First Newsletter in Quite a Long Time

Hello, all of you Soc/Antthro lovers! Your Department Chair and your DCCs decided that the creation of a department newsletter is long past due. So we’ve done just that, in order to keep everyone informed of what’s going on in the department. We’ve named it the EMIC, because it is the insider’s view of the Soc/Antthro Department.

There’s a whole lot of exciting things that have just happened this Spring Term—namely the declaration of the sophomore majors. There’s more to come, particularly more comps talks and the department picnic.

Who We Are. Who Are We?

What’s New with Your Professors
Sociology
Nader Salehi (Ph.D. U of Wisconsin)—spent winter sabbatical in California (finishing a book), China (where he lectured at the University of Beijing), Israel, and Switzerland.

Kim Rodner (Ph.D. Michigan State)—is on sabbatical in California and other points west.

Bev Nagel (Ph.D. Stanford U.)—spent Fall term in Paraguay continuing her research on peasants and land rights.

Anthropology
Pamela Feldman-Savelsberg (Ph.D Johns Hopkins)—was in Cameroon last summer and will return this summer with copies of what will by then be her new book!

Jim Fisher (Ph.D. U of Chicago)—was in northwest China and Pakistan, com-
paring the latter to India. He also trekked 100 miles over the world’s longest glacier system (outside the poles) from Skardu to Hunza. During winter he climbed Aconcagua (in Argentina), at 23,000, the highest peak in the world outside of Asia. He also visited Peru, Chile, Brazil, Paraguay, and Bolivia.

Jay Levi (Ph.D. Harvard U.)—is putting the finishing touches on an edited book of essays on indigenous rights.

Anthropology/Archaeology
Nancy Wilkie (Ph.D. U of Minnesota, Classics and Soc/Antthro) was recently elected President of the AIA (American Institute of Archaeology), was a Free-
man visiting Professor in Sri Lanka in January, and will lead a world tour for the AIA next Fall.
The Comps Marathon by Pat Gilroy

As most of you probably know, the format of the SOAN department comps talks has changed this year. After much negative sentiment was expressed against the previous years' format for senior comps talks, a group of seniors and profs met this past Winter term to decide how to change the "marathon" approach, as it had been so lovingly dubbed.

For those who do not remember or did not experience it, the comps "marathon" squished all of the comps talks into one weekend. Students gave ten to fifteen minute talks in several sessions all throughout the day on Saturday and part of Sunday, immediately followed by the traditional SOAN department picnic at Professor Jim Fisher's house.

This year we elected to change the format to something that was more akin to the style in which most anthropologists and sociologists present their work, with panels of four to five students giving 15-20 minute talks each and time for questions afterwards. Theoretically, the panels would be organized by subject matter, but this posed a problem since not all topics would fall into six or seven neat little categories. Instead, talks for this year were simply organized by advisor, but with enough forethought and effort this could be resolved and changed for the coming year. Furthermore, if there are any other changes that YOU would like to see made, then do not hesitate to talk to the department chair, us (your DCCs), or other profs or students. Get the word out! Student input is the key to implementing the changes you want to see happen!

The talks for this year are currently scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 4:30pm in Willis 211 from April 22 to May 13 (the latter also being the day of the department picnic). We encourage all students within the department to attend as many talks as you can/want, and by all means join us at the picnic on the 13th. See you there!

Next Year in the Department by Neena Mahadev

According to Professor Nagel, next year the department will be at full capacity in the way of professors. None of the professors will be gone on sabbatical, and we will have a visiting professor, Sudharshan Senewiratne during the winter and spring. Professor Senewiratne holds a professorship at the U. of Peradeniya, in Sri Lanka. A native of Kandy, Sri Lanka, he specializes in the archaeology and anthropology of South Asia, and also teaches on the ISLE program.
Prof Talk Bev Nagel Describes Her Work Experiences by Sharon Polli

You have undoubtedly seen Bev Nagel around the SoAn department, drinking mate out of her silver mug and straw, and decked out in what one student has dubbed anthropo-chic. Bev’s life is an academic Cinderella story, Carleton grad turned Carleton professor. Those of you who know her probably can hear her down-to-earth laugh at such a silly analogy, but the question still remains to be asked. How did Bev get where she is today? Last week I interviewed Professor Nagel and asked her just that.

As a freshman entering Carleton, Bev can remember checking off either Sociology/Anthropology or Latin American Studies as potential majors. She can also remember having an eight a.m. Intro to Anthropology course, so be careful the next time you complain about your 1A. A child of the civil rights era, Bev attributes her interest in the field to the climate of the time as well as her interest in issues of rural development. Carleton then, like today, was an extremely rigorous place academically. The comps process as we know it, though, did not exist. Laughing, Bev recalled what students dubbed the Great Books Format, admitting she isn’t sure what its official name actually was. Students picked a selection of books from four fields of anthropology and then wrote an integrative essay followed by a conversation with faculty.

After graduation, Bev planned on going on to Columbia, but a mix-up with her financial aid package found her scrambling around at the last minute for something to do (sound familiar?). She answered an ad in the paper and was hired in the advertising department of a company that sells men’s hairpieces. The closest she got to research that year was looking at the ads of other men’s hairpiece companies. This year out in the real world convinced her to reapply to grad school, this time all on the west coast, and she ended up at Stanford. There she worked with the Food Research Institute and received her Ph.D. in sociology after four years. Part of that time was spent in the Mexico City Census Office studying internal patterns of migration in Mexico.

Then it was back to Carleton. A position happened to open up that year in her specialty, and Bev was hired. Since then, she has spent her time divided between Northfield and Paraguay, where she researches how poor rural settlers have been affected by the transformation of the area from a forest frontier to one dominated by agribusiness and smuggling. Right now she is finishing up a book that will hopefully come out soon. Beyond her research, she is an active human and land rights advocate; she and a colleague have started an organization in Paraguay that helps community development projects like a Bookmobile that will bring bilingual resources to rural settlements.

Bev’s advice to us: There is life after comps, even if it is selling men’s hairpieces.

Bev Nagel tells Sharon that there is life after comps, even if it is selling men’s hairpieces.

the Department Picnic, May 13th

The Department Picnic will be held after the last comps talks on **May 13th at 7pm at Jim Fisher’s house (303 Maple St)**. Last year we had a great time, and got to chat with majors of the class of ’98 who were relieved, excited, and nostalgic that it was all over. The pros made for great company, and a good time was had by all, over our dinners of hamburgers, veggie-burgers, beer, and other goodies. It’s almost the only time of the year that the entire department—including the sophomore majors—are together at once. We hope to see you all there.
"Am I going to be unemployed?"
Here's what some Seniors Soc/Anthro majors are doing after graduation..
By Angela Heffernan

Wondering what can be done with your degree in Sociology/Anthropology? Our graduates this year have some great ideas, experiences, and advice; Kate Tollefson, for instance, suggests applying for grants while students are at Carleton. She recommends the $500 grant from Liz Ciner's office, for amazing research experiences that can be integrated into Carleton careers. Be sure to talk to all the seniors at the Department Picnic, for ideas about life after graduation! Here's a glimpse of some of the interesting things our seniors are up to:

Sarah Ford will be attending the Sociology PhD program at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Mary Moua received a two year fellowship from Echoing Green, which funds social entrepreneurs to start up new social organizations. She'll be starting up and directing an after-school program for Hmong middle and high school girls in St. Paul.

Angela Heffernan found her dream job as a health care consultant for Stockamp and Associates. Her training starts in Portland, and although she'll be based in Minneapolis, she'll be working in hospitals around the nation.

Becky Cunningham eventually plans to go to divinity school and into the Unitarian Universalist ministry, but will be most likely starting with a computer support job for a non-profit organization, combining her interests in technology and social issues.

Dov Stucker will be flying to Harrisburg, PA, on graduation day, to begin a 7 Day training session for a seasonal summer job in Guadeloupe. He will be one of 6 staff leaders of a group of 20 American teenagers on the island to participate in a month-long cross-cultural community service project. The organization that he will be working for, Visions International, has programs on Native American reservations in North America and several programs in the Caribbean. Their website is www.visions-adventure.org. Dov has undetermined travel plans for the fall.

This year's SDAs are Kelli Gratz and Michelle Probert. Stay tuned to find out who next year's SDAs are....

Departmental Info on the Web!
http://www.carleton.edu/curricular/SOAN/index.html