

Anthropology Newsletter Brandeis University

August 1999

Waltham, Massachusetts

In honor of Brandeis University celebrating its 50th anniversary, the Anthropology department put together a symposium entitled, "Personal Identity and Disciplinary History: Fieldwork Close to Home" on Friday, November 13. We were fortunate to welcome two distinguished speakers, who each addressed some "hot" topics currently debated in the broader field. **Dr. Alex Weingrod**, Professor of Anthropology at Ben-Gurion University, gave a paper entitled "*Working at Home: Some Reflections on Reflexivity*," and **Dr. Sherry Ortner**, Professor of Anthropology at Columbia University, gave a paper entitled "*How Different is 'Close' Fieldwork, or, What is Your 'Own' Culture Anyway?*" A buffet reception followed the symposium, where the presenters and audience had the chance to mingle casually.

The following are excerpts from the welcoming address, given by **Richard Parmentier**, Chair of the department:

"Over the past several decades a major stream of anthropological wisdom has been caught up in what I call "effortless reflexivity," epitomized for the generations of students before my time by Kluckhohn's *Mirror for Man* and for students in my time by Bowen's engaging novel *Return to Laughter*. The idea here is not just that knowledge of the Other produces self-understanding but that merely encountering the Other illuminates one's own culture, without the fieldworker having to expend any comparable research effort at home. A more fruitful reflexivity, it seems to me, would take to heart a point stressed by Bakhtin, that self-knowledge cannot be passive: 'A meaning only reveals its depths once it has encountered and come into contact with another, foreign meaning.... We seek answers to our own questions in it; and the foreign culture responds to us by revealing to us its new aspects and semantic depths. Without one's own questions one cannot creatively understand anything other or foreign' (p.7).

"Contemporary anthropology has addressed this fundamental problem in at least three general ways: (1) the elevation of indigenous 'voices', either by non-western 'native' ethnographers studying their own societies or by the artificially constructed generosity of 'dialogical' ethnographic writing; (2)

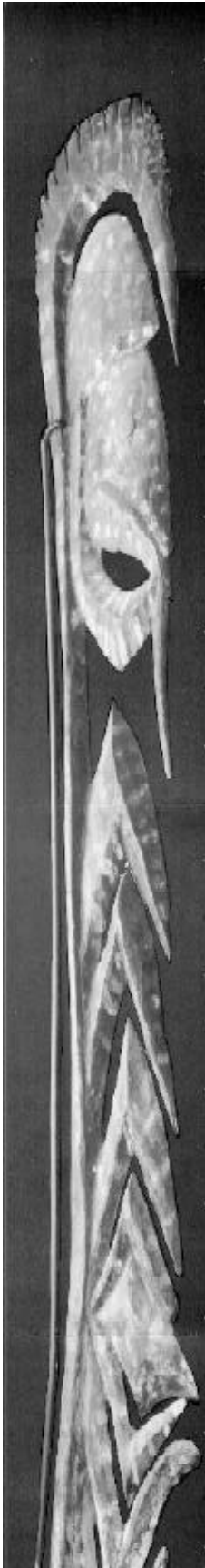
relativist and multicultural motives; and (3), with an 'anthropological lens' (Peacock) ground to a sharp methodological focus by previous fieldwork in foreign lands, by turning serious ethnographic attention to the ethnographer's own society.

".... [I]t is time to begin the process of careful reflection on the values and dangers of 'fieldwork at home'. We should note immediately that this is not an entirely new phenomenon: Milton Singer, following the path of Lloyd Warner, traveled from India to his summer place in Newburyport, Barbara Myerhoff journeyed from the Huichol to a California community center, Michael Moffat from South India to Rutgers University, Catherine Lutz from Ifaluk to the pages of the National Geographic, Stanley Tambiah from Thailand to the ethnic violence in his native Sri Lanka, Marilyn Strathern from Mount Hagen to England, and Pierre Bourdieu from Kabylia to the distinctions of Paris. So what are the 'privileges' of fieldwork at home? It would be helpful to know, for example, if there is any logic, other than happenstance or convenience, for the selection of research topics at home; or if the absence of 'culture shock' hides other forms of psychological dislocation; or if the coordination of bias between researcher and informant empowers or subordinates the latter; or if there is any influence of cultural categories discovered in previous foreign research on domestic projects; or, finally, if the research results from fieldwork at home enter easily or with difficulty into comparative, cross-cultural models...."

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the self-critique of the ethnographic project itself, either by examining our written products in terms of their rhetorical tropes, or by revealing the latent hegemony of



Exclusive Interview

This year our "exclusive" interview focuses on the newest addition to the department's faculty, Dr. Javier Urcid. The following are excerpts from the conversation he and Jessica Basile had over the Internet, prior to his move to the Boston area from Washington, D.C.

Jessica Basile: What is the most interesting archaeological work you have done?

Javier Urcid: My fascination with archaeology makes it difficult to select a single experience as the most interesting. I have done archaeological work in Mexico, South America, Belize, and Syria, and each case has been unique, intense and thrilling. Whether surveying in tropical lowlands or excavating a Tell in the desert, I have learned not only about past human experiences, but also about contemporary peoples. There is an indescribable feeling to the process of discovery, and an intellectual challenge to elucidate what archaeological findings mean. For me it is as enriching to conduct interpretations of aerial photographs to assess the presence of human-made features in the landscape, as it is to excavate an ancient household, analyze faunal remains, or do the paleography of an old document. Perhaps one particularly awesome experience was climbing the hill upon which the ancient city of Monte Alban was built at night in order to document hieroglyphic inscriptions by means of artificial light. There was a profound silence amidst the ruins of monumental buildings, and I had never seen so many stars in my life.

JB: Have you had any particularly funny archaeological experiences, and if so, what was the funniest?

JU: Interacting with the crew in Syria was a lot of fun. Since I do not speak Arabic, communication had to be done by means of body language, drawings, and imitation. One day they insisted on teaching me to dance in their traditional way. I was the center of much laughter from the assembled audience. Being the "Other," I had nothing to lose.

JB: How did you become interested in archaeology and in scribal traditions?

JU: Perhaps a sense of mystery, adventure, puzzle solving, enjoying the outdoors, and being fascinated with history, all played a part in shaping my interest in archaeology. I became interested in scribal traditions when doing a study of Zapotec mortuary practices spanning from 200 BC to AD 900. Like many peoples in Mesoamerica, the Zapotecs of those times buried their dead under their houses. High status individuals within households were accorded burial in masonry tombs, while lesser ranking members (both adults and children) were buried in simple graves. While the family tombs were placed most often underneath the room of the house oriented towards the East, the graves were dug under the

courtyard or under other rooms of the houses. Those individuals buried in the tombs, adults of both sexes, were interred with rich offerings. The tombs of high-ranking lineages were very sumptuous and decorated with carved or painted narrative imagery and hieroglyphic texts. After conducting an analysis of the human remains, of the accompanying offerings, and of the architectural and spatial context of a dozen tombs, it became obvious that to better understand the social and sacred milieu of such practices, it was necessary to figure out what the inscriptions say. Although there are still critical passages in the inscriptions that have not been deciphered, it appears that many of the visual programs in these mortuary contexts are genealogical statements linking the living with their deceased ancestors. Such a link not only legitimized descent, but also entitled individuals' access to resources, property, and wealth.

JB: What kind of research are you currently working on?

JU: I am currently involved in two projects in Mexico, one in Oaxaca and the other in Veracruz. The project in Oaxaca entails the compilation, analysis, and interpretation of inscriptions pertaining to three scribal traditions known as Zapotec (500 BA to AD 900), N̄uiñe (AD 200 to AD 900), and Mixtec (AD 1200 to AD 1600). The goal is to better understand the origins, genesis, relations, nature and social functions of the scripts.

The project in Veracruz is being conducted with Thomas Killion, a colleague of mine at the Smithsonian Institution, and is aimed at studying processes of political integration through time in a region east of the Tuxtla mountains. To do so, we are focusing on the political economy of the area through a span of some 3000 years (from approximately 1200 BC to the 16th century) by analyzing the production and distribution of classes of material culture that endure in the archaeological record, like ceramic assemblages (mostly utilitarian), stone technology (obsidian, basalt, axes made out of metamorphic rocks), spindle whorls (an indirect indicator of cotton production), macro-botanical remains and fitholites (potential indicators of cultigens and environmental regimes), and settlement patterns. The area of study encompasses some 600 square kilometers of which approximately a third was surveyed last year using GPS technology to record archaeological features in the landscape. So far we have mapped across the surveyed portions some 1200 mounds that represent dispersed ancient occupations, mostly houses, and some 23 nucleated sites with monumental architecture that might represent seats of political power, perhaps small aristocratic estates. We still need to develop a better

chronology to analyze the distribution of settlements, and we do not know yet if, at a given time, the nucleated sites were politically autonomous or were hierarchically linked to a wider network controlled by a larger primary urban center.

JB: Is there anything else you would like to share about yourself for the newsletter?

JU: I am looking forward to teaching at Brandeis. I am sure that the synergy with colleagues and students alike will provide further enrichment to my intellectual development. I also hope to convey my fascination for anthropological archaeology to others, and to stress the relevance that archaeology has in the context of contemporary issues. The dictum that the past is prologue for the future becomes more meaningful when one realizes how archaeology itself is used all over the world to assert social identities, and how the practice of archaeology entails ethical issues that cannot be ignored.

SABBATICAL NEWS

otherwise known as: "What I Did While On Leave"

The following are brief synopses of what our three faculty members, **Sarah Lamb**, **Benson Saler**, and **Robert Zeitlin** accomplished during their time away from the department.

Sarah Lamb says....:

(among other things, like finishing my first book, going to conferences, taking care of my kids, etc.),... I have been doing research on immigrants from India in the San Francisco and Boston areas. I have been particularly interested in the ways immigrants from India create modes of aging (and family, tradition, "India," "America") out of the transnational flows of people, goods and cultural forces between India and the United States....

One thing that has struck me, in reading the (now quite trendy and popular) contemporary literature on transnationalism and globalization, is how detached most of this work has been from ethnography and from a close attention to particular people's lives. There has been much recent talk *that* we live in an increasingly borderless, transnational world; *that* cultures are no longer (if they ever were) neatly localized and bounded. But to date there has been little close, ethnographic research on *how* such transnational cultural worlds are constructed and experienced by actual people.

What I aim to illuminate in my research and writing (what I have certainly realized in coming to know South Asian Americans here) is how people engage in processes of transnational cultural production in, inevitably, local, lived, intimate ways. No matter how macro a focus we wish to take, with studies of contemporary forms of transnationalism and globalization, we must realize that even the most large-scale forces take place locally, in particular people's everyday lives.

I have written two articles and given several papers on these topics, and am currently working on a new book, while still hanging out with (and witnessing the intimacy of the transnational lives of) senior Indian

immigrants and their families. These months of leave have been a luxurious treat for me, allowing me to delve undistracted into research and writing. I am actually looking forward to resuming teaching in the fall, however, partly because of its wonderful *immediacy*.

Benson Saler says....:

During my sabbatical year, I gave three papers at conferences, was a discussant at an Invited Session of the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, and attended the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Montreal (where I ate, drank, and occasionally said something to someone to indicate that I was both sentient and sociable, but otherwise had no duties).

Charles Ziegler and I gave a talk for the General Cinema Corporation and were interviewed on the Fox TV Channel, both with regard to the X-Files movie released last June. We have also conducted some joint interviews with regard to our research on the alien abduction phenomenon, and have otherwise been occupied with our project (which explores the nature and evolutionary significance of "belief," using the alien abduction phenomenon as a major case study).

I also spent a month in New Mexico, mainly on vacation, but doing a little work connected with our research project.

Robert Zeitlin says....:

I have completed writing some journal articles and book chapters and have a contract to finish writing a book tentatively titled *The Rise of Mesoamerican Civilization*. Among the completed articles and chapters are a chapter entitled "A Peripheral Perspective on the Applicability of World System Theory to the Analysis of

Precolumbian Political Economy," to appear in *The Foundations of Power in Prehispanic Oaxaca* in 1999, along with several pieces in the forthcoming *Oxford Encyclopedia of Mesoamerican Cultures*, and an article in

the June issue of *Current Anthropology*.

I also spent some time at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, funded by a collection study grant from the museum and a grant from the Louis, Frances, and Jeffrey Sachar Fund for Academic Aid.

SPRING 1999 NEWS AND EVENTS

COLLOQUIA

Harold Scheffler

Professor of Anthropology, Yale University
"Remuddling Kinship"

Tsehai Berhane-Selassie

Madeleine Haas Russell Visiting Professor of Non-Western and Comparative Studies in the Department of African and Afro-American Studies, Brandeis University
"Nationalism, Ethnicity and the Roots of Resistance to Colonial Occupation of Ethiopia 1935-1941"

Susan Sered

Professor of Anthropology, Bar Ilan University
1998-1999 Scholar-In-Residence International Research Institute On Jewish Women, Brandeis University
"On Modesty Shawls and Pigs at the Wall: Women's Bodies in Israeli Cultural Discourse"

COMMENCEMENT 1999

Doctor of Philosophy:

Jane Goodman

"Refracting Berber Identities: Politics of Culture, Poetics of History"

Eileen Moore Quinn

"'Nostalgia is our Future': Self-Representational Genres and Cultural Revival in Ireland"

Masters of Arts:

Carol Bernhard (Joint degree with Women's Studies)

Alicia DeNicola (Joint degree with Women's Studies)

Gail Epstein

Elizabeth Martin

Henry Rachmiel

Masako Yasu

Bachelors of Arts:

Jessica Grubman, Betty and Harry
S. Shapiro Endowed Award in
Anthropology

Laura D. Hacker

Rebecca I. Handler

Francis C. Hintz

Naomi F. Hoffman

Ron J. Karni

Courtney B. Kurlanska

Jade Le

Danielle R. Lupkin

Cheryl A. Makarewicz

Todd J. Marabella

Laura M. McCann

Shannon B. McElhiney

Alexandra M. Medina

Abbie L. Moscovich

Jennifer A. O'Brien

Julie A. Oberhand

Leila A. Roy

Jason F. Schweitzer, Betty and
Harry S. Shapiro Endowed Award
in Anthropology

Zahava E. Shaffer

Sarah E. Soslow

Jeffrey J. Szuchman

Touch Thouk

Katherine E. Weisensee

Yael H. Weisner

Bob Yoon

Earl I. Zaromb

Matthew D. Zolan

Maricruz R. Aguayo

Julie P. Arbit

Gabrielle I. Barber

Allyndreth E. Cassidy

Adam G. Cooper

Jed M. Cooper

Joseph C. Corcoran

Adam R. Cresko

Adam W. Dennis

Eldad Elnekave

Gail L. Epstein

Ita T. Fischer

Ceder R. Foley

Matthew A. Friedman

Meredith L. Gore

Vanya A. Green

IMAGES OF THE PAST... A QUIZ!

(How much do you remember from your days in the department?)

Try and answer these three questions on the following four pictures: 1) Who is the picture of?; 2) When was the picture taken?; and 3) What is going on in the picture? Have fun and be creative! Answers on page 11

A



B



C



D



Photographs by Ralph Norman
Courtesy of Robert D. Farber University Archives
Brandeis University

NEW COURSES 1998-1999

The department offered a number of new courses over the past academic year, and will also offer a new course this upcoming Fall semester. The following are brief summaries of the various topics raised in each.

In **Anth 108a, "History, Time, and Tradition,"** Professor Richard Parmentier and students examined the relationship between history, time, and tradition via a cross-cultural and interdisciplinary study. They explored the analytical and methodological role of the temporal dimension in anthropology and other disciplines, and then turned to the cultural construction of the past in particular social contexts. A chronological look at changing notions of time in Western culture provided the foundation for ethnographic cases from Mesoamerica, South America, Austronesia, and Africa that illustrate the multiple linkages between social organization, temporal consciousness and historical representation. The class then examined the creative manipulation of the past in readings dealing with the invention of tradition and the exhibition of historical artifacts in museums.

Anth 135a, "Paradoxes of Peoplehood in Contemporary Israel," was taught by Professor Susan Kahn, Research Director at the International Research Institute on Jewish Women. The course is an anthropological introduction to the diversity of social life in Israel. Professor Kahn and students began with a critical examination of Jewish ethnicity and Jewish ethnic groups in Israel. They then selectively examined the cultural experiences of non-Jewish groups in Israel and continued with a focus on Israeli social groups that are often neglected by the anthropological gaze: women, non-Jewish foreign workers, disabled Israelis, gay Israelis and Holocaust survivors.

Anth 141b, "Engendering Archaeology: Exploring Women's and Men's Lives in the Past," was taught by Dr. Meredith Chesson, a lecturer in the department last year. In this course, Dr. Chesson and students explored the potential for studying and reconstructing a prehistory of people through archaeology. They considered the historical and theoretical foundations of creating an engendered past, the methodological and practical aspects of "doing" engendered archaeology, and the intersection between political feminism, archaeological knowledge production, and the politics of an engendered archaeology. Topics explored included feminist perspectives on science, anthropology, and archaeology; concepts of gender in prehistory and the present; women's and men's relations to craft production, state formation, and space; and the complex relationship between feminism, archaeology, and the politics of women and men in archaeology and the archaeological past.

Dr. Jody Davie, a lecturer in the department last year, offered **Anth 151b, "Folk Religion and Women's Lives."** Dr. Davie and students explored the ways in which inquiring into folk religion moves a scholarly focus away from the usual matters of doctrine, texts, public figures, and large institutional bodies, and into the varied experiences of ordinary people in communities, who live their lives in the context of shared and individually -interpreted religious understandings. This shift in perspective enabled the participants in the course to address the substantial power of informal, private, low-status, coded, or otherwise obscured cultural groups -- most particularly women -- and processes in the shaping of religions "on the ground," as they are really lived.

Dr. Javier Urcid will be offering a new course in the department during the Fall semester, 1999: **Anth 153a, "Writing Systems and Scribal Traditions: A Worldwide Comparison."** The course provides an introduction to the diversity of graphic forms of communication, using an evolutionary approach as its organizing principle. One of the aims of the course is to show why there is no natural tendency for writing systems to ultimately develop into alphabetical scripts. Dr. Urcid and students will undertake a study of various forms of visual communication, ranging from semasiography to alphabets, to better understand the nature of pristine scripts around the world. The course will also explore the relation between writing, language, cognition, and socio-cultural factors. By focusing on the social functions of early writing systems, the course will address issues on literacy, historiography, and societal power relations.

<h2>Letter from the Chair</h2>

The past academic year has been one of excitement but also sadness. We celebrated the Brandeis 50th with a well attended symposium in the fall, watched our undergraduate program set new records for the number of concentrators, and congratulated Benson Saler on his promotion to full professor. But we also received announcements from Benson Saler that he will retire at the end of this upcoming academic year and from Judith Irvine that she will be taking up a position at the University of Michigan starting next January. In thinking about their departures I take some comfort in the remarkable stability the department has enjoyed over the past decades. The department also said farewell to Ian Kuijt and Meredith Chesson, who taught part-time this past year; they have taken new positions at the University of Lethbridge in Canada. Jody Davie's part-time appointment in the department also ended, but she will continue as an affiliated scholar in the Women's Studies Program. Jane Goodman, a recent graduate of our program, taught one course in the Spring and takes up a new position at Indiana University in the Fall. To Ian, Meredith, Jane, and Jody go our thanks and best wishes. Looking ahead at next year, we all join in welcoming Javier Urcid, our new archaeologist, to the department. With the return of Benson Saler, Sarah Lamb, and Bob Zeitlin from their leaves, we will be at "full strength" for the first time in my experience at Brandeis.

Let me extend my personal invitation to all members of the Brandeis anthropology family to come to our annual fall picnic on Saturday, September 18, starting at noon. The picnic will be at my house at 63 Gleasondale Road in Stow.

Richard J. Parmentier
Associate Professor and Chair

Faculty News

Another busy year in the department....

Robert Hunt continues his project on allocation in economic anthropology. He has written and delivered two papers on this project, of which one has been accepted for publication, and the other has been submitted. Dr. Hunt contributed a number of definitions of terms in economic anthropology (i.e. barter, property, reciprocity, trade,...) to *The Dictionary of Anthropology*, edited by T. Barfield, and published "Sistemas de riego por canales: Tamano del sistema y estructura de la autoridad." The latter is a translation of one of his 1988 articles from the *Journal of Anthropological Research*, which appeared in *Antologia Sobre Pequeno Riego*. He also revised a number of chapters in *Apples and Oranges*, his book manuscript on achieving comparability in cultural anthropology. Dr. Hunt presented a number of papers over this past year, including an invited paper at the CHAGS 8 conference in Japan entitled, "Forager Food Sharing Economy: Transfers and Exchanges," the Plenary Address at the SFER Colloque on Irrigation in France, entitled, "Amerophone Approach to Irrigation Social Organization," and guest lectured at an MIT course, Religion and Science, on "Scientific Knowledge of Culture."

Judy Irvine has three ongoing projects: an article on "Registers: Language in Use," commissioned for the *Annual Review of Anthropology*; a book project, co-authored with Susan Gal (University of Chicago), on ideological aspects of language differences; and a book project on 19th-century studies of African languages. She has also continued to serve as Editor of the *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, as well as being a co-Editor (with B. Schieffelin) for "Social and Cultural Foundations

of Language," a Cambridge University Press book series. Dr. Irvine published two articles over the past year: "Edward Sapir," in the *MIT Encyclopedia of the Cognitive Sciences*, and "Ideologies of Honorific Language," in *Language Ideologies: Practice and Theory. Culture, Society, and the Individual*, the third volume in *The Collected Works of Edward Sapir*, is in press, and Dr. Irvine has a number of other articles that have been accepted and submitted for publication. She also gave a number of public lectures and conference presentations, including, "Wars, Words, and Peoples: Refugee Linguistics in 19th-Century Africa," at a conference on "Wars and Words: Political Change and Language Use in Africa," and "Linguistics and Population in Early Colonial Africa," at the AAA meetings.

David Jacobson continues to do research on social interaction and social relations in cyberspace, focusing on impression formation in text-based environments, on the relation between presuppositions about virtual reality and styles of participation in it, and on the construction of social identities in cyberspace. He is preparing a paper, "Impression Formation in Cyberspace," based on this research. At the invitation of the editor of a volume of essays (*New Directions in Kinship Studies*), Dr. Jacobson wrote a paper (with J. Liem and R. Weiss) entitled "Parenting From Separate Households: A Cultural Perspective." This work derives from collaboration with an interdisciplinary research group of psychologists and sociologists, based at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, regarding issues in post-divorce parenting. Dr. Jacobson also co-authored a paper with **Charles Zeigler**, "Insider and Outsider Perspectives in the Anthropology of

Science," which is scheduled to appear in *Perspectives on Science* in April, 1999, and his paper, "Doing Research in Cyberspace," is scheduled to appear in *Field Methods* in November, 1999.

Sarah Lamb received the Bernstein Faculty Fellowship from Brandeis University last year, which enabled her to take a research leave during the past Spring semester. During this time she worked on a number of projects. She wrote a review of Andrew Strathern's *Body Thoughts* for *American Ethnologist* 25(3), and submitted the final manuscript for *White Saris and Sweet Mangoes: Aging, Gender and Body in North India* to the University of California Press. The expected publication date is early 2000. Dr. Lamb completed a number of other manuscripts, including "Aging, Gender and Widowhood: Perspectives from Rural West Bengal," which will appear in *Contributions to Indian Sociology* in Fall 1999, "'American as a Deluxe Retirement Home' and Other Stories of Immigration: The Cultural Politics of Welfare Reform among South Asian/Americans," an article that is under review for *Cultural Anthropology*, and "Intimacy in a Transnational Era: The Remaking of Aging among South Asians in San Francisco," under review at *American Ethnologist*. She also has a number of works in progress, and presented papers at the *Annual Conference on South Asia*, and the *Conference on New Directions in Psychiatric Anthropology*, as well as at the AAA meetings and the Anthropology department at Boston University. Dr. Lamb received two Mazer Awards for Faculty Research from Brandeis over the past year, as well as the Michael L. Walzer '56 Award for Teaching.

Richard Parmentier has a number of ongoing projects. He is reviewing three texts, is Guest Editor of a special *Semiotica* journal issue on Chicago semiotics, and is working on an article on the semiotics of Belauan money, commissioned by the French journal, *L'Homme*. Dr. Parmentier had a number of publications over the past year including, "Peirce," for *The Handbook of Semiotics*, and reviews of R. Firth's *Religion: A Humanist Interpretation* in *History of Religions*, W. Keane's *Signs of Recognition: Powers and Hazards of Representation in an Indonesian Society* in *Oceania*, and R. Handler's and E. Gable's *The New History in an Old Museum: Creating the Past at Colonial Williamsburg* in the *Anthropological Quarterly*.

Benson Saler was on sabbatical for the year. He continued his work with **Charles Ziegler** on a book about the nature of "beliefs," particularly beliefs about "imaginary beings." This project involves, among other things, field and library research on "the alien abduction phenomenon." In addition, Dr. Saler presented three invited papers at conferences and was a discussant in an invited session entitled "Mediating the Boundaries of Belief" at the AAA meetings in December. His book, *Conceptualizing Religion*, originally published by E.J.

Brill in 1993, will be issued in paperback by Berghahn Books in August, 1999. Dr. Saler also has a number of articles that have been submitted for publication. "Biology and Religion: On Establishing a Problematic," has been accepted for publication and will most likely appear next year in *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion*, and the article, "On What We May Believe About Beliefs," in an edited volume, *Religion in Mind: Cognitive Perspectives on Religious Experience*, is under consideration by Cambridge University Press.

Javier Urcid joins the faculty this year as an Assistant Professor in archaeology. For the past year he has been at CASVA (Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts), National Gallery of Art with an Ailsa Mellon Bruce Senior Fellowship, and he continues to hold a position as Research Associate at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Urcid has a number of publications that have been accepted, including, "Genealogia Zapoteca en una lapida de Santiago Matatlan," to appear in *Cuadernos del Sur*, "Monumentos Grabados y Nombres Calendaricos: Los Antiguos Gobernantes de Rio Viejo, Oaxaca," to appear in *Arqueologia*, and, "Codices on Stone: the Genesis of Writing in Ancient Oaxaca," to appear in *Indiana Journal of Hispanic Literatures*. He has also presented a large number of papers and guest lectures throughout the year.

Robert Zeitlin was on sabbatical over the past year, during which time he was involved with research and writing. Among his publications are an article in the June issue of *Current Anthropology* on "The Zapotec Imperialism Argument: Insights from the Oaxaca Coast," a chapter in the forthcoming Mesoamerica volume of *The Cambridge History of the Native Peoples of the Americas*, as well as several entries in both *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Mesoamerican Cultures* and *The Archaeology of Ancient Mexico and Central America*. Dr. Zeitlin has also been offered a contract to complete a book tentatively titled *The Rise of Mesoamerican Civilization*. During the month of May he was at the American Museum of Natural History studying the archaeological remains from an excavation on the Pacific coast of Mexico under a collection study grant from the A.M.N.H., a grant from the Louis Francis, and Jeffrey Sachar Fund for Academic Aid, and funds from the Provost's Office of Academic Support.

Charles Ziegler (Ph.D. 1983) is completing research necessary for two presentations: first, an invited paper entitled, "Myths, Monopolies and *Maskirovka*," which will be given in June at the annual meeting of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations at Princeton University; and second, a paper that explores the religious aspects of an element of popular culture entitled, "UFOs, Religion and the Statistics of Belief," to be given in November at the annual AAA meetings. His most recent publication, which will appear in the Summer issue of the

journal *Intelligence and National Security* deals with another aspect of the UFO phenomenon and is entitled, "UFOs and the US Intelligence Community." Charles has collaborated with **Dave Jacobson** on an article scheduled to appear in the Fall issue of the journal *Perspectives on Science* entitled, "Insider and Outsider Perspectives in the Anthropology of Science: A Cautionary Tale." Finally, he is presently collaborating with **Benson Saler** on the research for a projected book on witchcraft, Satanic ritual abuse, and abductions by aliens (the extraterrestrial kind, that is).

Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Anthropology and Sociology departments at Brandeis have joined together to create a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship program in "Ethnicity, Illness and Health." The program will provide a unique opportunity to fuse anthropological and sociological perspectives focusing on ethnicity and the experience and management of illness and health, not only sensitizing faculty in both

departments to the theoretical and conceptual lacuna but also stimulating interdisciplinary discussion and collaboration.

This Fall we welcome **Susan Markens** as the recipient of the two year postdoctoral fellowship. Dr. Markens received her B.A. in Sociology from Brandeis and her Ph.D. in Sociology from University of California, Los Angeles. Her research interests include medical sociology, gender, race, and class, sociology of the family, and political sociology. Her publications include an article entitled "The Problematic of 'Experience': A Political and Cultural Critique of PMS," in *Gender and Society* 10, an article entitled "Feeding the Fetus: On Interrogating the Notion of Maternal-Fetal Conflict," in *Feminist Studies* 23(2), and a book manuscript currently under review entitled *Conceiving Conception: Surrogate Motherhood and the Politics of Reproduction*. Dr. Markens will be offering a course through the Sociology department this Fall, and one with Anthropology in the Spring.

Graduate Student News

Here's a look at what some of us have been doing...

Katka Ailova was this year's recipient of the graduate student Jane's Travel Grant for Latin American Studies. She will spend nine weeks in Oaxaca, Mexico, on a pre-dissertation trip researching the syncretistic facets of festival and religious imagery. She is interested in the ways native spirituality and religion influenced local Catholicism and how, on a theoretical level, the "power" of the sacred is perceived and articulated through images and iconography.

Jessica Basile finished up her coursework over the Fall semester, and passed her comprehensive exams this Spring. She is planning on focusing on her Special Essay, doing grant research, and narrowing down her choices of fieldwork sites over the Summer (plus working on the newsletter!).

Mollie Callahan is currently undertaking a paid summer internship with the Fogarty International Center, National Institute of Health. The internship involves a research project under the direction of Dr. Joshua Rosenthal, Director of the International Cooperative

Biodiversity Groups Program, and assesses the current and potential role of ethnobotanical/ethnomedicinal knowledge in pharmaceutical discovery related to human health. Her research will focus on the use of indigenous knowledge about medicinal plants in the collection and chemical assaying of botanical material in past and

current ICBG projects, and will more generally attempt to assess the implications for the use of ethnomedicinal knowledge in drug discovery. The project will likely result in a co-publication by Dr. Rosenthal and Mollie, as well as presentation material for several up-coming conferences.

Shukti Chaudhuri-Brill is back from her leave of absence. This Spring, she took over the editorial assistantship for the *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, and this Summer she took her comprehensive exams. Shukti has changed her research area: she is now focusing on Gypsy childhood in Eastern Europe.

Adrienne Dana has been busy over this past year. In addition to working on her dissertation, she gave a lecture at MIT entitled "Body Technology and the Transsexual Experience," and presented a paper at the AAA meetings entitled "The Making of a Transgenderist: Gender Discourses as Identity Formation in Boston and Amsterdam." She also has a paper being considered for publication by Routledge in a collection of 'gender alternative' essays edited by the Women's Studies department at the University of Western Australia, and will be presenting a paper in July on the medical and legal aspects of the Transgender experience in The Netherlands, at the Second International Congress on Sexuality, Culture, and Society at Manchester Metropolitan University in the UK.

Janina Fenigsen says that this past year has been great for her. She had a review published in the *American Ethnologist* this past fall, followed by the January publication of an article in *Cultural Anthropology*. She presented a paper at the AAA meetings, and has been offered a one-year visiting lectureship in linguistic anthropology at Yale for this upcoming year.

Nitish Jha is in the midst of writing his dissertation, and has given two presentations on some of his research findings. The first, entitled “Water *Subak* and Ritual *Subak*: Maps as Discovery Tools,” was given at the Association for Asian Studies annual meeting. The second, “Do Farmers Always Know Best? A Case of Agricultural Development from Bali,” was presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Economic Anthropology. A written version of the latter will be published in a plenary volume of the papers presented at the conference, and will appear in the Monographs in

Economic Anthropology series published by the University Press of America.

Kelly Nelson will begin a full-time faculty position in the Interdisciplinary Studies Program at Arizona State University in August, and plans on defending her dissertation this Fall.

Christina Player holds an ongoing position teaching a course entitled “The Anthropology of Women” at Bridgewater State College.

Amy Todd is writing her dissertation and teaching part-time at UMass, Boston. She gave a talk at the AAAS entitled “The Formal Economy: Regulation of Marketplaces and Streetvending in Oaxaca, Mexico.”

Alumni News

If you've been wondering what they're up to...

Patric Giesler (Ph.D. 1998) continued work at BRAZIL RESEARCH this year with another book project (on shamanism) commissioned by his Japanese sponsors at the Kofukuji Institute, Kyoto University, and other scholarly Japanese associations. The book should be finished by the Fall. Patric also entered the academic job market and was pleased to accept an assistant professorship in anthropology at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota, where he will begin this Fall. An article entitled “African Religions in Brazil,” was published in *Encarta Africana* (1999), the first CD version of Harvard’s *Afropaedia*, an encyclopedia of the African diaspora. Other activities included the organization of a panel on “The Commodification of ‘Africa’ in the Americas” for next year’s meeting of the Latin American Studies Association. He has submitted paper proposals for that panel, and for the AAA meetings this Fall. Patric is currently preparing an invited article for the *Handbook of Cross-Cultural Medicine and Psychotherapy* on divination and healing in the ‘Candomble’, which should appear next year.

Jane Goodman (Ph.D. 1999) led two sections of an introductory anthropology course last Fall, and here at Brandeis taught “Power and Violence: The Anthropology of Political Systems” this Spring. She gave a paper entitled “‘Stealing our Heritage?’: World Music,

Copyright, and the Public Domain in Algeria” at the AAA meetings. In the Fall of 1999, Jane will join the faculty at

Indiana University as an Assistant Professor in the newly created Department of Communication and Culture. The department brings together scholars in rhetoric, media, and performance; Jane will be part of the performance group.

Vanya Green (BA 1999) will be teaching bilingual elementary school in the San Francisco Bay Area, taking part in Teach for America.

Laura D. Hacker (BA 1999) will be starting in the D.D.S. program at Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery this Fall.

Clare Horn (BA) finished her Masters at the University of Denver last Summer and then started the Ph.D. program at Binghamton University last Fall. For the past two Summers she has been working at the site of the Ludlow Massacre in southern Colorado. The site dates to 1913-1914, when coal miners went on strike to demand better treatment from the company owners.

Grete Hovelsrud-Broda (Ph.D. 1997) is working as the General Secretary for the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), which is formed by four countries, Faroe Island, Greenland, Iceland and Norway. Grete will be in charge of just about everything, including administrative stuff and initiating new projects. She will not be teaching very much, but will be using her anthropological training in a different venue, such as communicating with the International Whaling Commission and European Union. She guesses she will also be NAMMCO’s official spokesperson to the world.

She is looking forward to the challenges this position will bring her.

David Kertzer (Ph.D. 1974) has continued various strands of research and other activities at Brown, including several articles over the past year from his historical project on infant abandonment in Italy; directing the Research Program in Politics, Culture, and Identity at Brown's Watson Institute for International Studies; and coordinating the Brown program in anthropology and population. He also organized a conference on the use of identity categories in national censuses, and is co-organizing a study of the use of nationality categories in the first censuses of the new countries of the former Soviet Union, for which he has received funding from the Mellon Foundation and the NCEER. Next year he is on sabbatical in Italy and France, supported in part by a Fulbright Chair in Bologna and by the Department of Education Professorship at the American Academy of Rome. He will be working on a book examining the relations between the Vatican and the Jews in the nineteenth century, following up on his recent book, *The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara*, which has now been published in the U.S., Britain, Germany, Italy, France, and Brazil.

Courtney Kurlanska (BA 1999) has joined the Peace Corps. She will be working in Nicaragua, helping small farmers increase the productivity and sustainability of their crops and livestock. Her mailing address for the next couple of years is: PCV Courtney Kurlanska, Voluntario del Cuerpo de Paz, Apartado Postal 3256, Maneigua, Nicaragua, Central America. Her email address is: kurlanska@hotmail.com.

Eileen Moore Quinn (Ph.D. 1999) accepted lectureship positions at Bradford College in Haverhill, and at M.I.T. in Cambridge after completing her Ph.D. in February. Her courses include "Introduction to Anthropology," "Class and Stratification," and "The Contemporary Family." During the Summer she will branch into Linguistic Anthropology with a course entitled "Women, Men, and the Power of Language." In the Fall, she will offer "Women, Storytelling and Performance," a joint course in anthropology and women's studies at M.I.T. Eileen is also working as a research consultant and editor of "Active Voices," the on-line journal of Cultural Survival, a Harvard-affiliated N.G.O. dedicated to preserving the rights of indigenous peoples around the world. In addition, Eileen received a grant from the Irish American Cultural Institute for her work in Irish-American salvage folklore. After a return to Ireland in June, she will be preparing material for publication.

Rafael Ramirez (Ph.D. 1973) retired as Professor of Anthropology, but continues to work part-time as Senior Researcher at the HIV/AIDS Research and Education

Center, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras. His research is on Masculine Identities and Sexualities. Rafael has a forthcoming publication entitled *What It Means to Be a Man: Reflections on Puerto Rican Masculinity*, due in June 1999 from Rutgers University Press. His recent presentations include "Is there a Latin American Sexuality?" for a panel on Masculinity and Homoeroticism at the Latin American Studies Association meetings, and one with Victor I. Gracia-Toro entitled "Masculine Identities, Male Sexualities and High Risk Sexual Practices in Puerto Rico" at a conference on Male Identities and Sexualities in the Caribbean. Rafael's current research focuses on hegemonic masculinity in the Caribbean, which is a collaborative research project with the Caribbean Masculinity Network, established in 1997.

Ina Rosenthal-Urey (Ph.D. 1972) is enjoying life with her five grandchildren, ages 7 to 22, and hope for more grandchildren from her newlywed son and daughter-in-law, Paul and Helen. Her last trip was on an Alaskan cruise on an 80-passenger boat, where her biggest thrill was catching an 11 lb. White King salmon on the last day.

Laurie Rothstein (MA 1992) has sent word that her documentary is done and has been accepted at the Margaret Mead Film Festival in New York this coming November! Titled "Miyah: Story of a Domestic Servant," the film documents the life of a Javanese woman's attempts, as a single parent with very little freedom of movement, to juggle time and money to care for her won family as best she can. The story is divided between Miyah's natal village in Central Java and her place of employment in Jakarta. Laurie also says that she has taken a much-needed break from catering. She started a new job as Development Director of a small foundation called Armenia Tree Project that uses sustainable agriculture for their economic development programs in Armenia.

Allen Saxe (MA 1969) worked as a city planner in Massachusetts and Florida until 1985. He first taught at Johnson C. Smith University in the Urban Studies department, and since 1988 and taught sociology and anthropology at Livingston College, a historical Black college in North Carolina. He can be contacted at 2216 Dilworth Road West, Charlotte, NC 28203, or at saxe@charlotte.infi.net.

Zahava Shaffer (BA 1999) is planning on attending graduate school this Fall at UMass Boston in Historical Archaeology. The program includes three regular semesters of classes, a Summer field school in Archaeology, and a thesis. Zahava plans on working in a museum after getting her Masters. Her current email address is zorrette@hotmail.com.

Peter Wogan (Ph.D. 1997) accepted a tenure-track, Assistant Professorship at Willamette University in Salem, OR, and couldn't be happier about it. Willamette

is a liberal arts school, located close to Portland, and Peter will be teaching some of his favorite subjects: language, Latin America, indigenous rights, controversies and issues, theory, etc. A bonus is Willamette's thriving study-abroad program in Ecuador, which will allow Peter ample opportunities to continue his research there. This past year, Peter taught at M.I.T. and Boston College, published an article in *Anthropological Quarterly* (Spring, 1999), and presented a paper at the AAA meetings. His two kids, Zack and Liam, are now 3 and 1.5 years old, respectively, and endless sources of wonder.

Dee Worman (Ph.D. 1998) has been a Professor of Scientific Writing in English at the Nara Institute of

Science and Technology in the ancient capital of Nara, Japan since October 1997. The Institute is one of two schools in Japan devoted solely to graduate education, with programs in the Biological Sciences, Material Sciences and Information Sciences. Dee has been busy publishing a series of ten articles with her co-author, John Mackin, General Manager of the Learning Media Center at Fujitsu Computers, dealing with certain areas of scientific and technical English which cause problems to non-native speakers. Five of these articles have already appeared in "The Journal of English Technical Communication" (a Japanese government publication), and the other five have been accepted for publication. In 1998 Dee was invited during the bitter winter to Moscow by the Russian Academy of Sciences to discuss scientific writing methodologies with Russian scientists and language experts. She is also currently preparing a book on scientific writing to be used in universities throughout Japan. In her spare time, she visits "New-Half" (transsexual) bars in Osaka, and has been asked to teach a "New-Half" English class.

ANSWERS TO "IMAGES OF THE PAST" QUIZ:

(Please be aware that answers to #3 are usually in jest)

PICTURE A:

- 1) Margaret Mead with students (if you see anyone you recognize, please let us know!).
- 2) March, 1952.
- 3) Helping to organize students and create new student policies.

PICTURE B:

- 1) Professor Kroeger (does anyone remember taking a class with him, or teaching with him?).
- 2) September, 1954.
- 3) No, this is not a mug shot! Professor Kroeger is simply sharing some deep dark secrets... (will we ever know of what?).

PICTURE C:

- 1) George Cowgill is the man with the beard. The other man remains at large (anyone know him?).
- 2) September, 1973.
- 3) Searching for lost treasure!

PICTURE D:

- 1) Robert Manners with students (let us know if you recognize anyone!).
- 2) December, 1972.
- 3) Sharing wisdom.

Incoming Graduate Students WELCOME!

Ceilyn B. Boyd enters into the Joint MA program with Women's Studies. She received her BA from Stanford University.

Mollie Callahan returns to begin the Ph.D. program this Fall, after one year in the MA program at Brandeis last year.

Joshua Irizarry enters the MA/BA program.

Sylvia Martin enters the MA program. She received her BA from University of California, Santa Barbara.

Leanne Rohrbach enters the MA program. She received her BS in Biology from Kutztown University.

Raju Tamot enters the MA program. He received his BA from Ratna Rejn Laimi College.

Cynthia Wooten enters the Ph.D. program. She received her BA from SUNY, Potsdam.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS!

New Student Orientation
Student Lounge
September 1, 11:00 am

**New and Returning
Students Reception**
Schwartz Mezzanine
September 2, 3:00 pm

Departmental Picnic
Rick Parmentier's house
September 18, 12:00 pm

Anthropology Web Page

Come visit our web page!
There's a lot of information on faculty and students, as well as information about department events, course schedules, the latest news, and much more...

<http://www.brandeis.edu/anthro/anthropology.html>

What have you been up to?

Please send us news about your activities for the next issue of the newsletter.

Mail news items to:

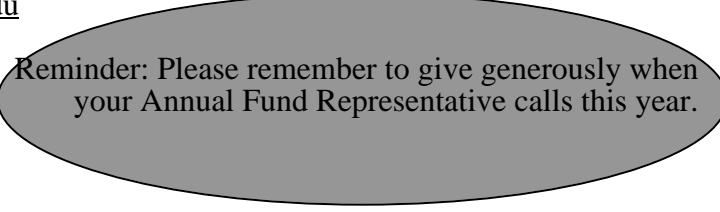
Cathy Bernotas, Academic Administrator
Anthropology Department, MS 006, Brandeis University
Waltham, MA 02454-9110

or

Fax news items to: (781)736-2232

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E-mail news items to: anthropology@brandeis.edu



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