

# Society for Applied Anthropology Newsletter

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## SfAA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Jean J. Schensul  
Institute for Community Research  
Hartford, CT

In 1995 members of the Executive Committee (EC) of the Society for Applied Anthropology agreed to the importance of a long range, strategic plan. Many changes had occurred or were occurring in the structure, activities and way of operating of the Society, therefore we also decided on a review of the committee structure, the bylaws, and the *Procedures Manual*. As you might recall, in the August 1996 issue of this *Newsletter* the seven goals were outlined. In order to keep the membership informed of our activities and in an effort to generate some dialogue on what we are doing, this column will explore the first of these strategic goals. Future issues of the *Newsletter* will look at other parts of the "Long Range Plan".

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The first goal of the strategic plan is to *strengthen the international and interdisciplinary stance of SfAA*. The international and interdisciplinary perspectives are commitments of the SfAA and are reflected in our origin and history. There is general agreement that we should proceed in both directions using the vehicles we have in hand. If we want to demonstrate that the Society is both international and interdisciplinary, we must reflect these directions in our membership. A large percentage of our individual (not institutional) membership consists of anthropologists based in the U.S., Canada or Latin America.

Non-North American applied anthropologists have the opportunity to make gains through stimulus diffusion of some of the SfAA's approaches and products, and we wish to support and expand the international networks, membership and perspectives assets. A good number of the members already have well-established collaborative links

in the non-North American countries where they do field-work. Anthropologists on the whole are demographic and interested in empowerment. This seems especially true of the SfAA which is non-hierarchical in its approach and allows many opportunities for people to participate.

What are the barriers to accomplishing this? Unfairly or not, many anthropologists in other countries sometimes view North American anthropologists as sympathetic to or extensions of US foreign policy. Sometimes it may be more benign in the view that North American anthropologists are part of a general extension of North American cultural imperialism. There is a general sense of annoyance when North Americans suggest some sort of international endeavor, but then always expect to lead it. Sometimes the

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sheer number of North Americans in any international context (such as international meetings) can be overwhelming and that does not allow for much direct dialogue. Perhaps that cannot be helped because there are far more US anthropologists than there are any other nationality (my guess is North Americans represent two-thirds of the total).

How can we attempt to meet this goal? Obviously, there are a number of avenues to be explored. Here are several suggestions for accomplishing this task. Annually we can bring in several scholars from a non-North American region. Furthermore, we can have a plenary session where the anthropology of policy and practice are discussed relevant to that area.

**The SfAA could help facilitate the possibilities for applied anthropologists from other countries to spend time at the specialized programs for policy and practice.**

Another idea would be to explore and finalize a fee structure that offers a reduced (roughly the same price as the student membership fee) for individuals from developing countries, done parallel to the way that Current Anthropology does it. The SfAA's finance committee can review previous efforts along these lines, as well as the costs and benefits of potential funding through membership contributions. The SfAA should be able to identify some policy issues that could be explored in a sustained collaborative manner among international colleagues (e.g. NAFTA, Refugee Relocation, or the International Labor Migrations).

Perhaps the SfAA could help facilitate the possibilities for applied anthropologists from other countries to spend time at the specialized programs for policy and practice such as at South Florida, Kentucky, and so forth. The EC could assign one of its members to work with program chairs to explore possibilities for such exchanges.

Another thought might include having executive members (presidents and ex-presidents) attend the meetings of anthropological associations in other countries. We could require that presidents build one international trip into their annual budgets.

The promotion of Topical Interest Groups (TIGs) representing various regions of the world where people are already doing research (e.g. Latin American TIG; African TIG, Southeast Asian TIG, China TIG and so forth) could be an important step in establishing collaborative ties with local anthropologists and like minded scholars. The use of such linkages to build more sustainable bridges to SfAA could have a number of mutually beneficial outcomes.

The SfAA could have more international meetings outside of Mexico (e.g., Scotland, Spain). We need to have the finance committee review the finances of international versus national meetings (revenues, expenses and organiza-

tional requirements). To achieve this goal, we will need to explore the long range potential for collaborative seminars, workshops and more frequent international annual meetings flowing from international trips of officers and efforts to build networks.

We need to use these attempts at internationalization as efforts to truly collaborate and learn from non-North American colleagues rather than just promote SfAA or seek intern experiences for North American students. We will perhaps need to make some statement distancing the organization from US foreign policy (not repudiation, but a distancing nonetheless). Whether one likes it or not, North American foreign, economic and cultural policies are definite barriers. We should explore whether a statement can be included in our mission statement. The establishment of a truly international membership in major decision-making structures of the SfAA is vital to the accomplishment of this goal.

These are just some of my thoughts on this very important issue. What you see here is just the beginning of a process of dialogue among members of the Society regarding the content of a strategic (general) and long range (3 - 5 year) plan for our organization. We hope to approve a much revised version of this plan at our annual meeting in Seattle. Between now and then, we hope to engage you in a lively discussion around what is *missing* from the plan, and what your suggestions are for improving it. Please direct your comments to me at jschensu@aol.com or call or fax me at the Institute for Community Research (Telephone (860) 278-2040; fax: (860)278-2141) and I will refer all of them to other members of the Executive Committee. Each and every person who participates in this discussion will be acknowledged in the process. In the next issue of our *Newsletter*, you will read a revision of our bylaws for commentary prior to discussion at the Council of Fellows Meeting in Seattle.



## **MINDING YOUR BUSINESS — “The Annual Meeting: What is Happening?”**

By J. Tom May

Oklahoma City, OK

**W**e registered over 1,100 people for the annual meeting in Baltimore last spring. There were about that many for the meeting in Albuquerque in 1995. And, in 1993 (the next previous domestic meeting), a total of 890 persons were registered. The pattern of increased attendance at the annual meeting is the result of a conscious effort to attract non-members from related or cognate professional associations.

The expanded annual meeting developed from a plan approved by the Executive Committee in 1987. The plan suggested that increased attendance could be a method for expanding membership. The annual meeting, it was reasoned, could "show case" the SfAA. Non-members who were attracted to register and attend would find the contact and exchange so rewarding that they would become active members.

The plan has worked beyond the wildest expectations of the planners of 1987. Prior to 1985, the registration for the annual meetings ranged from 225 to 350. The effectiveness of the meeting as a membership recruitment tool can be seen in the results in Baltimore - more than 200 new members joined in conjunction with their meeting registration. The annual meeting is now the most significant recruitment tool that the SfAA has.

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The size and scope of the annual meeting now requires much more planning. In conjunction with the Program Chair and Program Committee, the Business Office begins work on the publicity fully 15 months before the meeting. The increased size has several other benefits. We can now negotiate more effectively with hotels for competitive guest room rates. In addition, we have been able to sponsor two receptions during the meeting. Finally, the size of the meeting permits us to attract a larger number of publishers for the book exhibit.

We are aware that the expanded size could jeopardize the personal nature of the earlier meetings. In anticipation, we have increased the opportunities for small interest groups to meet. Further, we have established the early evening receptions. We would welcome any suggestions that you might have for activities which would make the annual meeting a stimulating and enjoyable experience.

## FROM THE STUDENT EDITOR

By Tony A. Hebert  
University of Florida

**T**hat's not anthropology... Have you ever heard this? Many students looking to apply anthropology to social problems within the United States encounter this attitude during their undergraduate or graduate training. But students must be steadfast in their goals and not be deterred by opponents of domestic applied anthropology.

The dialogue framed by questioning domestic applied

anthropology has created a chasm within the discipline that places applied anthropologists on one side of the divide and academic purists on the other. Graduate and undergraduate students must carefully work with both sides of this debate in pursuing their degrees, feeling the pull and influence of two different philosophical approaches to anthropology. In negotiating these differences, students must realize that the criticisms levied against domestic applied anthropology are not always objective assessments of the field.

Applied anthropologists do not necessarily go into the field to deliberately test or develop theory, therefore their work has been criticized for its lack of theoretical substance. Yet, through the course of practicing anthropology, applied anthropologists draw upon and develop anthropological theories germane to the contexts in which they practice. This process ties their work to the same epistemological tree as other anthropologists. In a sense, applied anthropology should be seen as a step beyond traditional anthropological inquiry, as theoretical models and the validity of anthropological perspectives are put to the test in solving real world issues.

Domestic applied anthropology is especially looked down upon because the study of people within the United States does not fall within the traditional purview of anthropology and crosses the border into what has been the historical domain of sociology. Anthropologists, it is asserted, study "exotic" peoples, and many will not consider you a "real" anthropologist unless you have undergone a traditional rite of passage, by doing research in an inaccessible place, with people who speak a different language and subsisting off food that makes your stomach turn.

**Through the course of practicing anthropology, applied anthropologists draw upon and develop anthropological theories germane to the contexts in which they practice.**

This criticism is a strawman, for it must be understood that if anthropology is truly a science of humanity, the context of its application should make little difference, so long as people and their behavior remain the subject matter. Within the United States anthropologists can work in cultural contexts that are non-normative to them, such as subcultures or other ethnic groups. This allows those so inclined to study people different from themselves, yet in a domestic context.

One need not look very far to find a contradiction to the long held value that anthropologists should not study their own cultural contexts and societies - case in point, the acceptance and promotion of "indigenous anthropologists". It is frowned upon for an African American, or Euro-American anthropologist to study their own ethnic identities and

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cultural contexts within the United States. Yet, "indigenous" anthropologists are lauded for providing insights that could not be garnered by western anthropologists. It follows from this, that native anthropologists working within the United States also have unique insights to offer regarding familiar cultural contexts (St. Claire Drake has argued a point similar to this in his discussion of a "Black Perspective" in domestic anthropology).

These contradictions and traditionally held attitudes of what constitutes anthropology, who is an anthropologist and who should study what, need to change if anthropology is to survive and continue to consider itself a holistic field of insight into human behavior. Anthropology has long been focused on the "exotic other", the non-western and less developed, losing sight of the important work that is needed to be done within the United States by both non-native and native anthropologists alike.

The trend in anthropology may be against anthropological tradition, refocusing the "anthropological lens" upon ourselves rather than distant places. This process is being hastened by the lack of jobs in academia and the necessity or preference of anthropology graduate students to pursue applied work within the United States. This corps of applied anthropologists can use anthropology in efforts to evaluate the needs of specific groups, approach community development from a grassroots perspective, work with doctors to deal with issues of culture in the treatment process, and deliver and develop policies or programs, among many other applications. Anthropology applied to real world problems within the United States is a legitimate and useful application of anthropological theory and perspectives, one which can greatly contribute to efforts at promoting a quality of life within the United States that reflects the needs and aspirations of its constituent peoples.

Students be aware. You need not feel as though your interests in domestic issues and career goals in applied / practicing anthropology are marginal, illegitimate or outside the scope of anthropological inquiry. Instead, count yourself among the growing number of students and professionals applying anthropology within the United States, and take your place among these practitioners in reshaping the defining qualities of anthropology as it strives to be a science for domestic social change in the next century.



## LPO NEWS

By Pennie L. Magee  
Tropical Resources  
Denver, CO

More than 30 members and friends of the High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology (HPSfAA) met at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico in October for the 5th annual retreat. Participants always look forward to what is fast becoming a tradition for the HPSfAA. The retreat consists of a long weekend spent in the beautiful countryside of Georgia O'Keeffe's northern New Mexico, offering the opportunity to have leisurely discussions about applied anthropology and other burning issues with colleagues in an informal format. Everyone also takes full advantage of the hiking trails and other outdoor activities.

This year's theme centered around sustainable agriculture. Miguel Vasquez of Northern Arizona University shared his research experiences with terrace gardening, and the group followed up with a rousing discussion about issues of development. A Ghost Ranch staff member then presented an overview of the history of land use and land rights of the region as the context for the ranch's relationship to current neighbors. Participants joined her on a tour of the highlands research farming component of the ranch, which incorporates various appropriate technologies, adapted for high and dry climates, into agriculture and animal husbandry practices. Please come and join us next year!

## PLANS FOR THE SPRING MEETINGS -- Seattle, March 5 - 9, 1997

By Edward Liebow  
Battelle Seattle Research Center  
Seattle, WA

Full bodied, richly textured - that's the early word on the heady brew of research presentations and special events that await you in Seattle at the 1997 Annual Meeting. The meeting is co-sponsored by the Society for Medical Anthropology, the Council on Nursing and Anthropology, and the Political Ecology Society. The American Ethnological Society will be meeting at the same time just a few blocks down the street at the Hilton, and it will be possible to attend events at both conferences by registering for the SfAA *Annual Meeting*. The Preliminary Program will be ready by the week of December 9. The program committee will be mailing acceptance notices to session organizers and authors of individually volunteered papers at the same time, and a copy of the Preliminary Program will be available at the Annual Meeting web site ([www.telepath.com/sfaa/sfaa97](http://www.telepath.com/sfaa/sfaa97)).

Travel information (hotel reservations, student housing possibilities, air fare discounts, airport transportation) will be mailed to the SfAA membership and others preregistered for the meetings in mid-December. Also in that package will be information about early sign-up for tours and workshops.

Based on the number of proposed sessions and individual papers received, we are expecting an unusually large turnout. You'll see the Program's scientific content shortly, but just in case you are wondering what else we have on the menu, here is a taste of workshops and special events we have planned for you:

#### *Workshops*

- **Mental Health Services and Managed Care:** Led by Scott Sandage, Chief of Child, /Adolescent Psychiatry at the Chicago-area Lutheran General Hospital, this workshop will review the evolution of managed-care in mental health over the last 20-30 years and discuss various ramifications on actual service delivery. How have these market influences affected the diagnosis and treatment of patients? How are conflicts of interest and mixed incentives being created? What are the implications of a capitation model? Are these changes better or worse for the patient or society?
- **The new Cooperative Agreement between the SfAA and US Environmental Protection Agency:** SfAA coordinator Barbara Johnston and her EPA counterpart, Theresa Trainor, will facilitate a discussion of opportunities this Agreement can create for community-based research and professional networking.
- **Hands-on guidance in Job-Seeking and Career-Building:** Two events are featured, including one led by Elizabeth Briody (General Motors) and Merrill Singer (Hispanic Health Council of Hartford) called "Preparing for Professional Careers in Anthropology," and the other organized by the SfAA Student Committee, featuring a number of professional anthropologists talking about their employment and consulting experience, "Applied Anthropology Outside the Academy."
- **Resumé Clinic:** An accomplished group of anthropologists from the private and public sectors will go over your resumé with you and offer practical advice on the presentation of your professional self.
- **Reading and Responding to Requests for Proposals:** Margaret Boone, President of Policy Research Methods, and Cathleen Crain, Managing Partner of LTG Associates, will offer hands-on practical advice on some critical stages in developing projects with contract research sponsors.
- **Writing for Decision-Makers:** Becky Joseph, currently with the National Park Service, will lead a workshop that focuses on translating technical to non-technical language,

extracting key points of interest to the decision maker, and determining how much information is enough

- **Funding and contracting opportunities:** Representatives from the National Science Foundation, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the National Park Service will be present to talk about funding and contracting opportunities with their respective organizations.
- **Leadership Opportunities in SfAA:** This open session, organized by Executive Committee member Vince Gil, welcomes interested members wishing to know more about the Society, possible leadership roles, and also offers a chance to interact with the editors of *Human Organization* and *Practicing Anthropology*.

#### *Community Assessment*

- **Following on the remarkable event staged in Baltimore in 1996,** Tony Whitehead and his colleagues at the University of Maryland's Cultural Systems Analysis Group have organized a day-long symposium:
  - **Applied Urban Ethnography - Ethnographically Informed Community Assessments.** Research, teaching, and community service are all parts of the integrated model that presentations in this symposium will articulate.

#### *Open Forums and Roundtable Discussions*

One of the Annual Meeting program's special features is a more flexible format that promotes a productive conversation about topics of special interest. This year, open forums and roundtable discussions will focus on such topics as the history of the Society for Applied Anthropology, "Anthropologists and HIV/AIDS Policy," working with NGOs, "Northwest Tribes, Natural Resources, the Environment, and Anthropologists," intellectual property rights, and the workings of the US Congress.

#### *Film and Video Screenings*

A full day of screening new and recent releases, as well as some works-in-progress intended for documentation, analysis, teaching, and entertainment. The film makers of "Calling the Ghosts: A Story About Rape, War, and Women" and "Lighting the Seventh Fire" will host special screenings of these important documentary pieces.

#### *Tours*

The Seattle area offers a combination of scenic beauty, cultural diversity, urban charm, and abundant recreational opportunities. March is mild, and the city's attractions are many. We are planning tours to introduce visitors to the area's ethnic and cultural heritage, its corporate citizens, and key places in the regional health and medicine scene:



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- Public Health, Seattle Style - The Cross-Cultural Health Institute, Seattle/King County Public Health Department, the University of Washington's Institute on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.
- Jim Spradley's Downtown, And Beyond - a walking tour of "Underground Seattle," the Klondike Museum, the original "Skid Road", and a visit with the Pike Place Market Foundation director.
- The Public Connection -The Burke Museum renovation-in progress, a special university ethnomusicology collection, and the Jack Straw studios, audio producers extraordinaire.
- Livable Neighborhoods, You Betcha see for yourself why the city regularly ranks so highly, with an emphasis on ethnic diversity, architecture, and local history.

For more information, please consult the SfAA Web site [www.telepath.com/sfaa](http://www.telepath.com/sfaa) or contact Ed Liebow (206) 528-3311, [liebow@battelle.org](mailto:liebow@battelle.org).



## REPORT FROM THE *HO* EDITOR

By Robert V. Kemper  
Southern Methodist University

As I write this column, Halloween night is once again upon us with its unique opportunities for "trick or treat" for the ghosts, goblins, and variegated monsters in the neighborhood. The goodies being gathered by son John and his buddies (not to mention your loyal editor, along as chaperone) contain enough sugar and fat grams to turn nutritionists green and bring smiles to family dentists throughout the city! In the wake of such a spirit-filled Halloween, it is a double delight to be spending the first weekend of November reviving my own spirit at a "Fall Reflective Retreat" in the Texas Hill Country.

Of course, before the Retreat, we managed to get the Winter issue of *HO* off to the printers on schedule. It should be arriving in the hands of U.S. readers as the last of the Thanksgiving leftovers are being reheated for the third time. For those living outside the U.S., we hope that the issue will reach you before the year-end holidays. The journal travels through the world's postal systems at this busiest time of the year at an extremely unreliable and variable speed.

The Winter issue 55(4), contains ten articles and seven commentary pieces which, collectively, represent the labors of some 25 authors. This issue begins with an unusual study of "The Social Construction of Whiteness" in the pseudonymous community of Shellcracker Haven, Florida. In this provocative piece, Jane W. Gibson challenges popu-

lar and scholarly ideas about "whiteness" in the context of poverty. The next article, by Patricia Barker Lerch and Susan Bullers, also deals with questions of ethnicity in the American South. However, instead of examining the expected categories of African Americans and Angios, they analyze "Powwows as Identity Markers" among the Waccamaw Sioux of North Carolina. Then, the concern for American Indians carries us to Los Angeles, the site of an important study of "Homelessness among Older American Indians" conducted in 1987-1988 by B. Josea Kramer and Judith C. Barker. This article offers both qualitative and quantitative data to assess the living circumstances of elderly American Indians who reside in urban areas.

The next set of three articles is concerned with agricultural problems in the Americas. First, E. Paul Durrenberger and Kendall M. Thu test the applicability to "Large Scale Hog Farming in Iowa" (in the 1990s) of Walter Goldschmidt's findings about agriculture in California (from the 1940s). Second, Francisco J. Pichon examines "Land-Use Strategies in the Amazon Frontier" by carefully documenting and analyzing farm-level evidence from eastern Ecuador. Finally, Mark Moberg discusses "Transnational Labor and Refugee Enclaves" in the Belizean banana industry.

Still in the Central American region, readers will have the opportunity to go "behind the lines" when they read John L. Hammond's account of "Popular Education in the Salvadoran Guerrilla Army". By comparison, the case study of the JET [Japan Education and Teaching] Program presented by David L. McConnell shows the problems of trying to establish "Education for Global Integration in Japan". Both of these articles are about the problems of cultural conflict inherent in difficult teaching environments, whether in the tropical mountains of El Salvador or the urban prefectures of Japan.

The last two articles in this issue are concerned with industrial life and its consequences. On the one hand, Dana S. Kaminstein provides an analysis of the "Rhetorical Aspects of Public Meetings" called to deal with problems of toxic waste sites in Pitman, New Jersey. On the other, Michael Sofer, Izhak Schnell, and Israel Drori address the complex problem of "Industrial Zones and Arab Industrialization in Israel". In the light of recent political-military confrontations between Palestinians and Israelis, this treatment of the "marginal" circumstances of Arab industries is most timely and thought provoking.

**The Winter issue 55(4), contains ten articles and seven commentary pieces which, collectively, represent the labors of some 25 authors.**

The Commentaries begin with "British Anthropology in Policy and Practice". In this extensive bibliographic assessment, Cris Shore and Susan Wright provide a critical perspective on current work, with special attention to the

problem of "culture" in applied anthropology in Britain. The second commentary (by Suzanne Autumn) offers a critique of Arturo Escobar's recent work on anthropological involvement in international development. Interested readers may wish to respond to her commentary in future issues. The third commentary deals with "Ethical Standards for Medical Anthropologists Consulting in Ethnomedicine". Here Robert Anderson offers wise counsel for those anthropologists involved in consulting of all forms, not just those doing medical work. The fourth commentary continues the series of recent pieces by Merrill Singer and his colleagues (in the present case, Margaret Weeks) focused on AIDS in minority communities in the area of Hartford, Connecticut. They conclude with a question that we all must take seriously: "Can anthropological theories of social behavior provide the framework for new, more effective, social prevention strategies?"

**You will find the Annual Index at the back of this issue. You may be interested in knowing that, in the four issues (totaling 512 pages) published in 1996, *HO* offered its readers the opportunity to encounter 100 authors whose works were divided among 51 articles and 13 commentaries.**

The fifth commentary, by Cynthia Keppley Mahmood, examines the problems of "Asylum, Violence, and the Limits of Advocacy" in the case of militant Sikhs and their refugee groups. Her assessment of facing "the problems and paradoxes of doing anthropology in a violent world" should not be missed. The final two commentaries deal with the controversial topic of "Fuelwood Consumption and Deforestation in the Philippines". Terence G. Bensele and David M. Kummer offer a reasoned criticism of the article published last year in *HO* by Ben J. Wallace about his "Good Roots" project in Northern Luzon and then Wallace provides a "Rejoinder" to their arguments. Despite their disagreements about methods and data, they seem to be moving toward the same objective: in Wallace's words, "to understand better the environmental complexity of the Philippines and to aid Filipino men, women, and children in their quest for a better life."

Finally, you will find the Annual Index at the back of this issue. You may be interested in knowing that, in the four issues (totaling 512 pages) published in 1996, *HO* offered its readers the opportunity to encounter 100 authors whose works were divided among 51 articles and 13 commentaries. We hope that you feel that you got your money's worth! But, even more important, we trust that the diversity of topics and regions covered in 1996 will help you to contribute more effectively to the "quest for a better life" for the world's peoples.

## COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

By Barbara Johnston  
Center for Political Ecology  
Santa Cruz, CA

The SfAA Committee on Human Rights and the Environment was originally created in the fall of 1991 with the goal of providing documentation for a United Nations Commission on Human Rights study on the ties between environmental crisis and human rights abuse. Between 1991 and 1995 the Committee organized a series of seminars, documented cases, put out a series of reports, prepared and distributed summary findings to national and international environmental professionals, and formally published study results.

At the Spring 1996 SfAA Annual Meeting in Baltimore, members of the Human Rights and Environment Network met to report on past activities (noting that the original mandate of the Committee had been filled), and to explore ideas for new projects. There is much that needs to be done especially as the world, and as anthropology, becomes more and more attuned to the connections between human crisis and environmental crisis. While ideas and interest continue to grow—the lack of a political structure within the Committee has hampered further work in defining, organizing and carrying out an action agenda. It is time for a change.

At the Spring 1997 meeting of the SfAA, a new group will be formed - the SfAA Environmental Topical Interest Group. The 150 or so members of the Human Rights and the Environment Committee, together with the 550 or so members of the Committee of Anthropologists in Environmental Planning, and any other interested folks are invited to attend an organizational meeting. The mission of the SfAA Environmental TIG will be to foster communication, improve knowledge and skills, and promote the involvement and employment of applied anthropologists in policy and research activities related to environmental quality and social justice. In its first year, the Environmental TIG's main activities will be to publish a quarterly *Newsletter*, organize symposia for the SfAA annual meeting, develop an edited volume that presents case studies of anthropologists working on environmental projects and moderate an electronic listserver on anthropology and environmental issues.

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## PRACTICING ANTHROPOLOGY WITH A MASTERS DEGREE

Jacqueline Comito  
University of Iowa

When I graduated with my M.A. in anthropology from Iowa State University in 1995, I was faced with the decision to get a job or to pursue a doctorate. I was tired of school and uncertain if I was ready for the intensity of a doctoral program, so I decided to try the job market. Although I am not above waiting tables, I really wanted to get a job that allowed me to use my training in anthropology.

That brings me to a question that seems to be on the mind of many anthropology graduate students: Can you practice anthropology with a Masters degree? It is rare to pick up your local newspaper and find an ad that reads, "Anthropologist Wanted". That does not mean that there are not opportunities available to you with a little research and footwork on your part. Although I realize that many anthropologists prefer international work, the purpose of this article is to illustrate a few ways you can use your training at home.

Before I graduated, I learned that a group of small towns in the area around Des Moines received a grant from the Iowa Department of Economic Development to analyze their fire departments for ways to reduce expenditures, share services and offer better protection for their communities. Mary Holmes, also an ISU anthropology graduate student, and I decided that we would be good for the job. We presented a research plan to a group of city officials, stressing what anthropologists had to offer to them. We readily admitted that we knew little concerning fire services but that we had solid research skills and could learn whatever we needed to learn from the firefighters.

We were given the contract. Because of our lack of knowledge, we let the fire departments' needs drive the research. Mary and I saw ourselves more as facilitator to change rather than instigators of change. We learned more than we ever thought we would concerning fire and emergency services. We completed the project six months later to the satisfaction of everyone involved. Based on the quality of our work, we were both hired by the ISU Fire Service Institute to do a similar project on a statewide basis.

So, can you practice anthropology with a Master's degree? Yes, if you:

1) Have the ability to utilize a number of research techniques. If you are still in graduate school, make certain you

have gained as many marketable skills as possible. Know how to design different types of surveys from mailed to hand administered. Learn as many computer analysis programs as you can. Yes, you need to know your statistics. Sharpen your interviewing techniques and be prepared to play the diplomat. It is really your responsibility to make the most of your M.A. program - do not expect your advisors and professors to always know what is best for you. Try to gain as much research experience as you can while still a student.

2) Be willing to "sell" yourself to perspective employers. As I said earlier, most ads will not ask for an anthropologist. Some employers are going to think you are an archaeologist. Do not be discouraged. Gently educate them in what you know and what you can do. Confidence is very appealing to employers.

3) Be prepared to look for opportunities where there seemingly are none. Most states have quite a bit of money to fund community development projects, humanity projects and urban renewal work. Find out who the state and local funding agents are and let them know that you are available to work. Pay attention to

the needs of your community and work on applying for grants of your own. You are only limited by your ability to imagine the possibilities.

4) Think about teaching for a community college. While I was working on the research projects, I was also teaching part time for some of the local colleges. I even persuaded Drake University to add an anthropology course on their spring schedule. Do not hesitate to approach the schools in your area to see if they would be willing to let you teach a class or two. Many community colleges are adding anthropology to their permanent curriculum and are in need of qualified instructors.

I hope the above suggestions give a little hope to those of you out there who are eager to practice anthropology at home but not so eager to pursue your doctorate. I have since decided to return to graduate school, but Mary was given a contract to expand our work at the Fire Service Institute for another year. There are opportunities out there for you if you are willing to make them.

- **Make certain you have gained as many marketable skills as possible.**
- **Be willing to "sell" yourself to perspective employers.**
- **Be prepared to look for opportunities where there seemingly are none.**
- **Think about teaching for a community college.**





## SfAA-EPA COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ON ANTHROPOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

By Barbara Johnston  
Center for Political Ecology  
Santa Cruz, CA

The Office of Sustainable Ecosystems and Communities (US Environmental Protection Agency) and the SfAA have signed a five-year cooperative agreement. The agreement aims to increase the access of communities and policy makers to anthropologists and other environmental social scientists. A workshop will be held at the SfAA meeting in Seattle to discuss opportunities created by this agreement. Any and all help, suggestions, or critical comments are encouraged. The agreement will enable the SfAA to do the following:

- coordinate a social science network;
- encourage and support the anthropological evaluation of environmental policies, plans, and projects;
- develop opportunities and support proposals to allow anthropological involvement in the community-based environmental planning process;
- recruit, select and supervise environmental anthropology fellows and interns to work with communities, organizations and public agencies;
- develop information on community-based environmental protection work;
- encourage and support information and outreach that promotes the application of anthropological understandings of environmental problems.

### MEMBERS IN THE MEDIA

(As the title indicates, this column is going to feature members who enjoy media coverage because of work they do in applied anthropology. If you have anything you would like to share, please send the materials to the Editor).

Two years ago Joel Savishinsky (Ithaca College) gave a paper on retirement and rites of passage at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Atlanta. Like many good scholars, the reworked paper was later published in 1995 as "The Unbearable Lightness of Retirement: Ritual and Support in a Modern Life Passage" in *Research on Aging* 17(3):243-259. In a half-page spread, the March/April (1996) issue of *Psychology Today* highlighted several of his more salient points. A couple of months ago *Newsday* published a rather extensive overview of Savishinsky's article. Savishinsky's main conclusions were many: 1) have a party, but get away from canned rituals and focus on the individual, 2) involve the retirees in the planning of the party, let them fantasize about what this

transition will mean to them, and get their friends to say meaningful things about their colleague, 3) give the retiree a gift (or gifts) that are consequential to them – the gold watch is really a waste of time and sentiment (if there is any), and 4) urge the retiree to travel and fulfill dreams of going to interesting places.



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ILLUSTRATION: ELIZABETH PRAGER

### REPORT FROM THE EDITOR OF *PRACTICING ANTHROPOLOGY*

By Alexander (Sandy) M. Ervin  
University of Saskatchewan

The Winter issue of *PA* has a regional focus. Titled "Anthropological Contributions to Development in Senegal," it is guest-edited by Bill Roberts of St. Mary's College of Maryland. Bill provides us with an introductory chapter, elaborating on the conditions of the country, the roles of anthropologists, who often started as Peace Corps volunteers, and their involvement in development programs. He has a later article titled "Collaborative Efforts to Improve Regenerative Agricultural Practices in Senegal." John Magistro, provides the second article, "An Emerging Role for Applied Anthropology: Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution." He tells a dramatic tale of a major ethnic dispute involving peoples in Senegal and Mauritania, its impact upon a border village and upon his applied and dissertation research. Then Magistro speculates on practical roles for anthropology in the realm of conflict resolution.

The contributions of medical anthropology are seen through "Applied Anthropology at the Crossroads: AIDS Prevention Research in Senegal and Beyond," by Michelle Lewis Renaud. Dr. Renaud, employed with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, discusses how her community-oriented work with prostitutes in Senegal relates to preventative approaches taken in the U.S. and vice versa. Wendy Wilson Fall, working in agriculture and currently living in Senegal, examines practicing roles in her article "The Multi-Dimensional Field: Applied Anthropology in Senegal". She brings to her research multiple identities as a woman, Black, American, anthropologist, expatriate, technical assistant, and veteran of many other African development programs. She sorts out these dimensions in the contexts

(continued on page 10)

of a changing Senegal and changing expectations for appropriate development agents.

The next author, Alfred Waldstein, is currently employed at Associates in Rural Development in Burlington, Vermont. Having done applied work in many places in the world, he recounts, in "Everything I Needed to Know I Learned from Senegal", how the formative lesson for the rest of his career was shaped through an encounter with two seasoned veterans in development. They gave him the guidance to transform himself from an academic to a development anthropologist. He was then able to design and conduct research, as well as write reports suitable for practice. Along the same lines, the final article, also retrospective, is by Riall Nolan, the Dean of International Affairs and Programs at Golden Gate University in San Francisco, and titled, "If You're Not Sure Who You Are, Try Being Someone Else For a While: Senegal and the Making of an Applied Anthropologist". Reminiscent of Richard Lee's "Christmas in the Kalahari", it contains many lessons within its humor.

Nearing press time, we are still hoping to have a guest column for "Washington Watch", one of the indispensable departments in *PA*. Also in this issue we will introduce our new policy column titled "The Real World" by Robert Winthrop. Rob introduces the plans for the column and discusses anthropologists' reluctance to get involved in policy. As an elected official in his state of Oregon, Rob will bring some interesting perspectives to the column.

**Beginning with issue number two in 1997, *PA* will include short book reviews.**

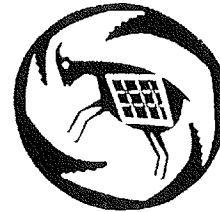
*Book Reviews.* Beginning with issue number two in 1997, *PA* will include short book reviews. Although plans have not been fully crystallized, I can give some guidelines. The length of the reviews will likely be five or six hundred words, although we might occasionally deem some books in need of longer review. We are not too sure how many reviews we can carry per issue, but there will likely be no more than two to four, depending on the length of other departments and articles at the time. To facilitate the process, I might depend primarily (although not exclusively) on colleagues in my immediate region and upon corresponding editors to do the reviews. But if things get complicated, we will probably need a book review editor.

Criteria for books considered for review would include books or collections of articles that describe applied or practicing projects, that relate to training or transmit skills of practice, that deal with development and other standard applied issues such as advocacy, medical and business anthropology, and that substantively or theoretically inform us of policy issues or content areas. Books can come from subjects beyond anthropology, but the anthropological and applied relevance should be clear. The books should be of

practical relevance to nonacademic practitioners who we are most concerned with in *PA*. Finally, the authors or their publishers should submit the books to us. Please include all the appropriate publishing information, including the price. We have already received four books and hope to fill an important gap through these reviews.

*Articles.* Submission of articles to *PA* has fallen off as of late. That possibly might be due to the lull created by changing the editorial offices. At any rate, now would be a good time to submit articles.

The addresses and phone numbers for *Practicing Anthropology* are Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 5A5, Canada. My office telephone number is (306) 966-4176; my home number is (306) 343-9140; the departmental fax number is (306) 966-5640; my E-mail is [ervin@sask.usask.ca](mailto:ervin@sask.usask.ca).



## OBITUARY: BARRY LAFFAN

By J. Anthony Paredes and Susan Pflanz-Cook  
Florida State University

*(Portions of this obituary were previously published in Anthropology Newsletter, Vol. 37, No. 7, p. 8, October 1996, American Anthropological Association.)*

Barry Laffan, 59, died in Jacksonville, Florida, on August 5, 1996, during surgical complications following a long illness. An outgoing and lovable yet modest and private man, Barry's many and varied accomplishments as an applied anthropologist were not fully known by even some of his closest colleagues.

Before becoming an anthropologist, Barry had enjoyed many careers - child actor/model, laboratory technician, high-school biology teacher, and foreign correspondent. He also had a life-long interest in herpetology (as a boy in New York City, Barry established an impressive-sounding "Institute of Herpetology" - complete with appropriately business-like stationery). This interest led to Barry's

**Barry's many and varied accomplishments as an applied anthropologist were not fully known by even some of his closest colleagues.**

bachelor's degree in zoology (Colorado 1960). In 1963 he earned a master's degree in education from Hofstra.

Barry grew restless as a teacher and traveled extensively throughout the world. As a result, he developed an interest in anthropology, eventually returning to course work at Columbia University in anthropology. He received his doctorate in 1976. Former SfAA president Lambros Comitas was Barry's dissertation committee supervisor. Barry also took a quiet, modest pride in being one of the last students with Margaret Mead on his graduate committee. Despite earlier research experience in Japan (and Barry remained a superb sushi chef), his doctoral dissertation was a study of a 1960s New England commune. Final publication of Barry's innovative commune research, *Communal Organization and Social Transition*, was long delayed but is scheduled for posthumous publication (Peter Lang Publishing). Dissertation director Comitas recently recalled that Barry "was a very interesting guy, very well-liked, and wrote a very interesting dissertation."

**Barry concentrated on rural development and environmental issues, approached from a general systems perspective and remaining true to the best traditions of empirical anthropological fieldwork.**

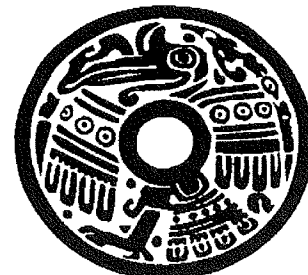
Barry enjoyed a long tenure on the faculty of Marlboro College in Vermont before moving to Florida in 1987. Soon after, he became a much-valued adjunct faculty member of Florida State University's Department of Anthropology. In Florida, as in Vermont, he continued to work as a private consultant. With pithy candor, Barry described some of the perils and pitfalls of the consultant's life in "Entrepreneurial Anthropology: A Case Study in the Search for Professional Independence" (*High Plains Applied Anthropologist* 9-10: 165-176). In his consulting work, Barry concentrated on rural development and environmental issues, approached from a general systems perspective and remaining true to the best traditions of empirical anthropological fieldwork. He founded the "ecotourism" movement in North Florida, launching Gulf Coast Excursions, Inc., as the prototype. He was founder and president of the Association for the Apalachee Culture and Coastal Wilderness Area, a not-for-profit organization supporting responsible regional environmental and economic development, establishing for example, a unique trail linking selected archaeological and historical sites of the area by waterways and by land. A writer for the local newspaper paid tribute to Barry by declaring that "Barry Laffan of Ochlockonee Bay, is remembered as a man passionately involved in promoting the area for its ecological potential, trying to preserve the uniqueness of Wakulla County while bringing money to the community through eco-tourism" (*The Wakulla News*, Thursday, August 15, 1996).

Barry was a consummate "networker", a fact dramatically attested by the diverse crowd of local and state officials, business leaders, academicians, and just plain folks who gathered at Barry's house on Ochlockonee Bay for a touching inter-faith memorial service on August 8. One of those who spoke, prominent naturalist-author Jack Rudloe (e.g. *Time of The Turtle*, 1989, Penguin Books), paid high tribute to Barry as a practical-anthropologist-conservationist when he spoke of Barry's unwavering commitment to the practical as well as the aesthetic value of preserving the environment and culture of the Florida panhandle coast: Jack noted, "he understood that people around here have to make a living." It is tragic that Barry was not able to complete all of the tasks he set for himself to bring to policy makers the message of culturally and environmentally sensitive development. As one of the local county commissioners said of Barry. "I'm going to miss him as a human being and I'll miss him for a selfish reason — for all he could have done for this county and for his voice of reason".

Barry Laffan is survived by his wife Joanna Mauer of Panama, Florida; his daughter Brook Laffan-Ciraldo and granddaughter Jacqueline Claire Ciraldo of Westchester County, New York; and a niece Kim Romano of Key West. Joanna has already begun working with Barry's close friend Jerry Levy to prepare for publication Barry's notes and observations on his experience as a patient and object of medical ministrations during the many months of his final illness.

Many former SfAA officers and committee chairs will recall the very special contribution Barry and Joanna made to the success of the 1994 Annual Meeting in Cancun. They made the arrangements and co-hosted the SfAA officers' party put on by myself, then SfAA president. In fact, I was prompted to do the party because of Barry's unprompted offer to do the footwork, an offer made because Barry knew of my heavy meeting schedule and newly single status at the time. Thus, Barry and Joanna have left a continuing legacy to SfAA for the unheralded but critical part they played in establishing what has come to be called the "President's Reception" at the annual meetings of the Society. It is indeed sad to contemplate what other contributions Barry might have made to the Society had he lived.

Contributions to the Association in memory of Barry may be sent to AACWA, 209 Mashers Sand Road, Panama, FL 32346.



## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

### University of North Texas

The University of North Texas invites applications for its Chair of Anthropology, the appointment to begin July 1997. UNT is the fourth largest institution in the state. It is a metropolitan university serving the North Texas region and located in Denton, TX, thirty-one miles from both downtown Dallas and Fort Worth.

Anthropology has 150 majors, six tenure-line faculty, and offers an undergraduate degree. In addition, there are anthropologists in several other departments of the university. The faculty have broad training in socio-cultural anthropology with special emphases in applied issues. Faculty may also participate in a new MPH degree program recently approved by the Texas Coordinating Board for Higher Education. A Masters degree in anthropology is also being developed. Anthropology is located in the School of Community Service, a school of applied social science disciplines.

The Chair will teach a two/one course load and have the traditional responsibilities of administering a department. A Ph.D. in anthropology as well as teaching and research experience is required. Preference will be given to applied anthropologists especially those with urban, medical ethnic relations, or public policy interests. Culture areas are open.

Applicants should evidence scholarly achievement in research as well as an excellent record of teaching. Administrative experience is preferred. The position will be filled at the full or associate professor level. The salary is competitive and will be based on rank and experience.

Application review will begin immediately and will continue until a successful candidate is identified. Materials may be sent by fax at (817) 565-4663 although hard copies must follow. Applicants should send a letter of application, vita and names/addresses/phone numbers of three references to Dean's Office, Anthropology Search, P.O. Box 5428, Denton, TX 76203-0428. UNT is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution. Minorities and women are especially encouraged to apply.



### University of Georgia

The Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia, wishes to fill a new, tenure-track, entry-level Assistant Professor position, beginning Fall 1997. To strengthen our program in ecological/environmental anthropology we seek an individual whose training research interests are in human population ecology, contemporary or historical. Specializations may include the interrelationships of population, environment, and resources; evolutionary & human genetic issues; human reproductive ecology; anthropological demography; or proximate/ultimate causes of human

fertility and mortality. Responsibilities include research and teaching at the graduate and undergraduate levels, including a holistic introduction to anthropology with a strong human/environmental component. Ph.D. must be in hand at time of appointment. We will conduct preliminary interviews at the AAA meeting in November. Applicants should send a CV, cover letter, & names and contact information for four references to: Stephen A. Kowalewski, Department of Anthropology, Baldwin Hall, University of Georgia Athens, GA 30602, by January 10, 1997. The University of Georgia is an EEO/AA institution We especially encourage minority and women applicants.



### Environmental Anthropology Fellow

The Society for Applied Anthropology seeks applications from post-MA anthropologists whose area of interest and expertise includes environmental quality/social justice issues.

The SfAA has initiated an Environmental Anthropology Fellowship Program with financial support from the Office of Sustainable Ecosystems and Communities (OSEC) in the EPA's Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation. Initially one fellow, eventually three fellows per year, will be selected to receive a \$9000 grant award for a six month term. Fellows will be responsible for their own housing and transportation. Fellows will work in environmental regulatory, planning and policy settings, hosted by the EPA and/or communities engaged in a community-based environmental protection process.

The Environmental Anthropology Fellowship was created to increase awareness of the value of anthropologists in the environmental policy and planning arena, to assist communities and community-based environmental agencies in planning and practical activities, and to enhance employment and employability for anthropologists at or beyond the MA level. The fellowship experience is designed to improve fellows' skills and expand the contact network of the fellow, thus shaping future career options in the field of environmental policy and practice.

The SfAA 1997 Environmental Anthropology Fellow will help the SfAA develop and coordinate an Environmental Anthropology Network; develop opportunities and proposals that will allow anthropological involvement in the community-based environmental planning process; provide feedback and further assist the SfAA's efforts to establish an environmental anthropology fellows and student internship program; develop case-study information on community-based environmental protection work; and assist the SfAA's efforts to encourage and support information and outreach that promotes the application of anthropological understandings of environmental problems.

The SfAA 1997 Environmental Anthropology Fellow (the first Fellow chosen under the new SfAA/EPA cooperative agreement) will be based in Washington, D.C., in the Office of Sustainable Ecosystems and Communities at the Environmental Protection Agency, for a six-month period beginning early 1997. The OSEC fosters and supports collaborative approaches to environmental protection, working closely with regional EPA offices, other government agencies, local stakeholders and community members to integrate ecological economic and other quality of life concerns into planning and decision making processes.

Application Process: submit a 2-3 page statement of interest, resume, and two letters of support by December 31, 1996. For additional information contact: Barbara Johnston: telephone (408) 271-9552. The e-mail address is (bjohnston@igc.apc.org). Applications should be sent to Barbara Johnston, SfAA/EPA Project Director, 554 Brooks Avenue, San Jose, California 95125.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

By Rob Winthrop  
Cultural Solutions  
Ashland, OR

As reported in the May 1996 *Newsletter*, the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) roundtable met at the 1996 annual meeting in Baltimore. We decided that there was sufficient interest in IPR issues to organize more formally, and pursue various projects. Here is a progress report on these efforts.

We have established an Internet forum (listserve) to facilitate communications. This is run as ANTHAP discussion channel 3. We have about 45 subscribers presently. While a number of listserves concerning IPR now exist, ours is focused on the intersection of IPR and anthropological perspectives or practice. To join, please send a message with your name, affiliation, mailing address, and e-mail address to anthap3-request@oakland.edu. At the Baltimore meeting, we decided to consider the "topical interest group" as a format for our fledgling organization within SfAA. Tressa Berman and Ann McElroy are currently preparing our application for TIG-dom, which we hope to submit shortly to the SfAA executive committee.

As anthropologists, questions of intellectual property rights assume importance insofar as they shape our ethics and professional practice. At our spring meeting we also discussed drafting ethical guidelines for IPR issues, as a basis for further debate within the group, and eventually we hope within the SfAA. Katy Moran and Dave Stephenson have taken on the task of collecting existing IPR guidelines, and producing an initial draft for discussion.

Finally, we will hold a business meeting at the Seattle SfAA corroboree combining information sharing with some organizational matters. The agenda has three items cur-

rently: 1) formalizing the IPR roundtable as a topical interest group, including electing a chair and discussing potential goals or projects; 2) data sharing; and 3) discussing plans for a session at the 1998 SfAA meetings. To make data sharing as useful as possible within the limited time available, I have requested that each person attending come prepared to give a two to five minute précis of current work relevant to intellectual property rights or related issues (traditional resource rights, etc.). This could also include requests for information sources, questions relevant to IPR+, information on relevant conferences or publications, etc. To make this really work, each of us should prepare a one to two page handout amplifying the verbal report, and bring enough copies (say 30, based on last year's turn-out) for all attending.

For further information on these points, please join the listserve, or contact Rob Winthrop: E-mail rhwinth@mind.net, phone (541) 482-8004, address Cultural Solutions, P.O. Box 401, Ashland, OR 97520.

## TIGs UPDATE

By David Rymph  
Corporation for National Service

The Executive Committee of the Society has voted to approve three TIGs. They are:

- Anthropologists Practicing with a Masters Degree. This TIG will serve as a network for professional anthropologists practicing with a Masters Degree. There is a strong need for a conversation within the Society on the issues related to being an anthropologist at the M.A. or M.S. Level. The excellent and well-attended sessions sponsored by the organizers of this TIG in Baltimore speak to its salience for the Society. Contact: Marsha Jenakovich at (305) 292-6429 or E-mail at marshamea@aol.com
- Training of Anthropology Students in Community Settings. The mission of this TIG is to share techniques, strategies, and theory related to the training of anthropology students (both undergraduate and graduate) within community contexts. The TIG is equally interested in different forms of training including field schools, courses in methods, service learning, cooperative education, and internships, that require students to learn and apply the skills of anthropology in active learning situations. Contact: David Hartman at (817) 656 2239 or E-mail at hartman@scs.unt.edu.
- Aging Research Interest Group. This TIG aims to foster applied research in aging studies, and facilitate the dissemination of research findings to our colleagues in anthropology, to policy makers and program development specialists, and to the public. Included within aging studies are those with interests in the life course,

(continued on page 14)

and with disability studies. Contact: Madelyn Iris at (312) 503-5444 or E-mail at miris@nwu.edu.

These three TIGs are now working to develop interesting activities in support of the Seattle meetings. As for TIGs in the pipeline, letters and e-mails have been sent to several individuals who have expressed an interest in forming a TIG. By the November EC meeting, there should be additional nominations for the EC to vote on.

There has been some discussion among the Society leadership about the role of TIGs in advising the Executive Committee on policy. Currently, there are five policy advisory committees serving the EC. These committees are intended to develop policy recommendations for the EC. These committees are distinct from the TIGs in that the latter are not designed primarily to advise the Society on policy, but rather to provide a way for members of the Society to network on a variety of issues and concerns. If the members of a TIG should want to develop formal policy recommendations for the EC, the best path, would be to form a separate committee with the approval of the EC for the express purpose of policy formulation.

Information on TIGs will now be included in membership applications materials. New and renewing members will have an opportunity to join a TIG when completing membership forms. This information will then be stored in the Society's data base. This means that TIG Chairs can get lists of members and mailing labels. Directories of TIG members sound like a possibility with this information. Alternatively, TIG Chairs can prepare material for distribution to TIG members by the Business Office. Thanks goes to Tom May and his staff for their cooperation in setting this up.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **The Community Development Society**

The Community Development Society this week issued a call for papers for its 29th annual conference, scheduled for July 26-31, 1997, in Athens, Georgia. The conference's theme is "Reflection and Visions of the Learning Community."

Papers submitted should address some aspect of community development and should reflect fresh or creative insights into community development theory, empirical research or applications, according to Ron Hustedde at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture.

Paper proposals should be submitted by December 15, 1996. A peer review panel will accept or reject proposals by February 28, 1997.

Guidelines for proposal submissions are available from Ron Hustedde at 500 W. P Garrigus Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0215, or E-mail at socO31.@ukcc.uky.edu.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **National Science Foundation: Funding Opportunities in Information Technology, Culture, and Social Institutions.**

The development of information technologies and new types of digital content in all aspects of society has far exceeded our understanding about how these new technologies have reshaped social organization, work life, interaction patterns and culture. In response to this shortcoming, the Computer, Information Science, and Engineering directorate (CISE) and the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences directorate (SBE) as well as the Education and Human Resources directorate (EHR) are encouraging multidisciplinary proposals for research at the interface of behavioral and social science, education research and information technology. Proposals may be submitted on standard forms (see the Grant Proposal Guide, NSF 95-27) to existing programs (see the Guide to Programs NSF 95-138) as this notice calls attention to existing funding opportunities.

The proposed research should aim to advance our understanding of how information technologies shape and are shaped by the cognitive, social and cultural dimensions of groups, organizations, institutions, and societies. The driving force for this interaction is the widespread proliferation of distributed computing with vastly increased processing, communications, and storage capabilities. Research should seek to understand the impact of new forms of digital content and communications accessible to wide segments of society as well as national and global institutions such as nation states, multinational corporations and financial institutions.

The methodological approach should be appropriate to the unit of analysis and research questions. Especially welcome are proposals that aim to develop general explanations, through grounded theory or other empirical approaches. Social science contributions to the design of systems affecting large segments of the population are also welcome.

Planning grants of \$20,000 - \$50,000 for 12-18 months are available to assist in the preparation of multidisciplinary proposals that might require collaboration between social and behavioral scientists and their counterparts in computer science and engineering. For example, social scientists may want to work with researchers in large, multidisciplinary NSF-funded projects focusing on information technologies such as the digital libraries, collaborators, partnerships for advanced computing infrastructure (PACI), very high-performance network services (vBNS), Engineering Research Centers, and Science and Technology Centers (see [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov), [www.cise.nsf.gov](http://www.cise.nsf.gov) and [www.eng.nsf.gov](http://www.eng.nsf.gov)).

Other examples of possible research in the area of information technology and culture can be found in the workshop report "Culture, Society and Advanced Information

Technology", available from the Computing Research Association, E-mail: info@cra.org, fax: (202) 667-1066 or from the American Anthropological Association, E-mail: peggy@mhs.compuserve.com, fax: (703) 528-3546), and World Wide Web: http://lcra.org/Reports/Aspects/.

The foundation hopes to make about ten awards in FY 1997 whose average duration is about 2-3 years and whose average total award size is \$50,000 - \$500,000, subject to available funds and proposals of high scientific merit. Prospective applicants should consult the cultural anthropology program officer for relevant deadlines and target dates and application: Stuart Plattner, SBER, at (703) 306-1758; e-mail: splatne@nsf.gov.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

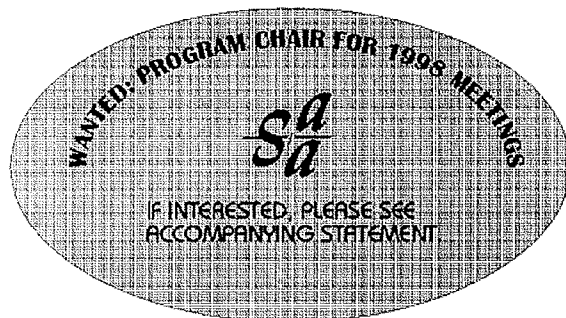
### Practicing Anthropology in a French Context

The book *Les Applications de l'anthropologie: Un essai de reflexion collective depuis la France* edited by Jean-Francois Bare has been published in 1995 at Karthala, Paris. It includes contributions by anthropologists from two national public institutes, Centre national de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and l'Institut Francais de Recherche Scientifique pour le Developpement en Cooperation (previously known as ORSTOM).

It is the first undertaking of its kind about practicing anthropology in the French context, as contrasted with the UK and the US ones notably. It includes a general reflexion about the very notion of an "applied" social science, historical outlooks of a French intellectual "tradition" to that regard, which switched from a definite project of application towards a general attitude of distrust.

It comments also on the specific topics that one discovers as being sometimes dealt with by French anthropologists: "minorities" and anthropological advocacy, corporations, development policies, public health problems and cooperation with biomedical research.

For more information write: B.P. 200 Unite Mixte de Recherche ORSTOM-CNRS "Regards", 33405 TALENCE Cedex, France, telephone: (56) 84-6852, fax: /55; e-mail: bare@regards.cnrs.fr.



## FROM THE EDITOR

Are you bored and tired of the same old grind? Does the prospect of spending the winter without any real challenges literally send shivers down your spine? If you have said "yes" to any of these questions, or if you are even the slightest bit curious what we might be dangling in front of you, then you might be just the person we're looking for. This could be your lucky day. The Executive Committee of the Society is searching for someone with unsurpassed energy and organizational skills to serve as Program Chair for the 1998 spring meetings. The meeting site, either in Puerto Rico or Mexico, will be chosen at the EC meeting, held during the AAA meetings. This is really an exciting opportunity, and you can become involved in shaping one of the most important events in the life of our Society. The Business Office has produced a concise manual, thoroughly revised after each annual meeting, on how to accomplish this task and still be on speaking terms with your colleagues when you are through. (There aren't many organizations that can promise this). So, if you have any interest, please don't delay. Act on that impulse - the urge might pass. Contact either SfAA President Jay Schensul (telephone (860) 278-2040; e-mail: jschensu) or Business Manager Tom May (telephone (405) 843-5113; e-mail: sfaa@telepath.com) by the end of the December.

Mike Whiteford

**T**he SfAA *Newsletter* is published by the Society for Applied Anthropology and is a benefit of membership in the Society. Non-members may purchase subscriptions at a cost of \$10.00 for U.S. residents and \$15.00 for non-U.S. residents. Checks or money orders should be made payable to the Society for Applied Anthropology.

All contributions reflect the views of the authors and not necessarily viewpoints adopted by the Society for Applied Anthropology, the institutions with which the authors are affiliated, or the organizations involved in the *Newsletter's* production.

Items to be included in the *Newsletter* should be sent to: Michael B. Whiteford, Department of Anthropology, 319 Curtiss Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1050, e-mail: jefe@iastate.edu. The contributor's telephone number should be included, and the professional affiliations of all persons mentioned in the copy should be given.

Changes of address and subscription requests should be directed to: SfAA Business Office, P.O. Box 24083, Oklahoma City, OK 73124 (405/843-5113).