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FACULTY NEWS

Thomas Abercrombie

I write this in Internet cafes during stops along the pilgrimage trail between Leon and Santiago de Compostela, during little islands of time stolen from the road. In retrospect, the past year seems to have been extraordinary. While I invested much of my energy in CLACS as director, I was able to save enough of it to enjoy reading and commenting on a raft of advisees’ grant proposals and dissertations, and to vicariously savour their success with granting agencies and on the job market.

This was a banner year in the teaching department. In the fall, I had the exhilarating experience of co-teaching the CLACS “Intro” course with my own former advisee, Alyshia Galvez. Alas, she has now left NYU for a tenure-track position at Lehmann College, CUNY, but she remains nearby and future collaboration on matters of pilgrimage and the cult of the saints seems in the cards. In Anthropology during Spring 2007, I enjoyed leading the most successful version yet of my “Memory, Heritage, and Narrative” seminar, with a broadly interdisciplinary and thoughtful group of graduate students. Especially productive for our seminar dialogues was to bring Bakhtin, Benjamin, and Foucault into conversation with new works in the phenomenology of space-time and the narrative construction of individual and collective forms of personhood.

The CLACS experience has been an interesting one, involving a lot of meetings with my fellow Latin Americanists in a conspiracy to improve graduate student training for the area, which helped to dull the pain of being an insufficiently greased cog in the bureaucratic machinery. On the bright side, at CLACS has been working with a supportive staff, and mentoring a large group of students in the CLACS M.A. program. With fellow Latin Americanists, I completed two new hires (Rafael Sanchez and Carmen Medeiros will be CLACS assistant professor/faculty fellows starting in Fall 2007), and prepared the way to hire a Quechua instructor to help consolidate Andean studies on campus. With Maritza Colon, I also developed a comprehensive proposal to open a specialized study-abroad program in Sucre, Bolivia, aimed at graduate students and advanced undergrads, and run not only as a program in advanced Quechua, but as an ethnographic and historical field school, taking advantage of Sucre’s cultural resources.

I continued to work on my book projects this year, while also laying the groundwork for future field research projects in Spain and Bolivia. On the writing front, I submitted for publication (in Spanish, with the translation help of Alex Huerta) an essay accompanying my transcription of an early 19th-century trial of a transsexual Spanish migrant to the Indies. The contradictory lifestories contained in the confession and testimony in that trial record forms the last in a series of life narratives of social climbers that forms the backbone of my book manuscript “Passing Confessions.” At the same time, I have been revising and reworking another book manuscript on which I have been working for several years. Tentatively entitled “Ghosts in the Ruins,” it treats the cultural history and ethnography of popular public performance and the space-time of heritage in the Bolivian mining cities of Oruro and Potosí. Those cities are hosts, respectively, to UNESCO-certified forms of monumental (Potosí’s colonial architecture) and intangible (Oruro’s carnival procession) heritage.

Much of the year, it seems, has expired while I have been contemplating ruins and the manner by which we populate them with the dead in order to invest ourselves with life. That is a fitting subject about which to think while following the tracks of a thousand years’ worth of pilgrims.

Susan Antón

The Journal of Human Evolution (that I co-edit with Bill Kimbel, ASU) and the M.A. program in Human Skeletal Biology occupied much of my time this year. At the Journal, we consider papers on all aspects of primate evolution. The submission rate and impact factor have stayed high, as has the workload. Links to more information about the journal can be found on the Anthropology Department website.

Members of the second class of the M.A. program finished their theses this spring and summer. Five first-year students are developing their thesis projects. M.A. students are traveling for field and lab work this summer to Koobi
to do additional magnetometer and topographic survey. This summer we will be bringing one of our new Ph.D. students, Susanne Garrett, with us. Our research is funded by the Irish Heritage Council and the NYU University Research Challenge Fund. In other Dun Ailinne-related news, the site report on the original 1968-75 excavations at the site will be published this month by the University Museum Press. I wrote the chapters on the biological materials and the floral remains, and Doug Campana and I co-authored a chapter on the worked bone objects.

I spent a good portion of this year identifying over 30,000 animal bones and fragments from the Chalcolithic and Bronze Age site of Godin Tepe in Iran. I have entered all the data into my computer database, and I hope to complete an initial report on the fauna in the next week or two. I taught “Faunal Analysis” this past spring, and the book that I co-authored with Brad Atlans of the Medical Examiner’s Office, Comparative Skeletal Morphology, will be published in July by Humana/Springer Verlag.

I attended the ICAZ meetings in Mexico City in August of last year. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to see some of the important Mexican archaeological sites, including Tula and Teothihuacan. I am the incoming treasurer of ICAZ, so I have my work cut out for me. In Mexico City, Doug Campana and I organized a session on zooarchaeology and colonialism. The papers will be published by Oxbow Press as part of a larger volume on anthropological zooarchaeology. I will attend the ICAZ Worked Bone Research Group in Paris this August, where I am planning to talk about the bone tools from Godin.

I want to wish everyone a happy and prosperous summer. If you are in NYC, stop by my lab and see all our new skeletons.

Arlene Dávila
This past academic year, I shared my ongoing research on the Latino middle class for the first time and in a variety of public forums and invited lectures. Among them, at a panel organized by the Annie E. Casey Foundation looking at the Black and Latino middle class, as well as on a panel at the AAA on the Latino middle class I co-organized with Jose Limon, and finally as an invited guest speaker at the University of Minnesota, at UCLA’s Political Science Department and at UC-Irvine. It was very rewarding to receive feedback on this research, which is part of a collection of essays on the whitewashing of Latino’s public image that will be published soon with NYU Press. I was on leave this past spring and was able to work on this collection, whose content spans a discussion of the targeting of Latinos in the last U.S. Presidential elections, and the role of think tanks and of institutions such as museums.

I also served at a panel at the National Academies of Sciences and continued my involvements as a board member of the National Latino Policy Institute and the Hispanic Media Coalition. In this latter capacity, I participated in the FCC hearings on minority media ownership, an experience that influenced me to write a chapter on the political economy of Spanish-language media in order to reflect changes since my former research. I look forward to a peaceful and fun summer. See you all in the fall!

Anthony Di Fiore
As is becoming customary, I’m writing this in the heady days before running off to the forest for summer fieldwork. The past year, a sabbatical one for me, has been eventful, and a similarly jam-packed summer lies ahead.

In just a few days, I will be joining an exceptionally large field team for this summer’s work. Four of my graduate students, plus about a half-dozen other post-docs and research assistants, are all down at my site in Ecuador right now, working on our project’s various component studies. Mike Montague is continuing his dissertation research on color vision in squirrel monkeys; Andres Link (with a newly awarded NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant) is studying social dynamics within groups of spider monkeys; Chris Schmitt is doing pilot work for his dissertation on juvenile development in several species of neotropical primates; and Anand Dacier, along with Andres’ wife and fellow tropical biologist, Gabriela de Luna, is assisting on my long-term project on social monogamy and parental care in titi monkeys and sakis. My own plans for the next few weeks in Ecuador involve working closely with Chris and Andres to collect further samples for genetic analysis of the woolly, spider, and howler monkeys at the site and to dart and radio collar additional woolly and spider
Tejaswini Ganti

My second year was full with a variety of tasks, commitments and activities. I taught my first ever MAP course in the fall, “World Cultures: India,” with 116 students, which was a completely different experience. I discovered the wonders of PowerPoint by necessity, since the architecture of the classroom was not conducive to writing on the blackboard. I also taught a graduate seminar on South Asian ethnography, which was the antithesis of the MAP class with only four students. I hit equilibrium in terms of class size in the spring with “Transcultural Cinema.” I want to thank Amikole Maraesa, Pilar Rau, and April Strickland for their hard work and assistance during the MAP class and April again for all of her help during the transcultural cinema class. It is truly a pleasure to have such great graduate assistants! I also joined our video-production class in the spring as a type of “participant-observer” (the emphasis on the latter), where I was fortunate to see the projects evolve and take shape over the course of the semester. I really enjoyed getting to know the graduate students better and look forward to teaching the class soon.

A lot of my time and energies this past year was spent in organizing events. I was busy as a co-organizer for the 2006-07 lecture series, “Critical Perspectives on South Asia,” supported by a grant from NYU’s Humanities Council. We had two events in the fall, but then went into high gear for the spring – with four speakers and two film screenings. My colleague in NYU Art History, Tamara Sears, and I sought to invite a broad spectrum of scholars working on South Asia to NYU, and we managed to bring an anthropologist, art historian, economist, historian, and religious studies scholar speaking on a range of topics from the uses of colonial architecture in Kashmir to contemporary devotional uses of calendar art. I was also very fortunate to be on the organizing committee for the conference “Signs of Crisis: Religious Violence, Human Rights, and the New Documentary in Southern Asia,” which took place from May 17-19 and brought eight documentary filmmakers from India and Indonesia to NYU to screen their recent works and develop a dialogue with lawyers and activists working in the field of human rights. It was truly a remarkable experience: from collaborating with the Law School, to seeing powerful films and hearing insightful speakers, and working with a great set of co-organizers – Barbara Abrash, Faye Ginsburg, Parvis Ghassen-Pachandi, Sally Merry, and Patsy Spery – student assistants – Ruti Talmor, Lisa Mendoza, Amali Ibrahim, Tim Karlekar, and staff – Laura Terruso and Cheryl Furjanic.

Another domain of collegiality and intellectual exchange that I was fortunate to be a part of was the “Secularism, Religious Authority, and the Mediation of Knowledge” working group organized by Fred Myers and Angela Zito as part of the Center for Religion and Media’s 2006-07 theme of “Secularism, Media, and the Globalization of Religion.” The working group met regularly throughout the year to discuss works in progress or scholarship pertinent to the themes, and was comprised of faculty from the greater New York area. I looked forward to those Friday mornings, as they were always full of interesting thoughts and stimulating discussion.

I did manage to do some writing and presenting this year. In the fall, I presented a paper, “From Vice to Virtue: Filmmaking, the State and Modernity in India,” that examined the changes in the Indian state’s attitudes and policies toward the Bombay film industry and filmmaking at the AAA meetings in San Jose on a panel entitled “Transnational Media and Postcolonial Governance.” In the spring, I was invited to give a talk at Harvard as a part of their anthropology colloquium series. I presented the paper, “Box Office Mantras: The Bombay Film Industry and the Symbolics of Success,” which examines how the economics of Hindi film circulation and consumption are recast in social terms and take on cultural meaning.
Museum in Vanuatu, The British Academy, the Bergen (Norway) Research Group in Pacific Studies, and won an Association of Social Anthropology in Oceania Grant to Return Indigenous Knowledge to Pacific Island Communities award to prepare and print a second edition of the book, translated into Biilama, the *lingua franca* of Vanuatu. The book’s design was generously undertaken gratis by Carolyn Moore of the NYU Office of Communications, and the Anthropology Department and Program in Museum Studies have supported shipping costs. We have printed 1000 copies to distribute throughout the communities in which these images were originally taken. In August 2007, Anita Herle and I will return to Vanuatu to take this visual resource to the communities we have been working with. This project has linked the collections of the Cambridge Museum with the Vanuatu Cultural Centre and extended these links out into villages throughout the archipelago. The ethos of return – of images circulating and supporting other kinds of social and political connection – moulded both the form and the substance of the project.

In addition, I have continued to develop my research and write about intellectual and cultural property, with a focus on the Pacific. In October 2006, I was invited to the University of Bergen (Norway) to participate in a workshop, “Cultural Heritage and Political Innovation in the Pacific,” with a specific interest in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. Bringing together researchers and museum directors from these two countries, as well as from universities in Europe and North America, this workshop will transform into a longer collaboration with funds for student projects, fieldwork, and conferences in numerous locations. In Bergen, I presented the early stages of my next book, which will compare the ways in which ideas about cultural and intellectual property have developed in newly independent Vanuatu with the settler-colony of New Zealand.

In February 2007, I convened a special session of the Pacific Arts Association at the College Arts Association which brought together scholars and curators from the Pacific, or who work with Pacific collections, to discuss some alternative ways of thinking about cultural property. This was a distinct intervention into some of the property-speak emergent in cultural institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the British Museum, and we are currently preparing a contribution to the *International Journal of Cultural Property*. I was also invited to discuss these issues at a symposium at Fordham Law School, entitled “The New Cultural Property,” which gave me the opportunity to discuss these ideas with lawyers.

In February, I also convened (with Josh Bell, of the Sainsbury Research Centre at the University of East Anglia) and chaired a panel at the ASAO, entitled “Materializing Oceania – New directions in thinking about people and things.” The panel brought together scholars who discussed issues as disparate as the materiality of the King of Tonga’s funeral, head-hunting in Papua New Guinea, and a collection from the Solomon Islands at the British Museum, and aimed to re-theorise and articulate recent developments in the study of relations between persons and things within the distinct ethnographic context of Oceania. We are currently preparing a submission for a special edition of *The Australian Journal of Anthropology*. Throughout the year, I have also continued writing about the resonance of historical ethnographies in Vanuatu; the transformation of objects into digital form within the Vanuatu Cultural Centre; and the complex ways in which the market for cultural property is negotiated within Aotearoa New Zealand. I look forward to spending the summer bringing these numerous writing projects into fruition, spending time with family in Europe (and visiting the new Musee Quai Branly in Paris), and taking my research back to Vanuatu and New Zealand.

During 2006-07, I was on sabbatical. In the Department, Jeff Himpele served as Director for the Program in Culture and Media (our graduate training program

http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/anthro/programs/cultmedia.htm with Jeff, myself, Tejaswini Ganti and Cheryl Furjanic in Anthropology and Jonathon Kahana in Cinema Studies). I continued to serve as Director of the Center for Media, Culture, and History http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/media/(an interdisciplinary center I founded in 1994) with Barbara Abrash; as well as the Center for Religion and Media, which I founded and co-directed with Angela Zito, which was in the last year of its $1.5 million from the Pew Charitable Trusts to continue its academic and public work. Next year, the Center will move into a new phase, living on its endowment; we will continue to hold events and conferences, as well as sponsor working groups, but on a more modest scale.

Indigenous Media

My sabbatical was dedicated to completing work on my book, *Mediating Culture: Indigenous Identity in a Digital*
Finally, in May 2007, we held a major international conference entitled “Signs of Crisis: Religious Conflict, Human Rights & The New Documentary Film In Southern Asia,” co-sponsored with the NYU Center for Global Justice and Human Rights, University of Leiden/Harvard, the Asia Cultural Council, and the Asia Society. We brought in four key filmmakers each from Indonesia and India to screen their work and examine how documentaries and the law both rely on case studies, narratives and testimonies, and the creation of memory and history, particularly in circumstances shaped by religious violence, and conflicts between secular and religious orders by bringing together documentary filmmakers/ activists with legal scholars, anthropologists, NGO workers and others to examine the relationship between human rights and representation in law and film.

The Center for Media, Culture and History
http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/media/
The Center, which I have run for the past decade with Barbara Abrash, addresses issues of representation, social change, and identity construction embedded in the development of film, television, video and new media worldwide. We have recently received a grant from the Ford Foundation to work with them on the “Transformation of Public Service Media in the 21st Century” project, which is being directed by Barbara Abrash. The Center includes Internet publications that we are calling Virtual Case Books: the first was based on the mobilization of small and vernacular media forms in response to 9/11

Program in Culture and Media
This year, in addition to the work of the students in our Video Production Seminar, culminating in our annual May “Docs on the Edge” screening:

Aaron Glass, “In Search of Hamat'sa” (2005, 33 mins., distributor: Royal Anthropological Institute and IWF, Germany), was screened in 2005-06 at the Bilan du Film Ethnographique (Paris), Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival (London), and the Beeld voor Beeld Festival (Amsterdam); in 2006, it was screened at the Pärnu International Film Festival, XIII Sardina International Ethnographic Film Festival (Nuoro, Italy), the Third International Visual Anthropology Film Festival (Moscow), and the Society for Visual Anthropology Film & Video Festival (San Jose). The film was awarded the Royal Anthropological Institute's Material Culture and Archaeology Prize.

Anya Bernstein's “In Pursuit of the Siberian Shaman” (2006, 72 min.; distributor: Documentary Educational Resources, http://www.der.org/films/in-pursuit-of-siberian-shaman.html) was screened in 2005-06 at the Bilan du Film Ethnographique (Paris), Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival (London), the Society for Visual Anthropology Film & Video Festival (San Jose), the Ethnographic Film Festival at Gottingen (Germany), and the Russian Festival of Anthropological Film (Salekhard, Russia). This film was also invited to a pitch at the Silverdocs Documentary Conference (Washington, D.C.).

Two of our students, Robert Chang and Rachel Lears, were invited to pitch their films to producers from Sundance, PBS, and Discovery at the 2007 Silverdocs Documentary Conference in Washington, D.C. (See http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/06/17/AR2006061701021_pf.html)

Bruce Grant

This past year was full with both teaching and writing. I continued to learn the art of the auditorium lecture in the large setting of our department's “Human Society and Culture” class, and taught a number of smaller seminars: one on shamanism, for undergraduates; one on nationalism, for graduate students; and another, “Anthropology for Non-anthropologists,” designed for graduate students from outside our department to give them a rapid working fluency in the theory and genre of ethnography.

This year I managed to complete the manuscript on my second book, The Gift of Empire: Sovereignty and the Arts of Persuasion, slated for publication by Cornell in 2008. This project began as a more limited study of how kidnapping has been understood as archetype in two centuries of Russian sovereignty over the Caucasus region. It has gone on to make a broader case for how imperial rulers explain conquest-as-altruism through idioms of exchange.

Along the way came two other editing projects. The first is a collaboration with my Turkish colleague, Lale-Yalçın-Heckmann from the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany, with whom I organized a conference last year on Caucasus area studies. Despite such long histories of cohabitation, diaspora, and migration, this corner of the former Soviet Union has been renowned for its images of fearsome mountain outposts. Our goal was to ethnographically probe these languages of closure and openness in a series of essays that are appearing under the title, “Caucasus Paradigms—Anthropologies, Histories, and the Making of a World Area,” to be released by Lit Verlag in Berlin this fall.
Aisha Khan

The past year has flown by. Most personally satisfying for me among the things I accomplished was creating two new courses. One was an undergraduate seminar, “Journeys: Migrations and Identities,” which was among the most enjoyable courses I have taught to date. I also co-created and co-taught, with Prof. Lok Siu, a graduate seminar, “Comparative Diasporas.” Reading across a wide expanse of disciplines and topics and being part of excellent weekly discussions with Lok and the graduate students, I was able to think even more comparatively, and cross-culturally, in different ways. I tried to push these new perspectives into practice as I finished up half a dozen or so articles (which I was quite happy to put to rest, along with a review essay and two book reviews), as well as in the five talks I gave (at the New York Academy of Sciences, Northwestern University, University of Iowa, CUNY Graduate Center, and SUNY-Purchase). This summer is devoted to working on my next book project (on gender and diaspora) and on another, on-going project, an edited volume titled “Ethnographies, Histories, and Power.” In the fall I look forward to co-teaching, with Prof. Susan Anton, one of the department core courses we have co-created, this one on race.

Don Kulick

The highlight of this past academic year was the AAA panel that Emily Martin and I co-organized on “The Orgasm.” The panel was a four-fields approach to the orgasm and included papers on everything from pre-Columbian Moche pots to bonobo chimpanzees’ GG-rubbing. It was extremely well attended and tremendously fun to do. Emily and I are planning to edit a volume based on the papers presented in the panel, and I look forward to working with her on that.

I have continued to serve as Director of NYU’s Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality. An important feature of the Center’s public events during 2006-07 was an ongoing series of seminars on sexuality and disability, co-organized by me and a group of NYU scholars that included Sally Merry.

In June, I was the Marie Jahoda Visiting Chair of International Women’s Studies at the Ruhr-University, Germany, where I taught and spoke at a seminar on Foucault. In November, I was a keynote speaker at the annual meeting of Swiss Ethnological Society in Luzanne. Over the course of the year, I’ve also given talks at the Universities of Oslo, Uppsala and Chicago, as well as at Northwestern University and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

In July I returned to my old fieldsite of Gapun, Papua New Guinea, for the first time in fifteen years. The return visit was bracing. I have applied for research grants to resume work in Gapun, and if I get them, next year I will disappear back into the swamps for a very long time, with a mosquito net and a tape recorder.

The Language and Sexuality Reader, which I compiled and edited with Deborah Cameron, was published by Routledge early in the year, and an article entitled “Theory in Pure Masochist Anthropology” was in the December issue of Current Anthropology. My contribution to trying to answer that nagging question, “How can we think about masturbation in Sweden today?” appeared in an anthology entitled Den Moderna Ensamheten (Loneliness and Modernity).

Emily Martin

On leave in the fall of this year, while mostly gardening and studying Chinese in Baltimore, I finished the final details for Bipolar Expeditions: Mania and Depression in American Culture. The last few weeks of this process were taken up with lengthy and tedious correspondence and financial negotiations over permissions for illustrations; not just from the press or journal that published the illustration but from every photographer or model involved in its production. What a nightmare! I learned a lot about what it means when a press interprets the Fair Use law strictly.

In October, I gave a paper at a conference in Johns Hopkins’ Humanities Center on “Concepts of Life,” at which I met Shigehisa Kurovama and learned about his amazing book The Expressiveness of the Body – which later played an important role in my “Personhood” graduate seminar. In November, Don Kulick and I had the pleasure of chairing a presidential session at the AAA called “The Orgasm.” This was a four-plus-field extravaganza, in which archeological, primatological, cultural, linguistic, historical, and biological insights were brought to bear on the topic. The papers were
It seems that I spent this year giving lectures and going to conferences. Last fall I spoke at a conference on Asia in Norway, the NORASIA Conference; gave a keynote at the RELAJU conference on Latin American Legal Anthropology in Mexico City; and gave a final plenary talk at a conference on law and governance at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany. I also gave a paper in a conference on transitional justice at Yale and at the American Association of Law Schools conference as well as at the AAA meetings and the Law and Society Meetings. I gave several lectures, including at the CUNY Grad Center, Duke, Cornell, Suffolk Law School, and the Univ. of Connecticut “Foundations of Humanitarianism” symposium. I also gave the 2007 John P. Humphrey Lecture in Human Rights at the McGill University School of Law and the 2007 Geneviève McMillan-Reba Stewart Lecture on Women in the Developing World at MIT. In May, I spent a week at University of California/Irvine as the Chancellor’s Distinguished Fellow, giving lectures and meeting with graduate students. I served as a commentator for a lecture at the Law and Public Affairs Program at Princeton and gave a talk in a subsequent conference there, as well as at the Northeast Law and Society meetings.

I have also been very engaged with academic associations. I have been elected to the executive boards of both the American Anthropological Association and the Law and Society Association. I am also chair of the Committee on Scientific Communication, which oversees AAA publications and meetings, so I am keeping busy. This spring, I ran for president of the AAA.

In my work for the Law and Society Association, I chaired a committee that designed a project to create international research networks of law and society scholars that specifically include scholars from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. We developed the program, gathered applications, and selected 20 groups to receive some support and funding for these activities. On the basis of this initiative, we wrote a successful proposal to the National Science Foundation, which awarded the Association $123,000 to bring scholars from Asia, Africa, and Latin America to the 2007 Law and Society Association meetings in Berlin.

I continue to be busy with editorial work, serving on the editorial board of Cultural Anthropology and editing a book series on Law and Society with Cambridge University Press. I am on the Stevens External Research Review Committee of the American Bar Foundation and completing a term on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Germany. And in the spring, I had the pleasure of serving on a departmental review of the Tufts Univ. Anthropology Department. In between these activities are numerous article and book manuscript reviews, grant application reviews, including serving as a reviewer for the ACLS predoctoral dissertation research grant program this year, and tenure and promotion letters. Overall, it has been an exciting and fascinating year.

Fred Myers

A number of articles came into print this year, including the first piece I’ve ever co-authored with Paye Ginsburg. Although we have each written articles with other people before, we hadn’t done one together, so “A History of Aboriginal Futures” was a first—incorporating our focus on Indigenous media and acrylic painting in one article. Through this essay, we wanted to bring attention to the significant and positive role if Indigenous culture-makers in constructing a vision of an Aboriginal past and future. I had a chance to consider my own past and future in a different essay, as a “key informant in anthropology,” in the journal Ethnos, I trace my own history and field experiences as an anthropologist in relationship to changes in the situation of Aboriginal people and in the project of anthropology. It was a little odd to be an informant on the history of anthropology, but I figure they thought I was older than I am...

I spent this year looking forward, however, rather than back, trying to extend my work in anthropology and art, participating in a one-day Visual Culture and Art History workshop at NYU, presenting a paper entitled “Censorship from Below: Aboriginal Art in Museums,” which explores the way in which Indigenous claims have limited the exhibition and circulation of images. I gave a longer version of it at Dartmouth’s Hood Museum, at the opening of an exhibition of Aboriginal Women’s Art there in October 2006. This paper is itself related to work I am doing in relation to an exhibition of early Papunya paintings scheduled to open at the Grey Gallery at NYU in September 2009. Working with the fantastic curators at the Grey, we are planning an elaborate schedule of programming to accompany that exhibition. Preparation for the exhibition has involved working out whether the current Papunya Tula painters think it is acceptable to exhibit these paintings in New York, at a sufficient remove from the local communities who might be concerned about showing some of the images.

In the spring, the cooperative with which I have been doing research over the years, Papunya Tula Artists, sent an email invitation to the opening of the new “art
York City; we have been fortunate to receive funding from both the Spencer Foundation and NYU’s Institute for the Study of Human Development in Social Context. In addition to our joint work among media, legal, and educational innovators on this growing sector, I intend to pursue fieldwork in scientific laboratories during 2007-08 on brain research about learning, memory, and epigenetics. Of course, kinship relations lie at the heart of our project, and we intend to interview families across a wide array of social locations who have had the experience of having a child diagnosed with special educational categories and services. We see this as a particularly promising arena for understanding unanticipated cultural activism around gender, racial-ethnic, class and kinship claims on citizenship. Our new fieldwork concerns the perceived “cultural epidemic in learning disabilities.” We argue for an explicitly anthropological perspective on the growing public awareness and mediated diversity of “All Kinds of Minds” (to quote a famous and popular book on the subject) in U.S. families and communities.

In the past year, I have given talks at UC-Berkeley/UCSF, the New School, the American Coalition on Jewish Bioethics, and the University of Lisbon. By the time this newsletter is published, I intend to give a plenary address at a conference in Newcastle, U.K., as well. In all these contexts, I’ve been pleased to learn about “bioethics as culture,” and look forward to integrating these themes into my research and teaching here at NYU.

Susan Carol Rogers

I am just back from a Paris workshop immodestly entitled “Parallaxes: Anthropologies of the Western World for the 21st Century,” that I co-organized with Anne Raulin (University of Paris X). Funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation and the Laboratoire d’Anthropologie Urbaine (CNRS) and held at NYU-Paris’ wonderful Passy location, this workshop brought together a small group of French anthropologists who have conducted fieldwork in the U.S. and American anthropologists specializing in France (including NYU alumni David Beriss, Beth Epstein, and William Poulin-Deltour). [Worth noting: although it was difficult to choose among a now-substantial number of American anthropologists of France, it was equally difficult to identify many French anthropologists of non-native U.S.; French anthropology remains divided between “exotic” and “at home,” with relatively little research conducted in European or North American societies “close to home.”]

We organized the workshop in a way that we hoped would foster collective thinking about some of the broader implications of our experience for the practice of sociocultural anthropology. Intensive discussion was based on pre-circulated papers and on our reciprocal standing as each other’s natives and anthropologists, as well as on our shared status as products of two roughly equally prestigious (though sometimes mutually opaque) intellectual traditions. The encounter was enormously stimulating, raising interesting questions about distinctions between “native” and “outsider” forms of knowledge that have long been at the heart of ethnographic inquiry. [Would an American ethnographer notice “fun” as a key concept of American culture, for example? But then again, the French anthropologists were disproportionately drawn to Californian fieldsites; how might that have colored their vision of the U.S., asked the disproportionately northeastern Americans?] It also drew our attention to the variable meanings of such terms as “race,” “community,” “state,” and “culture,” not only as they slither between vernacular and analytical uses, but as they move from one to another cultural context or intellectual tradition to another.

It remains to be seen where we will go from here. This first meeting was intended as a chance to begin talking across the distinctions that divide us. But the workshop participants all seem to be eager to continue the dialogue, and there was clearly a great deal of interest in Paris among a potential audience and a number of journals. So plans are underway to organize a second encounter intended to result in a more public discussion and collective publication.

Otherwise, this trip to Paris was a great opportunity to catch up with many old friends and colleagues, as well as the current state of French anthropology. I checked in to a very interesting seminar on the anthropology of tourism at EHESS, one on race at ENS, and several preparatory sessions for the December meetings on the future of anthropology in France; I meant to get to a seminar on rural studies and another on the ethnography of deafness. The new museum of “arts premières” at the Quai Branly has continued to inspire equally impressive polemic among anthropologists and enthusiasm from the general public; when I finally found time to get there, I found the objects as beautiful and the display as confusing as I had been led to expect. A little theatre, a few galleries, lots of dinner parties and other parties, and Paris remains as enchanting as ever, even aside from the anthropologists....
Processes and Linguistic Mediations: Pacific Explorations," during the summer of 2006. This not only gave us the opportunity to read more deeply in the Pacific literature, but explore old maps and images. We especially enjoyed designing the cover, which is based on an 1856 map of Oceania.

This summer I plan to complete an ongoing research project, which examines how speakers indicate and differentiate reported speech and reported thought (their own and others'), via various lexical means, such as quotative "like" as well as various syntactic, pragmatic and orthographic means. The focus is on English speakers using casual forms of talk in three communicative formats: face-to-face conversation, telephone conversations and Instant Messaging. New ways in which they report speech and thought. Graham Jones and I are collaborating in this investigation, and Rachel Flamundra, a recent NYU graduate with a joint major in anthropology and linguistics, is assisting us.

In the coming year I will be working on a new book project tentatively entitled "New Words, New Worlds: Missionization and Cultural Change in Bosavi," under contract with the University of California Press series, The Anthropology of Christianity. With a Humanities Initiative Faculty Research Fellowship from New York University (2007-2008), I will have additional time to work on the manuscript.

Language socialization continues to be one of my strong interests, and I published several articles on that topic over the last year. "The impact of language socialization on grammatical development" was included in Language, Culture and Society, ed. C. Jourdan and K. Tute, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. Written with E. Ochs, it is a revised and updated version of an earlier publication. We also wrote the lead chapter "Language socialization: An historical overview" for the Encyclopedia of Language and Education, vol. 8: Language Socialization, ed. P. Duff and N. Hornberger. NY: Springer. My first publication in French will appear this year, "Langage et lieu dans l'univers de l'enfance" in Anthropologie et Sociét, 31, 1.

I presented various aspects of my work during the year to several academic audiences, including the American Anthropological Association, the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, and the Department of Human Development. I was the invited keynote speaker at UCLA’s Conference on Language, Interaction & Culture 2006, and the discussant for a two-day conference at UCLA on Language Socialization, Interaction and Culture held in 2007. This summer I have been invited to give several lectures at the University of Vienna, part of an initiative to introduce linguistic anthropology to graduate students and faculty there.

Other professional activities also kept me busy this year. As an advisor to the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, New Jersey, I participated in designing their new interactive exhibit on communication. Participating in this project has been challenging, as we have tried to make ideas about language and communication provocative, accurate, and inviting so that children and adults will think about language(s) in new ways. The new Communications Hall opens in July, and I look forward to seeing how it has all taken shape.

Lok Siu

There was much to celebrate in 2006-2007. In addition to being promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, I also received the Social Sciences Book Award from the Association for Asian American Studies for my ethnography, Memories of a Future Home: Diasporic Citizenship of Chinese in Panama (Stanford 2005). As I transition from completing this multi-year book project to starting new research, my work this past year inevitably reflected the liminal nature of this period.

Wrapping up my earlier research on the Chinese in Panama, my article, "Ethnicity in Globalization: The Return of the Panama Canal, the Hong Kong Handover, and the Refashioning of Chineseness," was published in a special issue on Latin America-Asian Writing and Arts in the journal Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas (summer 2006). I also took advantage of this transitional moment to edit a reader for "Human, Society, and Culture," a course that I had taught for three years in a row. Human, Society, and Culture: An Introductory Reader was published in September of 2006. This summer, I am completing a co-edited volume, "Asian Diasporas: New Formations, New Conceptions" (Stanford University Press). The collection examines the global dispersion of Asians and their subsequent experience of creating home and community. Representing a wide range of disciplines, regions, and historical periods, the volume proposes a new epistemological category that links together seemingly disparate Asian communities and their experiences of dispersal. The anthology is particularly concerned with processes of diaspora-making and therefore focuses on the political-economic, social, and cultural factors that facilitate displacement and marginalization as well as the strategies of migrant negotiation. Its expected publication date is October 2007.

Throughout the year, I presented both old and new research at various institutions. I was invited to give the
to discover several entirely unknown archives of
documents related to the “Hauser Affair.” Otto
Hauser was a very ambitious German-Swiss
archaeologist who was forced to flee France at the
outset of World War I under a cloud of
acquisitions of espionage and artifact selling. He
has traditionally been represented by French
prehistorians as the single most destructive force in
the history of French archaeology.

Far from being of mere local interest,
the “affaire Hauser” took place against a
backdrop of European history, politics and
administrative entanglements. For example,
Hauser was allied with members of the anti-
clerical movement at a time when considerable
power in archaeology was held by Catholic lay
priests.

Contrary to received wisdom, Hauser is
revealed by archival sources and photographs to
have been a remarkably careful excavator, well
ahead of his time. I recently published an
autobiography of Hauser’s adversary, the French
prehistorian Denis Peyrony, which I discovered in
the course of my archival work. A first book on
this subject, L’Affaire de l’abri du Poisson: Patrie et
préhistoire (Périgueux: Fanlac), has just appeared,
and I shall continue work on a second book
manuscript on this complex and controversial
subject.

Overall, this has been an exciting year of
research, writing and professional growth. I look
forward to returning to the department in the fall
in order to share with students and colleagues the
fruits of these various activities.

Rita Wright

Many good things happened this year.
Perhaps the most satisfying was the completion
of the Ph.D by three of my graduate students,
Karen Bellinger Wehner, Chris Kimbrough, and
Laurie Tedesco. Definitely a banner year and
congratulations to each of them.

I just returned from attending meetings
of the European Society of South Asian
Archaeology at Ravenna, Italy. In addition to
being held in one of the most historic living
cities (unbelievably beautiful mosaics dating to as
early as the 4th century), it was the perfect place
for an international group of scholars to join in
discussions of past cultures. We were especially
pleased to have Iranian colleagues report on their
most recent excavations. I gave three papers at
the conference, all having to do with my research
on the Indus civilization and most particularly,
the regional survey I conducted near the city of Harappa.

With Dr. Carrie Hritz from Washington University, St. Louis,
I presented a paper in which we utilized various types of
remote sensing — Landsat Mosaics, Geological Landform
Maps, and Corona declassified imagery—to locate additional
sites visible from the air but not on the ground (there were
about 12 new ones in the survey area, though we will have to
ground truth to find out when they were occupied) and relict
channels, several of which may resolve some puzzles, again
to be ground truthed. Other news from the survey was
recently noted by Andrew Lawler in a brief description in
Science magazine based on a paper delivered at the Society for
American Archaeology meetings in which we reported new
data on climate change based on climate modeling, carbon
isotope analyses and cropping patterns.

After the Ravenna conference, a weekend
conference was convened for a new organization, MAIS
(Middle Asian Intercultural Space). The need for this
organization is based on evidence discovered over the past
twenty years in Iran, Central Asia and the Arabian Peninsula
indicating that the spaces in between Mesopotamia and the
Indus Valley were not inhabited by passive recipients
affected by the two states. Increasing evidence indicates
that a number of major cultural groups were reciprocally
implicated in extensive interaction in the third millennium
BC.

In February I was invited to attend a workshop at
the University of Chicago, Oriental Institute on textual
evidence from the province of Umma in Mesopotamia.
Participants at the workshop included cuneiform specialists
(Sumerologists and Assyriologists) and dirt archaeologists like
myself. Our goal was to use texts kept to record the input
and output of materials and products in large state and
temple institutions, more rarely in private accounts, to
understand the infrastructure behind the economy of the
period (ca. 2100 – 2014 BC). This interest follows from my
previous publications on gender and class differences in one
of the world’s most centralized early states.

In the midst of all this good news, there is nothing
good to be said about the looting situation throughout my
area of research in the Middle East and South Asia, given the
continued willingness of collectors to purchase illicitly
acquired objects. Google Earth is a great aid to tracking the
continued destruction throughout the region. I recommend
anybody tempted to buy a looted object, to take a look at the
rock-marked landscape. An object ripped out of the ground
loses its context — was it found in a house or a temple, in the
kitchen or the courtyard, from lower or upper strata, etc —
and its place in history.
Faculty Awards and Publications

**Anthony Di Fiore**
- Grants from National Science and Wenner-Gren Foundations to support international
  "Molecular Primatology: Progress and Promise" March 2006 conference;
  Center for the Study of Human Origins, New York University (with Terry Harrison)

**Faye Ginsburg**
- Keynote speaker, "Media, Change, and Social Theory" conference,
  St. Hugh's College, Oxford University, September 2006
- Keynote speaker, International Conference on Ethnographic Cinema and Visual Anthropology,
  Comité du Film Ethnographique, Musée de l'Homme, Paris, March 2006

**Bruce Grant**
- Elected to the Board of Directors of the
  National Council of Eurasian and East European Research

**Terry Harrison**
- Elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science
- *Neanderthals Revisited: New Approaches & Perspectives* (co-edited w/K. Harvati). Dordrecht:
  Springer, 2006

**Don Kulick**
- *The Language and Sexuality Reader* (compiled and edited with Deborah Cameron),
  London and New York: Routledge, 2006
- Swedish Association for Sexuality Education Award for having introduced
  queer theory to Sweden in the early 1990's

**Emily Martin**
- *Bipolar Expeditions: Mania and Depression in American Culture*,
- Keynote lecture, Biennial Research Conference, "Fields and Wholes," Danish Research School of
  Anthropology and Ethnography, University of Aarhus
AGSA

In 2006-2007, the Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA) followed the illustrious example set by our antecedents, planning and executing a full calendar of traditional AGSA activities. We kicked off the year with a brunch to welcome incoming students. We also fostered a general feeling of trans-cohort communitas through unforgettable nights of AGSA bowling and karaoke. Throughout the fall and spring we organized several brownbag lunches with a great line up of faculty and guests in addition to delicious falafels. In the Spring, we coordinated with Director of Graduate Studies Professor Susan Carol Rogers to host and bedazzle prospective students. Our tenure as AGSA officers concluded with the annual Graduate Student Research Symposium, featuring the diversity and breadth of student research interests in our department.

We AGSA officers—Anna Wilking, Tate LeFevre, Alison Cool, Meghan Harrington, Matt Spigelman, Heather Weyrick, Noah Pleschet and Summer Wood—would like to thank all departmental faculty and staff for their support and their many efforts on our behalf during the past year. Finally, we thank our fellow members of AGSA for their input, participation, and enthusiasm; and wish the newly minted AGSA officers a happy and productive year!

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Biological/Archaeology

Jim Boyle is currently writing his dissertation, “Bone and Antler Craft Production in Early Medieval Ireland,” portions of which he presented in May at the 42nd International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He is also finishing his first term on the editorial board of Eolar, the journal of the American Society of Irish Medieval Studies, the second volume of which will appear in the Fall of 2007. He’s currently living in Arizona, managing his family’s 5000 head dairy and 1200 acres of alfalfa, corn and sorghum.

Rachel Dvoskin defended her dissertation in January and graduated in May—finally! She is working full-time as the copy editor for Scientific American Mind (check it out at www.sciammind.com) and is currently writing an article that is slated to appear in the September issue of Anthropology News. She is collaborating with colleagues at the National Institutes of Health on several publications based on her dissertation research. On an unrelated but happy note, she’s also engaged to be married!

Alba Lucia Morales Jiménez is in her third year in the Ph.D. program in biological anthropology, under the supervision of Dr. Anthony Di Fiore. She is a Colombian biologist with a MSc. in primate conservation from Oxford Brookes University, and is interested in neotropical primate conservation, systematics and phylogeny. This summer she traveled around Colombia to collect samples for her dissertation on the systematics and phylogeny of one of the most endangered primates in the neotropics, the spider
Christopher Fraga is spending the summer after his fourth year in the program ferreted away inside a cave, preparing feverishly for his comps. He leaves for a year of fieldwork in Mexico City this August.

Rachel Learns returned in January 2007 from 16 months spent in Uruguay shooting her documentary “Birds of Passage” on young musicians and their experiences of migration. She is currently editing and fundraising for this project as she prepares for comps and writes dissertation fieldwork grants for further research on the mediation of senses of place in Uruguay through popular music and audiovisual media. In June, she will present her documentary at the Student Pitch session at the Silverdocs film festival in Washington, DC. In addition, she has been collaborating on a video art piece called Ethnography of No Place with visual artist Saya Woolfalk. The first part of this was on display at Artists Space Gallery in May, and further parts will be shown at the Japan Society and other galleries in New York later this year. She also performs her original music regularly with the band The Mystery Keys. Her website is www.honeycombfilms.com.

Lisa Stefanoff is finishing her dissertation in Alice Springs and working to pay the bills as part of the team at the Institute for Aboriginal Development Press (www.aid.edu.au/press). For the past year Lisa has remained involved in various central Australian art and cultural organisations including CAAMA, InCite Youth Arts, Watch This Space artists-run initiative, the Outback Youth Film Festival, and the Alice Springs Town Council Public Art Advisory Committee. Last summer and early fall, Lisa spent writing time, gave papers and programmed a screening series at the ANU Centre for Cross-Cultural Research. In the fall Lisa worked as a language and translation co-ordinator on a feature documentary “In My Father’s Country,” based in remote north-east Arnhemland. This spring she co-produced a two-day central Australian ‘Ideas Incubator’ called Art~Land~Culture (www.wts.org.au/alc/ideas). Conference presentations included a paper on CAAMA’s international presence and new desert Indigenous digital media initiatives, plus an historical video review of central Australian Aboriginal “youth media” (Our Media IV conference). Lisa also won a Regional Arts Australia still photography competition. When her dissertation is done she will recommence work producing a CAAMA documentary about the cultural interpretation of 23,000-year-old Aboriginal footprint trackways at Lake Mungo.

Socio-Cultural

Vanessa Agard-Jones just finished her whirlwind first year in the joint program in Anthropology and French Studies. She’s spending the summer in Paris and conducting initial research on her project, which she expects will focus on the politics of the memory of slavery in the francophone world. Back in New York, she was promoted this year to the position of managing editor at Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society (http://www.soulsjournal.net) housed at the Center for Contemporary Black History at Columbia University. She’s also published a book review with the Association for Feminist Anthropology (Breaking The Silence: French Women’s Voices From the Ghetto by Fadéla Amara and Sylvia Zappi; University of California Press, 2006) and last summer presented her first academic paper at the Black European Studies (BEST) conference in Berlin, Germany. This fall she’s looking forward to starting her tenure as a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow in Anthropology. Outside of the world of academe, she’s just finished the second of a three-year term as the chair of the board of directors of the Audre Lorde Project: a Community Organizing Center for LGBTST People of Color, a nonprofit organization based in Brooklyn.

Upon returning from two years of fieldwork in Tanzania, Rene Gerrets taught “Human Society and Culture” during the fall semester, an activity he enjoyed so much that he happily accepted an offer to teach the course again summer 2007. In the spring semester, Rene began writing his dissertation on the cultural politics of knowledge production in an international malaria control project in rural Tanzania. He presented initial findings at the Society for Applied Anthropology Conference in Tampa and at the Max Planck Institute
2007 Graduate Student Awards and Honors

Vanessa Agard-Jones
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

Elise Andaya
- Society for Medical Anthropology Hughes Graduate Student Prize
- Co-winner, Council for Anthropology and Reproduction Graduate Student Prize
- SUNY-Albany tenure-track faculty position in Latin America/medical anthropology

Anna Bernstein
- Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Research grant

Habiba Chirchir
- Antonina S. Ranieri International Scholars' Fund grant

Emily Cohen
- Torch Fellowship, NYU Graduate School of Arts and Science
- Fulbright-Institute of International Education Fellowship
- Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
- National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant for Cultural Anthropology

Alison Cool
- Anthropology Department Summer Fellowship

Christopher Fraga
- Fulbright-Institute of International Education Fellowship
- Wenner-Gren Foundation Individual Fieldwork grant

Patricia Hamrick
- Antonina S. Ranieri International Scholars' Fund grant
- Claire G. Goodman and Bertram Salwen Archaeological Fellowships (NYU Anthropology Department)

Nicolas Hersh
- American Council of Learned Societies Southeast European Language Training Grant

Rebecca Howes-Mischel
- Wenner-Gren Foundation Individual Research Grant

Amali Ibrahim
- GSAS Summer Predoctoral Fellowship
- Weiner Graduate Fellowship in Cultural Anthropology

Graham Jones
- Princeton Society of Fellows Postdoctoral Fellowship

Tate Lefevre
- NYU Anthropology Department Summer Fellowship
Graduate Degrees Awarded

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Amahl Bishara
"Local Hands, International News: The Labors of News Making and the Production of International Authority Through Palestinian Media Under Work Occupation"

Rachel Dvoskin
"Variation at the Corticotropin-Releasing Hormone Gene (CRH) Locus and Individual Differences in Stress Physiology And Behavior in Captive Rhesus Macaques Macaca mulatta"

Graham Jones
"Trades of the Trick: Conjuring Culture in Modern France"

Eleana Kim
"Remembering Loss: The Cultural Politics of Overseas Adoption from South Korea"

Christine Kimbrough
"Molecular Phylogeny and Phylogeography of the Genus Mandrillus (Primates: Pongiforme)"

Susan Malin-Boyce
"The Frauenberg at Weltenburg: Early La Tene Settlement Along the Bavarian Danube"

Susanna Rosenbaum
"Domestic Economies: Immigrant Workers, Native-Born Employers, and ‘Domestic Service’ in Los Angeles"

Karen Bellinger-Wehner
"Crafting Lives, Crafting Society in Seventeenth-Century Virginia"

30
Graduate Degrees Awarded

MASTER OF ARTS

Jessica Rottenstein
"Experimental Decomposition in the Northeast in Three Different Microenvironments"

Sandra Rozental
"Nationalizing Disciplines, Disciplining the Nation: Anthropology and Archaeology in Mexico and its National Museum"

Maja Seselj
"Variation in Orbital Shape in Modern Human Populations: A 3-D Geometric Morphometric Approach"

Christopher Schmitt
"Juvenile Development in Non-Human Primates: Life History and Behavioral Perspectives"

Ilana Solomon
"Genetic Affinities of Cook Islanders: A Look at the Mitochondrial DNA of Ancient Mangeians"

Sabra Thorne
"A Mediascape of Aboriginality, Race, Photography, and Anthropology: Revisiting the Archive, Recontextualizing its Narratives and Creating New Productions"

Emily Yates-Doerr
"Fetish(es) of Body Weight"
NY, 2005; Latin American Film Festival, Finland, 2005; 10th Mostra Internacional de Filme Etnografico, Brazil, 2005.
Bessire’s second film is From Honey to Ashes (2005, 47 min.; distributor: DER, http://www.der.org/films/from-honey-to-asches.html). In March 2004, one of the world’s last voluntarily isolated groups of hunter-gatherers walked out of the forest in northern Paraguay. This film documents the efforts to make sense of their new circumstances, and reflects on the broader implications of contact in the 21st century. From Honey to Ashes was screened at the Bilan du Film Ethnographique (Paris) and the Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival (London).

Robert Chang’s documentary, Nothing to Lose (2006, 18 min, Distributor: DER, http://www.der.org/films/nothing-to-lose.html) presents the activities of the local New York chapter of the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance (NAAFA) as they advance their platform through engagements with mass media, dissemination of information, and creative local actions; it has been screened at the Popular Culture Association/ American Culture Association Annual Meeting, the Tremblant Film Festival, and the 2006 Society for Visual Anthropology Film Festival.

Aaron Glass’s (Anthropology 2006) In Search of Hamatsa (2005, 33 min, Distributors: DER/ Royal Anthropological Institute and IWF, Germany), chronicles the history of The Hamatsa (or “Cannibal Dance”) , the most important—and highly represented—ceremony of the Kwakwaka’wakw (Kwakiutl) people of British Columbia. It screened in 2005-06 at the Bilan du Film Ethnographique (Paris), Royal Anthropological Institute Film Festival (London), and Beeld voor Beeld Festival (Amsterdam); it screened at the 2006 Pärnu International Film Festival, XIII Sardinia International Ethnographic Film Festival (Nuoro, Italy), Third International Visual Anthropology Film Festival (Moscow), and the Society for Visual Anthropology Film & Video Festival (San Jose). The film was awarded the Royal Anthropological Institute’s Material Culture and Archaeology Prize.

Jenn Guitart’s (Anthropology 2005) film Worms in the Big Apple (2005, 18 min.), about composting in New York City, screened at the Viscult Film Festival in Joensuu, Finland, and the Hazel Wolf Environmental Film Festival in 2006, and the Rochester International Film Festival in 2007. This fall it will air on the Emmy Award-winning public television series “Natural Heroes.

Wazhmah Osman’s Postcards from Torq Bora (2007, 85 min, co-directed by Kelly Dolak and Stephen Jablonsky) premiered at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival. The film chronicles the return of Osman to her childhood home in Afghanistan, a place she left at the height of the Cold War when her family frantically escaped from Afghanistan while leaving almost everything behind. Armed only with rapidly fading memories, she recruits some unlikely and reluctant guides to put together the pieces of her past, searching for any tangible evidence of her former life, including her estranged father who, in the aftermath of war, choose his country over his family.

Jason Price’s (Anthropology 2006) The Professor (2007, 25 min, Distributor: DER, http://www.der.org/films/the-professor.html) is a portrait of former law professor and Liberian Supreme Court justice David Kpormakpor, who served as Interim President of Liberia in 1994-95 during its disastrous civil war. He now lives alone and on welfare in New York City’s “Little Liberia,” among thousands of Liberian refugees, many of whom question why he did not simply take the money and run when he had the chance.

Lauren Shweder Biel’s Abraham’s Daughters: A Bat Mitzvah Story (2003, 35 min.; distributor: Kavannah Productions, http://www.kavannahproductions.com/) follows one family’s journey through the preparations for the life cycle ceremony as it is practiced and experienced in contemporary Jewish life. Abraham’s Daughters screened widely throughout the east coast and is being taught in many Jewish Studies Departments. Ms. Shweder Biel is currently finishing up post-production on 888-GO-KOSHER – a short documentary about NYC’s only rapid-response kitchen koshering service.
Human Skeletal Biology Track Going Strong

We have now matriculated three classes of M.A. students into the Department’s Human Skeletal Biology (Physical Anthropology) track. Four second-year students completed their master’s theses during the spring and summer of 2007. Five other students finished their first year in the program, and an incoming class of five will start in the fall of 2007. Directed by Dr. Susan Antón, the program prepares graduates to apply the principles and techniques of skeletal biology and genetic research in physical anthropology to a variety of contexts, including those in the Forensic Sciences (i.e., Medical Examiner’s office, Coroner’s office, armed forces, criminal justice, law enforcement, mass disasters). The program is also useful training for students who are preparing for admission to doctoral programs in skeletal biology and human evolution.

The M.A. projects of the 2007 class included studies on decomposition, mass graves, genetics of craniofacial growth in primates, and a retrospective study of dismemberment cases and methods. All of the graduates will be working full time in their areas of interest. Graduates are employed by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, NY, and the New Jersey State Police. First-year students Habiba Chirchir, Maggie Cocca, Megan Fluckiger, Emma Hite, and Allysha Powanda, are working on projects in bioarcheology, paleoanthropology, molecular anthropology, and forensic anthropology. The incoming students have undergraduate degrees from the University of Florida, UCLA, William and Mary, Stanford, and Brown University.

New faculty have agreed to work with the M.A. program this coming year, including Dr. Christian Crowder of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, NY.

Information about the M.A. program can be found at http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/anthro/programs/biology/index.html
Brooke Blades (Ph.D., 1997)

Brooke Blades is currently an archaeologist with an environmental consulting firm in the Philadelphia area. During the past year, he participated in a NAGPRA-related analysis of an extensive archaeological collection from Barrow, Alaska, dating from ca. 500 A.D. to the early twentieth century. The collection was excavated in the early 1950s by a Harvard graduate student but was never published and remains relatively unknown. Since the collection was excavated from permafrost contexts, the organic preservation of wood, antler, ivory, and mammal hides is exceptional. The North Slope coastal groups are particularly interesting as highly specialized and rather sedentary hunters with extraordinarily specialized material culture. The Palaeolithic does seem rather far away in the eastern United States at times. Brooke has been editing a collection of papers with Brian Adams from the University of Illinois on lithic raw material procurement and utilization from the Early Palaeolithic to the early Holocene. The volume will be published by Blackwell Publishing later this year or early in 2008. He sends his best wishes to his graduate professors (Terry, Randy, Cliff) and fellow graduate students.

Giselle Garcia (M.A., Skeletal Biology, 2006)

As of last November, Giselle has been working at the American Museum of Natural History as the new Collections Manager in Biological Anthropology. She is currently in the process of databasing the human skeletal collection for her department's new online database, which will help facilitate researcher inquiries and requests. This is a formidable task that will most likely take at least another year. She and her colleague William Harcourt-Smith are also in the process of preparing her thesis for possible publication in a scientific journal.

Laura Gaydosh (M.A., Skeletal Biology, 2007)

Laura Gaydosh completed a fellowship in forensic biology with the Virginia Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine and has since been employed in the Biology/DNA section of the Virginia Department of Forensic Science as a forensic scientist. She now spends her days examining evidence, conducting presumptive testing for the presence of blood and other body fluids, completing laboratory analysis (DNA typing) of biological evidence, preparing reports and testifying in court, as needed.

Wendy Dirks (Ph.D., 2001)

This has been a busy and productive year for Wendy Dirks, with a new husband, new job, and new country. In May 2006, she moved to England with her two cats and married long-time colleague Don Reid at Langley Castle. In March 2007, she joined the faculty of Newcastle University's School of Dental Sciences as a Lecturer in Oral Biology. She has two papers in press, "Life history theory and dental development in four species of catarrhine primates," in the Journal of Human Evolution (with co-author Jacqui Bowman), and "An anchrohnistic mammalian fauna from the Late Paleocene of Southwestern Wyoming," in Geologica Acta with co-author Bob Anemone. They will continue their paleontological fieldwork in the Great Divide Basin this summer.

Becky Dudzik Ham (Ph.D., 2001)

Becky Ham is currently a freelance science writer in Tucson, Arizona. She writes regularly for newspapers and magazines and is on staff with the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Health Behavior News Service. Her latest project is working on exhibit text and research for The University of Arizona Science Center and a Tucson community project called "Got Science To Go?" Her first textbook, "The Periodic Table," will be published by Chelsea House in fall 2007.
This year the undergraduate anthropology program had 144 majors and 47 minors. Sixty-four and 24 minors graduated this year, eight with honors in anthropology and 28 with Latin Honors.

Honors in Anthropology
- Margaret Cassidy-Blum
- Brandon Esenther
- Rachel Flamenbaum – “Speak Your Kasa: Broadcasting the Language of Ambivalence in Accra”
- Sarah Knowles – “The Role of Absorption Centers in Gender Transformations among Ethiopian Immigrants to Israel”
- Vatche Tchekmedjian
- Kyle Viterbo
- Ashley Voroba
- Patrick Worth

Latin Honors Cum Laude
Alexandra Bansal, Kathryn Cohan, Sona Dossi, Monique Edwards, Brandon Esenther, Mathew Hadley, Elizabeth Hess, Kaitlyn Huegel, Rashmi Jose, Eugene Khan, Lauren Lindahl, Sharah Marwh, Jose Mejia, Jefferson Nodland, Lindsey Reich, Parvin Taraz, Kyle Viterbo, Ashley Voroba, Pamela Walsh

Magna Cum Laude
Margaret Cassidy-Blum, Rachel Flamenbaum, Tara Ingman, Sara Knowles, Rachel Moland, Catherine Muldoon, Vatche Tchekmedjian, Patrick Worth

Summa Cum Laude
Fleur Porter

Elected to Phi Beta Kappa
Daniel Coppeto, Tara Ingman, Karin Perro, Fleur Porter, Carissa White

Awards
- Margaret Cassidy-Blum was awarded the Annette B. Weiner Award for excellence in her Anthropology major. She also received a Founder's Day award.
- Carlos Del Rio was awarded a Kraines Grant by the Dean’s Undergraduate Research Fund in the amount of $1,000 to support his research in Ecuador this summer.
- Rachael Flamenbaum won the Harold Acton Fellowship in Fall 2005, the Edward Sapir Award in 2007, and the Sir Alfred Borgman Prize for best honors thesis in the Social Sciences.
- Tara Ingman received the Ranieri Travel Grant in summer 2006.
- Fleur Porter was awarded Phi Beta Kappa, inducted into the Red Dragon Honors Society, and received the Anthropology Department Prize.
- Kyle Viterbo received a $1500 award from the Dean’s Undergraduate Research Fund for travel to Philippines to examine fossil evidence from the Tabon Cave. She also won the Dean’s Undergraduate Research Conference “Best Poster in Social Sciences” award for her thesis.

Current News
- Joshua Klein received a year-long Education Fellowship at the Medicare Rights Center in NYC, starting in July.
- Whitney B. Reiner studied howler monkeys for a month at the La Suerte Biological Station while enrolled in a field school with Professor Michelle Bezanson.
- Stephanie Super is interning at the (NYC) American Museum of Natural History under the direction of Will Harcourt-Smith and Gary Sawyer.
- Ava Vitali is attending the Institute of Fine Arts next year, where she received a scholarship to study Egyptology. She is also participating in the NYU Institute of Fine Arts field survey this summer at the hellenic site of Aphrodisias, in Turkey, with Prof. Christopher Ratte.
- John Stavrellis was awarded a fellowship to study Khmer in the University of Wisconsin’s South East Asian Studies Summer Institute.

Alumni News
- Kit Yee Fung was accepted to NYU's Doctor of Physical Therapy program.
- William Senders has been accepted into several medical schools and will most likely attend Oregon Health Sciences University for an MD.
- Gaurav Shah will attend the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine in Fall 2007.
- Fleur Porter has been accepted to several medical schools, and will most likely attend Cornell Medical School.
- Laura Vogel will attend Brooklyn Law School in the fall to seek a J.D. in criminal and international law.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 14</td>
<td>“Blind Faith: Painting Christianity in Post-Conflict Ambon”; Patricia Spyer, University of Leiden and Fellow, NYU Center for Religion and Media</td>
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<td>September 21</td>
<td>“It's Not a Telescope, It's a Telephone: Encounters with the Telephone on Early Commercial Sound Recordings”; Richard Bauman, Indiana University</td>
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<td>October 12</td>
<td>Center for Religion and Media Distinguished Lecture: “The Enchantment Effect: Impersonation and Identity in Contemporary India”; Purnima Mankekar, Stanford University</td>
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<td>October 16</td>
<td>NYU School of Law and Dept. of Sociology Dorothy Nelkin Lecture: “Companion Species in Science Studies: We Have Never Been Human”; Donna Haraway, University of California, Santa Cruz</td>
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<td>October 19</td>
<td>“The Gujarat Pogroms: Sacrifice, Anger, and Vegetarianism”; Parvis Ghassem-Fachandi, Fellow, NYU Center for Religion and Media</td>
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<td>October 26</td>
<td>Center for Religion and Media Distinguished Lecture: “Torture, Photography, and the Question of Sexuality”; Judith Butler, University of California-Berkeley</td>
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<td>November 2</td>
<td>“Seized by the Spirit: The Mystical Foundation of Squatting Among Pentecostals in Caracas, Venezuela”; Rafael Sanchez, Amsterdam School of Social Science Research and Fellow, NYU Center for Religion and Media</td>
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<td>November 30</td>
<td>“Afghanistan’s Hidden Past: Rediscovering the Collections of the Kabul Museum”; Fredrik Hiebert, National Geographic Society; co-sponsored with the Kevoortian Center for Middle Eastern Studies</td>
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<td>February 1</td>
<td>“Feminism, Democracy, and Empire: Islam and the War on Terror”; Saba Mahmood, University of California-Berkeley</td>
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<td>February 15</td>
<td>“Shaping Islam to France (and Vice-Versa): Schools, Debates, and Sacrifice”; John Bowen, Washington University</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
<td>“Terror and the Limits of Hysterical Identification: Counter-Transference and Rites of Commemoration in Lebanon”; John Borneman, Princeton University</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
<td>“Between the Posts: Postsocialism, Postcoloniality, and Ethnography After the Cold War”; Katherine Verdery, City University of New York, Graduate Center</td>
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<td>March 22</td>
<td>“The Pharmaceutical Person”; Emily Martin, Anthropology Department, New York University</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
<td>“Giving Soul to Global Music: Morocco’s Fes Festival Redefining World Religions”; Deborah Kapchan, New York University</td>
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