Anthropologists, including Sharon Gmelch, attending the Society for Applied Anthropology annual meetings in Santa Fe, New Mexico this April joined with residents of El Cerrito in the annual communal cleaning of the community’s irrigation ditch. Afterwards, they enjoyed a feast, music, and lecture/tour on the history of this original Spanish land grant community located on the Pecos River.

Message from the Chair

It’s been another busy year for both students and faculty. Nine anthropology majors—Lia Broomes, Rose Chowallur, Morgan Gmelch, Mike Heekin, Cat Howlett, Cara Kantrowitz, Blake Peschel, Kyla Rudnick, and Sarah Tidman—will be graduating this June. We wish them well in their future endeavors and know that they will put their anthropological skills and perspective to good use.

Professor Karen Brison is currently in Fiji with nine students on the Anthropology Field School Term Abroad; another group of students will be selected soon for next year’s field school in Tasmania.

Professors Derek Pardue, Kenji Tierney and Jennifer Matsue are busy developing exciting new courses for next year, including: Ruminations on Violence, Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Race, and Youth and Popular Cultures – Derek Pardue; The Anthropology of Sub-Saharan Africa, Anthropological Approaches to West Africa, and Diamonds, Race and Apartheid: The Political Economy of Southern Africa -- Kenji Tierney; and Bombs to Buddhism: Fatalism, Technology and Modern Japanese Culture – Jennifer Matsue.

If you have news to share or ideas for the newsletter, please send them to me at gmelchs@union.edu. Have a great summer.

Sharon Gmelch
New Magazine of Special Interest to Anthropology Majors

*AV: Abroad View Magazine* is written especially for college students. Its goal is to encourage study abroad and cross-cultural understanding. The latest issue (Spring 2005) gives real insight into the Peace Corps experience through a series of articles (and photographs) by Peace Corps volunteers, including Anthropology alumna Andrea Tehan ('03) now in Jamaica. Issues of the magazine are available in the International Programs office (Humanities Bldg.) and the Anthropology Department. Check [www.AbroadViewMagazine.com](http://www.AbroadViewMagazine.com) for more information or e-mail info@AbroadViewMagazine.com if you have questions or an idea for an article.

Publish Your Photographs or Articles in the Aleph

The *Aleph*, a Journal of Global Perspectives, is designed to publish student articles, photographs, poetry, and art. If you are interested, contact Doug Reilly at dreilly@hws.edu or (315) 781-3788 for information. Doug especially encourages anthropology students with interesting photographs or other work from a term abroad or an interesting senior thesis to contact him for up-coming issues.

Summer Field School in Archaeology

Many field schools in archaeology are held during the summer. One is being held this summer in Belize, Central America. It will be uncovering a large Mayan ceremonial site. If you are interested, contact Myka at [BVAarchaeology@aol.com](mailto:BVAarchaeology@aol.com). One session runs from June 6-July 1 and the second from July 11 to August. A four-week stay costs $1950; a two-week stay, $975. This covers lodging, weekday meals, and transportation to and from the airport and the site. For more information see [www.bvar.org](http://www.bvar.org).

Notices about other opportunities are regularly posted on the anthropology bulletin board and are kept in binders in the Anthropology Department and are available on-line at [www.aaanet.org](http://www.aaanet.org).
Spring Term Speakers’ Series

April 29 (Friday)  Race and Religion: A Look at “Evangelical” Churches in Urban Brazil

John Burdick  (Everest Lounge, Hale House 11:30-1:10, lunch provided)

John Burdick, professor of Anthropology at Syracuse University, will discuss anti-racist organizing in local “evangelical” churches in urban Brazil. Learn about the role evangelical churches play in this Catholic country, especially as focal points in urban areas for anti-racist organizing. The discussion will also deal with the more general topics of popular culture and youth movements in Latin America. Copies of his article “Why is the Black Evangelical Movement Growing in Brazil?” are available in the Anthropology Dept. for reading before the talk and lunch.

May 12 (Thursday)  Using the Skills of Anthropology in a non-Anthropological Setting – the U.S. Senate

Sarah Bittleman  (Everest Lounge, Hale House 6-7:30 pm, dinner provided)

As an undergraduate at Union, Sarah Bittleman participated in the Anthropology Field School in Barbados. After Union, she went on to become an environmental lawyer. For the last several years she has worked in the Senate in the office of Democratic Senator Ron Wyden (Oregon). Learn about environmental law, working in the Senate, and how she uses anthropological perspectives and skills everyday.

Mark these days on your calendar!

New Courses for Fall 2005

The Anthropology of Sub-Saharan Africa (ANT 181)

Anthropology 181 surveys the diverse peoples and cultures of the African continent (south of the Sahara), focusing on the global linkages between Africa and the rest of the world. In the course students will look beyond the nightly news about Africa which dwells on war, famine, and the AIDS crisis, to examine everyday life in Africa. This will be the first of three new courses on Africa that Professor Tierney will offer next year. The others are Diamonds, Race and Apartheid: The Political Economy of Southern Africa and Anthropological Approaches to West Africa.

Ruminations on Violence (ANT 29/229)

Is violence best understood as a set of “random acts” marginal to society? Or, do societies need violence to make culture systematic and hierarchy functional? This course is not about the psychology of individual pathology; rather, we will think about violence as a potential category of culture. Professor Pardue will be offering two other new courses next year: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Race and Youth and Popular Cultures.
Jennifer Milioto Matsue is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Performing Arts who also teaches in the Anthropology Department and in the East Asian Studies Program. She recently completed her Ph.D. at the University of Chicago where she wrote a dissertation in ethnomusicology entitled, "Performing Underground Sounds: An Ethnography of Music-Making in Tokyo’s Hardcore Clubs." She has continued to research women in traditional Japanese performing arts, and to study Japan’s popular music, including rave culture in contemporary Japan. She has based much of her research on female punk bands in Japan and the intimate social networks they create.

Before coming to Union, Matsue taught at Dartmouth College, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Chicago, and Sophia University in Japan.

At Union, she teaches courses in Japanese and East Asian music and culture, world music, American music, and anthropology.

Professor Matsue Rocks!

by Caitlin Panella
From September through mid-December 2004, Professor Matsue took students to Japan for a term abroad where they were enrolled in an international program at Kansai Gaidai. Students were required to spend all morning in an intense Japanese language course, and then spend the afternoons in English-language courses on Japanese culture, history and other fields of interest. The ability to speak Japanese was not a prerequisite, so students attended introductory through advanced level language courses, depending upon their skills.

Students lived with host families in the Kansai area, giving them ample opportunity to immerse themselves in Japanese culture. They were encouraged to interact not only with Union students, but to participate fully with their host families and other students at the University. Attendees reported that the immersion was so successful that they soon met Union students only for group travel. Students were able to see much of Japan, as mass transportation was convenient and the fast "bullet trains" quickly transported them as far as three hours away in any direction.

While in Japan, Professor Matsue was able to continue her research on contemporary Japanese music. She reports that her initial interest in punk music developed as she saw the way that the music brought together a variety of diverse people who would otherwise never have formed a bond or connection. She also was fascinated by how many women were partaking in these punk bands, a phenomenon that seemed at odds with traditional Japanese gender roles. Matsue explained, too, that she herself had played in a punk band named JUG for about two years, offering her a chance to experience the culture first-hand.

Professor Matsue teaches a number of courses including Introduction to World Music, Contemporary Japanese Society, American Music, and Popular Music in Modern Japan. Next year, she will teach a new Anthropology course: Bombs to Buddhism: Fatalism, Technology and Modern Japanese Culture. Matsue has a well-deserved reputation for her lively, engaging and interactive classroom style. Her passionate commitment to teaching shows clearly in the topics she covers. She is very animated, encouraging discussion and participation among students, and learns everyone's names to keep each student connected and involved. Students are encouraged to sign up early for upcoming classes and look for new course offerings in the future.

**Anthropology Students to Participate in Steinmetz Symposium – May 6&7**

Several Anthropology majors will be presenting either oral papers or poster displays at the upcoming Steinmetz Symposium on May 6 & 7. They include: Vanessa Dumonet, Cara Kantrowitz, Rose Chowallur, Morgan Gmelch, Kyla Rudnick, Rohan Singh, and Sarah Tidman. Support your fellow students by attending Steinmetz sessions, and be inspired by the research they and many other students have been doing.
Internship Opportunities

Global Resource Action Center for the Environment (GRACE)

For information about internships with GRACE, a non-profit organization based in NYC dealing with environmental and conservation issues, contact Union graduate Leslie Seff at www.gracelinks.org/joinus/internships.

Cultural Survival

Cultural Survival, a non-profit organization based in Cambridge, MA that works to publicize issues affecting indigenous peoples around the world and to help their causes, seeks interns the year round. Although the deadline for summer internships has just passed, seniors might be interested in the Fall. Several Union Anthropology majors have worked with them in the past. The following description is taken from their web site (www.cs.org): “We require interns to commit a minimum of six weeks; the average internship lasts for the duration of one school semester or three to four months in the summer. Interns work in the Cambridge office for no less than 16 hours per week. All internships are unpaid, and many of our interns engage in part-time employment in the Boston area. We offer internships in three departments: Research and Publications, Fundraising and Events, and International and Human Rights Law.”

For more information contact: Pia Maybury-Lewis, Coordinator
Email: internship@cs.org

Other Internships of Anthropological Interest

The American Anthropological Association (www.aaanet.org) has a “Resources for Students of Anthropology” link that will direct you to more internship opportunities as well as field schools, career resources, and a jobs database. Also, look at www.goabroad.com.

Faculty News

Karen Brison is currently (Spring term) in Fiji with nine Union students who are living with Fijian families in the small city of Suva. They are currently interning in local schools, while learning to do anthropological fieldwork in another culture as part of the Anthropology Department's Field School term abroad.

George Gmelch just finished editing a new book tentatively titled Global Baseball for the University of Nebraska Press. The collection of essays looks at the development of and cultures of baseball in sixteen societies, from well-known baseball-playing countries like Japan and the Dominican Republic to places like Italy, Holland and Brazil where baseball is still a minor sport. He spent much of the winter term finishing the book and also began new research on tourism in California’s Napa Valley which he is conducting with Professor Sharon Gmelch.
Sharon Gmelch spent her sabbatical this winter reading and conducting interviews with tourism guides in California. She is working on a book about the work and experiences of tourism guides and their role as cultural mediators who, to a large extent, shape the experience tourists have as well as their understanding of the places they visit. She has conducted interviews with guides in Tasmania, India, and Peru. This summer she will be going to Alaska to continue this research and to plan a mini-term on tourism; next year she will travel to Vietnam with the help of a Freeman Foundation grant.

Jennifer Matsue participated in a colloquium on women in East Asian performing arts at Wellesley College in April and will present a public lecture and seminar in St. Lawrence’s Global Japan series later this spring. She completed a review of Christopher Yohmei Blasdel’s latest shakuhachi (Japanese bamboo flute) recording which will appear in the Journal of Asian Music. She has also organized a taiko-workshop (Japanese drumming) and lecture by ethnomusicologist Deborah Wong who will be at Union on May 2. She plans to return to Japan this summer for more research.

Kenji Tierney is contributing a chapter entitled “Outside the Sumo Ring? Foreigners and a Re-Thinking of the National Sport” for the book *Multiculturalism in the New Japan.* (Graburn, Nelson ed.).

Derek Pardue recently published an article on rap CD covers as part of a study of alternative literacy in Brazil. In addition, he is currently organizing two symposia to take place at Union in the Winter and Spring terms of 2006. One conference is about violence (part of a new course to be offered) and the other concerns global hip-hop. Derek will return to Sao Paulo, Brazil in July to continue his fieldwork with local hip-hoppers.

Linda Cool continues to work on behavior and attitudes toward retirement since the end of mandatory retirement in higher education and action to change federal social policy and create a solution to a perceived problem. To address their fear of the high cost of retiree medical insurance and prescription drugs a solution was proposed that a national consortium of colleges, universities, and related higher education organizations work with Fidelity Investments and Aetna Health Insurance to offer tax-advantaged ways to save for the cost of health care in retirement and to provide specially designed health insurance products for retirees. The program, Emeriti Retirement Health Solutions, has finally received approval and will begin on July 1, 2005. Once Emeriti is up and running, Linda plans to write about her research findings, including a now-insider’s view of the torturous maze of working with "universalistic" regulatory agencies in Washington, D.C.

*Alumni News*

Reuel Daniels will be attending Columbia University next Fall for a Masters in Urban Planning, after working three years in Boston. She hopes to focus either on community and economic development or international comparative planning. “I haven’t quite narrowed it down yet – so many great choices!” she writes. “But I definitely want to integrate my study of planning with my background in anthropology. I couldn’t think of a better place than New York City and would love to hear from any former classmates in the area (reueldaniels@gmail.com).”
Amanda Haag just returned from Mexico where she spent several months earning her TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certificate, traveling, and teaching English.

“I began my stay in Guadalajara. With my friend Erin, I spent ten hours a day in the classroom but still managed to explore the city on the weekends. I discovered one of my favorite places in Mexico – a chapel with intricate murals painted by Jose Clemente Orozco. After finishing our course, we traveled to Guanajuato and finally ended up in Puebla. Tired of dragging our suitcases around, we borrowed a giant phonebook and set about calling, e-mailing, and visiting every language school, university, and secondary school in the city. After two weeks, we were finally offered a job with a local real estate agency teaching its employees English. Shortly after that we obtained positions at a language school teaching in the evenings.

“Throughout our stay we traveled as much as we could, and were lucky enough to be in Chichen Itza during the spring equinox when the shadow of a snake can be seen traveling down the side of an ancient Mayan pyramid…. Mexico is a very diverse culture with many traditions, foods, and languages. It is also much larger than I had realized. If visiting a variety of Mexican states didn’t prove this, my 16-hour bus ride from Puebla to Compeche certainly did.” You can contact Amanda at amandajhaag@yahoo.com

Anthropological Mysteries

If you enjoy mysteries and crime fiction, investigate Aaron Elkins, Kathy Reichs, and Patricia Cornwell. All three write mysteries with forensic anthropologists as the protagonists and principal sleuths. Aaron Elkin’s main character is Gideon Oliver; his latest book Where There’s a Will takes place in Hawaii. Kathy Reichs’s Temperance Brennan solves her crimes in Montreal and North Carolina; and Patricia Cornwell’s Kay Scarpetta works mainly in Virginia and Florida.