Peru and Georgia. A global launch is scheduled for October 2011. The program was first launched on World TB Day (March 24th) here at CWRU along with a lecture presented by Dr. Furin called "TB 2011: The Beginning of a new era in TB advocacy, care, and research."

2011 Carl F. Wittke Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

Eileen Anderson-Fye, Cynthia Beall, and Charlotte Ikels were all nominated for the 2011 Carl F. Wittke Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

GRADUATE NEWS

ARIEL CASCIO

Ariel Cascio received an Honorable Mention from the 2011 Graduate Research Fellowship Program of the National Science Foundation. Also, for making a difference on our campus and / or the Cleveland community, Ariel received a Graduate Student Appreciation Award.

NEDDA DASTMALCHI

Nedda Dastmalchi will intern at the National Institute of Health / National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases (NIH / NIAID) doing research in the epidemiology unit on Non-Tuberculosis Microbacteria in the epidemiology.

NADIA EL-SHAARAWI

Nadia's dissertation research focuses on the effects of prolonged urban displacement on the self-identified health and psycho-social well-being of Iraqi refugees in Egypt, as well as the ways in which refugees seek to mitigate these effects through interactions with institutions and policies. The dissertation has three main aims: 1) to take a person-centered view of the refugee resettlement process, and particularly foreground health and psycho-social well-being in that inquiry, with theoretical implications related to subjectivity, presentation and experience of suffering, and the social / political / legal lives of psychiatric diagnoses, 2) to look at ways in which people attempt to manage states of insecurity, uncertainty, and liminality and implications for their health, 3) to document the situation of Iraqi refugees in Egypt, who have been almost ignored in the discussion of Iraqi forced migration in the region.

MEGHAN HALLEY

Meghan Halley recently completed 18 months of fieldwork in the rural Mtwara region of southern Tanzania, and is currently writing her dissertation thesis titled, "Negotiating Sexuality: Culture, Ritual and Change in Rural Southern Tanzania." Her research is oriented around an ongoing controversy over the relationship between initiation rituals practiced in the rural Mtwara region and adolescent sexuality. These rituals, which involve teaching young people the cultural norms of gender roles, family life, and sexuality, are currently under scrutiny following the publication of government statistics reporting an adolescent pregnancy rate of over 30% in the region, a rate twice the national average.

The controversy over these rituals serves as an orienting framework for a broader examination of the individual, cultural, environmental, and economic factors, including the rituals, shaping adolescent sexuality within the rapidly changing cultural environment of rural Mtwara. During the course of her fieldwork, Meghan used a mixed method design combining traditional anthropological methods of ethnography, participant observation, and in-depth qualitative interviewing with a semi-structured, comparative survey.

STEPHANIE MCCLURE

Stephanie McClure has been awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship to support her while completing her dissertation. She has also been selected to receive the 2010-2011 Richard A. Zdanis Research Fellowship Award.

HILLARY MELCHORS

Hillary Melchors received the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst [German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)] Graduate Research Grant for her dissertation research in Berlin, Germany titled: Adolescent Negotiation of Bicultural Environments: Expectations and Identity of Turkish-German Girls in Berlin. The German Academic Exchange Service is the German national agency for the support of international academic cooperation. They offer programs and funding for students, faculty, researchers and others in higher education, providing financial support to over 55,000 individuals per year.

MICHELLE NEBERGALL

Michelle Nebergall received a Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities Graduate Research Grant to partially support Xhosa language training in Cape Town, South Africa. Michelle will spend the summer of 2011 in Cape Town studying Xhosa and preparing for her dissertation research which examines youth risk in the context of structural violence.

KRISTI NINNEMANN

Kristi Ninnemann received the Ruth Barber Moon Award for the 2010-2011 academic year. This award is given to graduate students who demonstrate academic promise and leadership.

COLLEEN WALSH

Colleen Walsh successfully defended her dissertation, "Gardening Together: Social Capital, Health Inequality and the Cultivation of Urban Community" this spring. Her research was based on the study of community gardeners in Cleveland. She 'll be teaching a course on Urban Health in the fall.

JING WANG

Anthropology 1st year graduate student Jing Wang from China was awarded a 2011-12 Wadsworth International Fellowship for Ph.D. studies from the Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research. The Wadsworth Fellowships are intended to provide support for incoming or 1st year foreign students undertaking study leading to a Ph.D. "at universities where they can receive international training in anthropology."

The fellowship will provide funds for living expenses and travel relevant to Jing 's area of research interest, i.e, Tibet. Jing is planning to use the funds to make a visit to Tibet this summer. The fellowship is renewable for two more years and is the third time the department has received this prestigious award. Previous awards went to Ben Jiao from Tibet, China (sponsor Professor Goldstein) and Nyam Dorj from Mongolia (sponsor Professor Beall).

MARGARET WINCHESTER

Margaret Winchester received her Ph.D. this spring after completing her dissertation titled "Living with Globalization: The Intersection of HIV and Intimate Partner Violence in Uganda" which is based on her mixed method, NSF-supported fieldwork with women living with HIV in two regions of Uganda. She is currently working in the Bioethics Department at CWRU and submitting grants to continue her work in Uganda. In the fall she 'll be teaching the Introduction to International Health course.

GRADUATE NEWS continued

EVA L. PANCOAST MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

Sarah Koopman-Gonzalez, Hillary Melchiors, and Ariel Cascio were awarded the Eva L. Pancoast Memorial Fellowship.

INTEGRATED GRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAM

Nedda Dastmalchi, Andrea Fischione, and Colin Mulholland will receive both B.A. and M.A. degrees this spring through the Integrated Graduate Studies program.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

ASHWINI BATCHU

Ashwini Batchu spent a month in Hyderabad, sponsored by the Anthropology Department's Experiential Learning Fellowship, interviewing Apollo hospital personnel and patients. Medical tourism is the rapidly growing industry of transnational health care provision. In this enterprise, patients and doctors travel to both receive and deliver health care. The increasing demand of this new industry indicates a heightened and newly evolving form of globalization in the world of health care. In India, a chain of Apollo Hospital medical facilities are at the center of India's privatized hospital system, and are increasing investment into the medical tourism industry.

These hospitals are not only integrating the demand for abroad-based services into their pre-existing hospital system, but also investing revenue to create new medical tourist infrastructures to further expand Apollo's industry and capacity for providing transnational health care. The impacts of medical tourism include areas such as doctor and patient health care, infrastructure, local, political, and social economy. With a complex set of claims and criticisms encompassing such a wide array of topics, it is crucial that a series of these topics are closely examined through an anthropological perspective to see how hospital administrator, doctor, nurses, and patient experiences are shaped by this specific expansion of the private hospital sector. The data and experience Ashwini gained will be used to fulfill his SAGES capstone requirement.

YAO-CHIEH ("Jack") CHENG

Jack Cheng will be working as a community health volunteer for the Peace Corps in Mozambique.

MONIQUE FARONE

Monique Farone will be attending Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health where she will be pursuing an MPH in Health Education.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS continued

SHANNON OHLEMACHER

Shannon Ohlemacher will be entering a Ph.D. program in Biochemistry at Washington University in St. Louis. She hopes to be involved in designing drugs to combat infectious diseases.

ASHLEY CHAN MI PARK

Ashley Chan Mi Park will be attending the University of Illinois at Chicago to obtain an MPH in community health sciences.

CONGRATULATIONS

Anthropology majors Emily Chen, Kathryn Davis, Bettina Kaphingst, and Shannon Ohlemacher were elected as members of Phi Beta Kappa by the Alpha of Ohio chapter at CWRU.

FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ANTHROPOLOGY

The following undergraduate students received academic awards

Emily Chen, The Jonathan F. Plimpton Award

Kathryn Davis, The Jonathan F. Plimpton Award

Shannon Ohlemacher, The Ruth and Newbell Niles Puckett Award

Anna Shapiro, The Callender Memorial Award

Rachel Siegfried, The Callender Memorial Award

GRADUATE DISCOURSE

GRADUATE DISCOURSE

Graduate Discourse (GD) continues CWRU's tradition of being a body of unity and support for anthropology graduate students. This semester has been both busy and productive. GD meets every month and continues to organize professional development activities, such as Works in Progress, and participate in social activities, such as the spring bowling tournament. Thanks to a generous donation from Ken Anderson, GD is working on developing an anthropology graduate student library. This library will be held within the department for on-campus use by the graduate students. The library will contain books on theory and methodology. Graduate Discourse is proud to announce the anticipated spring publication of a new issue of Graduate Discourse: The Case Western Reserve University Journal of Medical Anthropology.

ELIZABETH OLSON

Elizabeth Olson has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Loyola University.

SARAH ROBINSON

In June, Sarah Robinson (BA '10) will begin service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Togo, Africa. As a community health educator, she will focus on reproductive health and family planning, infant growth and nutrition education, the fight against malaria, and STI/AIDS prevention.

RACHEL STONEKING

Rachel Stoneking (BA '10) is in the MFA program in the Department of Dance at CWRU. She recently was awarded the Kathryn Karipides Scholarship in Modern Dance which will provide a stipend allowing her to attend a summer modern dance program or workshop.

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