

Summer 2007 AnthropoLog

News from the University of Washington's Department of Anthropology

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A street scene showing the poster for the "Cruel/Loving Bodies" exhibit in front of the Duolun Museum for Modern Art in Shanghai where it was exhibited.

Sasha Su-Ling Welland

Sasha Su-Ling Welland joined the Department of Anthropology and the Department of Women Studies as an assistant professor in September 2006, shortly after completing her graduate work at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Sasha's recent book, *A Thousand Miles of Dreams: The Journeys of Two Chinese Sisters* (Rowman & Littlefield), also came out this past fall. Its publication marked the end of a research project she began almost two decades ago, as an undergraduate, under the mentorship of UW Anthropology alum, Sylvia Yanagisako. What started as a life history of her grandmother became a study of the disjuncture between personal narrative and conventional history after she discovered the secret her grandmother had hidden from family in the United States: her sister's renown as a writer in China. Sasha's attempt to piece together the two sisters' divergent stories of a shared past led her to spend several years in China – as an English teacher, oral history recorder, archival detective, and budding anthropologist.

The resulting book is a dual biography of two intensely rivalrous Chinese sisters, a writer and a doctor, whose lives took very different paths in their quest to be independent women. Ling Shuhao arrived in Cleveland in 1925 to study medicine in the middle of a U.S. crackdown on Chinese immigrant communities. She became

an American named Amy and her struggle to assimilate began. Her sister Ling Shuhua remained in China and burst onto the Beijing literary scene as a writer of short fiction. Both were Chinese "modern girls" who sought to forge their own way during a period of social revolution that unsettled relations between men and women, and among nations.

Sasha's dissertation, *Experimental Beijing: Contemporary Art Worlds in China's Capital*, and current research examine the social role of visual art and competing ideas of aesthetic, cultural, and market value in reform-era China, with a particular focus on how gender shapes contemporary Chinese art worlds. In the 1990s, when an almost uniformly male cohort of Chinese avant-garde artists began to circulate internationally, their work was heralded as representative of reform-era China. Their female counterparts, many of whom had trained alongside the men in state-sponsored art institutions, remained in the long shadow cast by this focus on a globetrotting male avant-garde. Sasha's research explores the local context in which these artists negotiate a nexus of state cultural control and market economics in the attempt to earn a living and exhibit their work. As part of her ethnographic involvement in the field, Sasha also curated *Cruel/Loving Bodies*, an exhibit featuring

painting, sculpture, installation, performance, photography, and video by Chinese, Hong Kong, and Chinese-British feminist artists, which has shown in Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong.

Interested in multiple approaches to visual anthropology, she is also currently working on two video projects. *Jing Jing Hair Salon* documents the lives of three hair salon workers, including two migrant women from the countryside, in a Beijing neighborhood on the verge of urban redevelopment. *Long March to Lugu Lake* follows a group of Chinese feminist artists as they travel to a matrilineal minority village on Lugu Lake in Yunnan province to participate in an art happening with American feminist artist Judy Chicago.

This year, Sasha has taught courses in Anthropology and Women Studies, including "Expressive Culture," "Global Asia," "Feminism in an International Context," and "Feminist Research and Methods of Inquiry," and has helped organize the Visual Anthropology Working Group.



LEFT: The group of artists involved in the "Long March" project at Lugu Lake. The photo is taken on the shore of Lugu Lake in Yunnan province in southwestern China. RIGHT: Sasha with several of the artists involved in the "Cruel/Loving Bodies" exhibit held in a factory turned gallery called 798 Space in Beijing.

Note from the Chair

“Have you taken me off your mailing list? Please put me back on! I’m not getting *AnthropoLog* anymore.”

For several months I’ve been hearing these questions and pleas. But please don’t worry – we haven’t deleted anyone from our list. We just ran out of money and had to put *AnthropoLog* on hold for a little while. But thanks to a very generous offer from the deans – specifically so we could produce another newsletter – we’re happily back in business.

With each issue of *AnthropoLog* costing about \$3,000 to print and mail (it goes out to about 3,000 alums and friends), and with a budget that was tighter than usual recently, we decided to put the newsletter on hold temporarily so we could continue to support the things that directly enhance our academic programs. In the past year alone we spent roughly \$24,000 (all donations from alums and friends). Let me explain where it went...

Roughly \$10,000 went to support short-term “pilot research” for students, which is a critical step in their careers because it helps them to establish initial research contacts and to see whether their projects meet with positive reception by the host communities. Students have recently conducted pilot research on a wide range of topics, including: the collapse of coastal societies in ancient Peru; peasant politics in the shift to shrimp aquaculture in southern China; the nutritional and energetic correlates of puberty in baboons; the designing

and playing of US Army video games; ways in which African American deaf individuals negotiate cultural identities; and the historical relationship between nature-making and Turkish forest management.

Another \$6,000 went to support about forty students with accommodations at a variety of conferences of national organizations, such as the American Anthropological Association, the Society for American Archaeology, the American Association of Physical Anthropology, the Human Behavior and Evolution Society, and the Society for Applied Anthropology. Students have presented papers and posters – some even winning “best poster” awards. This year Amy Snipes took the stage at the American Anthropological Association conference to receive their 2006-07 Minority Dissertation Fellowship!

Increasing diversity has been of great concern to us, and we used \$4,000 to support diversity initiatives. We were able to bring several scholars (including Enrique Salmon, Sven Haakanson, Barbara Meek, and Johannes Haile-Selassie) to the department to talk about their research. In addition, with the help of GO-MAP (Graduate Opportunities and Minority Achievement Program), we hosted recruitment visits for seven prospective graduate students, four of whom will be entering our program this fall.

Another \$2,500 funded our annual outreach event on April 26th – “Sound Research: Anthropology Close to Home.” This year’s speakers were Professor Lorna Rhodes (“Ten Years of Ethnography in Washington State Prisons”), Leonard Forsman, who is a UW Anthropology alum, archaeologist, and Suquamish Tribal Chairman (“How Anthropology Helped Inspire a Cultural Resurgence in the Suquamish Tribal Community”), and Emily Brunson, a current graduate student (“Childhood Vaccination in King County”).

And last, but not least, we used \$1,000 to help underwrite and co-sponsor symposia and colloquia in other departments around campus. These included “Beyond Borders: Perspectives on US Immigration,” “Minority Student Conference,” “Native American Students in Advanced Academia Symposium,” “Middle East Speaker Series,” and Phil Borges, global humanitarian, documentary filmmaker, photographer, and author.

Hopefully, all these details will help you understand where our money went and why you haven’t received *AnthropoLog* for a while. We haven’t forgotten you!



Miriam Kahn



L to R: David Nichols, Rick Aguilar and John Cady. Below: Joni Marts.

New Faces in the Main Office ... and a Wealth of Experience

Whether you are a graduate student panicked by the blank blue screen that just popped up on your computer; a faculty member needing assistance to iron out a detail of your course listing in the time schedule; an anthropology major trying to smoothly navigate your way to a degree; the department chair wondering, “Is there enough money for ...”; or an alum stopping by to say hello... you will find a number of new faces on staff to greet you. *And none of them is a stranger to the University of Washington.*

Most recently, **David Nichols** joined us as our Computer Services Manager. David received his BS in Physics from the UW in 2001 and is currently completing his MS degree in the same area. Originally from Boise, Idaho, he was raised in Alaska from the age of eight and enjoys the outdoors. Other interests of his include reading (in particular history and science fiction) science and technology, film, and creative writing. Fans of Tolkien’s Middle Earth may want to ask him about his email address – mithreal@u.washington.edu.

This past summer, **Rick Aguilar**, another UW alum, took on the job of Program Assistant. Rick received his degree in International Studies in 2004. As part of his work at the UW he participated in the Northwest Cádiz study abroad program in Cádiz, Spain and in the CHID study abroad program in Brazil – and is proficient in Spanish and conversational in Brazilian Portuguese. His interests include guitar, tennis, travel, world culture, and history. He has quickly lent his organizational skills to helping faculty and students with the complexities of the time schedule, room assignments, and book ordering. Not least of all, he will quite often be the first friendly and helpful face you will encounter at the reception desk in the front office.

In Spring 2006, **Joni Marts** returned to the Department of Anthropology as an Academic Counselor in our Undergraduate Advising Office, a position she held from 1994 to 1998. She is completing her BA degree from the UW – majoring in Interdisciplinary Art, with an anthropological emphasis on body adornment and cultural aspects of body image.

Joni previously served as an advisor on campus in the School of Nursing and in the Anthropology through Evening Degree Program. When off campus, Joni enjoys gardening, knitting and sailing. And when Joni is in her office, you just might meet a certain English Springer Spaniel – Montana – who has become something of a department mascot.

Only new to some readers perhaps, **John Cady** joined the department as our Fiscal Specialist just as our Summer 2005 edition of *AnthropoLog* hit the press. The department was very fortunate to have lured him away from the office of Grant and Contract Accounting where he was hired as a Fiscal Specialist 2 in 1997 and, subsequently, served as a Budget Fiscal Analyst Lead. He received his BA in Mathematics – as well as K-8 credentials – from the UW. His past experiences include teaching math at the

Overlake School, being a project manager and cost estimator for a construction company, and being a Peace Corps volunteer in Chile. John has lent his exceptional skills to making transparent the complexities of the department’s fiscal life – and does so with an infectious enthusiasm and spirit.



Alison Wylie

So...what exactly does philosophy have to do with archaeology? As a new faculty member, based in Philosophy and cross-appointed in Anthropology, Alison Wylie often gets this kind of puzzled question. Archaeology is a discipline of the concrete and may seem like the most un-philosophical of all the subfields of anthropology. But, as she argues in her 2002 book, *Thinking from Things* (U. California Press), archaeology is philosophically fascinating precisely because it is positioned at the interface between cultural and historical inquiry and the physical and biological sciences. It is in many ways a microcosm through which to address questions about the nature of social inquiry and its objects that have animated philosophy of the social sciences for at least the last century.

Alison first learned that philosophy and archaeology might have something to do with one another in an archaeological field camp in southwest Saskatchewan, where she worked for Parks Canada in the 1970s. This was the period in which archaeology was undergoing a revolution; the New Archaeology had just burst on the scene in North America, bringing with it an intense interest in philosophical models of what it is that makes a science scientific. The Parks Canada field crew Alison joined after her first year at college was a hotbed of debate about these philosophical theories as well as the latest programmatic statements of the New Archaeologists. In the spirit of bringing revolution to the hinterland, her dig director insisted that even the most earth-bound and mundane of archaeological labors must be informed by a commitment to test ambitious hypotheses, not just about what happened in the past but about how and why, about the cultural processes that had unfolded in the local details of the historic Northwest Mounted Police fort they were excavating. In the process, Alison learned what it could mean to incorporate a philosophical perspective into the design of archaeological research as a richly interpretive, problem-solving exercise.

When Alison returned to her liberal arts coursework at a small college in New Brunswick, she focused on the philosophy of science and quickly learned that the logical positivism that had inspired the New Archaeology was facing stiff critique; a growing contingent of science

studies scholars was intent on contextualizing the enterprise of science. It was then that she began to puzzle about philosophical foundations of the New Archaeology. She had the good fortune to discover, almost immediately, that a number of others were already energetically transgressing disciplinary boundaries, exploring the possibilities not just for fitting philosophical models more neatly to the practice of archaeology, but also for doing a new hybrid philosophy of science: philosophical analysis that takes its cue as much from the fields it studies as from its own intellectual tradition; philosophy from the ground up. A unique interdisciplinary graduate program in the History and Philosophy of the Social and Behavioral Sciences at SUNY-Binghamton made it possible to pursue her hybrid interests, doing coursework in both Philosophy and Anthropology.

Along the way, in the process of crossing boundaries between philosophy and anthropology, Alison has come to think about her home discipline of philosophy in new ways. The challenge of making sense of archaeology undercuts the boundaries between the standard subfields of philosophy: ethics and political theory, epistemology and metaphysics. Archaeologists negotiate intensely difficult questions about disciplinary goals and standards of research practice that cannot be separated from questions about moral and political accountability. Alison increasingly works at the interface between these subfields – on questions about the role of values in science and the role of science in society. Central among these is a set of issues raised by collaborative models of research in archaeology: how do various forms of extra- as well as intra- and inter-disciplinary engagement enrich archaeology, redefine its goals, and redirect its efforts?

Alison is delighted to have a second home in the Department of Anthropology at the UW; for the first time in her career she has the opportunity to play an active role in an archaeology program.



Top: Alison Wylie in Jaguar Cave.
Above: Alison Wylie

Of Course: Applying Anthropology

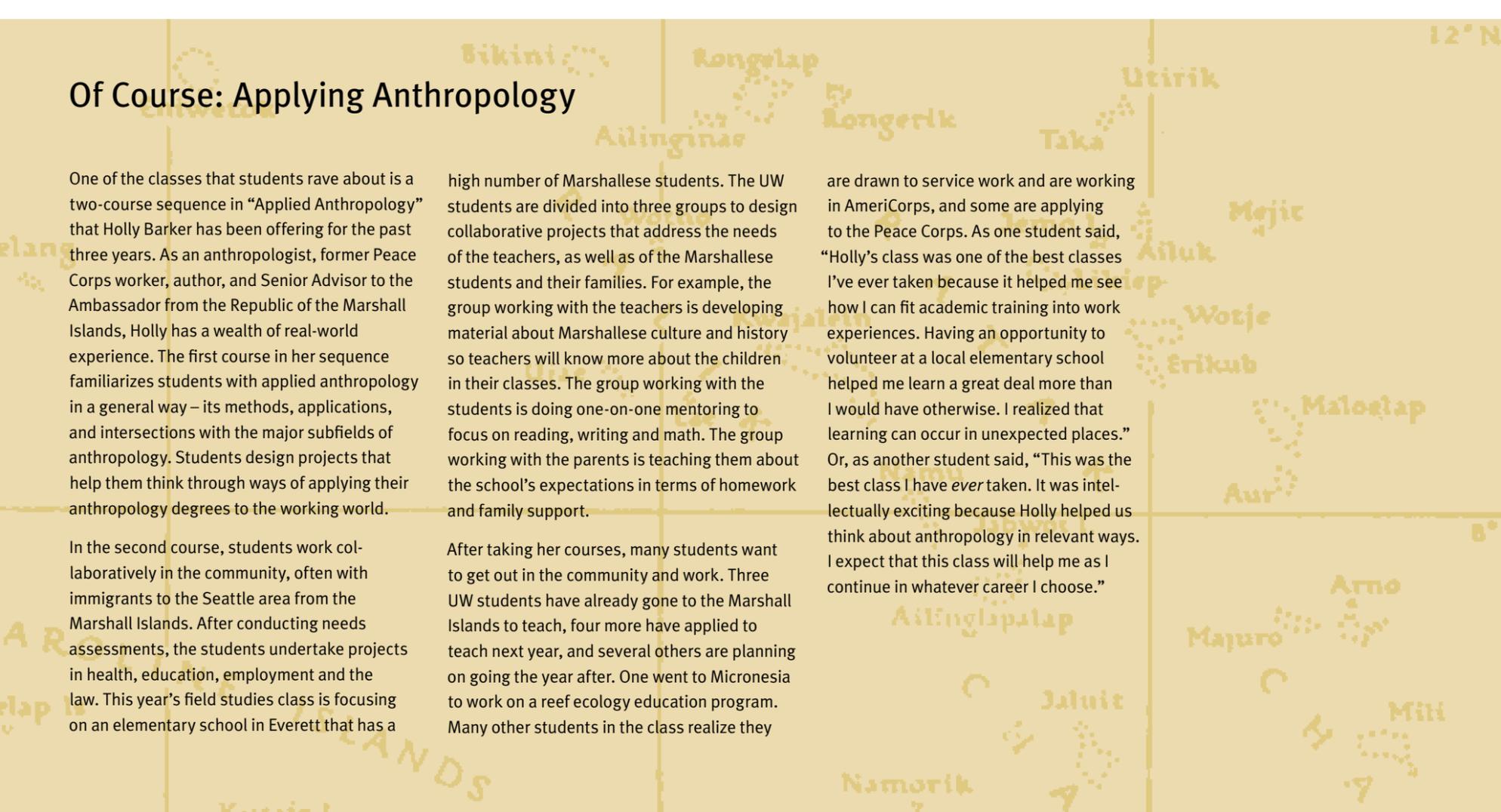
One of the classes that students rave about is a two-course sequence in “Applied Anthropology” that Holly Barker has been offering for the past three years. As an anthropologist, former Peace Corps worker, author, and Senior Advisor to the Ambassador from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Holly has a wealth of real-world experience. The first course in her sequence familiarizes students with applied anthropology in a general way – its methods, applications, and intersections with the major subfields of anthropology. Students design projects that help them think through ways of applying their anthropology degrees to the working world.

In the second course, students work collaboratively in the community, often with immigrants to the Seattle area from the Marshall Islands. After conducting needs assessments, the students undertake projects in health, education, employment and the law. This year’s field studies class is focusing on an elementary school in Everett that has a

high number of Marshallese students. The UW students are divided into three groups to design collaborative projects that address the needs of the teachers, as well as of the Marshallese students and their families. For example, the group working with the teachers is developing material about Marshallese culture and history so teachers will know more about the children in their classes. The group working with the students is doing one-on-one mentoring to focus on reading, writing and math. The group working with the parents is teaching them about the school’s expectations in terms of homework and family support.

After taking her courses, many students want to get out in the community and work. Three UW students have already gone to the Marshall Islands to teach, four more have applied to teach next year, and several others are planning on going the year after. One went to Micronesia to work on a reef ecology education program. Many other students in the class realize they

are drawn to service work and are working in AmeriCorps, and some are applying to the Peace Corps. As one student said, “Holly’s class was one of the best classes I’ve ever taken because it helped me see how I can fit academic training into work experiences. Having an opportunity to volunteer at a local elementary school helped me learn a great deal more than I would have otherwise. I realized that learning can occur in unexpected places.” Or, as another student said, “This was the best class I have ever taken. It was intellectually exciting because Holly helped us think about anthropology in relevant ways. I expect that this class will help me as I continue in whatever career I choose.”



Faculty Grants

BEN FITZHUGH is the PI for The Kuril Biocomplexity Project (funded with two million from the National Science Foundation). It is an interdisciplinary research project looking at the historical ecology of human-environmental interactions in the Kuril Islands northeast of Hokkaido, Japan. This project includes anthropologists Ben Fitzhugh, Darryl Holman, and Mike Etnier; graduate students Shelby Anderson, Adam Freeburg, Erik Gjesfeld, Colby Phillips, and James Taylor; undergraduate majors Dani Plante, Matt Walsh, and Dena Berkey (now graduated); and UW colleagues and students from the Quaternary Research Center/Earth and Space Sciences, Atmospheric Sciences, and collaborators in Alaska, Russia, and Japan. Fieldwork started in the summer of 2006 with a cruise through the 1140 km island chain documenting archaeological sites and environmental history (volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, vegetation and climate change). Samples collected are being studied to evaluate the extent of cultural vulnerability to environmental catastrophes in isolated environments. In Seattle, the team is simultaneously developing a simulation model framework to explore the human-environmental dynamics in this region.

STEVEN GOODREAU (together with a colleague at UCLA) received a grant for \$437,000 for research on “Transmission Behavior across Networks of Newly HIV Infected Southern Californians.” Anecdotal evidence suggests that, for a combination of reasons, many HIV+ gay men reduce their sexual behavior right after they find out that they’re positive. We also know now that HIV is very highly infectious for only a short period of time after someone gets infected. In this project the researchers will interview men in Los Angeles about their sexual histories both before and after finding out they are HIV+, uncovering their motivations behind any changes in behavior. The focus will then be on using this information to develop mathematical simulations of disease spread under changing scenarios (such as incentives for more frequent HIV testing) to determine how great the impact of these could be on the spread of HIV.

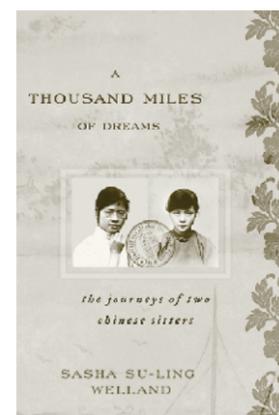
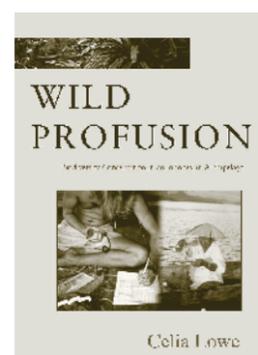
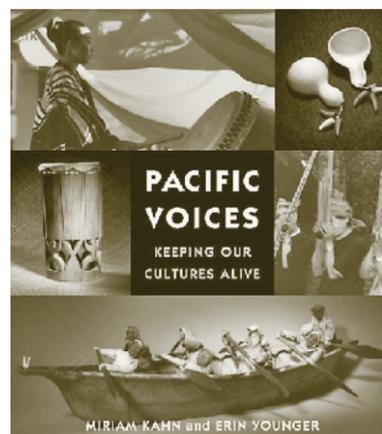
MIRIAM KAHN was a co-PI (together with Crispin Thurlow in the Department of Communication) on a \$100,000 grant from The Boeing Company on “The Cultures of Flying.” The work has involved conducting workshops and core team training sessions at Boeing about “culture” and the work of ethnographers; and teaching a graduate seminar for UW Anthropology and Communication students during autumn 2006, which also had two Boeing employees in it. The task for the class was to prepare a proposal for future research that Boeing hopes to conduct to help them understand human interactions on airplanes, all of which will inform them with future designing of interior airplane spaces.

PETER LAPE was awarded a \$470,000 grant over four years (2006-2010) from the Henry Luce Foundation for the Southeast Asia Archaeological Research and Training Program. This award, which was matched dollar for dollar by the UW, will seed fund the hiring of a new permanent faculty member in archaeology; new graduate student fellowships in archaeology, museology, and cultural heritage law; new digital library resources; a speaker series; and archaeology field schools in Southeast Asia for United States and Southeast Asian students. For more information see <http://faculty.washington.edu/plape/Luce.htm>

KATHLEEN O’CONNOR received funding (\$946,000) for five years from the National Institute of Aging. She is part of a research team examining the genetics of reproductive aging in a pedigreed and genotyped baboon population. One of the main goals of the project is to examine the variation across individuals in the timing and nature of reproductive aging and to estimate the portions of this variation that can be attributed to environmental, genetic, and maternal effects.

BETTINA SHELL-DUNCAN is the PI (with Ylva Hernlund as the co-investigator) on a grant funded by both the National Science Foundation (\$265,000) and the World Health Organization (\$210,000) for a project: “Contingency and Change in the Practice of Female Genital Cutting (FGC): Dynamics of Decision-making in Senegal and The Gambia.” This three-year study focuses on assessing theoretical models of behavior change using empirical qualitative and quantitative data. They have already completed the first year of this project and are now in the midst of the second year. Even with only preliminary results, the work has received the attention of behavior change specialists, as well as people who oversee anti-FGC programs at UNICEF. Bettina recently returned from Ethiopia where she presented their findings to the heads of anti-FGC programs from UNICEF’s Africa regional offices.

ERIC SMITH is a co-PI on a collaborative project between the UW Anthropology Department and the Departments of Anthropology and of Biological Sciences at Washington State University. They have been awarded a five-year, three million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation to develop an innovative Ph.D. training program in “Model-based Approaches to Biological and Cultural Evolution.” The program will fund several students per year, as well as an ongoing seminar series. Faculty in the three participating departments will oversee a curriculum emphasizing evolutionary processes of adaptation and diversification in genetic, behavioral, and cultural domains, as well as a set of methods applicable to analyzing evolutionary processes across these domains. In addition to taking classes at the two institutions, fellows also have the opportunity to pursue research at partner institutions in Santa Fe, London, Central African Republic, and Costa Rica. For more information see <http://depts.washington.edu/ipem/>



Jerusha Achterberg Wins Teaching Award

Jerusha Achterberg, a graduate student in Bio-cultural Anthropology, received the prestigious 2007 “Excellence in Teaching Award” – an award that is given to only two graduate students at the University of Washington each year.

Jerusha has served as a teaching assistant for various courses on human evolution, a topic that is typically a great challenge to teach, especially at the introductory level. Students greatly appreciate Jerusha’s ability to address the complex terrain of evolution and natural selection in a way that both challenges them and also leaves everyone feeling respected for their beliefs.

Beyond her teaching assistant duties, Jerusha has undertaken to lead two 400-level independent studies for two select groups of undergraduates, for which she has received neither pay nor course credit. She created a course called “Communicating Anthropology” to provide students with professional skills that are helpful in pursuing academic careers. The course imparted cognitive and discursive communication skills, including how to read and analyze primary research articles, write proposals, cover letters and résumés, and give academic presentations. The students applied those skills to their own research projects, which Jerusha oversaw. As one of the students from the class said, “Jerusha builds students up so that they can learn more than they had

ever considered possible. She gives us a community of friends and colleagues who have a similar goal: continued education and growth throughout life.”

Jerusha’s advisor, Steven Goodreau, relates an anecdote which sums up the students’ attitudes towards the quality of Jerusha’s teaching and the level of interest and engagement she is able to generate: when announcing to his 30-student 400-level class that Jerusha was going to give a guest lecture, the students spontaneously erupted into cheers.

Three cheers for Jerusha – from all of us – for her well-deserved award!!!



Retirements

GERRY ECK

Professor Gerald Eck will be retiring from the Anthropology Department at the end of this calendar year. Gerry joined the department in 1974, and has since introduced thirty-three cohorts of students to the world of paleontology. Through his fieldwork at such pivotal African sites as Omo, Olduvai Gorge, and Hadar, Gerry has had a hand in some of the most exciting fossil discoveries of our times, and has made major advances in our ability to reconstruct past environments, increasing our understanding of the role of climate change in driving evolution. One of his former students, our own research faculty member, Patricia Kramer, says that in addition to this well-known work Gerry has made many crucial, but unsung, contributions to the field by applying his meticulous principles to help set the standards for fossil collection, documentation and field site management.

For many of the denizens of Denny Hall, Gerry is known for his quiet candor, dry wit, and signature tweed jackets. But the students who have spent time with him in the field recount an additional side many of us haven't had the chance to see:



Gerry Eck

his indomitable spirit and sense of adventure. Whether battling off swarms of tsetse flies (before calmly continuing on to his destination, of course), or trying to reproduce the Laetoli footprints in the fresh ash of Mount St. Helens, Gerry has made a powerful impression on his students by his ability to combine adventure – and composure – with scientific inquiry. Gerry will be around Denny Hall until December, so those in the Seattle area still have plenty of time to visit him in the department. As for his current retirement plans, they can be summed up in one word: travel.

JIM GREEN

Jim Green, longtime Senior Lecturer, retired in June 2006, thirty-one years after joining the department as a faculty member, and thirty-four years after receiving his Ph.D. degree here. Jim taught the ANTH 100 large introductory lecture course for more than two decades, giving thousands of undergraduates a taste of (and for) anthropology, and devoting extra effort and attention to working with student athletes. He is perhaps best known to UW students, however, for his course on the “Comparative Study of Death,” which in some years has featured field-trips to the local morgue and cemetery, and ranks among the top most popular courses offered at UW. Working with TAs for these and other courses over the years, Jim has also trained generations of UW graduate students in how to teach. In recognition of his extraordinary accomplishments as a teacher, the UW honored Jim with a Distinguished Teaching Award in 2002.

Across the country, Jim is known to many as the author of the textbook *Cultural Awareness in Human Services: A Multi-Ethnic Approach*, which he is currently revising for its fourth edition. Many more will soon come to know him as a scholar of the practices, rituals and symbolism of death in comparative perspective, when the University of Pennsylvania Press publishes his book on the subject – *Imagining Immortality: the Anthropology of Modern Dying and Death* – later this year.

Shortly after retirement, Jim and his wife Carol took off to Spain to walk the ancient pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela, returning to Seattle with sore feet and many new stories to tell. Jim still teaches the occasional anthropology course, but these days can more often be found relaxing in a bookstore café or pursuing some of his many other interests, not the least of which is – really good wine.

GENE HUNN

Eugene Hunn retired in June 2006, after teaching anthropology at UW since 1972, the year before he received his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley. As a cognitive anthropologist and ethnobiologist, Gene's research has focused on the ethnographic study of human relationships with the natural environment, relying heavily on the analysis of linguistic evidence to show how people in particular cultures understand the natural world around them, including how they categorize its flora and fauna and their medicinal and other properties. In particular, Gene has researched these questions among three different communities: Tzeltal Mayan speakers in Chiapas, Mexico; Sahaptin-speaking Indian people of the Columbia River basin in the Pacific Northwest of North America; and the Sierra Sur Zapotec of Oaxaca, Mexico. This research has been presented in several books and many chapters and articles, and it has informed the many courses that Gene has taught here over the years. He has also served as President of the Society of Ethnobiology and as editor of the Society's Journal of Ethnobiology.

Nor have Gene's scholarly efforts been limited to academia; over the years, he has also carried out contract research for the National Park Service on subsistence issues in Alaska, and has testified in court with regard to Pacific Northwest Native American resource and land rights. Gene's professional interest in how people understand their natural environment also merges seamlessly with his avocational passion for bird watching, an interest he developed while serving in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia during the 1960s.

Here in Seattle, Gene has been very actively involved with the local Audubon Society, which published a book he wrote on Birding in Seattle and King County. Indeed, as a Seattle Post-Intelligencer article from a few years ago put it, Gene is “known locally as much for his birding skills as for his credentials as a respected University of Washington anthropologist.” Since his retirement, Gene still teaches the occasional course, but for those of us whose primary habitat is Denny Hall, Gene-watching has become a more challenging sport than ever before. Hand me those binoculars, will you?

CHARLES (“BIFF”) KEYES

Charles (“Biff”) Keyes retired in December 2006 after teaching anthropology at the University of Washington since 1965. Biff's courses on Southeast Asian societies, Buddhism, ritual and ethnicity have expanded the vision and the understanding of UW undergraduates. A prolific and influential scholar, Biff has authored two books, edited or co-edited nine volumes, and published dozens of articles and chapters on Southeast Asian history, economy, religion, ethnicity, nationalism, and village life, focusing especially on Northeastern Thailand, also known as Isan. A nationally and internationally prominent scholar of Southeast Asia and in the study of ethnicity, and past President of the Association for Asian Studies, Biff is an anthropologist who cuts a grand figure indeed.

Yet to his many friends, colleagues, and former students, what stands out most is his sincere warmth and his devotion to the people he works with, whether these are students, colleagues, or the residents of the small Isan village with which he has remained engaged for forty-five years. As a mentor and teacher to graduate students, Biff has shepherded dozens of younger scholars through their Ph.D.s, including many from Thailand, Vietnam and other parts of Asia. The warm relations that Biff has forged with these students last long beyond the completion of a degree. These days, when Biff turns up in Denny Hall after one of his frequent trips to Southeast Asia, he usually has stories to share of his recent visits with some of the wide and far-flung network of UW anthropology alumni who, through their research, teaching and applied engagements, are busy moving anthropology forward in many new and exciting directions. Thus far, retirement does not seem to have slowed down Biff's busy schedule in the least, and all signs point to his continued active presence in, and engagement with, Thailand, Southeast Asia, and anthropology.

Gene Hunn



Jim Green

Charles “Biff” Keyes

Credits

Faculty

Ann S. Anagnost
 Laada Bilaniuk
 Rachel R. Chapman
 Angela E. Close
 Gerald G. Eck
 Ben Fitzhugh
 Steven M. Goodreau
 Donald K. Grayson
 Stevan Harrell
 Daniel J. Hoffman
 Darryl Holman
 Miriam Kahn
 Charles F. Keyes
 Peter V. Lape
 Donna L. Leonetti
 Marcos Llobera
 Celia Lowe
 Laura L. Newell
 Kathleen O'Connor
 Arzoo Osanloo
 Devon Peña
 Lorna A. Rhodes
 Bettina Shell-Duncan
 Eric A. Smith
 Julie K. Stein
 Janelle S. Taylor
 Sasha Welland
 Alison Wylie

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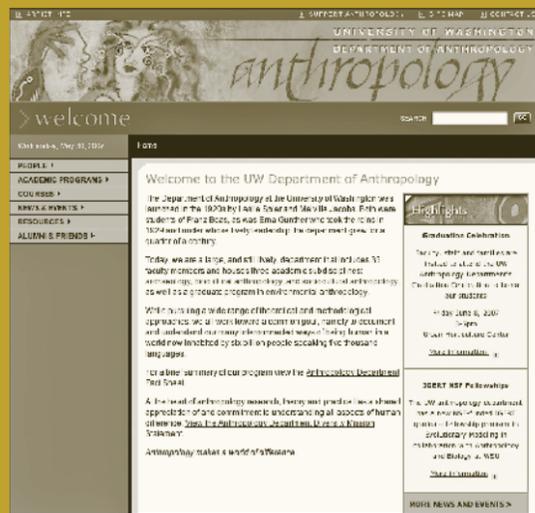
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Student Technology Fee Awards

Students took the lead this year in acquiring new research equipment through Student Technology Fee (STF) grants. The STF monies are collected from University of Washington students and are then granted “exclusively for technology resources for general student use.” Archaeology graduate students submitted four successful proposals (and received a total of \$404,000) for new equipment vital to the program and the students’ research. With students engaged in field projects from Alaska to Peru, the new STF-funded equipment will be used by students to conduct unique, creative research through the use of high-tech resources generally not available for student field and laboratory work.

Shelby Anderson and Amanda Taylor submitted a proposal for critical field survey and spatial data collection equipment including laptops designed for field conditions, a professional-quality Total Station for survey measurements and solar panels which allow students to take this equipment into remote landscapes (\$45,000).

Jennifer Huff’s proposal will augment the geographic information systems and spatial analysis computer lab (named the DigAR Lab – <http://depts.washington.edu/digarlab/>), which provides students with high-powered computing technology to create maps, process field data, and analyze satellite data for cutting-edge research (\$98,000).

Jack Johnson secured funding for a new optical luminescence reader to date ceramic artifacts and sediments from archaeological deposits unsuitable for other more traditional dating techniques (for more on luminescence dating and the dating lab see <http://depts.washington.edu/lumines/index.html> (\$197,000).

Christopher Lockwood was awarded funding for up-grades to the environmental archaeology labs. Due to advances in allied sciences, as well as normal wear and tear on existing equipment over time, our students increasingly faced significant roadblocks in accessing technology and equipment to conduct basic environmental archaeological research (\$64,000).

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We extend out heartfelt thanks to all our donors for their thoughtfulness and generosity. Quite literally, without your help we could not do the many things, great and small, that always make a huge difference!

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