

Society for Applied Anthropology Newsletter

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SfAA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By John Young
Oregon State University

Soon fellows will be asked to vote on the most significant by-laws changes since the establishment of the Society in 1941. Not only will these changes update the language of the by-laws, they will also make the organization more inclusive and responsive to all of its members. The ballot with the complete text of the proposed new by-laws will be mailed along with the fall billing statement and should be given especially careful consideration.

My purpose in this column is to convey the context and rationale for the changes on behalf of the Officers and Executive Committee (EC), who have voted unanimously in favor of putting the new by-laws on the ballot.

Three fundamental changes are at stake: 1) granting voting rights to regular members, 2) granting voting rights to student members, and 3) adding a student position to the EC. The new text will contain recognition of the *de facto* role of the Past Presidents Advisory Council that has developed over the past several years, but this does not represent a change from current practice.

Nominees for election to leadership positions still must be fellows of the Society, with the exception of one student representative elected by all voting members to serve on the Executive Committee for a two-year term. The proposed by-laws will grant voting rights to all regular members and students only after they have made their second dues payment. The waiting period is designed to ensure a minimum of familiarity and commitment to the Society.

Discussion of changing the by-laws has surfaced a number of times during the past ten years; the proposed changes have evolved out of this discussion. Perhaps the arrival of e-mail with its quick delivery of edited text has served as a catalyst in creating an actual proposal, but circumstances in our organizational environment also have produced a compelling need for action.

During the past year, leaders and members of the Society have been carrying out long-range planning exercises. Although spending time in this way may incur the danger of diverting attention away from pressing business,

I see merit in identifying organizational values and trying to align present and future actions with those values. The planning exercises in this case produced at least one important outcome — agreement that one of the Society's values is to be non-hierarchical, and along with this attribute, to be informal, open, and welcoming. This ethos is evident in much of our interaction at annual meetings and other communications. However, it is not reflected in the structure of the organization, which can be viewed as hierarchical and exclusive. The current structure, based on ivory tower notions of academic hierarchy, is becoming less appropriate for professionals whose research and employment are increasingly in non-academic settings.

Consistent with its mission statement, the SfAA has supported the scientific investigation of principles guiding the relations among human beings and the application of those principles to solving human problems. The proposed by-laws will not change this mission. The wording of the new mission statement is only slightly altered to fit present-day expository style. What has changed in the last two decades is the development of many applied graduate pro-

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grams both at the M.A. and Ph.D. level. The Business Office informs me that there may be as many as 35 such programs in the United States alone. As a result, we now have more students of applied anthropology, more graduates from applied programs, and more professionals practicing anthropology outside the academy than ever before.

While the Society's mission has not changed, currently it is being more broadly implemented by a larger group of professionals heading into new arenas of action and expanding the impact of applied anthropology. The work of Theresa Trainor, along with various fellows and interns employed under our cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is but one example. (See article in *Newsletter*.) Members who are practicing anthropology with an M.A. degree have helped to energize the Society in various ways, such as in forming a Topical Interest Group (TIG) and beginning an employment bulletin board on the worldwide web. SfAA should recognize the contributions and involvement of all regular members, including M.A. degree holders, by giving them an equal stake as voting members of the Society.

Students also have changed. Ten years ago they began to organize their own TIG within the Society. Now they number 643 members with an active and committed leadership core to coordinate networking, sponsor activities and sessions at the Annual Meeting, and publish their papers. As this issue of the *Newsletter* goes to press, several student members are developing their own electronic information base to link with the SfAA site on the worldwide web, while others are working on a set of articles for publication in an upcoming issue of *Practicing Anthropology*.

Moreover, the training provided by applied programs is different from that typical of non-applied subfields of anthropology. Our students are taught to use anthropology, not just to reflect on it. The purpose of faculty supervision goes beyond academic gate-keeping. Established members of the Society should encourage students to think of themselves as colleagues, rather than unworthy subordinates, as a means to increase their confidence and effectiveness in future employment.

Many students now bring to applied anthropology considerable experience in other disciplines. These students may have established careers and seek to add applied anthropology to their repertoire. During the open forum on the by-laws in Seattle, Tom Weaver pointed out how much professors learn from their students. Indeed graduate training is a mutual, faculty-student learning process. For the past seven years, the Society has formally recognized the

best student work through the Peter K. New Award. The Society should also recognize student contributions and the importance of their professional commitment by giving them elected representation and equal voting privileges.

Regular members and student members may be less knowledgeable about the Society than fellows. Therefore, the Nominations and Elections Committee will have to provide additional information on election ballots, in particular candidates' statements reflecting their views on the business of the Society. Although this provision is not appropriate for inclusion in the by-laws, the Society's leadership will make the necessary change in election procedure.

Another consideration is the quorum required at the Annual Business Meeting (currently known as the Council of Fellows). Assuming a current total membership of 2,200, a quorum of two percent would translate

into 44 members present at the meeting. If the membership of the Society were to reach 3,000 in the next five years, the number needed for a quorum would increase to 60 members. On the basis of experience, this minimum level of attendance at the Annual Business Meeting may be reasonable to expect. After a couple of years the quorum issue could be revisited if necessary.

In the next century (and millennium), the SfAA is poised to grow and build upon an already strong tradition of professional commitment. A vote in favor of the new by-laws will help facilitate this process by making us a more inclusive and effective organization.

Three fundamental changes are at stake: 1) granting voting rights to regular members, 2) granting voting rights to student members, and 3) adding a student position to the EC. The planning exercises in this case produced at least one important outcome — agreement that one of the Society's values is to be non-hierarchical.

SCHOLARS AND ACTIVISTS: 1998 ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

By Rebecca Joseph
National Park Service
Boston, MA

Summer is a great time for program planning as many people take a break from regular routines and responsibilities, and the Program Committee has been very busy. I hope you have marked your calendar for the April 21-26, 1998 SfAA Annual Meeting at the Condado Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico and are making plans to attend.

We are fortunate to have four outstanding sponsors for the meeting: Association of Latino and Latina Anthropologists (ALLA), Committee on Refugees and Immigrants

(CORI), Political Ecology Society (PESO), and Sun Coast Organization of Practicing Anthropologists (SCOPA). Three of these organizations are meeting with us for the first time. PESO returns after a successful collaboration in Seattle last year. We greatly appreciate the involvement and support of many colleagues in Puerto Rico, especially those at the University of Puerto Rico.

The 1998 Program theme is "Scholars and Activists." The Program Committee especially welcomes contributions that incorporate international, regional, and local perspectives from professionals, activists, and community scholars. We are very interested in presentations that attend as closely to personal commitments to positive change as to the methods and findings of engaged social science. In addition to individual presentations, interactive formats (such as debates, roundtables, and workshops), films, posters, and multi-media events are encouraged.

The languages for the 1998 Annual Meeting are English and Spanish. The Program Committee welcomes presentations and events in both languages. Titles will be printed in the program in both languages with the abstracts published in the language in which they were submitted. Regrettably, we cannot provide translators. Translation services, if desired, are the presenters' responsibility.

The Program Committee is working closely with the International Committee to encourage the attendance and active participation of colleagues and friends from diverse regions. An international desk will be set up in the registration area to welcome all participants with multi-lingual information about the Society and Annual Meeting. Special features will include bibliographies of applied anthropological materials published outside the United States and a map showing countries of origin of the meeting participants. International Committee members and volunteers will be available to assist international attendees and answer questions.

The following are some of the events planned for the April event:

On April 21-23, two institutes will be offered in San Juan to bring together professionals and students for a short, intensive period for lectures, discussions, and workshops around a theme of mutual interest.

The Institute on Puerto Rican Cultures will acquaint participants with the current political, economic, and social situations of Puerto Ricans residing both on the island and in the diaspora and with state-of-the-art research and practice. Through presentations of new research, panel discussions, roundtables, and workshops, the institute aims to foster a lively discussion of possibilities and probabilities for the future. Topics will include historical processes and their bearing on contemporary Puerto Rican cultural manifestations, education, health, community development and empowerment, environmental justice, cultural expression, and issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality when

working among Puerto Rican populations. Academics, practitioners, and students working in Puerto Rico and abroad will find numerous opportunities to share their agendas, projects, and experiences. For information, contact coordinator Yvonne Lassale, E-mail: yml1@hotmail.com.

The Institute on Training Applied Anthropologists will address critical issues in preparing undergraduate and graduate students for professional careers as applied anthropologists and continuing education for post-graduate professionals. Following the opening plenary, which will place training within the global context of applied anthropologists' work, participants will engage with international faculty, students, and practitioners in a series of highly interactive workshops organized along four thematic tracks: Learning Experiences, Technical Skills, Partnering, and Performance Appraisals. Session topics may include field schools, service learning, and internships; computer applications in research and marketing; training international students; university and public-private consortia; program and student evaluations. Participants will receive a sourcebook of specially prepared Institute materials. To learn more about this Institute, contact Coordinator Jay Schensul at E-mail: jschensul@aol.com.

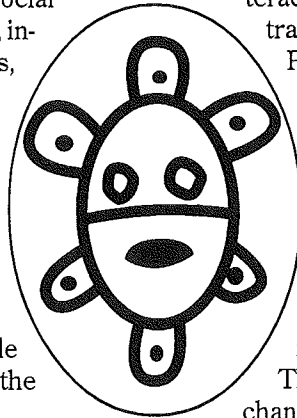
The annual departmental training information exchange will follow the Institute on Training Applied Anthropologists on Wednesday afternoon and is open to everyone attending the Annual Meeting. Advance registration is required for both Institutes. A special reception and joint evening program will be held on Tuesday night.

We pride ourselves on our diversity as reflected in the Annual Meeting Program. You are welcome to submit proposals on any subject of potential interest to the Society's and our co-sponsors' members. Topical domains of particular interest this year are:

- Activism and Advocacy at Home, Abroad, On a Global Scale
- Collaborative Efforts
- Heroes and Heroism, Past and Present
- Interdisciplinary Theories of Activism and Advocacy
- Personal Commitments, Professional Lives
- Policy and Practice
- Training for Positive Change

Thanks to the good efforts of the Program committee and early enthusiasm of many members, a few of the sessions already planned for San Juan include: Afro-Latin America, Activism & Gay/Lesbian Anthropology in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, Ethnoarcheology and Interpretation, The Role of the Non-Profit Sector in Philanthropy Outside the U.S., Marketing and Anthropology, Welfare Reform, Latino Communities in the U.S. and Public Policy, Contract Anthropology, Bioarcheology and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), The Media and Anthropology, and Environmental Justice.

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Based on past Annual Meeting participants' comments and suggestions, we have made some of the following additions to the meetings format: the daily program will start and end a bit later; an orientation to the SfAA and the Annual Meeting will be offered on Wednesday afternoon for new members and first-time meeting participants followed by an open welcoming reception; more skill-based workshops will be offered such as *Advanced Grant Writing: Social Services*, *Constructing Your Homepage*, *Top Drawer Facilitation Skills*, and *Starting and Managing Community-Based Organizations*.

Many beloved "fixtures" will also be returning: Council of Past Presidents and LPO lunches, the book and software publishers exhibit, student poster/Web page competition, business and organizational meetings, and field trips for the adventurous, curious and hotel weary. The field trips will include walking tours featuring the arts and architecture of Old San Juan, behind-the-scenes tour of El Morro and San Cristobal forts (aka San Juan National Historical Park), journeys to El Yunque, the tropical rain forest, watching traditional artisans at work and an emersion in Saturday night life.

Two not-to-be-missed plenary sessions are currently "under construction":

□ *Writing Puerto Rican Culture* will feature a dialogue and readings by distinguished contemporary writers and anthropologists on Wednesday night. Pending funding, this event will be open to the public. On Thursday night, Carlos Vélez-Ibañez and Carole Nagengast will host a major symposium on Human Rights, Scholarship and Action. Both events will be memorable.

□ *Friday's Gala* will allow all meeting participants to party and relax together at a sumptuous dinner, followed by the presentation of awards and the Malinowski Address by Robert and Beverly Hackenberg. The formal program will be followed by the First Annual Big Time Late Night Auction to raise money for student awards and prizes (with cash bar). We promise you've never seen it like this. Dinner will be by advanced subscription; the other events are open.

Abstracts and complete registration materials for all presenters are due in the Business Office by October 15. Incomplete packages will be considered on a space-available basis only after the rest of preliminary program has been prepared.

As mentioned, the 1998 SfAA Annual Meeting will be held at the Condado Plaza Hotel and Casion. Reservations may be made by calling 1-800-624-0420, ext. 2066. Reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card and you must mention SfAA to receive the special rates. The reservation deadline is April 1, 1998. Reservations made after this date will not be eligible for the special rate.

The Condado Plaza Hotel & Casino will offer our registrants rooms in three categories - one group of rooms (Laguna Tower) will be available for \$98 (single/double), an-

other group (Laguna Tower, Lagoon View) will be available for \$110 (single/double) and a third group of rooms (Ocean Tower) will be available for \$125 (single/double). These rooms will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. No exceptions will be made.

The Society has selected American Airlines as the official air carrier for our meeting. American will offer special discounts to our attendees. To obtain the special discounts, please call the reservation number (1-800-433-1790) and indicate that you are with the Society for Applied Anthropology. You should use the following meeting identification number - star file # SO148AJ. The reservations desk is staffed seven days a week, 7 a.m. - 12 p.m. (EST). (Canadian airlines toll-free number is 1-800-665-5554).

Detailed instructions for registration are included in this *Newsletter* and can also be found on the Web (<http://www.telepath.com/sfaa/sfaa98>), or by contacting the Business Office: P.O. Box 24083, Oklahoma City, OK 73124. Telephone: (405) 843-8553; Fax: (905) 843-5113; E-mail: sfaa@telepath.com.

INVITATION TO STUDENTS TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE 1998 MEETING



By José E. Martínez
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Students constitute a large percentage of the membership of professional organizations. Unfortunately, some organizations tend to neglect this fact. The SfAA takes this reality very seriously. For this reason, the 1998 Program Committee is interested in serving the needs of our student members and giving them opportunities to advance their careers. There are two students on the committee, myself and Carla Guerron-Montero, University of Oregon, who are actively working on your behalf. We strongly encourage all students, undergraduates and graduates, to attend next year's meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Attending the meetings is an excellent opportunity to establish professional relations and networks. For students, we strongly recommend attending the different skill-based workshops such as Facilitation Skills, Conducting Research On-line, and Surviving and Thriving in Graduate School and Beyond. Organizing sessions, presenting papers and posters are other important parts of student participation. Last year's successful career exploration panel will be repeated with a diverse new group of established practitioners, people students want to meet. Look also for an orientation to the Annual Meeting and SfAA on Wednesday afternoon and students-only party on Thursday night

Volunteers are a vital component in the success of professional meetings. The SfAA Business Office is providing incentives to people who are interested in volunteering from free registration to free admission to professional work-

shops. There will also be a volunteer orientation before the commencement of the meeting.

So that attending the meeting is less of a financial hardship, we are working on arrangements with student sponsors in Puerto Rico who will help visiting students with low-cost housing and other arrangements. This is also a great opportunity to get to know local anthropology students.

The City of San Juan offers a wide variety of activities. Old San Juan is rich with historical sites, including San Felipe Fort (El Morro) which protected the city from foreign attacks from the seventeenth century until the late 1800's, after the American invasion. There are also museums such as the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture Museum which presents a wide variety of displays, especially of the original inhabitants of Puerto Rico, the Taino Indians. At night, Old San Juan becomes a place frequented for its pubs, cafes, restaurants, and dance clubs.

If you have ideas that can help better student activities and participation, please contact Carla Guerron at E-mail: cguerron@oregon.uoregon.edu, or me at E-mail: josmarti@lynx.neu.edu.

REPORT FROM THE *HO* EDITOR

Robert V. Kemper
Southern Methodist University

By the time you read this column, you already will have received volume 56, number 2 of *Human Organization*. So, it seems unnecessary to tell you about its table of contents on an article-by-article basis. However, let me draw your attention to the lead article entitled "Rights to the Benefits of Research: Compensating Indigenous Peoples for their Intellectual Contribution" which is jointly authored by the Fundación Sabiduría Indígena (FSI) and Brij Kothari.

We are working on *HO* 56(3) and will have it to the printer by the August 1st delivery date —so you should receive it in early September, unless the mail service is much worse than usual.

For nearly two years, I have been sharing my concerns about the backlog of manuscripts in the publication queue. Now, I am pleased to report that the queue is almost empty. We have on hand fewer accepted and revised ms. than are needed to fill the 56(4) issue — scheduled to go to print on November 1. And we have fewer than 30 ms. in the review process at the moment. Two pieces of good news result from this wonderful situation: 1) we should be able to begin offering some special thematic sections containing 5-6 articles on a single topic (e.g., AIDS/HIV) in forthcoming issues during 1998, and 2) those of you with ms. already submitted have a great chance of seeing your work peer reviewed, revised, and published in rapid succession. Furthermore, for those of you looking for a venue for relatively rapid publication, *HO* can become your journal of first choice. For instance, if we receive a new ms. on Sep-

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tember 1, and the peer review process goes smoothly (about an 80% probability), if the editorial decision is to accept (or accept with appropriate revisions), then that ms. could appear in the issue published in early summer 1998. We believe that we can take a ms. from initial submission through final publication in around nine months.

This kind of "just in time" ms. management system has been my goal since I became editor in January 1995, but it is only now becoming a reality. My thanks to all who have been so patient and supportive during the past two years. Now, please submit excellent ms. so that you (and your potential readers) can benefit from this system. We look forward to working with you to continue to improve *Human Organization*.

Finally, please be in touch with Ruthbeth Finerman and the SfAA Publications Committee which has begun an Editorial Search for my replacement as Editor of *Human Organization*. My term ends on December 31, 1998. We look forward to having an editor-designate announced at the 1998 SfAA annual meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico. If you have any questions about the work involved (or the university contribution to the effort), please contact me by phone 214-768-2928 (with voice mail). I look forward to hearing from persons interested in assuming the editor's job.

REPORT FROM THE *PA* EDITOR

By Alexander (Sandy) M. Ervin
University of Saskatchewan

The Upcoming Issue: Volume 19 (4), Fall 1997, is an "Editor's Choice" issue, composed of eight separately submitted articles. Nonetheless, this medley shows the inventiveness of anthropologists in finding practical niches for their profession.

Elaine Struthers tells a unique tale of her work as a physical anthropologist at a large animal research facility in the American Southwest. There she is in charge of the care and well-being of about one thousand chimpanzees — the anthropologist as social worker for primates. Intercultural training sessions for health professionals are discussed by Rena Gropper of New York City. Grace Ma, a medical

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anthropologist, and Dee Ann Wenk, a sociologist, describe the ingredients of a holistic family wellness program that they developed and tested in the American Southwest.

The relationship of social marketing and anthropology is the theme of Chris Brown's paper. Brown, working for a Texas State health agency, developed such an approach to encourage the use of the agency's services among low income white families whose values eschewed dependency. Peter van Arsdale describes a Denver-based, multifaceted, and interdisciplinary program for refugee victims of torture.

The role of anthropologist, as expert witness in court, is discussed by Barbara Joans of Oakland. She uses her own recent example of a child custody case, involving parents of different cultural backgrounds, and the unfortunate normative assumptions about the family held by court-appointed psychologists. Also from the Bay area (here, the Silicon Valley and San Jose) Charles N. Darrah, J. A. English-Lueck, and Andrea Saveri in their article "The Infomated Households Project" describe research done jointly for the Institute for the Future and their university on the experiences and dynamics of families using high technology communication devices in their households.

The final article is by Patricia Higgins (*PA*'s most recent editor) and one of her former students, Roy Scheller. They describe a collaborative practicum project between the Anthropology Department at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh and Hope Cottages, Inc., an agency providing support for Alaskans who have experienced developmental disabilities. The advantages for the agency, university, and the students in this arrangement are all discussed. Besides these articles, we will have regular departments (FYI, Sources, The Real World) and the annual index in this issue.

Punctuality and Cross-Border Communication for PA: Judging from watching episodes of Seinfeld, I gather that Americans find a great deal of black humor in their postal services. Canadians should be so lucky. In comparison our services are antediluvian. In reality, Americans got the decent postal services and Canadians the equitable medical system. So I guess that I shouldn't complain too much. Yet note that any cross-border first class mail takes about two weeks to get to me, or the same when I correspond with authors in the U.S. Publishing *PA* requires a great deal of attention to timing and involves three or four steps (at least) of editing. Delays cause major headaches and can seriously throw off the schedules, competent editing, and layout procedures done by myself and Neil Hann in our Oklahoma City offices.

For that reason, I have started to clearly and strictly identify deadlines for submissions and revisions to allow decent lead times. From now on, if people do not comply with these deadlines, their articles may well have to be dropped from their designated issues. Fortunately, we are starting to have a backlog of good articles to replace them. I am sorry to have to make this rather draconian announcement, but experience has led me to it. At any rate, most

people should have no difficulty in dealing with these needs for punctuality in maintaining the efficiency of *PA*. So if authors or other correspondents anticipate difficulties in meeting deadlines through regular mail, then make use of E-mail, fax, or courier services.

Note that the effectiveness of sending "attached files" through E-mail is very spotty. Sometimes they can clog up the whole system, or they come through as "computerize" gobbly-gook. Sending diskettes early on in the process is highly recommended. But please do not send me ASCII files: formatting and line alignment is always botched. Repairing ASCII files is very time consuming.

Again, the addresses and phone numbers for the editorial office of *PA* are: Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, 57N 5A5, Canada; the office telephone: (306) 966-4176; my home phone: (306) 343-9140; Fax: (306) 966-5640; E-mail: ervin@skyfox.usask.ca.



FROM THE STUDENT EDITOR

By Tony Hebert
University of Florida

Classrooms and books provide imperfect approximations of the world, how things are done, should be done or could be done. Fieldwork is that necessary culmination of an academic curriculum wherein, ironically, students can come to know the shortcomings of what they've learned and previously thought. Wouldn't it be great if this bi-directional feedback between what you've learned in the classroom and what you've learned in applying this knowledge could be an ongoing aspect of training, rather than a sometimes jolting revelation at the time of thesis, dissertation, or applied work? This notion is especially true for the training of applied anthropologists. The conjoining of a classroom context and applied fieldwork can transform the typical class into a highly relevant incubator for applied anthropology research, trajectories and careers.

In making this point clear, I will draw on my own experiences and those of fellow graduate students who recently took Allan Burns' applied anthropology class at the University of Florida. The primary component of this class was an applied research project within the Gainesville area. Each student was encouraged to volunteer with local nonprofit agencies or "do" applied anthropology in some manner within the community; through this they were exposed to

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the possibilities for applied contexts and the variegated issues, skills and potentials of applied anthropology.

According to Burns, the goals were to prepare students for working in applied contexts, to alert them to the evolving world of volunteer, NGO, and local organizations as clients for anthropology, to stress the interaction of general and applied theory with real programs of intervention and research, to help students break into a mode of thinking where application and advocacy are part of the "doing of fieldwork" and finally to work towards skills in writing as applied anthropologists.

Many of the students in the class volunteered with local non-profit or other agencies, such as the county AIDS support network, Habitat for Humanity, the Ronald McDonald house, local nursing home ombudsmen, Job Corps, local homeless shelters and soup kitchens, women's shelters or the local Free-net. Others started or helped to start their own non-profit organizations within the community, establishing intervention programs for teens and other school-aged children in the areas of race relations/education and photography and video production. One of these programs continues to provide both after school activities for local youth and grassroots assessments as to what they think should be done in their neighborhoods to affect positive change.

Alongside this applied fieldwork, students read collections of essays on applied anthropology and met twice a week in a classroom setting to discuss their experiences, the readings and listen to a short lecture that tied into their work. Additionally, students turned in weekly fieldnotes which stimulated the explication of their thoughts, ideas, possibilities and perceived roles as applied anthropologists within the contexts they were working. This applied work and the associated fieldnotes allowed students to experience the potential or shortcomings of anthropology within a given applied context and facilitated the attachment of anthropological knowledge discussed in class to specific issues and local agendas (providing a real world relevance). Through this, Burns said he hoped to provide an opportunity for students to have "field experience instead of just campus experience with anthropology. ..an alternative to all of the papers graduate students write that have few goals outside of the course.. (and) allow creative and active students an avenue to express their enthusiasm and interests".

Do classes like this really serve as incubators for applied anthropology research, trajectories and careers as the introductory paragraph suggests? From my own experience the answer is "yes." Fellow students, who took this course, echoed my sentiment. For students just beginning their M.A. or Ph.D. studies in anthropology, it brought them in touch with possible research topics or strategies for their thesis or dissertation. The experience of applied research also opened the door for a concentration in applied anthropology, setting individuals new to this vocation on a trajectory toward possible applied careers. As Jen Craythorne noted, "It was my first experience with 'doing' anthropology and since it was such a good one it gave me the desire and impetus to continue on."

For those completing their degrees and contemplating what niche they can fill as an applied anthropologist outside of the academy, this class brought them in contact with a range of roles and employment opportunities that they could pursue as practicing anthropologists. Many of the students continued on as volunteers with the agencies which their class projects focused upon, making local community involvement an ongoing component of their training, and possibly a permanent aspect of their identity as applied anthropologists. This continued volunteerism also speaks to the added benefits experienced by the community, which now enjoys the ongoing involvement of competent volunteers for non-profit agencies.

For the few that started their own non-profit entities or intervention programs, the empowerment of stepping in at the grassroots level with community members and leaving something behind that continues to aid local advocacy efforts will indefinitely shape their understanding of applied anthropology. For these students, anthropology will no longer only be a research tool employed in the business of finding out what people feel, instead, it will be embraced as a framework from which community organization and mobilization can take flight.

If you have comments regarding this article, suggestions for future topics, or an article you would like to submit, please contact Tony Hebert, 221 SE 7th St. #1, Gainesville, FL 32601, phone (352) 338-0624, E-mail at Heberta@nervm.nerdc.ufl.edu. We welcome the participation of other student members in this column and look forward to making this an open forum for the discussion of issues relevant to students interested in applied anthropology.



WAPA NEWS

By Will Sibley
Cleveland State University

On June 7, 1997, numerous hardy souls braved uncertain (and unseasonably cool!!) weather to travel to Cedarhurst-on-the-Bay (MD) for the third consecutive year for a most enjoyable annual picnic. The assembly was comprised of members of the Washington Association of Professional Anthropologists (WAPA). Grilled food, assorted beverages and an abundance of deserts were consumed at the picnic site on the western edge of Chesapeake Bay near Washington, D.C.

WAPA continues to prosper as (probably) the largest local practitioner organization in the United States. Newly retired president Lois Keck has been replaced for 1997-98 by Bill Roberts. Bill teaches anthropology at St. Mary's College in southern Maryland, along with managing student-based applied research both locally and in Senegal. An active program is planned for the coming season, along with the planned inauguration of a WAPA web site. When that site is up and running, information on accessing it will be forthcoming.

Continuing a tradition, WAPA will again in 1997 present the Praxis Award during the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Washington, D.C. (AAA meets in Washington 19-23 November 1997). The Praxis Award recognizes outstanding achievement in translating anthropological knowledge into action as reflected in one project. The award thus demonstrates the effectiveness and relevance of anthropology to contemporary social problems. Anthropological knowledge is interpreted in its broadest meaning, encompassing theory, data and methods. The award is conferred during a special reception at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association. The application deadline is August 15, 1997. Nominations may be self-nominations or nominations by others. Nominees must hold a graduate degree in any subfield of anthropology. Further information may be obtained at WAPA, P.O. Box 23262, L'Enfant Station, Washington, D.C. 20026 or by telephone (301) 649-4098

1997 RICHARD EVANS SCHULTES AWARD

By Katy Moran
The Healing Forest Conservancy
Washington, D.C.

Professor Nancy J. Turner of the School of Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria, BC, is the recipient of the 1997 Richard Evans Schultes Award.

"Advocate for indigenous peoples," "accomplished academic," "inspiring professor" read the flood of nominations

for Nancy Turner. Specific recognition is given for her leadership in partnering with First Nations peoples to bring ethnobotanical knowledge to the forefront in discussions on management of the ancient, temperate forests of the Pacific Northwest with the government of Canada. Turner's impressive scholarly recognition by her peers on the temperate climate ethnobotany of the First Nations in British Columbia — almost 30 books, monographs or chapters — is surpassed only by the number of her many devoted students whom she has inspired to enter the field of ethnobotany.

The Schultes Award is presented annually by The Healing Forest Conservancy to a scientist, practitioner, or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to ethnobotany or to indigenous peoples issues related to ethnobotany. The award honors the name of Richard Evans Schultes, the Harvard ethnobotanist widely recognized as one of the most distinguished figures in the field.

To date, there have been four other recipients of the Schultes Award. The 1996 Schultes Award went to the Bribri and Cabécar people of the KéköLdi Indian Reserve in Costa Rica who were recognized for their strategy to maintain their culture by enforcing their territorial rights — publishing a book about the Bribri and Cabécar use of medicinal plants and using book profits to purchase lands from non-Indian landholders within the boundaries of their reserve.

Each Schultes Award has featured a \$5,000 cash prize donated by Shaman Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and The Leland Fikes Foundation, Inc. The Foundation, located in Dallas, supports local biomedical research and has a general interest in biodiversity as a part of the broad field of medicine. The Healing Forest Conservancy, which sponsors the Schultes Award, was founded by Shaman Pharmaceuticals, Inc., based in South San Francisco, California, and focused on the discovery and development of pharmaceuticals through ethnobotany. The Conservancy, a non-profit foundation, is dedicated to the conservation of tropical forests, particularly medicinal plants and their sustainable use for human health. Its focus is to deliver compensation programs that strengthen the integrity of traditional cultures to native communities that have participated in Shaman's drug discovery process.

Nominations for the 1998 Richard Evans Schultes Award are open until May 1, 1998. The award seeks a balance in geographic location, gender and field of study for recipients. Nominations of indigenous people or organizations active in this area are especially welcome. Please submit nominations (of others, it is not self-nominating), along with a statement of the candidate's qualifications to Katy Moran, Director, The Healing Forest Conservancy, 3521 S Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007, Fax: (202) 333-3438, E-mail: moranhfc@aol.com.



NOTES ON THE SfAA/EPA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

By Barbara Johnston
SfAA/EPA Fellowship Program Director

The following are a couple of summaries on the internship and fellowship program awards. I have included a description of the Hamilton County, Ohio, technical assistance project.

Hamilton County Environmental Priorities Project

In November 1996, the Society for Applied Anthropology received a request to provide technical assistance to a community-based environmental planning process recently initiated in Hamilton County, Ohio, the Hamilton County Environmental Priorities Project (HCEPP). The HCEPP represents an effort to take a broader community-based approach to defining problems in the region, and to ensure that the response reflects the diverse community needs. The HCEPP involves an information gathering process where independent citizens and technical advisors meet and form committees to discuss issue-areas of concern, compile relevant information, and prepare a "state of the environment" for Hamilton County area.

The project also involves a decision-making process where a Consensus Forum reviews committee findings, prioritizes issues, and devises locally-appropriate strategies for resolving community-based environmental problems. Environmental problems in this area include the toxic remains of heavy industry, including environmental pollution related to the Fernalds Nuclear Weapons Plant. In recent years a great deal of attention has been focused on environmental equity issues in Hamilton County, with grassroots groups forming in an effort to call attention to the racial and cultural demography of environmental hazards.

On June 1, 1997, through the SfAA/EPA Cooperative Agreement, the Society for Applied Anthropology began providing technical assistance to the HCEPP. SfAA assistance includes providing a student intern to work full-time over the summer, and a practicing anthropologist to provide technical assistance full-time over the summer and on a part-time basis up to a one-year period.

There are two central objectives in providing anthropological assistance: to enhance project participants' understanding of quality of life issues; and, to provide information and outreach in ways that broaden the focus of concern and the nature of participation in this project.

Intern Julie Pelle (Ph.D. student at the University of

South Florida) has been working as a neighborhood environmental coordinator and member of the technical resource staff. This work involves public outreach efforts aimed at helping the volunteer working groups to broaden their membership by identifying community members interested in environmental issues to extend "invitations for participation."

Pelle is also using objective and subjective methods to identify the range of neighborhood perceptions regarding equity of environmental impact within Hamilton County, Ohio. She is examining existing sources of socioeconomic data (income, ethnicity, age/sex structure, population density, etc.) and biophysical information (toxic release inventory data, water and air quality, reported illnesses, complaint data, etc.) to gain a sense of disproportionate environmental impact as suggested by the "hard" data, and at the same time, developing a sense of "neighborhood voice" by attending community council meetings and conducting semi-structured interviews with residents and neighborhood leaders to listen and learn about neighborhood environmental concerns. At the end of her internship, Pelle will be preparing a report that will serve as a reference

document for Working Groups as they prioritize environmental risks within Hamilton County, Ohio.

Anthropologist Daniel Cartledge, Ph.D. has been working as a "Quality-of-Life" consultant to the Working Groups, and also as an assistant to the HCEPP Director Pat Timm. Project Director Timm was on sick leave during

In recent years a great deal of attention has been focused on environmental equity issues in Hamilton County, with grassroots groups forming in an effort to call attention to the racial and cultural demography of environmental hazards.

the months of July and August, and during this time, Cartledge supervised summer interns and volunteers, attending staff and working group meetings, organizing project information archives, and providing information and data on quality of life factors. Cartledge is studying the variety of initiatives, interests and agendas structuring the Environmental Priorities project, identifying the range of quality of life issues considered, and the range of issues not being considered; and, participate in these meetings, asserting socio-cultural perspectives, information and concerns where appropriate, assisting efforts to define the qualitative components of each issue, and identifying qualitative data sources. Initial archival research found relatively little relevant data on quality of life issues in the Hamilton County area, and over the next few months Cartledge will be engaged in gathering empirical data from several communities in the county (those experiencing the greatest number of environmental hazards and/or least represented in the HCEPP). Methods to be used include organizing and facilitating focus group meetings.

At the end of the consultation, Cartledge will be working with HCEPP Director Pat Timm to prepare an article-

(continued on page 10)

length case study of their approach to Quality-of-Life issues. Key questions to be addressed include: What issues/problems/questions were addressed by SfAA's technical assistance? What were the methods used to define community stakeholders, issues, experiences and agenda? What sets of qualitative information were available for project use, and what needed to be developed? What difficulties were encountered in meeting project objectives, and why? What strategies worked?

For additional information, comments and suggestions, contact Daniel Cartledge and Julie Pelle at the Hamilton County Environmental Priorities Project, 2828 Vernon Place, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45219, telephone: (513) 221-8853, E-mail: environmental_priorities@pol.com, Fax: (513) 221-4820.

Society for Applied Anthropology Environmental Fellowship Program

The Environmental Anthropology Fellowship program is funded through the SfAA/EPA Cooperative Agreement, a project sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Sustainable Ecosystems and Communities. The fellowship program was created to increase awareness of the value of anthropologists in the environmental policy and planning arena, to assist communities and community-based organizations in planning and practical activities, and to enhance employment and employability for anthropologists at or beyond the M.A. level.

Fellows are awarded \$9000 to work over a six-month period. Fellowship competitions are held twice a year, with a winter award to support environmental anthropology work in a governmental setting, and a summer award to support environmental anthropology work in a community-based setting. Applicants accepted into the fellowship pool may also be awarded funds to support other technical assistance projects sponsored by the SfAA.

Fellows work with an EPA and an SfAA mentor. They are required to submit to the SfAA a project workplan, mid-term and final report, and they are eligible to apply for a \$500 conference travel grant to present a report or formal paper at a professional meeting, such as the annual meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology. As fellows complete their projects, their reports and other summary materials are posted on the SfAA homepage.

In 1997, the SfAA awarded Environmental Anthropology Fellowships to:

- Eric Jones (anthropology graduate program, University of Massachusetts, Amherst) to support environmental policy work at the Officer of Sustainable Ecosystems and Communities, Washington DC;

- David Driscoll (anthropology graduate program, University of South Florida) to support planning and public outreach work with the Eastward Ho! Brownfields Initiative and the Sustainable South Florida Task Force;

- Cheryl Darlene McClary (Independent Consultant) to support ethnographic research and conflict resolution work on sustainable forestry, grassroots politics and the community-based environmental planning issues in Union Mills, North Carolina.

Details and application materials for future competitions will be posted on the SfAA homepage in November 1997. For additional information contact EPA Project Officer Theresa Trainor (Trainor.Theresa@epamail.epa.gov) or SfAA Project Director Barbara Johnston, E-mail: bjohnston@igc.org.

Environmental Internships Summer 1997 Program

The Society for Applied Anthropology is pleased to announce the establishment of an environmental internship summer program, with funds and support from the United States Environmental Protection Agency Office of Sustainable Ecosystems and Communities. The internship program is designed to give students an opportunity to work within the community-based environmental protection context. The program allows environmental anthropology students the opportunity to do fieldwork relevant to their interests, to local communities, to environmental protection and to the SfAA. Applicants are currently enrolled undergraduate or graduate students in anthropology, have a faculty member willing to sponsor their project, have knowledge of field methods for cultural anthropology, and preferably, have training in applied anthropology. Applicants accepted into the internship pool are also eligible to apply to work on community-specific projects funded through the SfAA/EPA technical assistance program, as they become available.

In March 1997 the SfAA distributed a call for applications, and in May 1997 the Environmental Anthropology Advisory Committee reviewed and ranked candidates. Application materials were also sent to SfAA/EPA Cooperative Agreement Project Officer Theresa Trainor, who worked with EPA representatives in the different regional headquarters to find each intern an institutional sponsor. After locating an institutional sponsor, each intern and their EPA host met to shape and refine the internship scope of work. In addition to their EPA mentor, the work of each intern is monitored by a faculty sponsor.

The following SfAA students were accepted into the internship program:

EPA REGION V: Elizabeth Babcock (EPA mentor John Perrecone, Public Affairs; SfAA sponsor Richard Wilk).



Babcock's internship project is aimed at understanding how community based environmental protection is conceptualized by the US EPA and by Chicago communities. Her work involves interviewing various participants and community members affected by the Greater Chicago Initiative, an EPA-funded project developing environmental and public health initiatives in the west and southeast side of Chicago.

EPA REGION IV: Madeleine Fortin (Project mentor: Executive Director Bonnie Kranzer, Governor's Task Force on a Sustainable South Florida, and SfAA Environmental Anthropology Fellow David Driscoll; SfAA sponsor Barry Levine). Fortin's internship is sponsored by the Eastward Ho! Brownfields Initiative and the Governor's Task Force on a Sustainable South Florida (a planning effort funded by federal and state agencies, and involving a representatives from government, industry, academia, nonprofit, and other community representatives, and linking restoration efforts with urban-based environmental and socioeconomic needs). Fortin will be working with a team of anthropologists to map out the range of initiatives currently underway, assess to efficacy of public participation efforts, and develop an anthropological alternative.

EPA REGION III: Michael Kronthal (EPA mentor Bev Baker, Anacostia Watershed Project Coordinator; SfAA sponsor Brett Williams). Kronthal's internship project involves working with issues related to the restoration and protection of the Anacostia River in Washington DC. The Anacostia is located in a relatively poor, ethnically and racially diverse community, and preservation efforts have struggled to mobilize the community against outside plans to develop parts of the watershed. This development could enhance economic opportunities, but would also present further risk to the health of the Anacostia.

REGION IV: Stephanie Paladino (EPA mentor Meredith Anderson, Savannah River Basin Project Director; SfAA sponsor Peter Brosius). Paladino's project involves using ethnographic skills and techniques to help develop a regional approach to watershed management in the Piedmont Region of Georgia (the Broad River, a free-flowing undammed river that flows into the Savannah River Basin). Paladino's work includes helping local actors, organizations and government agencies conceptualize and plan environmental protection strategies that are inclusive and participation-based in relation to watershed constituencies and that build understanding of different priorities, perceptions, and impacts. Paladino's project is a model project— testing techniques and approaches that enhance communication, facilitate long-term cooperation, and may be of use in other watershed regions.

Details and application materials for the summer 1998 internship program will be posted on the SfAA homepage in November 1997. For additional information contact Theresa Trainor, E-mail: Trainor.Theresa@epamail.epa.gov, or SfAA Project Director Barbara Johnston, E-mail: bjohnston@igc.org.

Editor Search, *Human Organization*

The Society for Applied Anthropology announces a search for a new Editor-in-Chief of *Human Organization*. *Human Organization* has been recognized as a leading scientific journal in applied anthropology since its founding in 1941. It is published four times annually and is directed toward interdisciplinary as well as anthropological audiences.

The term of the current Editor, Robert V. Kemper, ends in December 1998. The successor's term will begin on January 1, 1998. The search is being initiated now to provide for a smooth transition.

The initial term of service for the new Editor-in-Chief will be three years. The term is renewable for one additional three-year period. The Editor-in-Chief of *Human Organization* also serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the Society for Applied Anthropology.

In addition to making at least a three-year commitment to the journal and to serving on the SfAA Executive Committee, the candidates for the position should be able to secure release time (where possible) and other institutional support to supplement SfAA resources, constitute an Editorial Board, promote and cultivate the journal, and offer editorial expertise and direction.

Persons interested in applying for the position should provide the Publications Committee with the following: a letter of interest that indicates the candidate's experience, ideas and vision for the journal, and any support (such as release time, space, equipment and/or editorial assistance) that may be available from the host institution, and a copy of the candidate's vita or resume.

Additional material may be requested by the Publications Committee at a later date. The application deadline is November 1, 1997. Applications should be sent to Ruthbeth Finerman, SfAA Publications Committee Chair, Department of Anthropology, The University of Memphis, Campus Box 526671, Memphis, TN 38152, E-mail at finerman@memphis.edu; 901/678-3334; Fax 901/678-2069. Other members of the Publications Committee are: Thomas Arcury (North Carolina - Chapel Hill); Laurie Krieger (USAID); Patricia Marshall (Loyola); John Sherry (Northwestern); and Alaka Wali (Field Museum - Chicago). *Ex Officio* members are: Robert V. Kemper (Southern Methodist); Alexander Ervin (Saskatchewan); and Michael Whiteford (Iowa State).

FROM THE EDITOR

As always, I believe this issue of the *Newsletter* contains a great deal of very interesting information. SfAA President John Young outlines the rationale for the proposed modifications in the Society's by-laws. The Executive Committee of the SfAA enthusiastically endorsed a series of changes which, if passed by the membership, should significantly modify the breadth of participation in the affairs of the organization. The organization will become palpably more inclusive in decision making and governance. Becky Joseph has put together a tantalizing blurb on the Annual Meetings. Mark your calendars for April 21-26, 1998. Also, please note the deadline for receipt of abstracts in the Business Office is October 15. Forms are included as an insert in this issue of the *Newsletter*. On behalf of the Program Committee, José Martínez extends a warm invitation to the Society's student members.

The Society's journal editors, and regular columnists, *HO's* Van Kemper and *PA's* Sandy Ervin preview forthcoming issues of their publications. By ever-so-gradually increasing the size of each issue, Kemper has been able to reduce the backlog of manuscripts waiting to be published. In addition, Van has been tenacious in getting a faster turn around on reviews. This has resulted in shortening the heretofore interminably long queue of accepted materials that would languish (and get dated) while waiting to appear in print. Speeding up the review process and getting materials published in a timely fashion have been objectives of Kemper's since becoming the journal's editor. He has accomplished these goals within two years and for this he is to be congratulated.

We are pleased with the interesting columns that come from the *Newsletter's* Student Editor. Tony Hebert calls upon his student colleague to submit materials to him for column consideration. Barbara Johnston has tackled the very exciting task of serving as the director of a fellowship program established between the Society for Applied Anthropology and the Environmental Protection Agency. In this issue she summarizes several activities of this important joint venture.

As always we have announcements. The WAPA spring picnic was a success, and that organization continues to involve its members in a number of interesting activities. Katy Moran reports on the 1997 Richard Evan Schultes Award that is given annual to an individual or organization that makes important contributions in ethnobotany. Information on the nominating process is included in the article.

Quick: who was the 1981-82 President of the SfAA? Willis Bibley is not the correct answer. My apologies to old friend and colleague Will Sibley for having erased him (in the May issue of the *Newsletter*), albeit briefly, from the annals of SfAA history.

Finally, the *Newsletter* is always in some state of production. *Our next official deadline* (something we are always happy to extend a day or two) *for receipt of materials for the November issue is October 25.*

Mike Whiteford

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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. Telephone: 515/294-8212; fax 515/294-1708. 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).

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