The EMIC

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Sociology/Anthropology Newsletter Fall 2000

An Ole Who’s Seen the Light

This year we welcome a new professor into the department: Annette Nierobisz. Having been born and raised in Canada, Annette adds a touch of international flavor to the department. At the University of Winnipeg, Annette initially planned to pursue a law degree, but two weeks into her first sociology class, she decided that was the subject for her. She subsequently majored in both sociology and criminology, and met her future husband. She later earned an MA from Queens University at Kingston. Equipped with an MA, Annette had planned to end her education and seek gainful employment. However, as Canada’s economy was suffering at the time, she opted to pursue a PhD from the University of Toronto and ride out the recession, hoping for better job prospects when she got out of school. Her husband also entered U of T for his PhD at the same time. Here Annette completed her dissertation on how the socioeconomic conditions of the last 28 years have influence judges’ decisions in wrongful dismissal cases.

It was by chance that Annette applied for and received a teaching position at St. Olaf two years ago. While in the car one day she heard on the radio that Olaf had an extremely high number of females in math and science tracks and decided she had to work at such a progressive institution. The following day her husband coincidentally handed her an Olaf brochure, and it seemed that fate was to bring her and St. Olaf together.

After a year at Olaf, she applied for a position at Carleton which Kim Rodner’s retirement had opened. This is a job she would never have known about, she claims, if not for Pamela Feldman-Savelsberg. Both Annette and Pamela’s husbands work as sociologists at the University of Minnesota, and it was through Pamela that Annette first heard about Carleton. Annette says she would never have heard of Carleton in Canada, as small American liberal arts schools are not a hot topic of conversation up north.

Though she has spent her life in cities, Annette is enjoying life in the house of her dreams in rural Northfield. She appreciates that she can walk anywhere in town. When kicking back, her favorite recreational activities include cooking, watching movies, and reading Canadian literature by authors such as Margaret Atwood and Timothy Finley. American literature, she finds, is dull and difficult for her to relate with.

Annette is currently teaching Introduction to Sociology and will take over Methods of Social Research from Bev Nagel for the next two years. Spring term, Annette will teach Sociology of Law and Sociology of Work, both classes which she claims Oles adored last year. She is currently working to develop a criminology course for the spring of 2002 which will cover such topics as legal policies and women in crime. On November 15, 2000 she heads off to San Francisco for a meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Hopefully, she shall return with some excellent ideas to incorporate into the new classes she will be gracing Carleton with.

Where is the pessimism? Where is the criticism? Where is the theory?

Professor Nader Saiidi will be trying to escape the cold winter months of Minnesota by seeking refuge high up in the jagged peaks of mountainous Switzerland. He will be the first to attempt, and we are confident will succeed, in translating Sombart’s massive four volumes of sociological discourse from German into English. Professor Saiidi explains that Sombart’s work on modern capitalism is similar to Weber’s, which we are all familiar with. The brisk air of Switzerland may be quite a shock for him, since he will be coming directly from a 40 day venture in Israel, where he will be examining specific components of the Baha’i religion. When asked if he is prepared for the adventure, he replies, “So many things, too little time.”

Never fear, you sociological theory nuts, Professor Saiidi will be back mid-March, equipped to tell all about his newly gained knowledge.

News From the “Field”:

Throughout the term, majors have been asking about the whereabouts of their favorite instructor of African and feminist anthropology, Pamela Feldman-Savelsberg. We have a recent update from “the field” to share with you all: “I’m having a blast being a semi-student for a year. It is such a joy and precious opportunity to learn new things. After a long life of qualitative (p.o.) methods, I’m learning how to coordinate that style of research with other more quantitative methods, and how that fits with theories (e.g. the role of strong vs. weak social network ties in transforming ideas and practices regarding reproduction). When you have a concrete research project in mind (and even the funding for it – I got an NSF grant to follow up on the Mellon fellowship), it makes learning the methods and theory focused and exciting. Penn is also a great intellectual climate (even if I do miss my colleagues and students at Carleton).”

We all wish Pamela the best, and hope she has time to have fun, despite the immense amounts of data entry and travel that consume her life.

TURN THE PAGE...
And how could we forget...

**Comps Topics 2000?**

**LUKE AVERY** - Popular Music, Youth Culture, and Value Formation

**MIGUEL CERVANTES** - Moroccan Immigrants in France

**DAVID GREENBERG** - Social Construction of Adolescence

**JESSICA GUERNSEY** - Gay/Lesbian Characters on Television

**ALEX JANUS** - The Public/Private Aspects of Punishment

**EMILY MELTZER** - Social Service Work With Adolescent Runaways

**IRA PALMER** - Northwest Coast Native Art: The Importance of Culture in the Marketplace

**EMILY PETERS-LIMBECK** - Feminism in Ireland

**JEANNETTE REBAR** - Inner City Community Activism

**KAO VANG** - Hmong Healers and Healing

**KEVIN VLAHOVICH** - The UFO Phenomenon: The Emergence of a Modern Myth

**PETER ZAWADSKI** - Examining New Forms of Resistance: The Use of Multimedia and the Internet in the Hawaiian Sovereignty Movement

*indicates longest and most confusing title

**Announcements!**

**Say... Structural-Functionalism!**

We are trying to put together a display of pictures for all of the beautiful faces involved in the sociology/anthropology department—faculty and majors. We are asking that all majors submit a picture to **Kevin Vlahovich or Peter Zawadski** and all faculty can just give their picture to **Susan Quay**. We are trying to create some departmental cohesion here, so please get those pictures in as soon as possible, i.e. first week of Winter Term. It is up to you to decide which pictures to choose. Possibly a picture that was taken while you were traveling the world? Try to submit pictures that are fun and quirky. If you do not cooperate, your picture WILL BE TAKEN when you least expect it. Thanks for your help.

**Let's Party!**

There has been some concern expressed about the need to foster professor/student relations. In order to encourage dialogue between faculty and majors, we are in the process of organizing bi-weekly, informal gatherings. This is the chance for majors to learn about the faculty and create more personal, less academic relationships with them, and vice versa. It has been suggested that a simple coffee/pastry social for just a half an hour on Friday afternoons is enough to warm things up. Free food and excellent conversation cannot be beat. With a large enough turn out, maybe a few trips to the Cow will be in order? We will keep you updated on our progress and future times. Any input would be greatly appreciated.

**Secret Society of Sociologists and Anthropologists...**

A novel idea, but it just may work. This is a majors only discussion meeting that will involve the implementation of knowledge and skills that we have accumulated over the course of our studies in the SOAN department. It will be a chance for majors to debate topics ranging from the ideologies of post-modernism as they are viewed through Hegelian Dialectics or Dialectical Materialism, to reasons why David Greenberg will, or will not, succeed at becoming Supreme World Dictator, to what is better Kraft Macaroni and Cheese, regular noodles or spirals, or possibly, what if the Hokey-Pokey is, actually, what it is all about. Is it all BS? Who knows? Who cares? It's all relative. Come out and have fun. This will be very informal and will probably have a location off-campus. We are encouraging a common bond and more familiar relations amongst majors. Solidarity! Solidarity! Solidarity! Please let us know if you are interested. The name of the discussion will definitely be changed at the first meeting.

**No Shirt. No Shoes. No Service.**

We will have T-shirts this year. Please submit some ideas, drawings, sayings, etc. We demand uniformity!

**I NEED HELP!**

Are you frantic? Help is available! **Alex Janus** is the So/An SDA. He can give you answers to any questions you might have concerning classes, professors, corporal punishment, and Alfred Hitchcock's "Vertigo."

Sorry if we sound like disgruntled Marxists. Any questions/comments or desires to write for next term's Emic can be directed to Peter Zawadski (zawadskp@carleton.edu) and/or Kevin Vlahovich (vlahovik@carleton.edu).