

The Anthropologist

A newsletter for faculty, students, alumni, and friends of the Department of Anthropology

Fall 2002

Page One

Professor Csordas appointed Chair of Anthropology

A faculty member since 1990, Thomas Csordas was appointed chair of the Department of Anthropology by Dean Samuel M. Savin as of July 2002, replacing Professor Goldstein, chair of 27 years.

Professor Beall elected to NAS Council

The members of the National Academy of Sciences elected Dr. Cynthia Beall to serve a three-year term on the Council of the National Academy of Sciences, beginning August 2002.

This summer Dr. Beall conducted research in a remote village in Panam County high in the mountains of S.W. Tibet. She has studied indigenous high-altitude dwellers in the Andes, Tibet and Ethiopia.

Professor Chapman on Urban Health

This past year has been a busy one for me with the CWRU Department of Anthropology Urban Health Initiative continuing to gain momentum and new urban health research taking off. A grant from Cleveland Foundation through the Ohio Campus Compact supported our work with the Huron East Cleveland Coalition against Violence. We are currently completing a study of female patient experiences with hospital screening for domestic violence. Last fall we helped bring to the campus Zorah Rasekh and Judith Rooks. In the spring we brought Linda Whiteford who compared health care problems and strategies in Cuba and inner city America and Paul Farmer who spoke on the structural violence and human suffering in the context of emerging infectious diseases. We finished the series with a student "Works in Progress Roundtable." This last year we also brought together CWRU faculty in the fall and in the spring to continue networking and building relationships to facilitate and promote positive campus-community partnerships for urban health.

This year I look forward to continuing my research and writing on health and reproductive health care seeking of African and African American women. Working with community partners in East Cleveland NEON Community Center for Excellence in Women's Health and the Cleveland Department of Public Health enables me to map out barriers to prenatal care and strategies for improving prenatal care.

From the Editor's Desk.....

Since accepting the position of Department Administrator in Anthropology in November of 1999, I have wanted to create a newsletter. This desire is because it's part of my job but the main reason is my love of words. As an avid reader and writer, this newsletter gives me the opportunity to share information about the creative, hard working people that are associated with this department. As you read this newsletter, I hope that you will enjoy hearing about your friends and colleagues. Please keep me up to date about what you are doing.

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faculty

Professor Gaines visits Atlanta and Stockholm

On March 7, Dr. Gaines presented his paper "From Structure to Agency: Local Biology in a Millennial Medical Anthropology" at the Plenary Symposium of the Society for Medical Anthropology. The symposium was held in Atlanta, Georgia. In mid-July, Dr. Gaines participated in the 3rd International Pharmacoeconomics meeting in Stockholm, Sweden which was hosted by the International Working Group for the Harmonization of Dementia Drug Guidelines (IWG). Dr. Gaines is co-chair of the IWG's Cultural Issues Committee and a member of its Ethics Committee. He also attended the 8th International Alzheimer Disease Conference which followed the IWG meeting in Stockholm. He appeared in the video *Culture and Emotion* and the film *Defining Race*.

Professor Ikels' Publication

In June Stanford University press accepted Charlotte Ikels' edited book, Filial Piety: Practice and Discourse in Contemporary East Asia. The book's chapters are based on fieldwork conducted by anthropologists working in China, Korea, and Japan as well as on a survey conducted by a sociologist comparing filial piety today in China and Taiwan.

Professors Jenkins and Csordas visit Brazil

Professor Jenkins and Csordas spent two months this summer as Visiting Professors in Brazil. Dr. Csordas had a position in the Anthropology Department at the National Museum of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro; Dr. Jenkins' position was in the Institute of Social Medicine of the State University of Rio de Janeiro. Almost immediately upon their arrival in Rio, they traveled to the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, where they were featured speakers at the annual meeting of the Association of Brazilian Anthropologists. From there they went to the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul in Porto Alegre, where they presented seminars in the Department of Anthropology. Following a week of lectures back in Rio by Dr. Csordas, they traveled with their children Graham and Vanessa to the Amazon region, where they engaged in ecological sightseeing and ethnographic reconnaissance. After another spell in Rio, they again traveled, this time to the northeastern state of Bahia, where in Salvador Dr. Csordas lectured to the Postgraduate Faculty in Social Sciences, and Dr. Jenkins lectured at the Institute of Collective Health, both units of the Federal University of Bahia. Back in Rio again Professor Jenkins delivered a series of lectures in Social Medicine, while Professor Csordas spoke to the Social Science Faculty at the State University of Rio de Janeiro. During the two month period (with occasional afternoons on Copacabana beach, where they were living), Drs. Csordas and Jenkins were able to strengthen a network of colleagues and contacts in cultural and medical anthropology initiated by Dr. Csordas on his previous visits to Brazil. In addition, Dr. Jenkins was active at the Psychiatric Institute in Rio, where she is developing research projects on psychopharmacology and culture in Brazilian psychiatry and on adolescent mental health. Dr. Csordas worked on developing the foundations for continuing visits by Brazilian graduate students and faculty to CWRU, initiated last year when Joao Tadeu Andrade of the Federal University of Bahia spent most of spring semester with us. These contacts can potentially serve as openings for our own graduate students to visit or to undertake ethnographic research in Brazil. Meanwhile, Professor Csordas' book of collected essays, Body/Meaning/Healing, was published during the summer by Palgrave as the first book in its series on Contemporary Anthropology of Religion, sponsored by the Society for the Anthropology of Religion.

faculty

Professor Korbin named Associate Dean

Jill Korbin was appointed associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in fall 2001. In addition to being a long-time faculty member in the Department of Anthropology, she is the director of Childhood Studies and co-director of the Schubert Center for Child Development. Dean Korbin recently participated as a member of a panel convened by the Institute of Medicine that produced a study on suicide: Reducing Suicide: A National Imperative. She is a member of the Health Disparities Working Group of the National Children's Study, a federal effort to mount a major study of children's well-being in the United States. Dean Korbin and Jim Spilisbury participated in a writers conference at Smith College where they presented their work on children and neighborhoods.

graduates

Sarah Adler received a two year fellowship from the National Institute of Mental Health and a grant from Phi Beta Kappa to support her dissertation work on Buddhism, suffering, and schizophrenia in Burma. Sarah spent five weeks in Burma this spring laying the groundwork for her dissertation field work, followed by a summer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying Burmese. She will return to Burma this fall to carry out the remainder of her dissertation.

Kate Masley, a third year student in the program, is our first anthropology student to receive an NSF Graduate Fellowship. This fellowship offers recognition and three years of support for advanced study and research. Kate will be pursuing her interest in Honduran women, the experience of pregnancy and childbirth, and the "Latina Paradox."

Carmit Kurn McMullen joined the Kaiser-Permanente Center for Health Research in Portland, Oregon as a Research Scientist/Ethnographer in March, 2002. She is working with Drs. Brian Hazelhurst and Paul Gorman at the Laboratory for Distributed Cognition. Their first project is a study of interactions in the cardiac intensive care units of two Portland area hospitals.

David Kaawa Mafigiri and Dr. Janet McGrath have received preliminary notification of funding for a new study: "HIV treatment for women in Uganda". David spent part of the summer in Uganda laying the groundwork for this project. The goal of the study is to identify barriers that HIV infected women in Kampala may encounter in accessing HIV care and to develop recommendations for how to ensure that care is accessible to HIV infected women.

Stephanie Rieder earned her Masters in May and is now teaching elementary students in Lynwood, California.

Marcela Smid and Ramya Gurumurthy have been admitted to the Integrated Graduate Studies Program through our department. Congratulations goes out to Marcela who received the James Dysart Magee Award for 2002-2003.

Jean Berggren has been appointed Adjunct Assistant Professor, Dept. of Bioethcis, CWRU.

Ph.D. awards

January 2002 - Christopher Dole, James Spilisbury; May 2002 - Jacklyn Chisholm, Margaret Cooney, Jessica Price, Christina Saunders Sturm.

alumni

Chris Dole accepted an NIMH post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, where he will participate in the department's continued research into the social and cultural influences that shape the experience and course of mental illness, and the organization of mental health services internationally, particularly for the poor and ethnic minorities.

alumni

Page Four

Kinuko Omori, RN, CNM, MSW, Ph.D., a 1994 graduate of our program in Medical Anthropology, died last December 4th from lung cancer. She is survived by her husband, Akinori Mutoh. After graduating from CWRU, Kinuko worked for several years on HIV/AIDS projects in Thailand, after which she accepted a position in the Department of Health Sciences, School of Medicine, Kanazawa University. While there, she conducted HIV/AIDS research in Myanmar; studied the community care system for providing support for the elderly in Japan; examined maternal and child health in slum communities in Dhaka, Bangladesh; and studied the health and nutrition of street children in Dhaka.

Jim Spilsbury accepted an NIH-funded fellowship in child behavioral health research at Case Western Reserve University. He will be working with Dr. Dennis Drotar and other faculty on campus that are conducting health research involving children.

new students

Malini Anand - Case Western Reserve University Antoinette Barnes - Case Western Reserve University Elizabeth Carpenter - Dartmouth College Aaron Denham - University of Idaho Ramya Gurumurthy - Case Western Reserve University Jewel Hagood - Cleveland State University Andrew Harter - Case Western Reserve University Peter Lawson - Western Michigan University Yi-tze Lee - National Dong-hwa University Taiwan Vincent Mars - Youngstown State University Elizabeth Olson - University of Utah Michelle Osborn - Vanderbilt University Sara Rocha - Westmont College Marcela Smid - Case Western Reserve University Colleen Walsh - Case Western Reserve University Maggie Zraly - Harvard School of Public Health

graduate discourse

Graduate Discourse, the Student Association of Graduate Anthropologists, is looking forward to the upcoming year. Last year saw a range of events from the AAA to potluck parties. Graduate Discourse continues to act as a forum for ideas, concerns, and discussion and a means to draw on and build upon needed resources. The Professional Development Committee is planning to continue their seminar series. Their first speaker will be Dr. Patricia Marshall. They are also coordinating student participation in the AAA meeting in New Orleans. The Advocacy Committee has once more put together a buddy system to welcome and support incoming students. The Social Committee is planning fun and exciting events. Please contact Allen Tran (alt8) or Marisa Abbe (mka8) for more information.

contacts

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