From the Chair

Anthropology is the study of humankind in all its remarkable complexity and diversity. With such a broad and salient agenda, it's no wonder we stay busy.

This has been a very active year in the department, as our faculty has published books and articles, participated in national and international conferences, engaged in research across the world, and worked intensely with students in and beyond the classroom. Elizabeth Ferry's co-edited volume *Timely Assets: The Politics of Resources and their Temporalities* appeared, along with Robert Hunt's *Beyond Relativism*. Charles Golden led a bi-national US and Guatemalan team of researchers in the archaeological investigation of defensive systems and political boundaries in a Maya Kingdom. Janet McIntosh completed her book *The Edge of Islam: Power, Personhood, and Ethnoreligious Boundaries on the Kenya Coast* (due out in 2009), while Ellen Schattschneider travelled to the Library of Congress to unearth Japanese wartime visual propaganda and ideological formations of collective sacrifice, and David Jacobson published articles on instant messaging and continued his book project on anthropology in cyberspace. We welcomed visiting professors with research foci in India, the Cape Verde islands, West Africa and Australia – to name just a few of the activities that keep us so engaged in the field.

We are fortunate to be working with an extraordinarily talented and energetic body of undergraduate and graduate students, who have been carrying out fieldwork in Bangladesh, Brazil, China, the Czech Republic, Cuba, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Palau, South Africa, Swaziland, and the United States – on topics ranging from experiences of trauma among Somali refugees, to grassroots activism in Chinese gay men's organizations, to women-only intentional communities in the United States, to the relationships between ethnicity, religion and language in Kyrgyzstan, to long distance gifting among the ancient Maya. Our students have received grants, delivered papers at professional conferences, published articles, and taught their own courses at Brandeis and area colleges and universities. Many have also worked closely with faculty members Mark Auslander and Ellen Schattschneider on important local community engaged learning projects.

This year we are hosting ten colloquium speakers and the Economic Anthropology Working Group, and jointly hosting an Interdisciplinary Seminar on Narrative. And we are trying to squeeze in as many social gatherings as possible, from our fall picnic, to the elegant cocktail party at the Peabody Museum in Andover, to our humble and cozy TGIF in the graduate lounge.

It's extraordinarily rewarding to be chair of this vibrant, collegial department. I extend my best wishes to all the members and friends of Brandeis Anthropology for the remainder of the year.

Sarah Lamb
Faculty Notes

Mark Auslander, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Master’s Program in Cultural Production
Mark Auslander continues his research on memories of slavery and vernacular art in rural African-American communities in the American South. The interdisciplinary cultural production master’s program graduated its first cohort in May 2008 and matriculated a dozen new students in Fall 2008. Prof. Auslander coordinated a number of symposia and roundtables at the The Rose Art Museum this year, bringing anthropology faculty and graduate students into dialogue with artists and humanists as well scholars in the natural and physical sciences. He contributed an essay, “Divination in the Age of DNA: (Re)Reading the Entrails,” for the Rose Art Museum catalog for the exhibition “Spiraling Inward: Steve Miller.” He continues to serve as coordinator at the Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium, which held its annual student conference at Brandeis in February 2008. He is the university’s academic director of Community Engaged Learning and serves as faculty co-supervisor for Brandeis programs at Prospect Hill Terrace, Waltham’s largest public housing development, where anthropology undergraduates, graduate students and faculty members are developing diverse arts and cultural enrichment programs for local low-income families.

Elizabeth Ferry, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Director of Graduate Studies
Elizabeth Ferry used her Spring 2008 research leave at the Newhouse Center for the Humanities at Wellesley College to continue researching and writing her second monograph, titled Matters of Value: Minerals and the Making of U.S.-Mexico. This research has taken her (so far) to Guanajuato, Mapimí, Mexico City, London, New York, Washington, DC, Tucson, Denver, West Springfield, and Cambridge, MA. Her volume, Timely Assets: The Politics of Resources and their Temporalities (co-edited with Mandana Limbert), was published by School of Advanced Research Press in Fall of 2008. She is developing a new research interest in corporate social responsibility and mining companies. At long last, she has learned to knit. Finally, she began her term as Director of Graduate Studies in the fall.

Charles Golden, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Undergraduate Advising Head
Charles Golden spent the 2007 – 2008 academic year as a Precolombian Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks Research Collection and Library in Washington, DC, working on several article and book projects. In June and July 2008, he directed a sixth field and laboratory season of archaeological research in the Sierra del Lacandon National Park, in Guatemala along the Usumacinta River. Mapping and excavations focused on the ancient Maya site of Tecolote and surrounding settlement and defensive works, along the northern boundary of the Classic period kingdom of Yaxchilan. A Guatemalan and American research team (that included doctoral students Betsy Marzahn-Ramos and Melanie Kingsley) recovered important new information about this area, helping to further develop scholars’ understanding of ancient Maya political organization. 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 Senior Archaeology award from the National Science Foundation. Ongoing research will be supported a “Space Archaeology” grant from NASA, for which Golden serves as a Co-Investigator. Recent publications include “The Transformation of Abandoned Architecture at Piedras Negras,” (co-authored with Mark Child) in the book Ruins of the Past: The Use and Perception of Abandoned Structures in the Maya Lowlands, and “Ancient Soil Resources of the Usumacinta River Region, Guatemala” (co-authored with Kristofer Johnson, Richard Terry, and Mark Jackson) in the Journal of Archaeological Science. Recently accepted journal articles include, “Piedras Negras
and Yaxchilan: Divergent Political Trajectories in Adjacent Maya Polities” (co-authored with Andrew Scherer, René Muñoz, and Rosaura Vasquez) for Latin American Antiquity, and “Evaluating the Use of IKONOS Satellite Imagery in Lowland Maya Settlement Archaeology” (co-authored with Thomas Garrison, Stephen Houston, Takeshi Inomata, Zachary Nelson, and Jessica Munson) for Journal of Archaeological Science.

Robert C. Hunt, Professor Emeritus
In the last two years Robert C. Hunt has published a book, Beyond Relativism (2007), with Alta Mira Press, and an article “Locally Controlled Irrigation Systems: Principles and Practices” (2007), in Peter Boomgaard (ed.), A World of Water; Rain, Rivers and Seas in Southeast Asian Histories, KITLV Press. In October 2007, he read a paper he co-wrote with Scott Ingram, “Double-Cropping Maize on the Middle Gila River: Intra-Annual River Regime and Canal Management in the Classic Period,” at the Fall Meeting of the Arizona Agricultural Council in Mesa, AZ. In addition he presented talks at several universities: “The Hohokam Economy: Intensive Agriculture Without Complexity,” Keith Morton Memorial Lecture, Department of Anthropology, CSU Northridge, March 2007; “Hohokam Economy: Large-Scale Intensified Agriculture in the Absence of Social Complexity,” School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Arizona State University, November 2007; “Hohokam Economy: Large-Scale Intensified Agriculture in the Absence of A Complex Society,” University of Notre Dame, February 2008; and finally he presented “Hohokam Economy: Large-Scale Intensified Agriculture in the Absence of a Complex Society” as part of the Brandeis Department of Anthropology Brandeis Colloquium Series in April 2008. Prof. Hunt continues to do research on the Hohokam agricultural economy project, supported by a Mellon Foundation Emeritus Fellowship. He serves as adjunct faculty in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University. He is an active member of the Economic Anthropology Working Group at Brandeis, offers workshops in the Department, serves on the IRB at Brandeis, and is on the Editorial Board of the Society of Economic Anthropology. He serves as the chair of the doctoral committee of Silvia Grigolini at Brandeis and is on the committees of doctoral students at Arizona State University and at the State University of New York, Stony Brook.

David E. Jacobson, Professor of Anthropology
David Jacobson continues to do research in the area of computer-mediated communication. He has recently published two papers, both dealing with instant messaging: “Interpreting Instant Messaging: Context and Meaning in Computer-Mediated Communication,” Journal of Anthropological Research, 2007, 63: 359-381, and “Two Levels of Personal: The Cultural Context of Intimacy in Instant Messaging,” in Remote Relationships in a Small World, (Samantha Holland, ed.), 2008, pp. 219-240. Currently, he’s working on a project dealing with social networking sites (e.g., Facebook) and is in the process of preparing a book-length manuscript, Anthropology in Cyberspace: Context and Meaning in Computer-Mediated Communication. This past spring term he introduced a new course, Representing Ethnography; this coming year he’ll be teaching Social Relations in Cyberspace, a USEM course (Cities and Cyberspace), Urban Anthropology, and Designing Anthropological Research. Off campus, he was a participant in the Qualitative Research Seminar, held at U-Mass, Boston.

Sarah Lamb, Associate Professor and Chair
This year Sarah completed a book, Aging and the Indian Diaspora: Cosmopolitan Families in India and Abroad, to be published by Indiana University Press in 2009. The book investigates remarkable changes taking place within India’s urban middle-class families, as “old age homes” have mushroomed in urban India from near zero in the early 1990s to over a thousand in the first decade of the 21st century. The book takes us inside highly varied residences for aged Indians, presenting diverse and moving examples of the ways reflective individuals are living through unanticipated transformations. In addition, Lamb examines the growing prevalence of elders living alone, neither in group homes nor with families, and the experiences of Indian seniors who join their children in the United States. The book reveals how far-reaching economic and social upheavals hold implications for gender roles, religion, morality, understandings of personhood, and above all the structures and meanings of family, both as it is idealized and as it is lived. It probes as well not only discourses in India but also related current debates and assumptions in the
Faculty Notes (cont.)

United States over how best to age, what shape(s) the family should take, and what the proper relationship is among individuals, genders, families, and the state. Brandeis anthropology graduate students Rachana Agarwal, Nehraz Mahmud, Naomi Schiesel and Mrinalini Tankha served as invaluable research assistants on this project. This past year, Professor Lamb also published several shorter articles and book reviews. At Brandeis, she continues to co-chair the South Asian Studies Program and to be actively involved in Women’s and Gender Studies and Health: Science, Society and Policy. She enjoyed her first year as Anthropology Department Chair and looks forward to two more.

Sophia Malamud, Assistant Professor of Language and Linguistics
Sophia Malamud has been continuing her research on the meaning and use of impersonal and passive constructions in European languages, advising a dissertation on the semantics of distributivity (Yoon-kyoung Joh, UPenn, PhD 2008), and gathering new data about the use of second-person pronouns in Germanic. On July 19, she was married to Robert C. Gillham, at a garden in New Jersey. This fall, she will be incorporating a major experiential learning component into her Introduction to Linguistics class and expanding the curriculum of her Semantics course.

Janet McIntosh, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Richard J. Parmentier, Professor of Anthropology
In the Spring 2008 semester Richard Parmentier taught two new courses, Crossing Cultural Boundaries, and Verbal Art and Cultural Performance. He served as chair of the Program in International and Global Studies for the academic year. He served as a member of the Faculty Senate Council and chaired the subcommittee on Faculty Handbook Revisions. He co-organized an informal faculty working group on “conceptualizing the global” and gave a short presentation on this same topic at the symposium “The Global: Implications for Research and the Curriculum.” After returning from sabbatical leave in the Fall 2008 semester, he will become the Director of the new Graduate Program in Global Studies for a three-year term. He continues to work on three long-standing writing projects: the limits of semiotic trichotomies, materializations of transcendence, and temporality in Belauan narrative.

Benson Saler, Professor Emeritus

Ellen Schattschneider, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Chair of International and Global Studies
Ellen Schattschneider continues her research on doll symbolism in Japan and on memories of the Pacific War in Micronesia and in East Asia, with close attention to the meaningful dimensions of landscape and of material objects. Her work is increasingly engaged with the intersection of psychoanalytic theory and cultural analysis, with particular attention to object relations.
theory and trauma theory. During summer 2008 she undertook archival research at the Library of Congress on Japanese wartime visual propaganda and ideological formations of collective sacrifice. During 2007-08 she worked closely with the university’s Community Engaged Learning program, promoting critical analysis of social inequality in and out of the classroom through partnerships with local community-based organizations. During Fall 2007, with her students in Anthropology of Gender, she worked closely with affordable housing activists in Waltham on an ethnographic project. This project stimulated the development of an active tenants association, as well as a new community learning center in Prospect Hill Terrace, Waltham’s largest and oldest public housing development. She serves as faculty co-supervisor of the center, working closely with anthropology and cultural production graduate students, as well as undergraduates, on community organizing and cultural enrichment for low-income youth. Professor Schattschneider also served as the 2007-08 coordinator of the Japan Studies Colloquium Series, which brought a number of important Japan scholars to campus, including noted anthropologist Anne Allison. In November 2007, she organized an interdisciplinary symposium on “Sexualities and the National Body in Asia.” As the coordinator of the annual Benson Saler Lecture in Religious Studies, she brought to campus anthropologist Bradd Shore, who lectured on love and romance in Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in conversation with the renowned Shakespeare scholar Stephen Greenblatt. In celebration of Claude Levi-Strauss’ 99th birthday, she organized a symposium on bricolage at the Rose Art Museum. In Spring 2008, she coordinated the annual Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium student conference, held on the Brandeis campus. She also taught a new interdisciplinary graduate seminar, “Trauma: Theory and Experience.” For 2008-09, Dr. Schattschneider succeeds Rick Parmentier as Chair of the International and Global Studies program.

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


**New Faculty**

**Justeen Hyde, Lecturer in Anthropology, Fall 2008**

Dr. 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 interventions developed to curb these social issues. With support from NICHD, she is currently the PI on a formative
qualitative study with adolescents and child welfare professionals involved with the Massachusetts Department of Social Services. In addition to these qualitative research projects, Dr. Hyde is also involved in a number of community-based research and evaluation studies. Dr. Hyde received her doctoral degree in anthropology from the University of California at Irvine. She is a Senior Scientist at the Institute for Community Health in Cambridge, MA and a lecturer at the Harvard Medical School. In addition to teaching “Medicine, Body and Culture” at Brandeis in Fall 2008, Dr. Hyde offered a graduate career workshop on “Anthropology Outside Academia.” In the spring 2009, she will continue her affiliation with the anthropology department as a research scholar.

Smita Tewari Jassal, Madeleine Haas Russell Visiting Professor, 2008-2009
Dr. Jassal joins the anthropology department this year as the Madeleine Haas Russell Visiting Professor of Non-Western and Comparative Studies, an endowed professorship which brings distinguished scholars to campus. Madeleine Haas Russell was a Brandeis Trustee, and a founding director of the Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace, where Dr. Jassal was a Visiting Fellow from 2003-2005. Dr. Jassal is author of Daughters of the Earth: Women and Land in Uttar Pradesh (Manohar, New Delhi, 2001) and has co-edited with Eyal Ben-Ari The Partition Motif in Contemporary Conflicts (Sage, New Delhi, 2007). Her forthcoming book, Unearthing Gender, focuses on the oral, folk and narrative traditions of castes and communities of North India. Her research combines historical, anthropological and socio-legal perspectives. Dr. Jassal has taught anthropology at Columbia University, at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, and at the American University in Washington, D.C. Having lived and worked in Russia, India, Israel and the United States, she brings to her research and teaching a strong cross-cultural focus. Dr. Jassal received her Ph.D in Sociology from Delhi University. At Brandeis, Dr. Jassal is teaching “South Asian Culture and Society,” and “Gender and Development: Perspectives from South Asia.” In the fall, she presented an Anthropology Colloquium entitled “Women as Producers: Culture and Agriculture in North India,” and served as a faculty respondent for a student panel discussion on international experiences entitled “What in the World Are We Doing?”

Laurie LaPorte, Lecturer in Anthropology, Fall 2008
Dr. LaPorte is a cultural anthropologist whose primary ethnographic research has been carried out in the Cape Verde islands and among Cape Verderan populations in Massachusetts. She began her training in anthropology and psychology at Yale University and took a more hands-on approach to understanding the lives and experiences of others through a two year term as a Peace Corps health volunteer in the Cape Verde islands from 1995-97. She returned to the West African archipelago in 2000 and again in 2003-04, studying the ways in which young Cape Verdeans grow up in a “culture of migration,” defining emigration as a primary life goal and self-identifying as a uniquely mixed people who encompass peoples and cultures from all parts of the world. In her dissertation, “The Continuities of Modernity: Cape Verderan Identity and Emigration,” she explores in particular the ways in which young people construct a sense of the self through fashion and popular culture, often incorporating foreign goods and ideas according to local gender, social and racial ideologies. She earned her PhD from Boston University in 2007 and has taught courses in medical anthropology, gender studies, identity and ethnicity and socio-cultural theory at Boston University, the University of Massachusetts at Boston and the Boston Architectural College. She lives in Cambridge, is an avid Red Sox fan and enjoys travel, gardening and cooking. At Brandeis, Dr. LaPorte taught a new course, “Children, Parenting, and Education in Cross-Cultural Perspective,” and “Global, Transnational, and Diasporic Communities” in Fall 2008.

Megan B. McCullough, Visiting Assistant Professor in Anthropology, Spring 2009
Megan McCullough is a cultural and medical anthropologist, most of whose anthropological work has focused on examining the conditions under which Australian Aboriginal social and biological reproduction is enacted and embodied. Dr. McCullough has an article on Aboriginal humor, identity construction and governmentality accepted to a Special Issue of Anthropological Forum, forthcoming in Fall 2008. This work has encouraged her to develop another article on gender, sexuality and humor among Aboriginal women. With a colleague, Dr. McCullough is working on an edited volume on the circulation of children within and between state and global institutions, focusing on the issues of gender, agency and social production. She is revising an article on a doula (labor attendant) training workshop for Aboriginal women in which she explores the complexities of health education, “culturally appropriate” care and the theoretical issues of
“recognition” and “subject-making” in inter-cultural medical settings. Dr. McCullough has taught a range of courses including the following: Anthropology of Globalization, Urban Anthropology, Language and Culture, Women and Development, Political Anthropology and the Anthropology of Gender. Dr. McCullough received her doctoral degree in anthropology from New York University. In Spring 2009, Dr. McCullough is teaching “Anthropology of the Body.”

Marloes Janson, Visiting DAAD Scholar and Lecturer in Anthropology and the Center for German and European Studies, Spring 2009

Marloes Janson is a cultural anthropologist specializing in the anthropology of Islam. She has ethnographic interests in West Africa, especially The Gambia and Senegal. She studied cultural anthropology at Leiden University (the Netherlands), earning her PhD in 2002. Her published PhD thesis is entitled The Best Hand is the Hand that Always Gives: Griottes and their Profession in Eastern Gambia (Leiden: CNWS Publications, 2002). After having taught courses on Gender and Oral Tradition in West Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Methodology of Anthropological Field Research, and Language, Culture and the Media at Leiden University and the University of Amsterdam, Dr. Janson became a postdoctoral fellow at the International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World (ISIM) in Leiden, working on the relation between local Islamic expressions and religious reform. This research resulted in several articles published in such journals as Africa, Islam et Sociétés au Sud du Sabara, Canadian Journal of African Studies, and Mande Studies. In 2006 she received a postdoctoral fellowship at the Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) in Berlin, Germany. Her current research focuses on youthful participation in the Tabligh Jama'at, a transnational Islamic missionary movement originating from India, in The Gambia. The study shows that the Gambian branch of the Jama'at represents a new expression of Islam among young Muslims – young Muslim women in particular – which can be seen as a form of rebellion against the traditional sources of religious authority, residing in the traditional religious specialists and the older generation. The results of this research have been published in such journals as Journal of Religion in Africa, a special issue of the Journal for Islamic Studies (co-edited by Marloes Janson and Dorothea Schulz), and several book chapters. The research will result in a monograph that is under preparation, entitled Young, Modern, and Muslim: The Tabligh Jama'at in The Gambia. At Brandeis, Marloes Janson is teaching courses on the Anthropology of Religion, and Gender and Islam. She will also deliver the Eighth Annual Saler Lecture in Religious Studies on April 22, 2009.

Visiting Research Scholars

Eileen Dryden is a cultural anthropologist whose interests include evaluation anthropology, community-based participatory research and evaluation, and environmental anthropology. She has done extensive research with fishing families living in and around protected areas in the Yucatan and Baja Peninsulas of Mexico and in Cape Cod National Seashore, MA. Working with local non-governmental organizations and the Mexican and United States National Park Services, she focused on ecotourism, perceptions of conservation, and balancing conservation and sustainable development. As the assistant director for an anthropology field school sponsored by North Carolina State University, she taught ethnographic methods for two field seasons in Costa Rica. More recently, she has worked in non-profit public health organizations in the Boston area. She was the project director for a federally mandated two year assessment of disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system for the state of New Hampshire. She has also worked as the evaluator for SAMHSA funded substance abuse treatment and prevention programs and HRSA funded adolescent HIV programs. Currently, Dr. Dryden evaluates a variety of programs that use community outreach workers from immigrant communities. She is particularly interested in the intersection of evaluation and anthropology and developing appropriate evaluation methodology to work with people with diverse cultural, linguistic, economic and educational backgrounds. Eileen Dryden received a BA in geography from Mary Washington College, an MA in cultural anthropology from Northern Illinois University and a PhD in environmental anthropology from the University of Georgia. She is a fellow of the Society of Applied Anthropology and a member of the American Evaluation Association.

James Herron is a linguistic and cultural anthropologist whose research focuses on the anthropology of bureaucracy and the state approached through a linguistic lens. His work is mainly concerned with the production and reproduction of social relations and cultural forms in face-to-face interaction. His other interests include Latin American political economy and indigenous social movements. He received a BA (with distinction) in philosophy and anthropology from the University of Michigan, a MA in cultural anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a PhD in linguistic anthropology for the University of Michigan (2003). Dr. Herron has held research fellowships from the National Science Foundation, the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, among others. He conducted ethnographic research in the indigenous community of Guambía situated in the Andean region of Cauca (Colombia), and his doctoral
Caitrin Lynch is a cultural anthropologist whose research interests are gender, labor, nationalism, globalization, and aging. Her area focus is South Asia and the United States. She is the author of *Juki Girls, Good Girls: Gender and Cultural Politics in Sri Lanka’s Global Garment Industry* (Cornell, 2007), which examines a government program that brought garment factories to rural Sri Lanka in 1992. Lynch shows how contemporary Sri Lankan women navigate a complex web of political, cultural, and socioeconomic forces. Lynch’s current research builds on her interest in factory labor, gender, and cultural norms, but adds a new dimension: cultural norms about and social policies on aging. She is conducting research on a small Massachusetts factory with an average employee age of 75 years. In the Sri Lankan and American cases, factory work offers not only financial support but also a great deal of meaning, social interaction, and a changed sense of identity. While these Massachusetts workers do the production tasks assigned to them by management, they share advice on Medicare and Social Security, investments and income tax, family dynamics, and health care. Their rich shop-floor interactions allow them to collectively make sense of the contradictions of being highly productive during a life stage when many people in American society expect and assume them to be unproductive. Dr. Lynch is an Assistant Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences at Olin College of Engineering in Needham, Massachusetts. She was previously an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Drew University, a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at Johns Hopkins University, and a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Lynch received her PhD and MA in cultural anthropology from the University of Chicago and her BA in anthropology from Bates College. In Fall 2008, Dr. Lynch gave an anthropology colloquium at Brandeis on her current research, “Retirees as Factory Workers: Changing Cultural Norms and Economic Landscapes in the United States.” She is an active member of the Brandeis Economic Development Corporation.

Faculty Notes: Research Scholars (cont.)

Laurel Carpenter, Senior Academic Administrator

This past year was unusual for me in that I worked with a new department chair, a new undergraduate advising head, and a new director of graduate studies. I enjoy the cycle of welcoming new students and faculty, helping them navigate Brandeis pathways, giving well wishes as our students depart for fieldwork, and celebrating when milestones are accomplished. Currently I’m serving on a university-wide committee to evaluate the block scheduling system; our group of faculty, staff, and students will make recommendations later this year.

In the wider community, I’ve been appointed to my town bicycle advisory committee and am working to promote bicycling as a healthy, efficient, and environmentally-friendly means of transportation. One of my summer highlights was my first bicycle tour, a four-day adventure across Massachusetts. I also competed in the Cayuga Lake Triathlon in Ithaca, NY, and the Massachusetts State Triathlon, both for the second time.

I’ve continued my involvement in local conservation projects such as trail building and preservation of open space. I’m happy to talk with anyone who’s interested in getting involved in local conservation projects or in learning more about bicycling resources.
Graduate Student News

Papers and Posters Presented

Rachana Agarwal
Discussant for panel “Paths to Education” at Metamorphoses: An Interdisciplinary Investigation into the Processes of Social Change and Transformation, 2008

Emily Canning
Best Poster Prize for “The Right to a Writing System: Essentialisms in Uyghur and Han Identity Formation” at the Fifth Annual Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium Student Conference, 2008

Lauren E. Forcucci

Casey Golomski
“Death in Suspension: Contested Corpses as Transitional Objects in Contemporary Swaziland” at the fifth annual graduate conference of the Department of English and American Literature at Brandeis University, 2008


Jessica Hardin
“Folk Knowledge, Medical Canon and Preventable Disease: American Samoa and Hawaii” at the East West Center International Conference in Bali, Indonesia, November 2008

Samia Huq

Ieva Jusionyte

“Alert on the Border: Two Events in the Argentinean Frontier and One Possible Interpretation” at the Annual Seminar of Social Sciences and Humanities, Juodkrante, Lithuania, 2008

Melanie Kingsley
“Digging Identity: Recognizing Borders among the Ancient Maya,” presenter and session chair at the Society of American Archaeology Annual Meeting, April 2009

“People or Objects: Long Distance Exchange and Commissioned Craft Production” by Zachary X. Hruby and Melanie J. Kingsley at the 107th American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco, November 2008

“Comercio, Intercambio de Bienes y la Costa del Caribe” (co-author with Zachary X. Hruby et al.) at the Symposium of Archaeological Investigation in Guatemala, 2008.
“Long Distance Gifting and Commissioned Craft Production?: Theorizing Inter-Site Elite Exchange” (first author with Zachary X. Hruby) at the Society of American Archaeology Annual Meeting, March 2008

**Arnaud Lambert**

**Laura Ligouri**
“Pathways to the Heart: Middle Eastern Dance as a Pathway to Culture in Post-9/11 United States” at the 48th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Anthropological Association, in Amherst, MA, and at the Joint Meeting of the Society for the Anthropology of North America (SANA) and the American Ethnological Society (AES) in North Carolina, 2008

“Pathways to the Heart: Middle Eastern Dance as a Pathway to Culture in Post-9/11 United States,” Poster at the Fifth Annual Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium Student Conference, 2008

**Betsy Marzahn-Ramos**
“Using Semiotics to Understand the Materialization of Identity,” presenter and session chair at the Society of American Archaeology Annual Meeting, April 2009

“Investigations at the Late Preclassic Maya Site El Zancudero,” at the Society of American Archaeology Annual Meeting, March 2008

**William McDonald**

**Casey Miller**

Discussant on panel “Touring Identities” at Metamorphoses: An Interdisciplinary Investigation into the Processes of Social Change and Transformation, 2008


**Brianna Mills**
Discussant for panel on “Body and Mind” at Metamorphoses: An Interdisciplinary Investigation into the Processes of Social Change and Transformation, 2008

“All the South Africa: Nationalist Ideology in HIV Discourse,” poster at the Fifth Annual Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium Student Conference, 2008

**Elisabeth Moolenaar**


**Donald A. Slater**
“Power Materialized: The Dart Thrower as a Pan-Mesoamerican Status Symbol,” at the 41st Annual Chacmool Conference, Calgary, November 2008
Grants and Fellowships

Melanie Kingsley
Sachar Grant for “Mapping the Borderlands—the site of Tecolote in Sierra de Lacandon National Park” 2008

Nurzhan Mamazhunusova
Grant for Graduate Research in Women's and Gender Studies, 2008

Casey Miller
Sachar Grant for “Homosexuality, AIDS, and Grassroots Activism in a Chinese Gay Men's Organization,” 2008

Teaching Positions & Awards

Casey Golomski
Outstanding Teaching Fellow, Brandeis University, 2008

Eric Michael Kelley
Introduction to Anthropology, MIT, Fall 2008
Conquest of America, Department of Anthropology, MIT, 2008
Teaching Associate, Department of Anthropology, MIT, 2007

Júlia Kirst
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Cultural Anthropology, Northern Essex Community College, 2008-2009
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Gender and Society, Merrimack College in North Andover, MA, 2008-2009
Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University, 2008

Arnaud Lambert
Assistant Professor (TT) of Anthropology at Onondaga Community College, New York

Mrinalini Tankha
“Cubanos Convertibles: Multiple Currencies and the Family in Cuba,” Transnational Families Colloquium, Department of Sociology, Brandeis University, 2008


Allison B. Taylor
“Diasporic Identities, Diasporic Spaces: Trauma and Coping among Somali Refugees,” Transnational Families Colloquium, Department of Sociology, Brandeis University, 2008

Invited speaker on “Somali Refugees: Seeking Peace and Justice,” at “Rolling up the ‘Welcome Mat’: the Dynamics of Local Community Response to Refugees and Immigrants,” Heller School, Brandeis University, 2008


Sara Withers

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Arnaud Lambert
Assistant Professor (TT) of Anthropology at Onondaga Community College, New York
Graduate Student News (cont.)

Sara Withers
Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies, Brandeis University Summer School, 2007, 2008

Creative Arts

Casey Miller
Photos included in Exhibit “Spotlight on China,” Brandeis University, 2008

Publications

Samia Huq

Fieldwork and other Updates

Rachana Agarwal
Rachana is a doctoral student investigating youth identity, education and nationalism in contemporary Palau. She is currently doing fieldwork in Koror, and teaching math at Palau Community College. In July, she attended Ebil summer camp in Ollei, Ngarchelong, organized by the local community to teach youth the importance of preserving Palauan natural resources and mythology, and instill a sense of regional and national identity. During her week-long stay in the bai (traditional meeting house) in Ollei, she participated in a “fishing derby,” spent a night on the nearby island of Ngerchur and made friends with a group of curious teenagers who remember her as “the Indian girl.” In Koror, she enjoys sharing her collection of Indian music (and home-cooked food) with a few young Palauan Bollywood enthusiasts.

Emily Canning
Emily spent the summer conducting fieldwork in Osh, Kyrgyzstan with fellow graduate student Nurzhan Mamazhunusova. Emily writes, “We had originally set out to investigate perceived linkages between ethnicity and nationalism in this strikingly multi-ethnic town near the Uzbekistani border, but upon arrival noticed an even more interesting relationship between ethnicity and religion. The population of Osh is mostly Uzbek and Kyrgyz—both of whose members are considered Muslim from birth. This assumption of ‘ingrained Islam’ proved especially problematic for locals who had converted to Christianity, so we chose to examine the narratives of young women who had chosen this path that often encountered serious opposition from the surrounding community.” Emily and Nurzhan also interviewed religious leaders (both Christian and Muslim), devout members of each faith, and various foreign and local residents with experience to help them understand some of the tension that had arisen from this transfixed interplay of gender, religion, and ethnicity.

Betsy Marzahn-Ramos (co-authored)
Shukti Chaudhuri-Brill
Shukti has recently relocated back to the U.S. after five years in France, during which she completed fieldwork on language socialization and literacy among Czech Roma in Prague. Currently, she is writing her dissertation and hopes to complete by May '09. She writes, “I'm looking for housing in the area and will be commuting frequently to Princeton, NJ where my husband is working for an oil-field services company. I have a ten-year-old daughter, Sophie, a big black lab named Nepomuk, and two cats, Sacha and Cookie.”

Besides interviewing media people in Puerto Iguazú, she also spent time in Buenos Aires, trying to see what journalists in the capital think about the situation at the borders. Ieva has presented papers in two conferences in her home country, Lithuania; in one of which she was scheduled to talk on the same panel as the president, but was luckily transferred to a more serious session. Besides all this work, she traveled with her boyfriend to Italy and Turkey and moved to a pretty new house in Brookline.

Casey Golomski
Casey began preliminary observations and fieldwork in and around Manzini, Swaziland from July 16 to August 31. Casey's research focuses on ritual and religious practice and experiences in the current context of poverty and suffering that many Swazis face. The first weeks of fieldwork were spent befriending families. He also performed at an international music festival, Bushfire, with a British and Swazi band, Blissful Virtuous. Casey became a member of the emaJerikho church, attending weekend services, conducting interviews, and participating in ceremonies, including a night vigil to cleanse a widow from mourning. At the end of his stay, Casey followed a friend's chiefdom during Umhlanga, the Reed Dance, a six-day national ritual pilgrimage for unmarried girls. This included dancing and singing at royal residences and marching 10km to cut reeds in the marshlands for the Queen Mother's homestead.

Ieva Jusionyte
This summer Ieva started her research on the relationship between the state and its borders as perceived and experienced by the local journalists in the border area between Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil. “The Triple Frontier is a place where the mosquitoes of the three countries meet,” she explains, not yet commenting on such issues as human trafficking, contraband or yellow fever.

Melanie Kingsley
Melanie spent part of the summer with two other members of the anthropology department, PhD student Betsy Marzahn-Ramos and Assistant Professor Charles Golden, hiking up four kilometers in mud and rain to the site of Tecolote in Peten, Guatemala. She writes, “I finished the map of the monumental center of the site prior to getting severely ill at the end of the season. Otherwise, everyone came out of site unscathed from the snakes and the rising river at least!” She also performed lab analysis on, among other things, the lithics from Tecolote, and reports that they gained some insights into architectural building traditions as a result. Melanie writes, “Otherwise, I took a break from archaeology to attend my beautiful sister's wedding and to go off to Spain. From there I did a hop, skip, and a jump over the Mediterranean for a brief visit to Morocco. It is still amazing to me the conflation and differentiation of language and culture that you can find across the globe.”

Julia Kirst
“Re-discovering my passion for teaching has been at the core of this year,” writes Julia. It began with teaching “Medicine, Body and Culture” in both the spring and summer 2008 for the anthropology department. She writes, “I am tremendously grateful for the department’s vote of confidence.” In the fall, Julia is teaching “Gender and Society” at Merrimack College, and “Introduction to Cultural Anthropology” at Northern Essex Community College, both colleges right around the corner from
Locality, Nationality, and Internationality among Chinese Gay Organizations” as part of the Brandeis “Sexualities and the National Body in Asia Research Symposium,” and a talk to the Brandeis AIDS Study Group which focused on how grassroots gay NGOs are responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in China.

Bets Marzahn-Ramos
This summer, Bets participated in an archaeological investigation of the ancient Maya site “Tecolote,” located in the northwestern Petén, Guatemala. From early June to early July, she conducted excavations at the South Group of the site, and assisted in mapping activities. Marzahn-Ramos’ work, in cooperation with that of ten other archaeologists, was aimed at providing a better understanding of the occupational history of the site and its role in Classic period socio-political dynamics in the region. The 2008 field season was Marzahn-Ramos’ third summer working as part of the Sierra del Lacandón Regional Archaeology Project, co-directed by Dr. Charles Golden of the Anthropology Department.

William McDonald
During the summer Will worked for an organization called Lawyers for Human Rights focusing on illegal and arbitrary farm evictions, primarily inflicting the poor and marginalized in South Africa. He also concluded the fieldwork he began in summer 2007, investigating ways traditional and western medicine influence a person’s healthcare-seeking behaviors.

Casey Miller
During 2007-2008 Casey served on the organizing committee of Metamorphoses, the first annual Brandeis Graduate Student Conference. He also gave three talks based on findings from his first summer research trip in 2006, including one entitled “Manifold Margins: Polities of

Brianna Mills
Brianna spent this summer working with Justeen Hyde as a consultant for the Institute for Community Health, writing interview summaries for a project on human trafficking in the United States. She also wrote content for the Global Brandeis website for the Office of Global Affairs. In her third job, assisting in the Department of
Anthropology, Brianna reorganized and archived the departmental records dating back fifty years. In her spare time she drove across the country twice; resulting in a great deal of reflection on the impact of geography on culture and vice versa.

**Elisabeth Moolenaar**

Bea has been conducting research towards her dissertation project on cultural heritage travel among second and third generation Chinese Americans in San Francisco. She moved to San Francisco around the Chinese New Year and notes this was a time “when the cultural heritage program I am researching ended their 2007 cycle with an exhibit and formal presentations by participants and the 2008 group began their search for their ancestral roots.” She participated in the Chinese New Year parade with a lion dance team, and through this learned traditional lion dance (Foshan/Southern style) but also many new things about Chinese culture and tradition related to it. She writes, “from my teammates I also learned about second and third generation youth and their thoughts about their connection with China, cultural heritage travel and ‘Chineseness.’” She is writing her dissertation proposal in which she will investigate the cultural heritage trip through gaining knowledge about how belonging is created, notions of home and kinship, and intersectionality in sense-of-self.

**Angela Stroupe**

Angela has continued to tutor international business guests and students in the English language and help with their adjustment to living in America. She has also been editing and shooting video for The Gesture Project, a website dedicated to educating international travelers on various body and hand gestures that may be encountered through their travels. She writes, “Not being a New England native, I have also enjoyed sharing and exploring the beautiful New England area with family and friends who have visited me this summer and fall. I hope to continue collaborating on The Gesture Project and tutoring international students throughout the next academic year, and plan to graduate in May 2008.”

**Mrinalini Tankha**

This summer Mrinalini traveled to Havana for her second phase of preliminary dissertation fieldwork, which focuses on the uses and meanings of currencies (Cuban Peso, Cuban Convertible Peso, US Dollar, Euro and Canadian Dollar) in Cuba during this dynamic period of transition.

Her interviews and participant observation with a range of interesting people suggest that all these currencies are infused with different valences, which are closely tied to experiences of liminality, shifting conceptions of labor and Cuba’s changing relationship to the rest of the world.
Graduate Student News (cont.)

Mrinalini also studied Spanish at the University of Havana through which she was able to connect with anthropology faculty and fellow researchers. She was able to secure permission from the Cuban Ministry of Culture to conduct her dissertation fieldwork in the following year by being affiliated with the Instituto Cubano de Investigación Cultural Juan Marinello. During this academic year she plans to write her dissertation proposal and apply for fieldwork grants.

Allison Taylor
This summer Allison conducted a second season of pre-dissertation fieldwork with Somali refugees in the diaspora, this time in Minneapolis, MN, the location of the largest Somali community in the U.S. The largest suq, or Somali mall, was her main fieldsite, and she spent many hours chatting and exchanging language tutoring with shopkeepers and others there. With the generous help of a language teacher, and the patience and good humor of many new Somali friends, she returned to Boston with fair conversation skills in the Somali language. Allison also saw several cities in Canada and the U.S. on the round trip drive from Boston and had the opportunity to take her photo in front of Iowa’s largest frying pan. This academic year, in addition to serving as a teaching fellow, she is also working as an ESL tutor at Brandeis. Having passed her comprehensive exams, Allison is writing her dissertation proposal on trauma and coping among Somali refugees and applying for fieldwork grants to return to the Twin Cities next year.

New Students

Bryce Davenport
Bryce is a new doctoral student focusing on Pre-Columbian archaeology in Central and Gulf Coast Mexico. He received his BA in Anthropology and Classics from the University of Mary Washington in 2006, and has explored various bits of China, Taiwan, and Washington, D.C. over the past two years. His current interests include sovereignty, sacred geography, Nahuatl poetry, structural analysis, urbanization and ethnohistory. He has participated in excavations at various colonial- and Civil War-era Virginia sites as well as Xi’an, China, and began (much to his parents’ consternation) in his own back yard.

Raffaele Florio
Raffaele entered the graduate program this fall with an interest in historical anthropology. His focus is in cultural memory in the Mediterranean. He has studied the maritime culture of southern Italy and has collected some oral histories of a rural town on the Tirrenian Sea and would like to put them into an anthropological framework as a means of better interpreting the historical record of medieval life in the Mediterranean region. Florio is especially interested in the interaction between Italians, Jews, Byzantines, and Moslems during the Middle Ages in Western history, and the portrayal of these relationships in contemporary culture. He has a BA in the Social Sciences from Rhode Island College, an MA in Medieval and Renaissance Cultural History from Providence College, and a humanities PhD from Salve Regina University called “Language, Culture, and Memory.” He is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Social Sciences at the Community College of Rhode Island and seeks to further his specialization by studying with the faculty at Brandeis.
**Tatiana Loya González**
Tatiana is a new student in the master’s program. She graduated last May from the Universidad de las Américas in Puebla (UDLAP), México, where she received a degree (Licenciatura) in archaeology. Her main study interest is the Maya area. She spent a short summer field season in the PIPCY (Proyecto de Interacción Política del Centro de Yucatán) Project, which is directed by Dr. Travis Stanton from UDLAP and Aline Magnoni from Tulane University. In the future, she will continue collaborating with the PIPCY project, focusing on the sites along the Sacbe 1, which connects the sites of Yaxuna and Coba in the northern Maya Lowlands.

**Jessica Hardin**
Jessica entered the PhD program after one year as a master’s student. During the summer of 2008 she attended language training classes in Samoan at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. During this period she was also able to conduct archival research at the Hamilton Library and the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum. She also conducted preliminary fieldwork with a Samoan Church community on the Leeward Coast of Oahu.

This research was primarily concerned with women’s views of beauty and health in addition to research based on food preparation, service and events.

**Suma Ikeuchi**
Suma is a new student in the joint master’s program in anthropology and Women’s and gender studies. After receiving her BA in anthropology from Hokkaido University in Japan, she decided to come to Brandeis to continue her studies. She is interested in studying medical anthropology, mental health, the anthropology of eating, symbolism, the global food system, the body, the bio-politics, and Japan in the post World War period.

Although her research project deals primarily with the eating disorders in modern Japanese society, she is also concerned about the seemingly increasing cases of the sickness in different parts of the world today.

**Laura Ligouri**
Laura returns this year as an incoming doctoral candidate after completing a dual MA in anthropology and women & gender studies at Brandeis. She received her BA in Middle Eastern Studies and Dance from the City University of New York in 2007. Within the previous year, Laura presented her paper entitled “We Dance TOO! Middle Eastern Dance as a Pathway to Culture in post 9/11 United States” at several conferences and contributed towards the editing of the soon to be released: *Performance and Peacebuilding in Global Perspective*. Now Laura turns her attention to the arts and their contribution towards the process of peace building within the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Additionally, Laura is concentrating this year on researching the link between trauma, multi-generational trauma, and disassociation, and the ways in which the arts may already be actively employed within Israel and Palestine in the treatment of trauma and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

**Katie Lukach**
Katie is a new PhD student this year with interests in Mesoamerica, archaeology, the Maya, cultural exchange, and isotopic analysis. She received her BA in anthropology from the University of Texas in 2006, where she focused on archaeology and Latin American studies. She did her undergraduate thesis on interactions between the Maya and Teotihuacan. She has excavated at multiple sites, including the Programme for Belize Archaeological Project site and U.T.’s Mc Neil-Gonzalez site in Victoria, Texas. She has spent the last two years auditing graduate classes with Dr. David Stuart and Dr. Julia Guernsey by day and making coffee by night.

**Tamar Moskowitz ‘08**
Tamar is a new master’s student, having received her undergraduate degree in sociocultural anthropology at Brandeis with a minor in Hebrew. She has been heavily involved in the Jewish community at and around Brandeis. She completed a short research project on ritual and spirituality in women’s practice of Judaism and is hoping to investigate issues of egalitarianism and self-identification within Jewish communities. This past summer Tamar did a short trip through Israel and hopes to do further research there on Conservative Jewish communities or Ethiopian Jews.
Priyanka Nandy
Rimi is a new PhD student in cultural anthropology. In the past, she has been a copy editor, theatre performer, cultural consultant for films, private tutor to young teens, semi-professional tour guide for her city Calcutta, English language trainer for BPO employees, freelance writer and obsessive blogger, while a full-time Bachelors' and then a Masters' student of Literature at Jadavpur University, India. At Brandeis she plans to study the socio-economic conditions of immigrant labor groups in Western Europe and coastal United States. She is also interested in parallel cultures in urban spaces, documenting oral personal/local histories, varieties and hierarchies of social bonds in a multicultural society, dynamics of collective identity/cultural membership, popular public opinion about socio-political culture, transnational community building, globalizing ethic systems, personal and issue-based blogging, the variety and dynamics of online identities and relationships, children's literature, exploring physical lanes, bylanes, and little-visited streets in search of cultural spaces, street food, influence of local culture on street food and grocery markets, languages and multilingualism, street-photography, and food she doesn't have to cook herself.

Don Perez
Don began the MA program this fall and will focus on Mesoamerican archaeology, particularly the Maya. His interests are in the interpretation of ideology and religion through archaeological remains and in digital methods of archaeological recordation such as GIS, ARCMAP, and digital imaging. Don earned his BA in anthropology, with a concentration in archaeology, in the fall of 2006 from the University of California, San Diego. While earning his degree he participated in study abroad courses in Mexico and an archaeological field school at an Iron Age site in southern Jordan. After graduating, Don attended a second field school in Belize with the Maya Research Program and worked on several short-term Cultural Resource Management projects for private companies in Southern California and the Mid-West. For the past year he has worked for California State Parks where he recorded prehistoric and historic archaeology site in the Anza-Borrego desert, east of San Diego County.

Katie Plochek
Katie is a new student in the joint MA program in anthropology and women’s and gender studies. She received her BA in communication studies from St. Edward's University and has spent the past three years working with a cultural anthropologist in advertising, studying consumer behavior. She spent the summer working on Hub2, a project that seeks to understand how people build community online. Her other interests include identity construction; sexuality, gay and lesbian activism; and marriage and intimacy in the U.S. and India.

Miki Sisco
Miki began the joint master’s program in anthropology and women’s and gender studies, this fall. Her interests include gay rights’ advocacy, media, diasporas, identity, Germany, and India. She received her Bachelor’s Degree in Anthropology from Bates and spent the summer of 2007 conducting thesis research on a group of untouchable widows who were professional weepers in Chennai, India.

Valerie Smedile Rifkin ’04, MA ’05
Valerie is a new PhD student starting this Fall, but she is not new to Brandeis. She received her BA and MA in anthropology and is currently an Assistant Director at the Rabb School of Continuing Studies. This past April, Valerie married Ian Rifkin ’04, who also studied anthropology as an undergraduate here at Brandeis. After spending the summer traveling, Valerie is excited to continue her studies in Pre-Colombian Mesoamerica, with a focus on the archaeology of death and burial and the use of Geographic Information Systems.
Alumni News

As a researcher and archaeologist at the Public Archaeology Project in Rhode Island, Kimberly O. Allegretto, PhD ’07 is conducting archival research and historic documentation for archaeological and architectural projects.

Mark Seifert, PhD ’07 is the author of Feeding the Mouth of the Bull: provisioning native Caribbean foragers within the new economy of Bocas del Toro, Panama, due out in 2009 with VDM Publishing.

Jeff Arak, BA ’07 received a Mortimer Hays-Brandeis Fellowship in the visual arts to do a second documentary in Oaxaca; this project will be on the lifeguards at Ziplolte Beach. His first film, Los Con Voz, is going to be distributed by Documentary Educational Resources. More information can be found at www.jeffarak.com.

Robert Markens, PhD ’04 is presently professor in archaeology in the Instituto de Investigaciones sociológicas of the Universidad Autónoma de Benito Juárez in Oaxaca City, Oaxaca, Mexico. He is also a Research Associate of the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Oaxaca City. Dr. Markens contributed two book chapters in After Monte Albán: Transformation and Negotiation in Oaxaca, Mexico (2008), edited by J. Blomster, University Press of Colorado, Boulder. He has several other items in press.

Amy Todd, PhD ’04 is teaching Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and is also an instructor at the Rabb School of Continuing Studies, Brandeis University.

Nitish Jha PhD ’02 recently moved from Chennai to New Delhi, India, where he is a Fellow at The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). He is a member of TERI’s Water Resources Policy and Management division, doing fieldwork and formulating policies that have to do with various parts of India’s huge water sector. He continues to write several articles based on research he has done in Indonesia, India and South Africa, even as a journal special issue on the Balinese subak that he is co-editing with a friend at UCLA is about to see the light of day. Meanwhile he and Amrita have their hands more than full with Shantanu, their charming one and a half-year-old son.

Kim Shively, PhD ’01 is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania.

Janina Fenigsen, PhD ’00 is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of South Carolina.

Carole Rosenstein, PhD ’00 is a faculty member teaching in the University at Buffalo (SUNY) graduate Arts Management Program.

E. Moore Quinn, PhD ’99 is an Associate Professor of Linguistic Anthropology at College of Charleston in South Carolina.

Jane Goodman, PhD ’99 is an Associate Professor of Communication and Culture at Indiana University. She is the author of Berber Culture on the World Stage: From Village to Video.

Ita Fischer, BA ’99 and Joshua Irizarry, BA ’00 were married on July 13, 2008 in Denver, Colorado. Ita and Joshua met at Brandeis, where they were both active in the undergraduate anthropology community. Ita received her MA in anthropology from the University of Denver in 2003 and is now working as a Research Analyst for the Institutional Review Board at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Joshua is finishing his PhD in anthropology from the University of Michigan, following two years of fieldwork in Yokohama, Japan.

Peter Wogan, PhD ’97, is an Associate Professor in the Anthropology Department at Willamette University.
They conduct archaeological digs in the jungles of Guatemala, observe rituals and everyday life in Swaziland, analyze rock art in Central America, and do fieldwork with adolescents in Massachusetts. But research is not the only pursuit of Brandeis doctoral students Betsy Marzahn-Ramos, Casey Golomski, Arnaud Lambert, Julia Kirst, and many others in the Brandeis anthropology department. They also teach – and do so in innovative and creative ways.

As assistant professor of anthropology at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, New York, doctoral student Arnaud Lambert is creating not only a class but an entire department. He writes, “Teaching has always been one of the cornerstones of my academic experience. During my residence as a student at Brandeis, I sought out teaching opportunities – at community colleges, four-year universities, and private colleges.” After attaining ABD status, Lambert obtained a tenure-line position, and has become the coordinator for the anthropology curriculum at Onondaga, including supervising one adjunct faculty member. “The courses I have developed to build the anthropology program have relied extensively on my education at Brandeis,” notes Lambert. “I count myself very lucky to have had so many mentors at Brandeis and I hope to nurture such relationships with my own students.”

Betsy Marzahn-Ramos explains headstone carvings

After developing and teaching an introductory-level course called “The Ancient and Modern Maya,” doctoral student Betsy Marzahn-Ramos taught the Introduction to Archaeology course at Wagner College on Staten Island, NY. Seeking a way to bring teaching beyond the classroom, Marzahn-Ramos developed a project that allowed students, working in teams, to understand how social, political, economic, and religious phenomena might be reflected in material culture – in this case, headstone carvings. “Based on my work as a teaching fellow in Archaeological Analysis with Charles Golden and on the project pioneered in Massachusetts by James Deetz,” Marzahn-Ramos remembers, “I decided to pursue hands-on learning by developing a historical archaeology project based on headstone carvings from 1700-1830 in the Staten Island-New York City area.” She and her class worked with local cemetery historians and the Staten Island Historical Society to uncover information about the eras of this study for the region. The students’ final papers have been compiled into a volume that will be published through the Wagner College Department of Sociology and Anthropology and distributed to local historical resources and other universities.

For Júlia Kirst, each class meeting is a “chance to renew students’ engagement with the class content.” Kirst has applied this enthusiasm and attentiveness to each class she has taught, starting with a course on masculinity at the Experimental College at Tufts University in 2005, which she applied for with encouragement from Professor Sarah Lamb after developing the syllabus for her Anthropology of Gender class. “That experience has continued to open doors for further teaching jobs ever since,” including the 2008 spring and summer semesters of Medicine, Body, and Culture at Brandeis, which presented the need (and opportunity) to continually adapt as an educator. Referring to her experience teaching this course, “The most intense experimenting so far for me has happened when teaching topics on the culture of science. [It] requires a tactful approach, or students can easily dismiss it, since they have for years been encouraged to think about science as culture-free.” Kirst was recipient of the Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award in 2007 and is an adjunct assistant professor at Northern Essex Community College and Merrimack College for the 2008-2009 academic year while conducting dissertation fieldwork in Lawrence. On what she has learned from the anthropology faculty who have mentored her: “I believe anthropology and teaching go hand in hand; whether we are trying to make sense of informants’ lives or how our students’ lives relate to the class content, many of the needed skills overlap.”

Doctoral student Casey Golomski, winner of the 2008 Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award, also draws a connection between anthropology and the process of teaching: “I often feel like I am doing fieldwork as I listen to my students recount their own experiences and stories.” He advocates for an engaged style of teaching that reflects the kinds of work his colleagues are doing in their classrooms. “We need to pose questions about the nature of students’ experiences,” suggests Golomski. “What symbols, language, or objects are used in conveying that experience or were constitutive of that experience? What political, economic, ecological, or gendered factors were at play in shaping that experience?” Integrating these questions into classroom discussions is one way to teach anthropology while incorporating the values and ideals of the field.

Teaching, for these and other Brandeis anthropology graduate students, is an opportunity to both share their knowledge and apply the tools they have gained as anthropologists – and they continue to make innovations as they do so.
Metamorphoses: Reflections on the Graduate Student Conference

by Ieva Jusionyte, PhD Student

In Spring 2008, Anthropology graduate students conceived and convened a conference entitled “Metamorphoses: An Interdisciplinary Investigation of Processes of Social Change and Transformation.” On April 5th, the event provided a stage for exciting presentations by Brandeis students and guests from other universities in the U.S. and Europe (Princeton University, University of Chicago, European University Institute in Italy), and it turned out to be a truly inviting forum for engaging discussions. The event encouraged dialogue between different branches of social sciences and the humanities.

We set out with the idea that metamorphosis is more than change or transformation. It evoked powerful images from Kafka’s novel; it reminded us of the lines from Ovid’s poem. We thought it would be useful as a way of bringing together different approaches to the study of social change, the change that can take place on the level of individual bodies, identities, or larger social groupings such as social movements, communities, ethnicities, or states. The change was both seen as biologically natural and as a result of individual or collective creativities. Therefore, we thought, rather than describing a complete transformation, metamorphoses - in the plural - characterizes a society that is in a constant flux, that is always in the process of becoming.

Hugh Gusterson from George Mason University delivered a keynote address on “Military Transformations of Anthropology.” Panels on Minding the Body, Transforming Schools, and Touring Identities were coordinated by students and faculty discussants. “I was really impressed by the event--it was so carefully put together and professionally run,” notes Professor Sarah Lamb. “There was great energy and enthusiasm in the air, and I really enjoyed all the presentations I heard.”

The event was institutionally and financially supported by the Office of the Provost, the Graduate Student Center, the Graduate Student Association, the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life, and the Anthropology Department. The conference organizing committee was headed by Ieva Jusionyte; other members included Rachana Agarwal, Emily Canning, Laura Ligouri, Brianna Mills, Casey Miller, Lauren Forcucci, and Angela Stroupe.

Plans are underway for a second conference in Spring 2009, with the theme “Slippage.”
Community Engaged Learning and Anthropology
by Mark Auslander, Assistant Professor of Anthropology & Academic Director of Community Engaged Learning

Over the past year, our community-based class projects have continued to encourage anthropology students to reflect critically upon the intersection of scholarship and activism and to hone their skills in dynamic listening and engaged participant observation. Our most ambitious community-based undertaking centered on Prospect Hill Terrace, Waltham’s oldest and largest public housing development, located about one mile from campus. The community works days and ethnographic film project organized in Fall 2007 by Ellen Schattschneider’s Anthropology of Gender class helped catalyze the creation of an active tenants’ association and the foundation of a new Community Learning Center. Two students from the Anthropology of Gender class, Lauren Ehrlich and Jocelyn Dorfman, took responsibility for organizing a daily after-school tutoring program for Prospect Hill children and teens. Lauren, awarded one of the new Louis Brandeis Social Justice fellowships, continued her work at Prospect Hill over the summer, conceiving and running a special cultural program for local children.

Over the course of the spring 2008 semester, over fifteen classes at Brandeis responded to the tenants association’s request for cultural enrichment programming at the new center. For example, students in my Cross Cultural Arts and Aesthetics course organized a range of activities with young people at Prospect Hill, including drawing “body maps,” producing stop-action animation short films, and working with teens on step dance performance. Students in the class also held a workshop on acrylic painting with former refugees at the new Southern Sudanese Community Center in east Arlington. Students in Ellen Schattschneider’s graduate seminar Trauma: Theory and Experience worked with visiting Japanese artist Mariyo Yagi and the noted Assonet-Wampanoag spiritual healer known as “Medicine Story” (Manitonquat) as they held art and peace-building workshops at the Center. One of the most remarkable events of the spring was a talking circle led by Manitonquat; I was deeply moved by the seriousness with which the young people took the talking circle, speaking one at a time about their innermost feelings as they held a talking stick. Mariyo Yagi, in turn, taught the children how to construct a beautiful nawa or sacred Shinto-inspired rope out of multicolored T-shirts. Several young people at the Center then hung the coiled nawa in the community center, creating a space of tranquility and tolerance for all who enter.

In Fall 2008, students in Sophia Malamud’s Introduction to Linguistics will conduct a research project on code-switching and language acquisition in collaboration with young people at the Prospect Hill center. Anthropology 1a students, in turn, plan to work closely with members of the Southern Sudanese Community Center to develop Dinka language resources for children and teens. We’ll also resume our community language exchange walk on the university’s outdoor track, in which students from numerous classes develop their language skills while exercising with new immigrants from around the world, in partnership with the Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center in Waltham. All friends of anthropology are invited to participate in these community activities, as we continue to deepen the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding that link the department to our community partners.

The children took a Halloween trick-or-treat tour of Brandeis, culminating in a tour of the bones in the archaeology lab, led by Professor Charles Golden.
### Events 2008-2009

#### Colloquium Series

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<tr>
<td>Smita Jassal</td>
<td>Brandeis University</td>
<td>“Women as Producers: Culture and Agriculture in North India”</td>
<td>September 18, 3:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Auslander</td>
<td>Brandeis University</td>
<td>“‘Something inside of me makes me die here’: Re-enacting a Lynching in the Contemporary American South”</td>
<td>September 25, 3:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane Ferguson</td>
<td>Australia National University</td>
<td>“Rocking in Shanland: Burmese Popular Music and Ethnographies of Borderlands Bands”</td>
<td>October 7, 5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caitrin Lynch</td>
<td>Olin College; Visiting Research Scholar, Brandeis University</td>
<td>“Retirees as Factory Workers: Changing Cultural Norms and Economic Landscapes in the United States”</td>
<td>October 30, 3:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janet McIntosh</td>
<td>Brandeis University</td>
<td>“Seeing Themselves Being Seen: The Cholmondeley Case and White Kenyan Nationalism”</td>
<td>November 11, 4:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yael Caspi</td>
<td>Department of Psychiatry, Rambam Medical Center, Haifa, Israel</td>
<td>“The Home Front: The Experience of Bedouin Wives and Mothers of Men Serving in the Israel Defense Forces”</td>
<td>November 17, 5:00 pm</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marc Zender</td>
<td>Harvard University</td>
<td>“The Classic Maya Priesthood: Epigraphic and Archaeological Evidence”</td>
<td>February 12, 3:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David J. Meltzer</td>
<td>Henderson-Morrison Professor of Prehistory, Southern Methodist University</td>
<td>“When the World was Truly New: The Peopling of Ice Age America”</td>
<td>March 12, 3:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna L. Tsing</td>
<td>University of California, Santa Cruz</td>
<td>Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium Distinguished Lecture</td>
<td>April 6, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marloes Janson</td>
<td>Visiting Scholar in the Center for German and European Studies and Lecturer in Anthropology</td>
<td>Eighth Annual Saler Lecture in Religious Studies</td>
<td>April 22, 3:30 pm</td>
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#### Conferences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GBAC Student Conference</td>
<td>Wellesley College</td>
<td>February 27, 2009</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Student Interdisciplinary Conference</td>
<td></td>
<td>Spring 2009</td>
<td>See website for updates</td>
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#### Ongoing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Anthropology Working Group</td>
<td>An ongoing writing and discussion group made up of faculty, emeriti and graduate students from Brandeis and area institutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Seminar on Narrative</td>
<td>A continuing series of seminars on narrative and related topics, convened by faculty in Sociology, Anthropology, and English who are interested in exploring areas of overlap between the approaches of the various disciplines. At the second meeting, planned tentatively for February, three faculty members – one from each department – will present their work on narrative.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 MA and the PhD degrees in anthropology, and a joint Anthropology and Women's & Gender Studies MA degree. For more information, please visit us on the web at www.brandeis.edu/anthro.

Mark your calendars for…

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

February 27, 2009, at Wellesley College

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…

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