Which Carleton SoAn Faculty Member Recently Visited the White House on Official Business?

Find the answer, and more, inside!
Meet the 2011-2012 SDAs and DCCs!

The SDA's provide advice and suggestions to current and prospective majors as well as others who may be considering taking a course in the SOAN department. The DCCs are a group of students that facilitates communication between faculty and students (both majors and non-majors). They are responsible for organizing many of the departmental functions.

John Trevino, '12
Role: SDA
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Favorite Quote: "Do you think the porter and the cook have no anecdotes, no experiences, no wonders for you? Every body knows as much as the savant. The walls of rude minds are scrawled all over with facts, with thoughts. They shall one day bring a lantern and read the inscriptions." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Izzy Durham, '12
Role: SDA
Hometown: Toledo, Ohio
Favorite quote: "Do what you feel in your heart to be right- for you'll be criticized anyway. You'll be damned if you do, and damned if you don't." -- Eleanor Roosevelt

Viviane Clement, '12
Role: DCC
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Favorite quote: "Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win, by fearing to attempt." - William Shakespeare

Rafadi Hakim, '13
Role: DCC
Hometown: Jakarta, Indonesia

Come chat with us about SOAN related questions, existential crises, or just to say hello!
Pamela Feldman-Savelsberg has returned from her sabbatical research on processes of inclusion/exclusion among transnational Cameroonians in Europe, and is happy to reconnect with students and faculty colleagues. She'll be presenting from her sabbatical research at the American Anthropological Association annual meetings in Montreal (on trust and new socialities), at an LTC event (on immigrants/immigration in the European Union), and at the Council on European Studies (on migrants' visions of childrearing and citizenship). Pamela is looking forward to developing programming for African and African American Studies, and to fostering community ties for the ACE component of Anthropology of Health and Illness next term.

A call out for the great work of our Admin, Liz Musicant, and her wonderful student office assistants, as well as our SDAs and DCCs.

Alumni Updates, Part I

E. Jean Matteson Langdon (1966) has continued working on Indian health, shamanism, narratives and performance since her graduation from Carleton College. A full professor at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brasil, since 1983, she recently returned to Colombia in order to develop a project on the translation of native texts with bilingual professors. The project will be carried out among the Siona Indians with whom she conducted doctoral research 40 years ago. She will be working with a Siona professor who collaborated in her research on Siona texts during her original fieldwork. As an effort in collaborative research, the project hopes to contribute to issues of the translation of oral texts, esthetics and the use of orality in native education.

Chris Purdy (1988) has, after some 20 years overseas working for DKT International, a non-profit social marketing enterprise focused on family planning and reproductive health, moved to Washington, DC over the 2011 summer with his family. He will be taking on a new role as DKT vice president. He reports using his Soc/Anthro skills in his work everyday.
Alumni Update, Part II

Ariel VandeVoorde (2009): Currently I am working as a conservation apprentice at The Chicago Conservation Center, which is one of the country’s largest art conservation laboratories. We have been working with the Chicago Board of Education and the Public Building Commission to approve the preservation and restoration of murals at Chicago Public Schools. Many of the murals were painted during the WPA era of public artwork, which was created under the FDR administration and provided jobs for hundreds of unemployed artists. The murals painted during the WPA era embraced ideals of social justice, including the consequence of industrialism for workers, issues of urban housing, child labor and women’s rights. It was also called the “Federal Art Project” and the murals that still stand are some of the most significant pieces of public artwork in the country.

These are before and after shots of a mural at Lane Tech High School that I worked on by Datus E. Myers, who commonly depicted themes of reservation life because it was his job to recruit Native painters, potters, and weavers to work in the program.

As you can tell, there is a lot of rich cultural history in these murals and I appreciate them even more so because of my background in SoAn and ACE. I feel that one of the most significant aspects of the preservation program is the outgrowth of art education for the children of Chicago. The Art Institute of Chicago and the Polk Brothers Foundation of Chicago have initiated a curriculum program called, Chicago: City in Art. The goal is to integrate the preservation of the murals into each school’s art, science, music, theatre and writing classes.
Professor Emeritus Jim Fisher Delivers Distinguished Lecture

On Wednesday, August 17, 2011, Professor Emeritus Jim Fisher delivered The Mahesh Chandra Regmi lecture at The Shankar Hotel in Kathmandu, Nepal. Jim’s lecture—entitled “Globalisation in Nepal: Theory and Practice”—examined the ways in which globalization is transforming the lives of the Sherpas of Solu-Khumbu, the Kaike-speaking Magars of Dolpa, and the political figure, Tanka Prasad Acharya. Although these groups are seemingly disconnected from each other, says Jim, they all share two commonalities. The first is that they are all undergoing a process of globalization that is having a profound impact on their social and cultural realities. The second similarity, says Jim, is revealed through an examination of the “practices”—or, the things we do and the beliefs we hold—of all of these groups. This second half of Jim’s lecture focused on these groups’ practices, and the ways in which they are being transformed by processes of globalization.

James Fisher taught for 38 years at Carleton College, where he was Professor of Anthropology and Asian Studies. His geographic interests lie in South Asia, and he has done fieldwork in Nepal on and off for almost 50 years on economics and ecology among Magars in Dolpa, education and tourism among Sherpas near Mount Everest, and he did a person-centered ethnography on Tanka Prasad Acharya, human rights activist. As a visiting Fulbright Professor, he spent two years helping start a new Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Tribhuvan University, Nepal. Jim’s books include Living Martyrs: Individuals and Revolution in Nepal (1997); Sherpas: Reflections on Change in Himalayan Nepal (1990), Trans-Himalayan Traders: Economy, Society, and Culture in Northwest Nepal (1986); Himalayan Anthropology: the Indo-Tibetan Interface (1978); and Introductory Nepali (1965).
Ray Nelson, ‘12
This past summer I conducted research in Puerto Rico for five weeks. My research was examining how Puerto Rico’s ideology of racial mixture affects the way in which Puerto Ricans discussed race and blackness on the island. During that time, I interviewed professors as well as organizers involved with anti-racist initiatives. Their perspective was very insightful for me, especially as a student from the stateside US. The way Puerto Ricans on the island view race is based on a spectrum, as opposed to being simply black or white. Another part of my fieldwork consisted of participant observation of an annual festival in Loiza, a town on the island that has a large Afro descendant population. This three-day festival was very impressive given the amount of people who participated as well as the pride that people demonstrated by dressing up as Carnival-like characters. Overall, many people were very open and helpful in aiding me with contacts, directions, and transportation as I did my research.

Oumar Diallo, ‘12
My summer research examined the illness experiences of young adult type 1 diabetics in Bamako, Mali. I became interested in this topic because I have always wondered how different my life would have been if I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in West Africa instead of in the United States. Type 1 diabetes is a deadly disease in West Africa because the disease is rarely diagnosed, and when diagnosed, patients have no or limited access to the life saving drug insulin.

For my study, I spent seven weeks in Bamako interning at the Center for the Fight Against Diabetes, where I shadowed physicians and served as a Liaison between the Center and the International Diabetes Federation. I recruited my interview cohort of 15 young adult type 1 diabetics at the Center.

Doing research in Bamako was challenging at first because I did not speak Bambara, and my French was not proficient. However, as I built stronger relationships with my interviewees and my host family, my French got better and I become more comfortable going into interviews by myself. Some of the most valuable experiences that I took away from the summer was building lifelong relationships with some of my interviewees and members of my host family. The experience helped me get a deeper understanding of what it means to work in the West African context because I eventually want to work in this region. The advice I would give students is that you should plan your field research early and use all the resources at your disposal!
Calling all Alumni Authors!

Hey, alumni! We’re excited to announce that we now have a space in the lounge to display the books that you all have published over the years. If you are interested in sending us a copy of your published book, we’ll cherish it and display it with pride for everyone to see!

Look at all of those published alums! The bottom shelf is looking a little empty, though...won’t you help us out?

Professor Jay Levi Participates in Dialogos I Forum

On October 11, Jay delivered a talk entitled “Indigeneity and the Holocaust as Global Discourses” to a large and receptive audience in the Weitz Center. The presentation focused on the ways in which the concept of “the Holocaust” has been uprooted from its original context and applied to new contexts and situations, such as that of Native Americans. Jay also argued that the Israeli/Palestinian conflict can be characterized as an indigenous rights struggle, with both sides seeking to assert claims to the land. Professor Van Dusenberry introduced the talk and helped foster discussion after it; both students and faculty members engaged in a lively and productive exchange of views. Congratulations to Jay on his very successful talk!
Carleton College

THE BACK PAGE LOUNGE

Guess Who?

Wall Info Photos +

Goin’ to a Balinese cockfight tonight! SO EXCITED

Marshall Sahlins has invited you to the event AAA Annual Conference: Ethnography and Awesomeness!

Today at 2:00PM Pierre Bourdieu and 86 other friends are attending Claude Lévi-Strauss

Seriously?? A cockfight?? That is so cruel, dude.

E.O. Wilson

Interpretive anthropology sucks

Sociobiology rules

LOLZ

Information

Research Interests: Symbols, Interpretive Anthropology, Thick Description, Literary Theory
Area of Research: Southeast Asia (I love Indonesia!), North Africa
Birthday: August 23, 1926