From the Chair

I am writing looking out upon brilliant leaves of red and orange as the fleeting autumn nears its close. I want to say, first, that it is an honor and privilege to become chair of such a vibrant department. Our department has thrived tremendously over the past eight years. Under Rick Parmentier’s energetic stewardship as department chair, our collegial and dynamic faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students, and research associates have created an extremely rewarding place to work, think and engage with the world.

The vibrancy and relevance of our subject—Anthropology—has continued this past year to keep our faculty vitally involved with a myriad of Brandeis’s interdisciplinary programs, such as Cultural Production, International and Global Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies, Latin American Studies, East Asian and South Asian Studies, Internet Studies, Linguistics, and Health: Science, Society and Policy. Mark Auslander helped to forge a university-wide Community Engaged Learning initiative, in which many of the department’s courses are participating this year. Faculty, graduate students, majors and research associates have engaged in fieldwork around the world—in China, Africa, India, Mexico, Guatemala, Cuba, Palau, the Czech Republic, England, the United States and cyberspace. We celebrated the official announcement of tenure and promotion for Elizabeth Ferry.

As a new chair, I welcome any suggestions, ideas and news from colleagues, students and alums. Best wishes for a terrific year!

Sarah Lamb

Highlights of 2007-2008 Events

This year the anthropology department faculty and students will be involved in several exciting events across campus. Students will offer an ongoing “field talks” series, presenting on fieldwork projects such as education in Palau, tourism in Cuba, Chinese American cultural heritage trips, Mayan ceramics, and gay activism in China.

Highlights from the year’s departmental colloquium series include Jok Madut Jok’s October 25th lecture entitled, “The Reproductive Health of Internally Displaced Women: South Sudan, Northern Uganda and the Politics of Insurgency and Counter-Insurgency,” and Bradd Shore’s Valentine’s Day lecture on love and ritual, “Just for Play: Unmasking a Midsummer Night’s Dream.” We were pleased to host distinguished forensic anthropologist William Haglund for a week of lectures and workshops. Additionally, the department co-sponsored a sociology colloquium with C.J. Pascoe, author of Dude, You’re a Fag, on November 15th.

Please see the anthropology web site at www.brandeis.edu/anthro for more information on all of these events.
Faculty Notes

Mark Auslander, Assistant Professor and Director of the interdisciplinary Master's program in Cultural Production

Over the past year Mark Auslander has continued to do field and archival research on memories of slavery and Jim Crow in the American South, especially in rural Georgia and Alabama. In May 2007, at a fascinating panel on the ritual dimensions of stones and gems organized by Elizabeth Ferry, Prof. Auslander presented some of this material, concentrating on the racially-charged symbolism of stone cemetery memorials in the American South. During this past summer, he undertook more fieldwork in this community, and continued to hear stories from white and African-American informants about a controversial 1860 statue of a young white woman. He writes, “I remain deeply intrigued by the multiple symbolic affordances opened up by such material forms, which are so deeply ‘good to think’ about enduring enigmas of slavery and liberation.” Prof. Auslander continues to engage his students in public anthropology, in which classes develop productive partnerships with community organizations, including African immigrant and African-American organizations. In fall 2006, students in the Museum and Public Memory course developed an exhibition of art by Southern Sudanese refugees in the Kakuma refugee camp. This project has led to the development of a center at Brandeis documenting southern Sudanese diasporic culture. Recently, Prof. Auslander helped establish the African American Historical Association of Newton County, Georgia, with which his students will be working during the coming year. As Brandeis' Academic Director of Community-Engaged Learning, he has coordinating multiple partnerships between classes and community organizations in the Waltham area. Last year the new interdisciplinary MA program in Cultural Production began, with Prof. Auslander as its director. The program spans the Brandeis campus, involving faculty in the humanities, social sciences and creative arts. Broadly speaking, the program integrates theoretical and practical approaches to community transformation, with a strong emphasis on arts and cultural form. Recent master’s student projects in the program have ranged from developing indigenous museum initiatives in the northern Philippines to exploring anti-militarist memorial rites for fallen Israeli soldiers.
Elizabeth Ferry, Associate Professor
Elizabeth Ferry was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the spring of 2007 (congratulations!), and she is busy working on three projects. Her book Not Ours Alone: Patrimony, Value and Collectivity in Contemporary Mexico is being translated into Spanish; it will be published in Mexico, as a joint publication with Colegio de Michoacán and CIESAS, in the spring of 2007. She is also finishing the manuscript of the edited volume Resources and Temporalities, with Mandana Limbert, which will be published by School of American Research in 2008. In the summer of 2007, Prof. Ferry went to Guanajuato and Mapimí, Mexico, to continue research for her book, Matters of Value: Minerals and the Making of U.S.-Mexico. There her sons learned a bit of Spanish – Isaiah’s favorite word is “vainilla,” and Sebastian’s favorite phrase is “Orden del Fenix.” In the spring of 2008, she has a fellowship at the Newhouse Center for the Humanities at Wellesley College.

Charles Golden, Assistant Professor
Charles Golden conducted a fifth field season of archaeological research in June in Guatemala along the Usumacinta River. Research focused on the ancient Maya settlements of El Kinel and Zancudero, where occupation spanned the period from about 500 BC to 900 AD. A Guatemalan and American research team (that included doctoral student Betsy Marzahn-Ramos) mapped, excavated, and explored the area around these sites yielding important new data on the growth and development of the kingdom of Yaxchilan, the capital of which is located nearby. This research was funded by awards from the Jane’s Grant for faculty from the Latin American and Latino Studies Program, from the Norman Fund at Brandeis, and a grant from the Foundation for the Advancement for Mesoamerican Studies, Inc. In addition to these awards, Prof. Golden received a Senior Archaeology award for two years of field and laboratory research from the National Science Foundation. Golden will be on leave this year with support from the Norman Fund and with a fellowship from the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library.

David Jacobson, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies
David Jacobson continues to research and write about computer-mediated communication, focusing on its significance for online and offline interaction. His paper, “Interpreting Instant Messaging: Context and Meaning in Computer-Mediated Communication,” will appear in the Fall issue of the Journal of Anthropological Research. He is planning a project to examine bloggers’ interpretations of the concepts ‘public,’ ‘private,’ and ‘personal’ and how their beliefs shape their blog posts. He is also examining social networking sites (Facebook, MySpace), focusing on the dynamics of network expansion and contraction and the meanings of friendship.

This year Professor Jacobson is teaching Social Relations in Cyberspace and Urban Anthropology in the fall semester and Families and Households and Representing Ethnographies in the spring term.

Sarah Lamb, Associate Professor and Chair
During the spring 2007 semester, Sarah Lamb was on sabbatical, supported by a Laurie Faculty Scholar Research Leave through the Women’s Studies Research Center, while she conducted fieldwork in Kolkata, India, and devoted time to writing. Her current project focuses on the ways middle-class Indian families are reconfiguring aging as they confront—at once embracing and challenging—processes they associate with “modern” and “global” living. She has published several articles on the project and has nearly completed a book, Aging across Worlds: Ambivalent Modernities in India and America. This year Prof. Lamb enjoyed presenting several conference papers and participating in an interdisciplinary symposium at Yale University in May, “Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Aging through Film and Stories from India and Japan.” At Brandeis, she established an interdisciplinary program in South Asia Studies (with Prof. Harleen Singh), and she continues to be actively involved in the Women’s and Gender Studies and Health: Science, Society and Policy programs. This fall, she assumed the role of department chair.
Sophia Malamud, Assistant Professor of Language and Linguistics

Sophia Malamud had a busy first year at Brandeis, teaching courses in the Language and Linguistics program, and advising two senior theses (one on sociolinguistics of age, and the other on formal semantics). She has also started a new Speaker Series in Language and Linguistics, inaugurated in the spring of 2007 with two distinguished speakers; the series will continue this fall. In addition, she has written and submitted an article, “Impersonal Indexicals: You and man, si,” to the Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics. Maribel Romero of the University of Pennsylvania presented Prof. Malamud’s paper “(Non)maximality and Distributivity: a Decision Theory Approach” at a Game and Decision Theory workshop during the annual summer institute of the Linguistics Society of America. Prof. Malamud spent her summer traveling in the Balkans and Eastern Europe, collecting preliminary data on the use of passives, impersonals, and existential constructions in Greek, Serbian, Romanian, Ukrainian, and Polish. During that trip, she became engaged to be married to Robert C. Gillham, a journalist.

Richard Parmentier, Professor and Chair of International and Global Studies

During the past year, Rick Parmentier published an article, “It’s About Time: On the Semiotics of Temporality,” in Language and Communication. He also gave an invited lecture, “Troubles with Trichotomies,” for the University of Michigan’s Semiotic Anthropology Working Group. In the fall of 2007, Rick took on the role of chair of Brandeis’s interdisciplinary International and Global Studies Program. He has also been elected to the Council of the Faculty Senate and has been appointed to the Global Affairs advisory committee. Rick is preparing for a sabbatical in the fall of 2008, during which he will devote time to several ongoing projects. He plans to expand for publication a paper originally given at the 2006 annual meeting of the Society for Ethnohistory, “The World Has Changed Forever: Methodological Reflections on the Experience of Sudden Change.” He will also further his current principal research project, a comparative study of the semiotics of images of divinity, drawing on materials from Oceania, ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia and Mesoamerica.

Ellen Schattschneider, Associate Professor

Ellen Schattschneider writes, “One of the great pleasures of teaching at Brandeis is the way in which hallway conversations with colleagues often stimulate one’s research and writing to proceed in productive new directions.” Last year, for instance, Elizabeth Ferry mentioned she was organizing a panel at the 2007 annual meeting of the American Ethnological Society in Toronto on the use of stones and gems in symbolic and material projects of social reproduction. Talking with Prof. Ferry,
it occurred to her that attention to the signifying capacities of stone could shed some interesting light on her continuing interest in how Japanese persons and communities negotiate relations between the living and the souls of those who died in World War II. Prof. Schattschneider thus wrote a paper for Prof. Ferry’s panel on the use of stones from overseas battlefields in Japanese ritual memorialization of the victims of war. This postwar practice is a transformation of much older ritual activities oriented towards "sainokawara," highly charged landscape sites in Japan that resemble, and embody, the banks of a stony underworld river where the souls of unsettled dead are thought to linger. In ordinary memorialization, the parents and other kin of deceased children help memorialize their lost ones by piling stones into small stupas that serve as iconic re-assemblages of lost genealogical continuity. Whereas the stone stupas erected for civilian dead at sainokawara seem to regenerate kinship by emphasizing lines of descent within the house, the stone assemblages produced for the military war dead locate within a national system of fictive kinship, centered on the Emperor and horizontal bonds among military comrades. Through the medium of stone, in effect, the wartime state sought to appropriate some of the magicality of human kinship.

**Javier Urcid, Associate Professor and Chair of Latin American and Latino Studies**

During the academic year 2006-2007, Javier Urcid submitted for publication several essays, including “Masked beings and symbolic postures: personhood and divinity in ancient Zapotec Oaxaca,” to appear in a three-volume set entitled *Beauty, Beauties* to be published by Editions-Babylone in Paris; “An Ancient Story of Creation from San Pedro Jaltepetongo, Oaxaca,” in the proceedings of the Colloquium entitled *Mixtec Writing: historical development and social context* that was held at the Research School for Asian, African, and Amerindian Studies at the University of Leiden, The Netherlands; “Oracles and Warfare: The role of pictorial narratives in the early development of Monte Alban (500 B.C.E. - 200 A.C.E.),” to appear in *RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics,* “A stela of unknown provenience inscribed in the Central Mexican Scribal tradition,” to appear in *Mexicon,* and “Una Mirada al lenguaje visual de los antiguos registros Genealógicos Zapotecas,” to appear in *Acervos-Boletín de los Archivos y Bibliotecas de Oaxaca.* He co-authored a paper with John Pohl, curator of the Art Museum at Princeton University, on a Zapotec Carved Bone in the collection of the University’s library. The paper was published in the *Princeton University Library Chronicle 67(2).* Prof. Urcid was invited to give a talk at the Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas in Mexico City on “Los lanzadardos decorados de Mesoamérica,” and to deliver a paper at the Middle American Research Institute of Tulane University on his research on the Nüiñe script from northeastern Oaxaca. During the summer of 2007, he conducted archival research at the Museo Nacional de Antropología in Mexico City and at the Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas, collecting data for and assembling a presentation entitled “House of Earth-House of Sky: the Murals from Building A at Cacaxtla,” to be delivered in the symposium “Storied Walls: Murals of the Americas,” an event that is part of Harvard’s Peabody Museum Weekend of the Americas in early October 2007.

**Visiting Research Scholars**

**Justeen Hyde**

Justeen Hyde is a cultural and medical anthropologist with a broad range of interests in research and evaluation topics and methodologies. Most of her anthropological work has focused on youth populations in the United States and the cultural politics of risk that shape their pathways into and out of social institutions; including research with homeless young people in Los Angeles, work in substance use and abuse, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and the legal and social service...
This fall is my fifth year in the Anthropology Department, and this summer marked the graduation of the fifth doctoral student since my arrival. I’m intrigued by the process in which students find their way to Brandeis, wend their way through coursework, develop a specialization and carry out dissertation research. It’s a long journey, and I enjoy working with students from their initial stages of getting settled at Brandeis, through the celebratory moments at the conclusion of their work here. In my role as administrator, I hope to contribute to a positive experience at Brandeis for students and faculty.

2007 has been a busy year for me on the racing circuit— I competed in eight road and trail races, three short-distance triathlons, and in the 19-mile Charles River Canoe and Kayak Race for the third time. I’m thrilled to live in a beautiful part of the country with varied natural resources, and am happy to share information about local outings with interested individuals.

Laurel Carpenter
Graduate Student News

Papers and Posters Presented

Rachana Agarwal
“Learning Identity: Education, Youth Culture, and Nationalism in Contemporary Palau” (poster) at the Spencer Annual Conference 'Education and the Pursuit of Social Justice,' 2007

“Symbolic ‘Capitol’: a Postcolonial Interpretation of the New Olbiil Era Kelulau Complex in the Republic of Palau” poster presented at the Fourth Annual Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium Student Conference, and at the Asian/Pacific/American Research Cluster (APARC) at the University of California, Santa Cruz, 2007

Shukti Chaudhuri-Brill
Presented a paper for a panel on “Language and Racialization” at the International Pragmatics Association conference in Göteborg, Sweden, 2007

Casey Golomski

Ieva Jusionyte

“‘Lost,’ According to J. L. Borges: Ethnographic Labyrinths of Time” at the Annual Seminar of Social Sciences and Humanities, Juodkrante, Lithuania, 2007

“A Gardener with a Camera: Local Knowledge in a Global Context” at the 7th International Congress for Philosophy: Science, Technology, and Globalization in Guatemala City, 2007

Anna Jaysane-Darr
“Leave the Bones and Catch the Land: Development and Implications of Interactive Ethnography” (with Rose Beatriz Stimson) at the 106th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropology Association in November and at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Anthropological Association, 2007, where it was awarded the Estellie Smith Graduate Prize

Eric Michael Kelley

Melanie Kingsley

“El Proyecto Costa Caribe: Resultados Preliminares de la Primera Temporada” at the Symposium of Archaeological Investigation in Guatemala, 2007

Betsy Marzahn-Ramos
“Rutas de Transporte, Relaciones Políticas, y El Intercambio Económico entre Piedras Negras y Yaxchilan Durante el Periodo Clásico” at the Symposium of Archaeological Investigation in Guatemala, 2007

Elisabeth Moolenaar

Casey Miller
Graduate Student News (cont.)

Discussant for “AIDS in China: Current Status, Recent Progress, and Challenges for the Next Phase,” at the AIDS in Asia Symposium, Brandeis University, 2006

Olajide Olagunju
“The Mellon-MIT Inter-University Program on NGOs and Forced Migration,” at the Conflict Studies Conference, Boston, 2006

“Global Peace through Local Capacity,” at the Peace and Justice Association Conference, New York, 2006 and at the New Directions for Peace in the Middle East and Around the World Conference, Wisconsin, 2006

Stephanie A. Papadakis
“The Reproduction of Black Masculinity in Sex and the City” at the Graduate Consortium of Women's Studies, 2007

Rose Beatriz Stimson
“Leave the Bones and Catch the Land: Development and Implications of Interactive Ethnography” (with Anna Jaysane-Darr) at the American Anthropology Association Meeting in November and at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Anthropological Association, 2007, where it garnered the Estellie Smith Graduate Prize

Mrinalini Tanka

Allison B. Taylor


Sara Withers
“Queens, Goddesses, and Working Women: Mother's Day Experiences in Oaxaca, Mexico” presented at the Fourth Annual Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium, 2007

Grants and Fellowships

Rachana Agarwal
Spencer Foundation Graduate Research Grant in Education, 2007-2008

Sachar Grant for project on “Learning Identity: Education, Youth Culture, and Nationalism in Contemporary Palau,” 2007

Melanie Kingsley
Jane's Travel Grant for “In Search of Nito: Preliminary Survey of Southeastern Guatemala,” 2007

Júlia Kirst
Spencer Foundation Graduate Fellowship in Education, 2007-2008

Betsy Marzahn-Ramos
Jane's Travel Grant for project on “Style, Affiliation, and Regional Political Dynamics: Small Classic Maya Sites in the Usumacinta River Region,” 2007

Mrinalini Tanka
Sachar Grant and Jane's Travel Grant for project on “Touring Money: Uses and Meanings of Currencies in 21st Century Cuba,” 2007
Betsy Marzahn-Ramos

Fieldwork/Other News

Rachana Agarwal
This summer Rachana made her second field trip to Palau, a young island-nation in the Pacific, where she spent a little over two months networking with educators to formulate a tentative research plan for extended fieldwork next year. Her research focuses on education, youth culture, and nationalism in contemporary Palau. Along with daily lessons in Palauan, she attended a community organized summer camp, taught English nursery rhymes to elementary school teachers, and was invited as a guest speaker at a student orientation. However, her real initiation into student life in Palau took place when a bunch of college students made it their mission to teach her some Palauan slang and perform the sacrosanct rituals of chewing betel nut and savoring the guavas plucked from the trees in the college gardens and dipped in Kool-Ade.

Shukti Chaudhuri-Brill
Shukti has started work on her dissertation, having completed fieldwork, after spending five months in the Czech Republic last fall. She writes, “We are still living as expats in France, now in our fifth year, which means I have lots of ‘secondary’ fieldwork data on French language socialization and literacy practices based on my daughter Sophie's school experiences. Being an expat wife means I’m also doing ‘tertiary’ fieldwork on multinational corporate culture and the effects of multinationalism on spouses and families. I feel as if I’m constantly in ‘fieldwork’ mode, but it’s impossible to turn it off! Our family has grown to include one large black labrador, one cat and most recently an abandoned kitten, who is now recovering nicely.” Shukti and her family hope to return to the U.S. soon.

Casey Golomski
The summer was a fairly leisurely one for Casey, having traveled to Los Angeles, NYC, and Wisconsin. He worked part-time in the department, familiarizing himself with the book collections of Dr. Parmentier
Graduate Student News (cont.)

and the emeriti professors (by helping them move offices!). While continuing his work in the PhD program, Casey will begin the concurrent joint MA program in Anthropology and Women's and Gender Studies in the fall. In August he received approval to begin research amongst female restorative artists in Boston area funeral homes and mortuary schools. In September, he began Zulu language studies at Boston University and serves as teaching assistant for Culture and Power in Africa.

Anna Jaysane-Darr
In the spring, Anna presented a poster with Rose Stimson, Olajide Olagunju, and Ieva Jusionyte entitled “Leave the Bones and Catch the Land: Development and Implications of Interactive Ethnography” at the Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium student conference and a paper of the same title with Rose Stimson at the Northeastern Anthropological Association annual meetings. Anna spent the summer reading, freelance editing, and frequenting the local museums, parks, and playgrounds with her two-year-old daughter Leila.

Julia Kirst
For Julia, the last academic year was a time to tie loose ends, with the completion of comprehensive exams, language exam, and TA requirements. At the same time, she worked for several months in a social policy job, which helped renew her enthusiasm for teaching and mentoring students. With the summer, new doors opened, one of them particularly pleasant and unexpected: she received full support for her research from the Assistant Chief Probation Officer of the Juvenile Court in Lawrence, MA. At press, she was waiting for final IRB approval on her project, which focuses on the dynamics of power in the relationship between youth at risk and their service providers. Finally, last June Julia started a monthly study group with a few other doctoral students to discuss issues related to doing fieldwork “at home.” She writes, “Though we are all in different stages of our work, there is plenty in common to help and inspire one another. If there are any ‘local fieldworkers’ out there who haven’t joined us yet, please get in touch!”

Arnaud F. Lambert
Having successfully defended his dissertation proposal in the spring, Arnaud is continuing his research into Olmec-style rock art, with trips planned to Mexico in January and El Salvador in May. In the next two to three years, he will make trips to the Gulf Coast (Veracruz and Tabasco), Chiapas, and Guatemala. Meanwhile, Arnaud is currently Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Onondaga Community College (now associated with the SUNY system). His position is the first tenure-track line in anthropology the college has had in twenty years, and as their anthropology curriculum coordinator, he is charged with revamping the anthropology curriculum at the college. Starting this spring, Arnaud plans to develop introductory courses in the four subfields, followed by more specialized courses that will appeal to students in other disciplines. As the number of anthropology course offerings increases, he will also coordinate the development of an adjunct faculty pool and an adjunct faculty handbook. Arnaud’s family also reached a milestone; his son recently celebrated his third birthday.

Betsy Marzahn-Ramos
Through funding from the Jane’s Travel Grant and the Anthropology Department, Betsy conducted a second season of archaeological fieldwork in the Peten, Guatemala this summer. June’s activities included mapping and horizontal excavation at the ancient Maya sites of El Kinel and El Zancudero. In July, she conducted material analysis on ceramics excavated at El Kinel. This fall, Betsy is Adjunct Faculty in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Wagner College, Staten Island, NY. She is teaching a new course she designed, entitled “The Ancient and Modern Maya.”

William McDonald
Will spent the months of June and July doing field research in South Africa. He had the opportunity to live in the Township of Zwelethemba, about an hour northeast of Cape Town, working in several clinics, orphanages, and HIV/AIDS support groups. He was investigating ways in which members of the Xhosa
community negotiate their understandings and perceptions of HIV/AIDS. Will writes, “It was a great experience, and I deeply miss the family I lived with and the friends I made.” Upon returning to the States, he spent the remainder of the summer at his family’s guest ranch in Montana “putting shame to the art of fly fishing.”

**Casey Miller**
Casey spent 45 days this summer in the field in Xi’an, a city in central-western China, engaging in preliminary dissertation research by working among a small grassroots gay men’s health and community support group. In Xi’an, Casey became immersed in the daily life and activities of the group and its members, making personal connections, laying a foundation for future fieldwork, and collecting data pertaining to issues of community building, identity formation, social movements and interventions, gender, and sexuality. Fieldwork sites were varied and interesting, ranging from drag performances with Chinese characteristics in local gay bars to a Buddhist snake-releasing ceremony that took place on a steamy mountain top.

**Elisabeth Moolenaar**
This summer Bea went back to the San Francisco Bay area to continue her project on Chinese Americans and cultural heritage tourism. She interviewed organizers of the cultural heritage travel program, *In Search of Roots*, which is now in its sixteenth year, and people who have traveled back to China in those years. Bea writes, “The highlight of my fieldwork was getting to know the twelve people who went to China this summer. I met with them before they traveled ‘back home,’ and after they returned.” Unfortunately, she could not travel to China with them, and so she spent her time climbing Half Dome in Yosemite National Park and reading for her comprehensive exams.

**Olajide Olagunju**
Olajide spent the summer in his home country of Nigeria, mostly helping develop local capacity for conflict resolution. The World Bank, in collaboration with government under the Lagos Metropolitan Development and Governance Project (LMDGP), is involved in modernizing the Lagos metropolis through transforming slums. Olajide was engaged this summer in training mediators to manage potential conflicts that may emerge. He also conducted a refresher course for mediators at the Rivers State Ministry of Justice in Port-Harcourt, which is where his children (Aderonke, Bolarinwa and Ife) live with their mother, Busola. Finally, Olajide is involved in an initiative to bring businesspeople to Cambridge this fall to learn skills to manage during the great changes Nigeria is currently undergoing.

**Ellen Rovner**
Ellen continues to be busy with fieldwork, interviewing women and immersed in reviving community at a synagogue in Chelsea. Her activities include: organizing a Kitchen Mitzvah Crew; speaking with Temple Sisterhood groups to delve into their food memories; leading a search to hire a new Spiritual Leader, whom she is assisting with her congregational sermons; organizing a multi-cultural, community-wide flea market; chairing the membership and fundraising committee; and serving on the building and ritual committees. In addition, Ellen has run cooking classes, organized breakfasts, dinners, ritual feasts, and has cooked for dozens of hungry congregants. In the process, she has reached out to local politicians, an historical commission, and businesses. She writes, “Although my interests still focus primarily on the multiple ways food is a vehicle for individual and collective Jewish women’s identities, closely related to food, I am increasingly drawn to how the senses play with memory and identity. Chelsea, so diverse and so vibrant, is an infinite, unbounded cultural field within which to explore these issues. I’m having a fabulous time!”

**Naomi Schiesel**
Naomi spent six weeks in Oakland, CA during the summer conducting continuing preliminary dissertation fieldwork, investigating the various ways that young women living in this urban environment respond to structures of economic and social exclusion as well as...
New Anthropology Graduate Students

Emily Canning
Emily is a new PhD student with interests in linguistic anthropology, writing systems, religions, transnational identities, and East Asia (China). She received her BA from the University of California, Berkeley in Spanish and Interdisciplinary Studies, designing a concentration entitled “Language, Literacy, and Culture,” and she spent a year abroad studying at the University of Granada in Spain.

Lauren Forcucci
Lauren started as a master’s student in the fall and is interested in studying HIV/AIDS, human rights, demography, natalism, ethnicity, immigration, armed conflict, genocide, poverty, globalization, family development, gender, and Africa and Italy. She received her MA in comparative history at Brandeis and a BA in history from Regis College. She has also worked at the Golden Ball Tavern Museum in Weston, MA, for several years, most recently as Assistant Director.

Jessica Hardin
Jessica is a new student in the joint master’s program in Anthropology and Women’s and Gender Studies. Her interests include gendered roles in food culture, post-colonial and neo-colonial identities, South America, and Polynesia. She received a BA from Fordham University in history, with a semester at sea in the South Pacific. She is also a certified sommelier and has worked at vineyards and with wine merchants in New Zealand and Colorado.

Ieva Jusionyte
Ieva began the PhD program this fall, after earning her MA degree in anthropology at Brandeis last May. Her master’s research was on the Turkish-Armenian dialogue in Boston. She had received a BA in political science from Vilnius University in Lithuania, her home country. Ieva’s research interests are in political-economic anthropology with a focus on the perceptions of border violence in Argentina. She is also a part-time journalist for Lithuanian national radio.

Laura Ligouri
Laura began the joint master’s program in Anthropology and Women’s and Gender Studies this fall, with an interest in the religious dynamics of women’s lives as seen through the lens of dance within

Allison Taylor
Allison spent two months this summer in coastal Kenya, conducting preliminary fieldwork for her dissertation project, which focuses on ways in which Somali refugees conceive of and cope with trauma. She also began independent language study of both Somali and Kiswahili, with the help of the many friends she met in Mombasa. Shortly after returning to the States, she attended the triennial Somali Studies Conference in Columbus, Ohio, where she was fortunate to meet poets, scholars, educators, counselors, and community leaders from the global Somali Diaspora. She hopes to further engage with the Somali community of the greater Boston area this coming year.

Sara Withers
Sara has spent the past year working on writing her dissertation, as quickly as other life responsibilities and commitments have allowed. She hopes to have her writing completed within the next year. This summer she enjoyed teaching Anthropology 1a, Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies—fitting a semester’s worth of anthropological knowledge into five short weeks. In the spring, she will teach another course at Brandeis, a university writing seminar entitled Gender, Globalization, and the Family.
received a BA in anthropology, with a focus in archaeology, from the University of New Hampshire. He works as an educator and assistant collections manager for the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology at Philips Academy in Andover, MA.

**Angela Stroupe**
Angela began the MA program this fall, with interests in globalization, gender, religion, East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Asian experiences in the American South. She received a BS from Middle Tennessee State University in anthropology. She volunteered at the Lao Wat Buddrahm in Murfreesboro, teaching life English to the Buddhist Monks there. She also conducted research on Japanese expatriate wives living in Middle Tennessee and was research assistant to a professor who worked with the Lao immigrants living in the area.

**James Wood**
James entered the MA program this fall, having received a BA in anthropology and film studies from Rhode Island College, where he worked on projects with graffiti and hip-hop culture. He wishes to focus on visual anthropology and African-American culture.

**New PhDs Awarded**


*Congratulations, Dr. Allegretto and Dr. Seifert!*

---

the Middle East and North African regions. She received her BA from the City University of New York in Dance Ethnology and Middle Eastern Studies, with a minor in Arabic. Her senior thesis was titled, “An Hour for the Heart and an Hour for God—An Exploration of the Relationship between Dance and Islam within Middle Eastern Culture.”

**Nurjan Mamajunusova**
Nurjan is a new student in the joint master's program in Anthropology and Women’s and Gender Studies, with interests in International development issues, women's health and human rights, and her home country of Kyrgyzstan. She has undergraduate degrees from universities in Greece and Kyrgyzstan and has experience working with various development projects.

**Brianna Mills**
Brianna began the MA program this fall, with interests in medical anthropology, HIV/AIDS, public health consumerism, risk management, applied anthropology, linguistic perception and cognition, and the integration of non-biomedical models into the medical system. She received a BA in theatre and anthropology from the University of British Columbia and has worked at its Museum of Anthropology as a museum assistant.

**Donald Slater**
Donald is a new PhD student in archaeology, with interests in inter- and cross-cultural relationships among the Maya and other Mesoamerican civilizations, iconography, cosmology, and ancient technology. He
Community Engaged Learning and Anthropology
by Mark Auslander, Assistant Professor of Anthropology & Academic Director of Community Engaged Learning

This has been an exciting semester as a number of our Anthropology and Cultural Production courses have been pursuing “community-engaged learning” initiatives. Our new Community-Engaged Learning (CEL) program at Brandeis brings together undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and staff working closely with partners in local community organizations. During 2007-08, we are concentrating on developing productive partnerships with low-income and new immigrant groups in Waltham.

Ellen Schattschneider’s Anthropology of Gender (Anth 144a) class has in many respects taken the lead in the department on the CEL front. The students began the semester with a commitment to develop a digital ethnographic film on women housing activists in Waltham, in close partnership with the Waltham Alliance to Create Housing (WATCH), a vibrant local community development corporation. The class has held a series of community work days based at Prospect Hill Terrace, Waltham’s largest public housing development. Working with tenants, students and faculty have helped to plant a beautiful flower garden, worked with children to create a gorgeous mural celebrating community diversity and unity, and cleared weed-grown areas. Students from a number of other classes, including my Cultural Production (CP 201) and Elizabeth Ferry’s Anthropological Inquiry (Anth 83a) courses, have also been active in the workdays.

The workdays have led in some interesting, unanticipated directions. Tenants have mobilized around a campaign for a community center on the property; forty-seven tenants signed and submitted a petition requesting a center and many of them attended, with members of the Anthropology Department, a meeting on this request with the Housing Authority. I’m delighted to report that the Housing Authority has now acceded to the tenants’ request, and that a Prospect Hill community learning center will open in January 2008. We anticipate that several Anthropology and Cultural Production courses will be actively involved in the community center, helping develop afterschool programs and undertaking community-oriented research during the semesters to come. Our students have written many fascinating reflective pieces on these experiences of action-oriented ethnographic work.

Meanwhile, students in Janet McIntosh’s Language in American Life (Anth 61b) class studied conceptions and practices of slang among adolescent youth attending the Waltham Boys and Girls Club. Students in my Making Culture (CP 201) graduate seminar also partnered with the Boys and Girls Club to put on a cultural enrichment after-school program for eight Waltham teenagers; we’ve helped them develop ‘zines, reflect on issues of cultural representation and been in conversation with them about the empowerment of low income youth. Working closely with Anthropology and Studio Art major Hannah Chalew ’09 and a number of graduate students, this group recently completed a beautiful mural called ”The Waltham Kids Declaration of Independence,” in Thompson Park. In turn, Elizabeth Ferry’s students in Anthropological Inquiry have been involved in a range of community-engaged undertakings, including participating in a weekly language exchange walk held on the university’s track, in which students and our Central American neighbors exercise together and speak in Spanish.

Many of these projects are linked to the “Waltham Community Archives” project, a dynamic wikispace in which faculty and students in Anthropology and other disciplines, as well as community members, share observations and narratives about the city’s cultural diversity. We invite everyone in the broader Brandeis Anthropology community to check out the wiki, at http://walthamarchives.wikispaces.com/.
Departmental Events 2007-2008

Colloquium Series

Ajantha Subramanian
Harvard University
“Spaces of Maneuver: Patronage and Rights on India’s Southern Coast”
Co-sponsored by the South Asia Studies Program
September 26th 3:30 pm, Lown 2

Jok Madut Jok
Loyola Marymount University
“The Reproductive Health of Internally Displaced Women: South Sudan, Northern Uganda and the Politics of Insurgency and Counter-Insurgency”
Co-sponsored by African and African American Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies, the Dean of Arts and Sciences and the Martin Weiner Distinguished Lecturers Fund
October 25th 4:00 pm, Lown 2

William Haglund
Forensic Anthropologist at the United Nations and Physicians for Human Rights
“Forensic Anthropology, International Justice, and the Quest to End Crimes Against Humanity: The Promise of Nuremburg”
Hosted by the International Center for Ethics, Justice and Public Life
November 1st 3:30 pm, Usdan International Lounge

C.J. Pascoe
University of California at Berkeley
“Guys are Just Homophobic: Heterosexuality and Homophobia in High School”
A Sociology Department event co-sponsored by Anthropology, Women’s and Gender Studies, Cultural Production, Education, the Ethics Center, and the Dean of Arts and Sciences
November 15th 3:30 pm, Pearlman Lounge

Bradd Shore
Emory University
“Just for Play: Unmasking a Midsummer Night’s Dream”—Annual Saler Lecture in Religious Studies
Respondent: Stephen Greenblatt (Harvard U.)
Co-sponsored by the Program in Religious Studies and the Martin Weiner Fund
February 14th 3:30 pm, Usdan International Lounge

Julie Chu
Wellesley College
“Card Me When I’m Dead: Identification Papers and the Pursuit of the Good Afterlife in Fuzhou, China”
March 13th 3:30 pm

Jonathan Anjaria
University of California at Santa Cruz & Brandeis University
“Guardians of the Bourgeois City: Middle-Class Activism and the Politics of Urban Space in Mumbai”
March 27th 3:30 pm

Robert Hunt
Brandeis University
“The Hohokam Economy: Intensive Agriculture without Complexity”
April 3rd 3:30 pm

Anne Allison
Duke University
Author of Nightwork: Sexuality, Pleasure, and Corporate Masculinity in a Tokyo Hostess Club
A Japan Studies Colloquium Series event, co-sponsored by the Anthropology Department
April 17th

Conferences

GBAC (Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium) Student Conference
February 29th, Rapaport Treasure Hall, Goldfarb Library

Metamorphoses: An Interdisciplinary Investigation of Processes of Social Change and Transformation
Keynote: Hugh Gusterson, George Mason University
April 5th
The Anthropology Department at Brandeis University offers a wide range of courses covering the discipline's four major subfields: sociocultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, physical anthropology, and archaeology. The department is a member of the Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium (GBAC), which consists of the anthropologists on the faculties of Brandeis University, Tufts University, Clark University, Olin College, and Wellesley College. In addition to the undergraduate major or minor, the department offers the M.A. and the Ph.D. degrees in anthropology, and a joint Anthropology and Women's & Gender Studies M.A. degree. The department also participates in the interdisciplinary Master's Program in Cultural Production. For more information, please visit us on the web at www.brandeis.edu/anthro.

Mark your calendars for…

The Fifth Annual Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium (GBAC) Student Conference

Friday, February 29th, 2008
Rapaporte Treasure Hall, Goldfarb Library
Brandeis University

A collaborative event co-sponsored by the Anthropology programs of Brandeis University, Clark University, Olin College, Tufts University, Wellesley College, and Wheaton College.

About the Department of Anthropology…

The Anthropology Department at Brandeis University offers a wide range of courses covering the discipline's four major subfields: sociocultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, physical anthropology, and archaeology. The department is a member of the Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium (GBAC), which consists of the anthropologists on the faculties of Brandeis University, Tufts University, Clark University, Olin College, and Wellesley College. In addition to the undergraduate major or minor, the department offers the M.A. and the Ph.D. degrees in anthropology, and a joint Anthropology and Women's & Gender Studies M.A. degree. The department also participates in the interdisciplinary Master's Program in Cultural Production. For more information, please visit us on the web at www.brandeis.edu/anthro.