THE EMIC
SOCILOGY/ANTHROPOLOGY

Carleton College—A DCC Production

Special Points of Interest:
- Carleton visuals
- What '08 has to say
- Senior plans
- Advice for new majors
- Did you miss the SOAN picnic? Too bad because it was AWESOME.

Carleton Cultural - Rich Majerus

We spend so much time in our department talking about other cultures that I think it is high time to look back at some of Carleton's own cultural artifacts. So I did a little scrolling through the college archives and here is what I found.

May Fete-A Wednesday Night Ritual

Some things never change. Well this isn't one of them. It all started around 1800 as a spring ice cream social event. Then in 1907 it became a May Day event complete with festivities, games and a dance. Two years later Winfried L. Baker '09 was crowned as the First May queen. According to Carleton: The First Century by Headley and Jarchow May Fete "attracted more outside visitors to the College than any other event of the year." At least something hasn't changed. Speculation has it that the prime May Fete shindigs in the 20's and 30's drew crowds upwards of 10,000 annually and why not when you have people like the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra performing. In 1921, the celebration was relocated to what is now appropriately known as May Fete Island.

Comps-A Rite of "Pass"age

Yeah they've been around for a while, too. Comps first appeared at Carleton in the late 1940's and were originally known as comprehensive examinations. According to the 1948 college catalogue "the examination consist[ed] of two written examinations of three hour's duration each, and an oral examination of not more than one hour's duration. Each student [was] examined by a committee of no fewer than three faculty members." Every one used to take the exam on the same day. It must have been a great day on campus. On a more personal note, SOAN used to use a test on what was

Continued on page 4

ADVICE FOR NEW MAJORS - Joe Quick

Shortly after this year's juniors and seniors first declared their majors, they received their first copy of the department newsletter in their mailboxes. It was called The Emic, and it featured an article aimed directly at them. The purpose of that article (actually two articles, since we're talking about two different years) was to pass down advice from current upperclassmen to the new blood of the department so that the newly declared majors could learn from others' experience and not make the same mistakes that everyone is bound to make if they try to tackle this "college" thing on their own. The advice that was provided in the article was clear, thoughtful, insightful and roundly ignored. In a (probably futile) attempt to help the SoAn majors of '08, we'll try something similar in this article.

Roxy Wilcox (junior/sophomore) has this to say: "Sociology and an-
The time has come to ask the seniors the annoying question... 

**What are YOU doing next year?**

**Jake Stroup:** I'm moving to Minneapolis to intern for an environmental nonprofit group.

**Amy Trieu** hopes to go to Hong Kong next year to be an English language associate. She will be busy finding her roots and struggling with her ethnic identity, but she invites everyone to come visit her.

**Lauren Flexon:** Now I have something to do after my Summer of Work at the Pink Pig... I've got an internship in Greece!!!

**Scott Vignos:** I'm moving to Chicago this summer to start a job hopefully with the American Bar Association, or in the immigration law field

**Ben Pacht:** I'm going to be teaching next year. I know that's not too spicy, but hopefully it'll work... :)

**Meghan Flynn:** Let's see... The most exact plan I have so far includes a year of floundering in DC (to make sure I can survive in the city and experience the 'real world' up close and personal.) That will hopefully include sexy nonprofit work with kids or gays or something. I know I'm interested in architecture, but I also know that I won't know for sure if that's a good choice until I get out there and grow some more.

**Tommy Helgen:** I am teaching English in China and training to become a cage fighter.

**Phil Chan:** I'm moving to New York City to become a prima ballerina.

**Betsy Sylvester:** I'm heading to Honduras for another summer with Amigos de las Américas as a Project Director, then moving to Boston in September.

**Good luck SOAN Seniors!**
WELCOME, NEW MAJORS! - AMY TRIEU

How thrilled were we to see three Student Directory pages worth of new majors? This spring, 23 sophomores declared sociology/anthropology as their specialty. They were welcomed to the department during Week 5 with faculty, upperclassmen, and SOAN cakes to embrace them. Here are some of their reasons for joining us:

SOAN is a certain viewpoint. It’s about hanging out with people for your field work, understanding the groups of which they are members, and thus being more on top of it than everyone else who doesn’t.

-Marina Komarovsky

I picked SOAN because it’s such a broad field that I can study more or less any aspect of human life that interests me. But more importantly, it lets me look at all the things about the world that I’m not satisfied with, and motivates me to think about what needs to change and how we need to change it.

-Sophie Kerman

I chose to be a SOAN major because I think that we can learn a lot by looking at the world with as wide a lens as possible, drawing from as many different per-

Late winter term of my freshman year, I dreamt that I would be a SOAN major. This dream, so poignant and potent, remained with me long enough to register for Intro. Soc. and Criminology the next term. And that’s how it happened. This is true, by the way.

-Paul Caine

I figured that this major would be the most beneficial to my budding lifestyle as a socialite. In my experience, nothing breaks the ice at parties quite like a Weberian analysis.

-Abby Neohels

I’ve chosen to become a SOAN major because I enjoy gaining insight into the diverse nature of peoples and cultures around the world. Plus, all the professors in the department practice good hygiene.

-Thano Syropoulos

I declared SOAN because I am interested in Medical Anthropology/International Health. I look forward to taking more interesting courses in the SOAN department.

-Ebun Odeneeye

Common question I get when I tell people what I am majoring in: "What’s the difference between Sociology and Anthropology?"

-Angie Kim

Whether it is the office or the classroom, it is always an adventure with SoAn.

-PaChia Chang

The SOAN barbecue really made me glad to have declared...We used Jim Fishers large collection of instruments to make some wonderful music!...I’m really excited about working alongside these truly eccentric profs and peers.

-Monica Diaz

"...I dreamt that I would be a SOAN major.

-Paul Caine

This is what you’re getting into.

Welcome.
Winter term we bid farewell to Jay Levi as he captained a SOAN program to G-City (Guatemala City for those who aren't familiar). In the spring, Annette Nierobisz began her two-year sabbatical. Happily, Jay and Annette are back on Carleton turf after their respective international stints.

Levi led the SOAN off-campus program during the winter term. "Jay was very passionate about the program and was always eager to learn and share his knowledge with the students, even when it was hard for him to find the space to teach us everything. He was more than our professor. He was Tio Jeronimo and we enjoyed him "muuncho," says Marlene Cervantes '06.

Annette made an appearance at the SOAN senior banquet, surprising many including senior Amy Trieu. "I was so happy to see Annette. I took Intro Soc from her freshman year so it's nice to have her here at the end." Annette has been in Canada working for the Canadian Human Rights Commission and their new in-house research department. She will be here for graduation and then it's back up north to Canada.

Welcome back, Jay and Annette. SOAN was a bit empty without you.

"The primary consideration in switching convo from Wednesday to Tuesday was that...the Wednesday convo interfered with student participation in choir practices and church services."
-Dear Richard C. Gilman, 1963

CARLETON CULTURE CONTINUES...

known as "The Great Books" or pretty much anything a sociologist or anthropologist should have read. Maybe we don't have it so bad after all.

Compulsory Convos?

Convocations also came on the Carleton scene in the late 40's and students were required to attend. Once Carleton adopted the trimester system in the early 60's students were allowed to miss only three convos per term. They haven't always been on Friday afternoons either. According to the May 28, 1963 issue of the Carletonian, "the primary consideration in switching convo from Wednesday to Tuesday was that Wednesday evening has traditionally been church night in Northfield, and the Wednesday convo interfered with student participation in choir practices and church services, according to [Dean Richard C.] Gilman. But he added that, 'the theatre schedule at the Grand was not an irrelevant factor.' Then in '68 there were stirrings of a convo boycott among students, who disagreed with the attendance requirements. Convos persisted without the requirement for a single year and were eliminated in the fall of '69 only to be reinstated in their current form in the late 70's.

Old school May Fete gathering circa

Off to Mai Fete, er, convol
AN EVENING'S FÊTE: ANNUAL DEPARTMENTAL PICNIC - AMY TRIEU

On the last day of comps talks, SOAN students and staff headed to Professor Jim Fisher’s house for an evening of entertainment and glorious food. The food was admittedly lacking in quantity, but the musical entertainment certainly compensated. Apparently unsatisfied by chicken kebabs, eggplant and bell peppers stir-fried in a hoisin sauce, veggie burgers, rolls, grilled vegetables, snack foods, and Amy Trieu’s special cake, students wandered to Jim Fisher’s keyboard and started improvising. Elisha Hall and Micah Bezdor started things off by a little jam session, but resourceful students such as one Jean-Christophe Moran picked instruments off Professor Fisher’s wall and added a “Mary Had a Little Lamb” tune. Inspired, others picked off more instruments from the wall. Though intended mostly for decoration, the instruments held true to their quintessential purpose and added much joy to the event. Even the professors joined the fun. Jay Levi blew a gigantic eight-foot horn, Pamela Feldman-Savelberg rocked out on a recorder, and the esteemed David Carrasco, a visiting professor from Harvard, beat some sweet rhythms on a drum.

After the event, Professor Naran Bilkı declared it one of the best SOAN picnics he has attended. The event was so successful that no one wanted the little fête to end, thus it was decided that faculty and staff would meet later that evening at The Contented Cow. Attendees discussed sacrificing a goat for the final SOAN picnic and each professor’s role in the ritual, highlighting that professor’s expertise. When naming professors, everyone began missing our beloved Annette Nierobisz. Betsy Sylvester generously used her cell phone to call Annette in Canada. Undeterred by Annette not answering, the cell phone was passed around and several students left lengthy heartfelt messages on Annette’s voicemail.

All in all, it could not have been a better event. We thank Professor Fisher and his wife again for letting us take over his home, the SOAN department for funding the event, and all of you who attended. To next year’s DCCs: top that.

ADVICE CONTINUED

anthropology let you study basically anything, so make sure you take advantage of that. You can take classes on all kinds of different subjects. Just don’t forget about stats and the other required courses; you should take those when you can so you don’t get crammed at the end.”

Sarah Graham (junior) suggests that everyone go off campus if they have the chance. “I did it, enough said,” said Sarah. Basically, “don’t worry too much about your future and take the time to figure things out for your- self,” she added. “Well put Sarah,” thought I, this place is for learning and SoAn is as much about figuring out where you fit into things as it is about learning where other people fit.

One informant (senior Marlene Cervantes), under guarantee of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the information disclosed, points out that, “Pamela gives bagels at the end of all her classes. Make sure to pick a delicious and exotic cream cheese and don’t be afraid to try the salmon.”

Upon being asked for his advice, Walker DePuy (senior major and ENTS concentrator) suggested that I run off and join the circus. I responded by suggesting that he jump off a bridge, a clown bridge – like the one his face lives under. Thinking back on that exchange, I now suggest that you forget that you ever read this paragraph.

In sum, as a new major, you should be proud to be one of few students in your graduating class who have proven their ability to make good decisions. Keep it up. Take the classes that interest you, go off campus, have fun, pick salmon, but don’t forget about those few pesky requirements to being validated as a graduate (and not just a member) of our SO(h) ANdsome department.

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