Retiring professor Jim Fisher on one of his many climbs

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Newsletter of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton College
Hello all!

It is a bittersweet note that we write to you this term. It has been a pleasure for Sabrina and me to inform and entertain you through our roles on the Departmental Curriculum Committee, but we both know that the tradition must be passed on at some point. Therefore, we hope to use this small soapbox to tell you all how much we love you (yes, you!) and to tell you how lucky you are to be in this department.

Seniors, you did a fantastic job this year. Comps is quite a long haul and we are all better people for it. Juniors, you have a lot to look forward to (evil laugh). Sophomores... you are probably wondering by now what you got yourselves into. It is all worth it.

We also want to wish a sad and sincere farewell to Jim, who is retiring from the department this year. Jim, you will be genuinely missed.

Good Luck!

Ariel and Sabrina

New Major Spotlights

Compiled by Shakita Thomas

One thing we love about Spring Term is that it is when sophomores join the department as new majors. Here are the newest additions to the SOAN tribe.

Jojo Bazu is from Madison, Wisconsin. She enjoys rock and roll music and partying on the beach. Since exercise is important to Jojo, she often goes running in the Arb. In her spare time, she loves reading the Harry Potter books and knitting.

Stephanie Bredon is from Eagan, Minnesota. She enjoys playing the guitar and hanging out with friends. In her spare time she watches Family Guy and daydreams about David Beckham.

Patty Dana is from Saint Paul, Minnesota. She is fascinated by birds and hopes one day to have over twenty of them. In her spare time she enjoys sleeping and reading on the Bald Spot and doing headstands in the Arb.

Samatha Ellerbeck is from Ames, Iowa. She is fascinated with the library and likes the smell of old books. In her spare time she plays soccer and sings.

Iara Jaffin is from Amherst, Massachusetts. She enjoys talking on the phone and being in downtown Northfield. Iara has traveled around the world and hopes to become a translator in the future.

Jonathan Jenkins is from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Jonathan enjoys watching Family Guy with his friends, running in the Arb, and reading on the Bald Spot.

Emily ally is from Cherry Hill, New Jersey. In her spare time, Emily likes taking pictures of herself on various parts of Carleton's campus, listening to the Beatles, and watching Ghostbusters. Her dream job is to have her own talk show.

Ellie Wrightman is from Auburnville, Massachusetts. She enjoys rock climbing and reading in trees. Her favorite music is country music, which she listens to by herself in her room.

Irina Khimarudov is from Uzbekistan. Irina is fascinated by nature and loves both camping out behind the Rec Center and taking pictures of the campus squirrels.

Katleen Markle is from Berwyn, Pennsylvania. In her spare time she enjoys hanging out with her friends and going bowling. She has read all of the Harry Potter books and is currently reading Twilight.

Megan Milligan is from Las Cruces, New Mexico. She enjoys traveling to exotic places and studying rocks. In her spare time she walks through Northfield looking for rocks. Her favorite color is purple and she likes to listen to hip hop music.

Hannah Nienhaus is from Davie, Florida. She does not like hot weather and her favorite color is blue. In her spare time she listens to rock and roll music and creates dances to the songs. Hannah is very good at swimming and is on the Carleton swim team.

Carrie Paulette is from Prairie Village, Kansas. Her favorite animal is a polar bear. One day she wants to take a vacation in Texas for two days. Carrie enjoys watching TV and talking to people she do not know.

Sarah Prather is from Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. She loves being in cities and taking pictures of landscapes. In her spare time, she enjoys meeting at Sylves with her friends.

Rachel Rodenhaller is from Waban, Massachusetts. She loves traveling. Rachel also enjoys singing for anyone who will listen.

Lyssa Searcy is from Redwood City, California. She enjoys lying on the beach in the sun. Often times she goes to the park to make her friends push her on the swings. Lyssa's favorite place on campus is the first floor of the library.

Iosif Sorokin is from Burnsville, Minnesota. His favorite color is yellow because it looks good on him. In his spare time, Iosif enjoys skiing, sledding, listening to country music, and reading. His dream job is to become a sushi instructor.

Ellie Thomas is from Federal Way, Washington. In her spare time she likes to sleep and dream about cows. During the winter she enjoys going down Bell Field. She is very excited about being a SOAN major.

Shakita Thomas is from Chicago. She is interested in learning how to do a back flip. In her spare time she watches Law and Order.
Jim Fisher

Interview with the Man of the Hour

So, Jim, why Carleton College?

Well, my final year at the University of Chicago, when I was writing my dissertation, the time came when I had to get a job. At the National Job Fair, I interviewed with several places, but Carleton was the ideal place. It had high quality students, which I really liked.

Since working in the SOAN department, have you seen any changes?

Let’s see. I would say yes, several changes, but all political changes mostly. People tend to be political then not political then political again, and so on. It comes in waves when it comes to being political. But the students really haven’t changed. Oh, there wasn’t any OCS, but now there is. A lot of students do OCS OCS programs which helps bring them to the SOAN department, which is always good. There were no computers, internet, or phones in the departments back then. Now, I can communicate with my students better and I’m constantly caught in a blizzard of emails with students. It’s just easier that way. I’ve always held high standards of affirmative action opportunities in the SOAN department and I’m happy that we never gave in to what was “political.” There has to be a rigorous and methodological approach to SOAN and we’ve stuck with that. We’ve produced some wonderful students.

What book(s) are you most proud to have authored?

Lives in Motion, because it’s about a Nepali national hero who founded the first political party and was put in prison. I’m proud of this book because it’s one of the only books translated from English to Nepali. This means thousands of Nepali can read it. I’ve given them access to their own national hero, in detail. I provided facts that even his family didn’t even know. I gave back to the people.

What’s the next chapter for you, Jim?

Graduation is on June 13th, so I want to go to that. Then two weeks after that, I will go on a plane to Bhutan. I’ll help start a new SOAN department at a new University that’s opening on July 1st. We’re going to have a new freshman class. The University is near the capital, Thimphu. You know how other countries have GDP. Bhutan has GNH—Gross National Happiness. This sounds like a joke, but it’s for real, they have conferences about this every year. I’m really excited for this. I’ll be there for a year or two. Oh, and I want to learn Spanish too because my grandson is half Venezuelan and his parents are trying to teach him Spanish. I’ve always wanted to learn Spanish.

What’s something interesting about you?

I’m interested in climbing. I’ve climbed the highest mountain in Europe. Funny fact is, under the bleachers there is a 220 yard oval track where I once ran a marathon of 209 ¼ laps. I had to change directions every 8 miles so I didn’t become crippled.

Sure Minnestota gets grief for its bad weather, but Iowa might take the cake. On April 6th after the weekend-long Midwest Sociological Society (MSS) conference in Des Moines, we found ourselves stuck in a car on Highway 35 waiting out the dreaded blizzard plaguing central Iowa. Every year MSS hosts a conference in a different Midwestern city for professionals, faculty, and graduate and undergraduate students to discuss their work in various topical areas of sociology. Once we conceded defeat to the storm and acknowledged we wouldn’t make our anticipated arrival time, our slow trek back allowed us to reflect on the experience. Way back at the end of Fall term, we submitted abstracts of our papers; and Andrew was chosen for an undergraduate research presentation. Laurens was selected to be part of the student poster session. And Professor Adrienne Falcon’s research was accepted to a session on multi-stranded ethnography (with her other alma mater, University of Chicago).

On Friday we arrived at the shiny, thirty-story Marriott Hotel with little over an hour to calm our nerves before our presentations. Adrienne gleefully bounced from session to session, not having to worry about her own presentation until Sunday. After our successful talks we partook in the first of several important sociological gatherings that weekend: in other words, we ritually consumed food with fellow members of the MSS. During events like this and throughout the course of the weekend, we were pleasantly surprised to find ourselves holding our own in conversation with the sociological elite, like inspiring MSS President Susan Stell and quirky Contexts editor Doug Hartmann. During our discussions with faculty members and students from other universities, we realized what a strong foundation this department has given us. We felt confident posing questions about the theories, methods, and findings of other researchers and could discern strengths and limitations in their work.

The last meaningful aspect of the experience for us was watching Adrienne discuss her research with other high-caliber academics. It was the most intellectually challenging hour of the weekend as we followed the discussions grappling with the complex theories and ideas in their projects. Seeing our professor in conversation with her peers rounded out a weekend of deepening connections with each other. While searching for Thai food, checking email over coffee, or wandering vibrant downtown Des Moines at night, we shared funny stories and times more significant experiences of our past. So juniors, if you want to have some fun next April, start working on camps now.* (Just what you need, someone else telling you that, right?) Plus, they’d be more to do if a blizzard traps you in downtown Chicago.

*FSS also sponsors an undergraduate paper competition. Submissions are due in January.

SoAn

SOLIDARITY

In Downtown Des Moines

SoAn

SOLIDARITY

Academic Civic Engagement Update

Written and interviewed by Sabrina Peterson

Sociology/Anthropology students have probably been aware for awhile that one of the department’s professors, Adrienne Falcon, has been busy as the coordinator for Carleton’s new Academic Civic Engagement program. However, many may not really understand exactly what the program entails. In an effort to provide SOAN students with a more detailed picture of what she has been doing, The Emic sat down with Falcon to talk about her involvement with Academic Civic Engagement.

Falcon’s interest in civic engagement was sparked when she served in graduate school as a community organizer in a diverse immigrant neighborhood in Chicago. Fundamentally, she says the program at Carleton intends to more closely connect the College to Northfield. Falcon sees civic engagement as a way to link academic rigor with genuine learning that can give back to a community.

This year, some of the program’s projects have included the Public Sociology course offered by the SOAN Department; a project that aims to improve local transportation; and, a project that began in the course Anthropology of Health and Illness, in which students researched the mental health of immigrants and then presented their findings to Rice County Children’s Mental Health Collaborative.

Falcon says that the program at Carleton thus far has been met with a lot of energy and interest from students and faculty alike. When asked about where she hopes the Civic Engagement program at Carleton will go next year, Falcón says that she hopes to strengthen existing partnerships and find ways to support students who are doing the work. In particular, next year a college-wide project around the census is in the works and will explore issues of identity and the question of how a census get a full count.

Aside from the Public Sociology course offered by the Sociology/Anthropology Department, the program also plans to incorporate relevant courses from other disciplines, such as psychology. In addition to working with the SOAN department, Falcon also supports courses in all the other departments as well, which she hopes will lead to more linkages in topical areas across disciplines.
Alumni Musings:
A look at what SOAN majors have been up to since leaving Carleton
Compiled by Joe Sigrin and Becca Dougherty

Chris Purdy (Class of 1988)
chrisdkinternationalturkey.com

"I just moved to Istanbul after nearly 9 years in Indonesia and 4 years in Ethiopia. I work for DKT International finding ways to change behavior and promote safer sexual practices (like using condoms). We also sell and market condoms and a wide range of other contraceptives. Am I the 'outsider' changing culture? Yes, but it turns out that isn't always a bad thing!..."

Katherine Tait (Class of 2000)
katie.t@gmail.com

"...Since graduating Carleton, I've been active in many endeavors, including dancing professionally & working in Mexico. I'm now working at the Boston Consulting Group in New York, while finishing up an MA in Global Political Economy and Finance at the New School for Social Research. My master's research is to be decided, but will most likely fall under the broad umbrella of international development and the politics of free trade..."

Anna Loube (Class of 2003)
annaloube@gmail.com

"...I'm a singer-songwriter living in California and just came out with my second CD. My website is www.annaloube.com. Yay for the inherent sociology of songwriting. Peace and love in 2009..."

Scott Vignos (Class of 2006)
scott.vignos@gmail.com

"...I'm currently in law school at UC-Davis and sit on the board of a non-profit, The King Hall Legal Foundation. I spent last year teaching in India for The Akanksha Foundation. If anyone has any questions about law school or teaching in India, I'd be more than happy to chat..."

Sheila LeGeros (Class of 1983)
shellegeros@mac.com

"...I graduated from Carleton in 1983 with a degree in Soc/Anthro. Currently, I have my own business, called LeGeros International. We align partners for sustainable growth through facilitation of group process. My area of focus is international business, particularly sales and marketing teams. In addition to face-to-face meetings, I do virtual meetings, and multilingual meetings where we are working through an interpreter..."

Mini Larson Becker, Ph.D. (Class of 1957)
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mini.becker@unh.edu

"...I am on the faculty at the University of New Hampshire in the Dept of Natural Resources and the Environment and am a policy scientist. My research deals with ecosystem based governance, sustainability, public participation and conflict resolution regarding a range of natural resource, environmental and development problems/challenges.

My training at CCC was pretty interdisciplinary but I found the Soc-Anthr major a sound foundation for dealing with people and systems, whether human or natural--as well as humans in natural systems! My graduate work was in Policy and Economics and International Env. Policy and Sustainable Development (MA/Ph.D.)... but there was a significant gap between 1957 when I left Carleton and 1987 when I went to graduate school! I'm happy to see Carleton students participating in our New Zealand field studies program that I began about 10 years ago..."

Amy Naylor Haible (Class of 1976)
ANHaible@gwi.net

"...I just looked at the current course listings and wish I could come back to take many of them. It reminded me why I majored in anthropology/soc in the first place. In 1972 the subject of gender was woefully under represented by the department and I noticed the changes since then. I went on the get a master's in urban and regional planning and am now in my third career change..."

Jessica Bell (Class of 2008)
jbell212@gmail.com

"...I'm in my first year of law school at the Northeastern University, which is a little like Carleton. By this I mean that Northeastern is a well kept secret. The law school is the premier school for public interest law and features 4 built in internships and a class called Legal Skills in the Social Context (LSSC). As part of my coursework for LSSC, I am currently analyzing the racial disparities within the prison system, as they pertain to the accessibility of mental health care for prisoners. The work done through this class is done for the Massachusetts Block Legislatures Caucus, and has the potential to ultimately effect legislation seeking to increase access to mental health care for all prisoners, but disadvantaged communities in particular. The existence of this class and project allows me to use many of the skills I learned in the SOAN program, particularly the interviewing, research, and data analysis skills. So far for all of those who continually question whether or not your SOAN degree will ever really play a part in your professional career, chill out, it'll come in handy in places you never even expected..."

Laura (Daniel) Glander (Class of 1984)
lglander@stetson.edu

"...Hello from Florida! After being northerners for most of our lives, my husband George [84] and I moved to central Florida (DeLand) in 1994 when George took a position on the faculty in the physics department at Stetson University. A year later I joined the department (after eight years of being an at-home mom) as the department secretary. It's a great job - with all the flexibility a mom of two busy kids could want as well as a lot of freedom to make up interesting projects. Over the years I've expanded the position from simply writing purchase requisitions to include lots of project work, like an annual departmental newsletter for our grads, annual student t-shirt contest, recruiting work for physics and the natural sciences division to support admissions, etc., etc. I'm branching out and doing more and more to support the division as well. This year, I expanded my job to full time and work in the Office of Academic Affairs (think: provost's office). It's a new and interesting side of the university, but I don't ever want to leave Physics as I love all the student contact I have. Some may say I'm "underemployed" - and while I could make better money elsewhere, much of what I do here at Stetson comes from what I learned and loved about being a college student at Carleton. George has climbed the ranks and is now a full professor and in his fourth year as department chair (eagerly awaiting the chance to shed that extra paperwork when it rotates to one of his colleagues in a year or so)..."
So Long
Farewell
Auf wiederschen
Goodnight

Where are some of our seniors headed after graduation? Law school, AmeriCorps, graduate school, non-profit work...the possibilities are truly endless.

Christa Frintner
Christa plans to be somewhere on the East Coast working with an organization focused on social justice issues. Down the road she is considering pursuing a joint Peace Corps/graduate school program, non-profit management, or prison ministry. Having a dog that will go running with her is an absolute must.

Cat McMurtry
Cat is planning to enter the public health sector for a few years before entering a joint-degree graduate program in either public health and social work or public health and psychology. She is particularly interested in working with marginalized groups. Cat is especially excited to leave the bitter-cold temperatures of the Midwest.

Ethan Guevin
Ethan plans to live out of his car while driving around the country until he finds a baseball team to play for. His future goals include eventually pursuing a graduate degree in education and teaching/coaching. Until then, Ethan plans to read a lot of sociological and anthropology thought and theory.

Krystal Stackhouse
Next year Krystal will be working in the Twin Cities as a Junior Academic Coach with Admission Possible. Her future plans include possibly participating in a Peace Corps program that deals with educating youth on social issues. Krystal would like to eventually attend graduate school, though at this point she is unsure whether it would be for sociology or educational studies.

Hope Harvey
Hope will be moving to Austin, Texas and working through AmeriCorps with an education nonprofit. She hopes to go to graduate school the following year for public policy.

Whitney Allen
Whitney will for the next two years be working in a health-related AmeriCorps position in Chicago. After that, she plans to pursue a graduate degree in public health. Whitney isn't sure whether she wants to eventually be involved in domestic or international public health, but hopes to experience some of both.

Nora Mahlberg
Nora will be moving to South Dakota, where she will be working with the Lakota People's Law Project in Rapid City. Nora will mostly be working in Indian child welfare issues and water issues on the reservations from uranium contamination from when uranium was mined there during the Cold War. She eventually hopes to go to law school and pursue a career in environmental law.

Sarah Lincoln
This summer Sarah will work as a playground leader in Plymouth, Minnesota. In the fall, she will be looking for a job in Minnesota and debating whether to pursue a graduate degree in education.

Andrea Duron
In the fall, Andrea will be attending UW-Madison for Early Childhood Education in order to work toward a Masters degree and a teaching certification.

Pepsi Margoles
Pepsi will be entering the University of Minnesota Law School. She hopes to eventually practice law as an attorney doing criminal defense, possibly juvenile law. She plans to use her SOAN knowledge to better understand the judicial system and its relation to society. She plans to stay in the Twin Cities for awhile, but will continue to travel whenever she gets the chance.

Ariel Van de Voorde
After graduation, Ariel will be returning home to Texas for four months to work as an artist's apprentice in a commercial mosaic workshop. In September, she will be moving to Chicago with several other Carleton grads, where she will work for an energy company in corporate-community communications. Ariel plans in the future to pursue an MBA and someday move to a villa in Tuscany that she will build herself.

Don Smith
After graduation, Don will be moving to uptown Minneapolis. He will be an intern at the admissions department at Carleton, where he will be doing research, campaign design, and interviews. Don may eventually consider graduate school.

Lauren Blak
Lauren hopes to work in cultural resource management or historic preservation, possibly as a park ranger or research assistant. She wouldn't mind going to the Southwest, living somewhere remote, and getting to spend lots of time outside, but she would also be okay with working in an office in Washington DC. Lauren wants to eventually go to graduate school. Her dream career would be to be the Park Service Chief of International Affairs.

Sabrina Peterson
In the fall Sabrina will be moving to Washington DC where she hopes to work towards becoming proficient in the Arabic language and pursue a career in Middle Eastern policy. She eventually hopes to pursue a graduate degree in Middle Eastern Studies and live in the Middle East for awhile.