SOAN Love....

To all the lovely people in the SOAN department,
We just wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the 2001/2002 academic year. We are your DCCs, Eric Tranby and Ralph Hosoki. We are anticipating a great year with lots of fun departmental activities (hopefully...) and more solidarity in the department. For seniors, this will be a fun-filled year of stress, sweat, and tears, but it’s only a year – besides, it’ll be an opportunity to expand upon your vast wealth of knowledge accumulated from the past three years. For juniors, this is the year to explore the incredible breadth of the fields of Anthropology and Sociology, and discover what turns you on (in the field of course). Just don’t forget to have some fun! (Yay!) We are open to almost any suggestions as to what YOU want to do as a department. Feel free to email us at tranby or hosoki with any questions, comments, or suggestions (or counseling).

Your friendly DCCs,
Ralph and Eric

News From the Field

November to continue this work with Intermon to work directly with small/landless farmer associations and small non-governmental organizations to develop their own grassroots initiatives into proposals that can be submitted for funding by international (mainly European) agencies.

Pamela spent the 2000-2001 academic year as an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Anthropological Demography at the University of Pennsylvania Population Studies Center, afterwards she conducted fieldwork in Cameroon, where she launched a collaborative project on urban women’s associations, social networks, and reproductive decision making.

Her research builds upon her earlier work on fear of infertility among rural Bamileke women, investigating reproductive concerns expressed in Bamileke’s womens associations in Yaounde, the capital city. The focus is on the context of reproductive decision making.
If you are wondering what to do when you grow up, my case might be instructive. The day after I got my diploma I began learning Nepali, as a member of the first Peace Corps group to Nepal. Why Nepal? Because I had read James Hilton’s *Lost Horizon*. I didn’t find Shangri-La (Hilton introduced the term) in Nepal, but I loved everything there: the language, food, people, religion, etc. So there was no question where my ethnographic area would be. Sometimes during Winter term I consider switching to Polynesia, but... it never happens.

Recently I thought: something’s missing between then and now. What has happened to those 60 of us in the last 40 years? What difference did spending two years there make to the rest of our lives, and what difference (if any) did it make to Nepal that we were there? A year ago I decided to do a follow-up study of all of us (including myself) to find out. Since we run the gamut of American professions (teacher, banker, farmer, lawyer, bureaucrat, motorcycle mechanic, architect, etc.), the project is as much a sociological portrait of modern American life as an anthropological study of change. One fun aspect of it is that it puts me on an unending reunion track. Swapping yarns with my old friends lets me relive those great years. And it reminds me that I never did decide what to do when I grow up.

**Jim Fisher**

**IS THERE LIFE AFTER GRADUATION?**

Although we all know our professors through our classes as scholars, we often know very little about them outside of the classroom. While we can all look up our professors’ academic backgrounds on the SOAN website, we rarely get to know them on a more personal level.

So we decided to ask each member of the faculty to submit a short statement about themselves. The responses range from discussing hobbies to their personal reasons for pursuing their respective fields. Here are the qualitative results:

**Bev Nagel**

I got my start in sociology and anthropology right here at Carleton, as a major in this department. My interests then, as now, focused on Latin America, development, and ethnicity and immigration/migration. In fact, the first paper that I published, on Rom (Gypsy) ethnic identity and political movements in the U.S. and Great Britain, originally was written as a term paper for one of my courses here.

After being trained at Stanford as a quantitative demographer, I gradually returned to some of my earlier interests concerning rural development in Paraguay. I’ve been working on Paraguayan issues since 1987. My current research focuses on the ways in which a social movement of small and landless farmers can shape—and is shaped by—a political economy dominated by contraband “mafias” and pervasive corruption. In addition to chronicling how these small and landless farmers have been able to do this and advance their own vision of development in this environment, I have also been involved in applied projects.

Aside from my research, I’m also a weaver and have a strong interest in the textile arts. I am also a complete sap concerning animals. The horse in my picture on the webpage is my erstwhile Paraguayan companion. Here in Northfield, I have two cats (and look after the neighborhood racoon, Rikki, who comes each evening to dine at my bird feeder).

FYI. The son of one of my cats (grandson of the other), aptly enough named Carleton, is looking for a permanent or foster home. Carleton was adopted as a kitten by Adrienne Falcon, a Carleton alum who is now finishing up a Ph.D. in sociology at the University of Chicago. She is relocating and will not be able to take Carleton with her. So if anyone knows of a good home for him, please let me know!
Inside Story Cont'd...

Nancy Wilkie

What is my passion? Sailing, not in little boats that can capsize, but in big boats that can navigate big waters. I have been sailing on Lake Superior for nearly 35 years. The challenges presented by Lake Superior, including cold water, fog, huge seas, as well as the delights of remote anchorages with moose feeding along the shoreline and eagles soaring overhead, are what keep my batteries charged for the entire year.

What is quirky about me? I don’t think this is quirky, but lots of my friends and colleagues do. For the past 25 years I have enjoyed an annual winter camping trip to the Boundary Waters. Here are no mosquitoes in the winter, and the solitude of the wilderness in the winter is unsurpassed.

What excites me most about my research and teaching? Traveling and living abroad in many different locations, from the comfort of the ISLE Center in Sri Lanka to a tent in an Egyptian village. Working to protect archaeological sites and to stem the flow of trade in illicit antiquities has occupied a good deal of my attention in recent years. I don’t think I’ll ever lose my passion for those issues.

Pamela Feldman-Savelberg

My hobbies include classical music (I play viola, the ultimate non-conformist instrument, and also recorders of various sizes [and piano as a kid]), playing chamber music with my husband and daughters (we’re a string quartet), and hiking, especially in woods.

My family, with daughters just turned eleven and soon to turn nine, is the most important part of my non-professional life (could even leave out the “non-professional”!). We try to speak German at home, and spend much of our summers in Germany with my affines (there’s an anthro term for you!).

Nader Saiedi

He has a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1983 and has taught at Wisconsin, UCLA, University of Virginia, and Vanderbilt. Born in Iran, he brings a global perspective and a Middle Eastern background to the department. He is strongly interested in social theory and social philosophy. He is also engaged in Bahá’í studies and advises the department of Integrative Study of Religion in Landegg Academy, Switzerland. In addition to introductory sociology, he teaches courses in classical and contemporary social theory, social stratification, sociology of religion, and the Middle East.

Jay Levi

Perhaps readers of the Ernie would like to know how I chose this profession and why I do research where I do. I can hardly imagine a more felicitous childhood for an anthropologist. Three sets of experiences come to mind. My grandparents and the house in which they lived made a lasting impression on me. When they moved to California in 1947 from their cattle ranch in the Texas Panhandle, they brought with them a lifetime of experiences, things, and stories garnered from living and working in the Southwest during the early decades of this century. I was transfixed by their living room. Navajo rugs covered the floor, above the fireplace hung an antique musket beside a Comanche bow and arrow, over one doorway were the horns of a buffalo and over another those of a longhorn steer. The narrative fabric of my earliest years became interwoven with these objects, making stories - like the time the last herd of buffalo on the southern plains broke through the fence and strode onto my grandparents’ ranch - come alive. A second set of experiences expanded my interests southward. When I was twelve, my (never conventional) parents packed the family into the car, drove to Guatemala, and spent six months visiting archaeological sites and Indian communities throughout Mexico. Long before the Zapatistas made Chiapas famous, I recall riding by horseback into Tzotzil-Maya villages in the highlands and flying by bush plane to the Lacandon-Maya in the rainforest. Several years later, we visited the Tarahumara, where my parents refused to let me go off in the mountains to accept an invitation to an all night tesguinada - or drinking party - I swore that one day I’d return. Finally, when I was a teenager, I gradually came to befriend a number of respected elders from different reservations in the arid back-country of San Diego County. Knowing the last speaker of the Cupeño language (whose photograph hangs in my office) and the last hereditary ceremonial chief of the Kumeyaay (whose gourd rattle hangs beside my computer) made me certain that anthropology was my calling.
Annette Nierobisz

Many of you might be wondering what the events of September 11 and the ensuing economic recession we now anticipate will mean for your life once you graduate from Carleton College. I was in the similar position in the early 1990s. At the end of my undergraduate degree the Gulf War was raging and North America was experiencing a severe economic recession. Applying the “sociological imagination” to my own life, there’s no doubt that the events occurring in the socio-historical period in which I graduated with my B.A. have brought me to where I am today – an assistant professor at Carleton College.

In 1992 I graduated with my B.A., Honours from the University of Winnipeg in Canada (and no, I have never lived in an igloo, I say “about” not “aboot” and I don’t really care for beer or hockey). At this time, Canada was in the middle of a very serious economic recession. So what did I do to ‘ride out’ these economic conditions? I went to graduate school at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario and hoped that by the end of my degree the recession would be over and I would have the skills and credentials to obtain a “good” job. Unfortunately, history thought otherwise at that point in time. Although I graduated from my M.A. in the fall of 1994 and the recession was “officially” over, it was clear that a new ‘lean and mean’ global economy had emerged. Employers were downsizing their operations and so the 1990s recession was followed by a “jobless recovery.” Deciding it would be impossible to find that “good” job I had hoped my M.A. would provide, I decided it was necessary to get a Ph.D., this time at the University of Toronto.

I began my Ph.D. hoping that by the time I finished this degree, there would be a multitude of jobs for educated people like me and indeed had been told that by both mentors and colleagues. Once again, history demonstrated my precarious position in the larger socio-economic context. While jobs were beginning to open up in the Canadian economy during the latter 1990s, the job situation for Ph.D.’s in Canada’s publicly-funded universities was abysmal. Because my husband was finishing up his degree in the Spring of 1998, he set his sights on the thriving American academic market.

Many American schools interviewed Ross, including the University of Minnesota, Twin-Cities campus. Minnesota was my personal favorite state given its close proximity to Canada, its reputation as the most “Canadian” of the U.S. states, and the fact that Bobby McFerrin was the creative director of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. And it was extremely fortunate (for Ross) that the University of Minnesota made him an offer because I was ready to come here just to get closer to Bobby (don’t tell Ross!).

We arrived in Minnesota in the fall of 1998, only to discover that thanks to the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement, my work visa would allow me to work only as a professor in a college or university setting. In 1999 I obtained my first academic job at St. Olaf College and spent one year there constantly hearing about the brilliant students just across the river. But I was skeptical of Carleton College’s reputation considering that the other Carleton, the one in Ottawa, Ontario is known as “Last Resort U.” Therefore, when a tenure-track position opened up in the SOAN department I cautiously applied. After a long and arduous hiring process (I’m still working things out with my therapist), I landed the job. After being here for slightly more than a year, I’m happy to report that Carleton College is nothing like the Carleton University in Ottawa.

I would have never have thought in a million years that I would be living in small town America, in a place that prides itself on its “Cows, Colleges and Contentment.” And while my decision to be here was largely shaped by negative historical events that were beyond my control, to quote my fellow Canadian Alanis Morissette, “...life has a funny way of helping you out when you think everything’s gone wrong...” By the way, she went to “Last Resort U.”
Life After Carleton

As SOAN majors, it is especially difficult for many of us to decide what to do after we graduate because of the breadth of our field and the nature of a liberal arts education. Additionally, it can be difficult to find out what previous SOAN graduates are currently doing. Alumni can be one of the best resources for information on life after Carleton, so as suggested by Jay Levi, we decided to establish a network in hopes of increasing communication between current students and alumni. The following are alumni who agreed to give us some insights on life after Carleton, job opportunities, and graduate school experiences. Any alumni who are interested in sharing their experiences, job opportunities, and/or contact information, should contact Susan Quay (the department secretary) at squay@carleton.edu or (507) 646-4109. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

**Mario Small**

I just graduated with a Ph.D. from the Harvard Sociology Department. I'm currently a Research Associate at the Office of Population Research at Princeton University. I'm joining the faculty of the Princeton Sociology Department in the Fall of 2002. I'm doing research on urban poverty and neighborhood effects, with a focus on a predominantly Puerto Rican community in Boston. Contact: msmall@Princeton.EDU

**Keera Allendorf '00**

I'm working in Washington DC at the International Center for Research on Women (www.icrw.org). It is a non-profit NGO that largely does research and advocacy directed towards improving the lives of women in poverty, advancing women's equality and human rights, and contributing to broader economic and social well-being in low and middle income countries. I personally work on a large project on domestic violence in India. If you have any specific questions I'd be happy to answer them.

Contact:
Keera Allendorf
Research Assistant
International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
1717 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 301
Washington, DC 20036 USA
Tel: 202-797-0007 ext.120
Fax: 202-797-0020
kallendorf@icrw.org

**Joel Horwich '00**

I am a 2000 grad, and I'm using my Carleton SoAn experience directly as a second-year PhD candidate in a joint program in Sociology and Social Policy at Harvard University (I came to grad school right out of Carleton). I'd be happy to talk to students interested in sociology graduate programs here at Harvard or elsewhere. Contact: jhorwich@wjh.harvard.edu

**Lisa Hiwasaki**

I currently work as a researcher at an environmental research organization in Kanagawa, Japan. We do mostly work commissioned by the Ministry of Environment in Japan and by organizations in the United Nations system. Right now I am involved with the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (commonly known as Rio+10). On top of that I am starting a research project on sustainable tourism development in Asia and the Pacific region.

My work is more closely related to the field of international development/cooperation than anthropology, which was my major. Moreover, I have no background in environmental studies. So what did I do to get this kind of job? At Carleton I wrote my comps on tourism and the Ainu, an indigenous population in Japan. I was very lucky because I got a fellowship from Carleton to do fieldwork in Japan for my comps. Getting real field experience at the undergrad level is very advantageous in this field. In that sense, even if you cannot get a fellowship, participating in off-campus programmes and other opportunities which take you to different countries is very helpful. Right after graduating from Carleton I went on to get my M.A. in anthropology at the University of British Columbia in Canada, where I did my fieldwork on culture/interpretive centres run by the Sto:lo, an indigenous population in Canada. I did not enjoy grad school very much, so I decided to get out there in the “real world”. After doing not-so-interesting jobs here and there, I have finally found a job that I am really interested in and care about, and a job that puts my anthropology experience/perspective into use.

So how exactly is my sociology/anthropology experience being put to use? For one thing, my work is looking at the social/cultural aspects of the environment and development. In fact, I am one of the very few social scientists in the organization, and anything related to people/gets thrown at me. I believe the demand for social scientists in this field is increasing. Also, for my research, I get to travel to different countries and talk with people about their environmental/development concerns, which is not only interesting, but also puts my experience conducting fieldwork into use. I am still new to this field so I don't know if I can offer any advice to any students interested in working in this field, but please feel free to contact me at: hiwasaki@iges.or.jp
Department of Sociology/Anthropology

Who We Are:

Class of 2002:
Kate Harding
Liz Lewis
Dave Meyer
Viet-Ly Nguyen
Sarah Park
Megan Reynolds
Eric Tranby
Judy Wemhoff
Josh Aaronson
Marykay Frost
Raya Widenjoa
Mollie Charon
Sara Flanter
Ralph Hosoki
Laura Huebner
Katherine Jones-Lippy
Emily Sweitzer

Class of 2003:
Kathleen Foody
Alexandra Gallin
Andrew Haxby
Laura Heideman
Tracy Heywood
Alison Hoenk
Kate Kennedy
Anna Laube
Matthew Loyd
Luis Morales
Erin Quigley
Raya Widenoja
Sarah Rhinelander
Annie Michaelis
Kat Weinberg
Johannes Wietzke
Daniel Duque
Greg Faron