This has been a busy term, finishing preparations for the department’s external review, completing senior theses, going on class fieldtrips, preparing for the Steinmetz symposium, and selecting next year’s Tasmania field school participants. We also successfully finished our search for a visiting professor. We will be joined next Fall by Professor Ari Gandsman from McGill University. His research in Argentina examined issues surrounding the identification of children of the “disappeared,” victims of the country’s “dirty war” in the 1970s and early 1980s. We look forward to his presence on campus. Sharon Gmelch
Fall 2007 Anthropology Classes

ANT110-01 Intro to Cultural Anthropology (MWF 10:30-11:35, Bailey 312) .......... D. Fay
ANT110-02 Intro to Cultural Anthropology (MWF 1:50-2:55, SS017) .................. D. Fay
ANT111 Ethnographic Film (MW 3:05-5:00, SS012) ........................................ S. Gmelch
ANT131 Anthropology of Consumption (TTh 1:55-3:40, SS 012) .............. K. Tierney
ANT183 Peoples & Cultures of Latin America (TTh 9-10:45, HU 014) .......... A. Gandsman
ANT230 Medical Anthropology (TTh 1:55-3:40, HU 014) ............................ A. Gandsman
ANT363 Research Methods & Design (TTh 10:550-12:40, Blue House 105) .... D. Fay

Anthropology Classes Take to the Field

Archeaology at Wemple-Lazzari Farm

Professor Steve Jones’ Introduction to Archaeology class throughout the month of May will be testing their knowledge at this 18th century farm. They will learn to work in teams, conduct field surveys, set up a site, and excavate with the hopes of finding artifacts. For many students this will be their first experience getting dirty (literally) in hopes of uncovering the past.

Museum Studies in Cooperstown

Professor Sharon Gmelch’s The Museum: Theory and Practice class took a day-long fieldtrip to Cooperstown, NY where they visited the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, the Fenimore Art Museum, the Farmer’s Museum, and SUNY Oneonta’s Graduate Program in Museum Studies. Besides touring these museums, they met with museum staff including Tim Wiles, Director of Research at the BB Hall of Fame, Professor Gretchen Sorin, Director of the Museum Studies Graduate Program, and an educator and interpreter at the Farmer’s Museum. Besides learning a lot about these very different museums, exhibit design, museum work, and the challenges museums face, they also had some fun. On May 21 they will learn about designing exhibits on a fieldtrip to the NY State Museum in Albany.

Faculty Publication

Lewis Henry Morgan Prize for Best Senior Thesis

This year’s senior thesis prize was awarded to Andrew Maryniuk for his thesis “Becoming Aboriginal: Asserting Identity and Refusing Extinction in Tasmania.” Congratulations to Andrew.

Second Anthropology Night

Come join the Department for an Indian Meal and congratulate our seniors on their upcoming graduation and completion of their senior theses. It will also be an opportunity for former Fiji and Tasmania field school participants to meet next year’s Tasmania group. As before, faculty will bring images from their fieldwork for those who want to talk about doing Anthropology.

Breazzano House (formerly, Orange House)
Wednesday night, May 30
5-7:30 pm

Congratulations Seniors
Here’s a glimpse at three senior thesis topics....

Dagmara Podwyszynska, The Effects of Globalization on Fijian Language and Culture.
Dagmara’s thesis explores the decline in the use of native languages by cultures around the world by focusing on a single case study — Fiji. Vernacular languages around the world are declining largely due to the belief that English is the language of commerce and success, in short, the language of the future. (Advisor: Karen Brison)

Dan Felder, Food Choice in America: The Social Factors Which Determine What We Eat.
Dan’s thesis focuses primarily on how and what we eat in America today as well as why. Are our food choices determined by social factors such as class and gender? How has the changing role of women affected where and what we eat? Is there a viable solution to the environmental impact of large-scale farming? (Advisor: Kenji Tierney)

Vanessa Dumonet, Coping With Loss: Grieving after Miscarriage and Stillbirth.
Some questions Vanessa looked at in her thesis include: How do American women cope with the loss of “motherhood”? What mechanisms and strategies do they use to deal with their grief? Does anything comparable to the Japanese institution of Mizuko Kuyo (a religious mourning ritual) exist in America to formally help them cope? (Advisor: Sharon Gmelch)
Amber Muller received a Masters of Education from St. Johns University in May of 2005. She is now a high school math teacher.

Jessica Blodgett (formally Henry) received an MBA from Temple University in June 2004. She is currently working for The Wistar Institute as a grants administrator.

Christopher Berk recently visited Union. He just finished his first year of graduate school in Anthropology at the University of Michigan which he enjoyed very much and is now visiting Tasmania. Next year he will be a teaching assistant for Introduction to Cultural Anthropology and participate in a special Museum Studies program, while finishing his second year of graduate work. He’s putting his Union education to good use and enjoys Ann Arbor.

Anne Csiszer is living in the San Francisco Bay area and doing a year’s internship after graduating from Tufts Veterinary school last year. Next year she hopes to be in a residency program in small animal (dog and cat) surgery. She writes, “My training in anthropology is actually very useful in my profession.”

Lisa Visentin will be going to the Yale-New Haven Children’s Hospital next year for her medical residency, her top choice. Lisa reports that, “I know all my anthro. training served me well in getting my residency.” Lisa first studied “medicine” while in Ireland when she participated in the department’s field training program which was held there in 2001.

Did you Know?

Noted author Kurt Vonnegut, who died this April, studied physical anthropology at the University of Chicago, then switched to archaeology, and then cultural anthropology. After having two Master’s theses rejected, however, he left Chicago in 1947 without his degree in anthropology. But in 1971, after publishing the book Cat’s Cradle, he was awarded an MA for what the department regarded as a significant work in the field of anthropology.

Nancy Borowick’s recently received honorable mention in Photographer’s Forum magazine’s 27th Annual College Photography Contest sponsored by Nixon for her photo “Reann.” It was taken during her term abroad in Barbados last winter. Nancy, who taught seven and eight year olds during her stay in Barbados, would frequently bring her camera to school and take pictures of her camera loving students. “Reann” will be published in the Best of College Photography Annual 2007.