THE EMIC
Spring 2011
Carleton College
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Van, Liz, and Jay with Chesley Lecturer
Marshall Sahlins
April 2011

See inside for more pictures from this term’s events!

Inside this issue:
- Meet the new SDAs! 2
- Photos from the Term 3
- Poverty Conference 4
- Fall 2011 Classes and a Visit from Mario Small 6
- Alumni Updates! 7
- Marshall Sahlins Visit 8
- Anna Fure-Slocum 9
- The Back Page Lounge 10
Meet the 2011-2012 SDAs!

Bonjour! I’m Izzy Durham, and I’ll be one of your SDAs next year! Like John, I think the SoAn Department is awesome, so I’m excited to help all of you become familiar with the classes and the professors. I invite you to email me with any and all questions, comments, and concerns!

This summer, I’ll be conducting research at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Michigan, where I’ll be interviewing museum staff and visitors about the philosophies and messages associated with genocide education in the United States. I’m really interested in representations of ethnic conflict and genocide, so I’m looking forward to this summer quite a bit! I hope you all have great summers too, and again, don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at all. Can’t wait to get to know you!

Izzy Durham

John Trevino

Hey, everyone! My name is John, and I’m a rising senior SoAn major from Chicago. I’m really excited to be a SoAn SDA for next year because it'll give me the opportunity to convince people of how great our department is and encourage me to take a break from comps every once in a while to meet with and talk to all of you! Speaking of comps, this summer I'll be in Rajasthan, India examining the self-representation of culture and "Indian-ness" in the country's heritage hotels. That said, I'll still be available to chat via email in the coming months if you have any questions about the department or just want to talk (I invite both academic and existential questions). I hope to hear from you soon, and look forward to working with you all.
Ethnography through Film: Photos from the Comps Poster Session, April 2011

Emily Kelly presents her research on the concept of community in Community Supported Agriculture.

Department Chair Jay Levi enjoys some delicious snacks with visitors to the crowded SoAn lounge.

Kiera Jaffin waits to introduce her poster on self-presentation and Facebook. She rocked it, of course!
SoAn Alums Report:
Rethinking Urban Poverty for the 21st Century: Institutional and Organizational Perspectives

On March 10-11, Adrienne Falcon, adjunct instructor for the SoAn Department and the Director of Carleton’s Academic Civic Engagement program, attended a conference in Chicago titled: Rethinking Urban Poverty for the 21st Century: Institutional and Organizational Perspectives. Looking at the issues and questions surrounding the future of U.S. cities, the conference featured papers and speakers that examined how today’s poor, urban communities bear the weight of the many issues stemming from the stunted reinvention of manufacturing centers in cities across the U.S. In particular, the conference centered around the institutions and organizations with which urban residents and neighbors interact everyday, paying particular attention to how housing, health, criminal justice, education, and immigration structures impact the everyday lives of struggling communities.

Carleton SoAn was well represented at the conference! Adrienne reported running into three (!) recent SoAn alums at the conference, all of whom are involved in issues of urban poverty. Here are some of their stories.

Monica Diaz, 2008
I am currently working towards my MA in Social Sciences from the University of Chicago. My thesis takes a look at how the immigrant rights movement in Chicago has evolved over the last ten years. More specifically, how the funding of organizations has shifted, and how this shift has affected the movement's agenda. I am excited to present my research at University of Surrey, UK this June for the conference "Global Migration and Multiculturalism: Religion, Society, Policy and Politics," and I plan to graduate in August 2011. I also work part time at a Chicago community health center as their Quality Improvement Associate, and volunteer on the Board of Directors of a college readiness program, East Village Youth Program. Due to my interests in community issues and issues of migration, I
am proud to say I will be a part of the Metropolitan Leadership Institute's class of 2012, a Chicago-based leadership initiative. My future plans are to pursue a doctoral degree in Sociology. I have really come to utilize the skills and approaches I learned as a SOAN major in both my academic and professional life. My SOAN degree has really allowed me to merge my passion for social justice, problem solving, my outgoing personality, and my curiosity to really engage in the things that make me happy...I'm excited for all the adventures I am yet to have!

Sarah Patton Moberg, 2007
I've been working with The University of Chicago Human Rights Program since September 2007. I am currently the Manager of Operations and Events, so I coordinate our curriculum, competitions, public events and conferences, and a host of other odds and ends that come with the territory of a small staff with a lot of projects. My undergraduate work in Sociology/Anthropology has been incredibly helpful as I've been learning more about the field of human rights, since these analytical tools are essential for looking at the development of human rights as a framework for social movements and political organizing. I wrote my BA thesis on how the recent wave of gentrification in Chicago connected to changes in the global economy, and the discourse developed by community organizers in response to these changes. Although my SOAN background helps me with the development of many different types of events, I've been able to specifically use my BA thesis work to develop a series of events on the issue of displacement in Chicago and around the world. This fall, I am organizing a symposium on "the right to the city" that includes documentaries on post-Katrina New Orleans and public housing in Chicago. This event will focus on the politics of rebuilding/developing a city, and how this process affects the rights of individuals and communities.

Announcing the DCCs for 2011-2012:
As much fun as they’ve had putting together this publication all year, it’s time for Izzy and Emily to graciously step aside to make room for next year’s Emic Aficionados (aka DCCs). They are: VIVIANE CLEMENT and FADI HAKIM!
Here’s to another great year for the Emic!
Fall-ing for SoAn: Fall 2011 Classes

SOAN 100 Myths of Crime (Annette Nierobisz; MWF 4a)
SOAN 110 Introduction to Anthropology (P. Feldman-Savelsberg; T, TH 2, 3 C)
SOAN 111 Introduction to Sociology (Nader Saiedi; MWF 1a)
SOAN 122 Anthropology of Humor (Jay Levi; T, Th 1, 2 C)
SOAN 226 Anthropology of Gender (P. Feldman-Savelsberg; T, TH 4, 5 C)
SOAN 257 Culture and Politics in India (Meera Sehgal; T, TH 5, 6 C)
SOAN 274 Language, Culture, and Society (Liz Coville; MWF 2a)
SOAN 285 Ethics of Civic Engagement (Adrienne Falcon; T, TH 4, 5 C)
SOAN 302 Anthropology and Indigenous Rights (Jay Levi; T, TH 4, 5 C)
SOAN 330 Sociological Thought and Theory (Nader Saiedi; MWF 3a)

A Visit from Mario Small ‘96

On May 6, Carleton alum Mario Small visited the SoAn lounge for an informal lunchtime discussion with current SoAn students. Professor Small, who now teaches at the University of Chicago, regaled students with stories of his journey towards sociology and anthropology and his experiences in Jay Levi’s economic anthropology class. He also discussed his current research on urban conditions, organizations, and networks. Overall, the afternoon was a great success, and the SoAn Department looks forward to welcoming Prof. Small back in the near future!

Mario Small ‘96, now a professor of sociology at the University of Chicago, chats with students over lunch
ALUMNI UPDATES!

Erin Thornton Kennedy ‘98

After graduating from Carleton in 1998, I spent a few years in the Twin Cities “finding myself” and saving up money for grad school. After that, I moved to Florida to pursue a graduate degree in Anthropology at the University of Florida. I was inspired to continue studying anthropology by the brilliant instruction and mentoring I received from my Carleton comps advisor, Dr. Pamela Feldman-Savelsberg. My graduate work focused on the archaeology of New World complex societies. During my graduate studies, I traveled to Peru, Honduras, Mexico, and Belize, but I conducted the majority of my research in Guatemala. I am pleased (and relieved) to say that I finally earned my Ph.D. this spring with my dissertation entitled “Zooarchaeological and Isotopic Perspectives on Ancient Maya Economy and Exchange.”

I am currently residing in Texas with my husband (another Carleton grad) and our 18-month old son, but we are moving to Peterborough, Ontario in May. We are primarily relocating for my husband’s post-doctoral position at Trent University, but I will be teaching anthropology courses at Trent over the summer, and then serving as a research affiliate with the Trent University Archaeological Research Center. These are temporary positions, so who knows where we’ll end up after that!

Elizabeth Lewis ‘02

I am currently a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin. My research focuses on disability identities, personhood, and community formation in Central America, and I will return to Guatemala in the summer of 2011 to conduct additional preliminary fieldwork. When I'm not busy with my research, the beautiful city of Austin keeps me busy with its swimming holes, hike and bike trails, tasty food trailers, and, of course, live music.
The 2011 Chesley Lecture: Marshall Sahlins

On April 25 and 26, the SoAn department played host to this year’s Chesley Lecturer, the one and only Marshall Sahlins, an American anthropologist well-known for his work on the power of culture to shape humans in ways that biology cannot. He is currently the Charles F. Grey Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and of Social Sciences at the University of Chicago, where his present research focuses on the intersection of anthropology and history. Professor Sahlins gave a public talk on the 25th in addition to his scheduled talk on the 26th entitled “Stranger-Kings and Stranger-Kin: The Alterity of Power and Vice-Versa.” Well-versed in his subject, Professor Sahlins discussed many examples from his research both during the talk and during an informal lunch with SoAn students. (Fittingly enough, he also told several good cannibal jokes.) Check out some of the pictures from his visit!

Department Chair Jay Levi introduces Professor Sahlins

Top: Van Dusenbery, who studied under Sahlins at the University of Chicago, reminisces about his professor before the talk on the 26th

Bottom: Professor Sahlins mingles with the audience after the talk

Another cannibal joke, perhaps?

Photos by Khant Khant Kyaw ’11 and Izzy Durham ’12
Improving Education: an Interview with Anna Fure-Slocum ‘12

SoAn student Anna Fure-Slocum ‘12 and her partner Nick Welna ‘12 recently received a $3,000 grant from Project Pericles, an organization that promotes civic engagement on college campuses, to work toward education reform in the Northfield community. Read about the experience in her own words below!

Emic: Tell us more about Project Pericles and your proposal!

Anna: What prompted [our involvement in Project Pericles] is our desire to be teachers. Nick and I both work at academic enrichment programs for high school students in the surrounding communities and feel strongly that these students’ involvement in education is necessary for their achievement. We really like to teach!

The concept of our project stemmed from our collective passion for education and creating a system that works for the students, rather than the tests. Our proposal is to implement student-centered education in the current public school system through the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (or No Child Left Behind). We propose to do this by incorporating student feedback in teacher evaluations, student input in school reform, testing that looks at a range of student abilities, and innovation grants for schools with student-centered curricula. Basically, we want students to have a voice and to be able to be active in their own education.

Adrienne Falcon, the director of Academic Civic Engagement and our boss, encouraged us to work on a proposal for the competition. Without her help, as well as the help of the other A.C.E. student workers, we would not have won. We are incredibly grateful for all of their time and advice!

Emic: As an aspiring teacher, how do you think your involvement with Project Pericles will affect what you go on to do after Carleton?

Anna: Nick and I created our proposal out of what we hope to create in our classrooms. We both believe strongly that education should be an experience that engages and excites students and should address their needs and learning as individuals, not as test scores. Our proposal reflects what we hope to be able to provide our students when we become teachers. The Project Pericles conference gave us the space to work through our ideas and learn how to defend them to others. Project Pericles, as an organization, is one that encourages students to take their education and passions into their own hands. This is exactly what we propose education reform to incorporate, empowering students to learn in relevant ways.

Emic: How does your work with Project Pericles relate back to your SoAn training? How could Carleton and the SoAn Department produce curricula that is more student-centered?

Anna: SOAN classes at Carleton have helped me to develop a deeper understanding for the basis for a lot of this work. The need to understand the expectations and experiences of others and their motivations for their actions draws from the SOAN field. SOAN at Carleton has encouraged me to expand upon my interests in a way that is not merely superficial, but looks at the issue in a more comprehensive manner. And as Nick and I found at the conference, Carleton is a college that is working very hard at incorporating student-centered learning into its curriculum, through the A.C.E. office and other avenues as well. Civic engagement projects in classes allow students to experience their education in a manner that expands upon their education. Civic engagement is growing amongst colleges and it is one of the most relevant ways to incorporate student-centered learning in the classroom.
THE BACK PAGE LOUNGE

Some Last Words of Wisdom

It’s the time of the year when seniors head off into the Great (Un)Known, but before they do so, they have some parting words for those left to carry on the glory of the Department:

- “Comps won’t turn into a huge monster if you keep working on it over the course of the entire year.”
- “Don’t even try to ask Jay for anything if he has a file folder and his coffee mug in hand.”
- “Use the entire SoAn faculty — your advisor isn’t the only one who’s willing and able to help.”
- “Hang out in the SoAn Lounge! Not only are there free hot beverages and (frequently) delicious food, professors are always around and ready to talk, Liz loves visitors, and there’s no GoPrint!”
- “Get together with other majors during the comps process. Seriously — hold each other accountable. And it’s great just to have low-pressure situations in which to talk and distress about the process.”
- “Go abroad! Multiple times, if you can. It’s the best way to get hands-on SoAn experience and put your SoAn knowledge to work.”
- “Don’t start stressing about comps early (PLEASE), but DO start thinking about topics you really enjoy and might like to explore for a whole year.”

SoAn Trivia!

TERMS AND FAMOUS FIGURES

- What’s the difference between ethnography and ethnology?
- Who wrote about the Kula ring?
- Which scholar was interested in both anthropology and geology?
- Who’s famous for his work on suicide?
- Who wrote Coming of Age in Samoa?

AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

- Which senior wrote her comps on Batman?
- Where did Jay get his PhD?
- Which professor is interested in medical anthropology?

Email kellye or durhami for answers!

Save the Date: SoAn Spring Picnic!

When: Sunday, May 29, 1-5 pm
Where: Van and Liz’s House, 303 Maple Street
Why: to say goodbye to the seniors and hello to the sophomores! And to eat delicious food!

IT WILL BE AWESOME!