This year’s Lewis Henry Morgan prize for the best senior thesis in Anthropology went to Sara Melton. Her thesis, “A Healing Force: the Effect of Converting to Pentecostal Christianity,” examined Indo-Fijian women who crossed the deep ethnic and religious divide in Fiji to convert from Hinduism to Pentecostal Christianity.

Sara found that Indo-Fijian women insisted that they only converted after being miraculously healed by the Holy Spirit. She argues that Pentecostalism could make these women feel healed by giving them a sense of control over their lives which in turn helped them out of deep depressions resulting from stressful marriages. Congratulations to Sara for an excellent piece of research under the supervision of Professor Karen Brison.

This has been an eventful term, with two of our visiting faculty accepting tenure-track positions elsewhere. Congratulations are due to Professor Kenji Tierney who will be going to Skidmore and to Professor Derick Fay who will be going to the University of California, Riverside. We will miss them both as valued colleagues and excellent teachers, but wish them well.

Next year George Gmelch and I will leave to begin teaching at the University of San Francisco — although we will maintain our ties with Union. Professor Linda Cool will return to the department after her year’s sabbatical. Karen Brison will become the new Department Chair after her return from Fiji in the Fall. The department will also be joined by two new visiting professors: Alicia Ory DeNicola and Jeff Witsoe. They are looking forward to being at Union and will offer an exciting range of courses, including new courses on political anthropology and India.

Finally, congratulations to our graduating seniors. We wish you every success and hope you will keep in touch with the department in the future.

Sharon Gmelch
Alicia Ory DeNicola (pictured above) will be joining the Anthropology Department as a visiting professor this Fall. Her primary research has been conducted in the Indian state of Rajasthan where she has studied the occupation of craft textile printers and the growing impact of globalization and outside markets on their work. She will soon be starting research on the social, economic, and environmental effects of the disappearance of a river on an Indian community. This Fall she will be teaching *Gender and Society* and *Economic Anthropology*. She is also interested in offering courses on youth and popular culture, cultural ecology, tourism, India, and the self and life history.

Jeff Witsoe will also be coming to Union this Fall, further bolstering the College’s and the Department’s offerings on Asia, political anthropology, and development. Jeff received his PhD from the University of Cambridge and conducted his major research to date on caste politics in the Indian state of Bihar. He is currently studying the relationship between migration and caste empowerment in India; in the future, he plans to study the corporate penetration of Indian agriculture and also to begin a research project in Iran. He will be teaching *Introduction to Cultural Anthropology* and *Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Race* in the Fall and looks forward to offering courses on India or South Asia, political anthropology, and development.

**Alumni News**

Catherine Howlett, class of 2005, is currently living in Boston and teaching the third grade at an independent school while working on her masters at Lesley. Next year she will take over a fourth grade class. Says Cat, “I absolutely adore teaching.”

Andrew Maryniuk, class of 2007, is living in Boston and spends his days assisting at a consulting firm for nonprofits. Nights and weekends, he says, have taken on entirely new connotations and are mostly filled with music-making, trips to scattered friends, and “timorous planning for the future.” Andrew is “eminently proud to have studied anthropology. I pity the poor saps who don’t learn about Sapir-Whorf. I soon hope to flex my diploma to make the world a more tolerant place.”

After working in the wine industry in the Napa Valley, California the past two years, Morgan Gmelch, class of 2005, is moving to Washington DC this Fall to enter graduate school in Environmental and Resources Policy at George Washington University. This interdisciplinary program combines course work in political science, economics, the natural sciences, and environmental law. Morgan hopes to make the world a greener place.
Anthropology minor Heather Cunningham, class of 2008, recently received a boost to her confidence. She was named this year’s Daniel Weiskotten Scholarship student by the New York State Archaeology Association because of her “ability to articulate [her] enthusiasm for [her] chosen field.” Besides the scholarship money, which is not affiliated to any university, Heather will receive membership to the NYSAA for the year and she will be honored at the annual meeting of the NYSAA, held on April 19th in Syracuse NY.

Heather is overjoyed at this achievement. Her next archaeological venture will begin in late June, when she flies to Europe to spend six weeks at a field school in Ireland and Wales. This field school covers a full range of topics, from the Iron Age to gravestone conservation. She cannot wait to start getting dirty! Next fall, Heather plans to apply to archaeology graduate programs in both the United States and the United Kingdom. She has a special interest in pottery and glass fragments.

Malta Summer Field School

Anthropology major Brian Rosenblatt, class of 2010, will be attending a summer field school in Malta. According to Brian, “This program is designed to give young aspiring anthropologists hands-on, in the field experience. Malta is off the coast of Italy in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, and historically has been a crossroad between Europe, Asia, and Africa, resulting in a richly diverse culture. I will have the chance to develop my own research. I will also be taking an Anthropology Photography class which will teach me both history and techniques of ethnographic photography. The program is affiliated with OMERTAA, the Journal for Applied Anthropology; participants run from undergraduates to current PhD students.”

Fiji Anthropology Field School Participants, Fall 2008

Congratulations to the following students who will be accompanying Professor Karen Brison to Fiji next Fall to participate in the Anthropology Department’s field school there: Natalie Azzoli, Brian Card, Ian Dempsey, Kelsey Golitz, Kit Henderson-Adams, Hyma Kavuir, Kara Lightman, Brian Rosenblatt, Laura Schwartz, and Sarah Tardiff.
Every culture has "lessons" to teach visitors from abroad. In Tasmania—with its pristine wilderness and activist population—one of those lessons is “being Green.” The Green movement emerged in Tasmania in the 1960s. It began as a protest to a planned hydroelectric project that would have flooded one of the world's most scenic wilderness areas and ended up with the formation of the world's first Green political party in 1972.

The middle-class suburbs of Hobart, Tasmania's capital where Union's anthropology students live, is a stronghold of the Green party whose primary mission is to protect the environment by promoting sensible resource management. Most of the host families students lived with practiced being Green. Katie Newingham described her homestay family this way,

The feeling of “Green” was almost instant on moving in with Rob and Gwen, my Tasmanian family. Before the first meal I had, Gwen took me out to the garden to pick fresh lettuce and other veggies. After we ate, the leftovers went in a compost bin next to the sink. The Ziploc baggies Gwen packs my lunch in are rinsed and reused. The first rule Gwen told me was to always turn the lights off when I left any room.... Gwen and Rob don't believe in bottled water or in using the dryer. It is such a common sight around Hobart, to see clothes hanging out to dry. If it's threatening rain, Gwen sets up drying racks in the house. Like all the toilets here, ours has two flushing options—half flush for pee and full flush for, well, you get the idea.... The Green lifestyle makes so much more sense to me than the way we waste everything at home. It is easy to avoid wasting things simply with a little self-awareness. It is really rubbing off on me and I think I will be teaching my family and friends when I get home how they can live more sustainably.

After hearing our students talk about how conservation-minded their homestay families were, Sharon Gmelch and I constructed a brief questionnaire for them to fill out comparing their Tasmanian household with that of their parents. Before revealing the findings, I should note that Union students on the Tasmania term are from fairly progressive and often environmentally-conscious families. In short, these are families that would rank high on any “Green” scale in the United States but not when compared to Tasmanians. For example, all of the students’ Tasmanian homestay families hang their wash on the line rather than use a machine dryer. All of the Tasmanian families routinely turned off lights when leaving a room, while only 60% of the students American families did so. The Tasmanians were three times (60% versus 20%) as likely to take their own bags to the supermarket and twice (60% vs. 30%) as likely to both keep a compost pile and to take short showers in order to avoid wasting water.

Most, if not all, of the Union students who went on the Tasmania term have embraced the Green practices they were exposed to there. For example, Liana Appel wrote

I have learned from living in Tasmania that one person's actions can actually make a difference. While often I complain about what's going on the world, I'm not much of an activist and I've never really believed that personally I could make a difference. But being in Tasmania has shown me that even the smallest effort can make a small difference. I have learned that by just making sure I turn off the lights, unplug my appliances, and by pick up litter that someone else hasn’t bothered to can make a difference. When I was driving up to Cradle Mountain in late January with the park’s Discovery Ranger [part of her research], we saw a bunch of trash dumped on the roadside. Jenny [the ranger] pulled over and we put on latex gloves—which
Faculty News

**Derick Fay** will be leaving Union after two years to take up a tenure-track position in the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Riverside. He has also finished reading proofs for his co-edited book, *The Rights and Wrongs of Land Restitution: Restoring What Was Theirs* to be published this July by Routledge. Derick has also given two invited papers this year at Bowdoin College and at the annual meetings of the Association of American Geographers. This July he’ll be giving another invited paper at the International Association for the Study of the Common conference in Canterbury, England. During the summer he’ll also be driving across country to California. Because his new teaching responsibilities do not begin until January 2009, Derick is hoping he will be able to finish a book manuscript on land, resettlement, and changing notions of kinship and community in South Africa.

In January **Ari Gandsman** defended his dissertation, entitled “Reclaiming the Past: the Search for the Kidnapped Children of Argentina’s Disappeared,” and has been awarded his PhD. His dissertation documents a human rights NGO’s efforts to locate and recover the children of political dissidents who were kidnapped during the military dictatorship in Argentina in the 1970s. Drawing on ethnographic and archival research, he examines the processes by which these children have been identified through the use of genetic technologies and reunited to their biological families through legal rulings and with the assistance of mental health experts. His research also examines the broader consequences of this search for the human rights struggle in Argentina. One article based on this research will be published later this year; two more have been submitted for publication. This summer he will begin work on transforming his dissertation into a book manuscript.

**Kenji Tierney** is taking a tenure-track position at Skidmore College this fall after 4 years as a visitor at Union. “As the 10th week is fast approaching, I’m increasingly struck that my wonderful time here at Union is..."
George Gmelch enjoyed co-directing the Tasmania field school during the winter. He also had two articles published and four previously published articles reprinted in different anthologies. The new essays were “Bill Kirwin: Pioneering a Community of Baseball Scholars” in *Nine: The Journal of Baseball History and Culture* and “The Changing Culture of Professional baseball” in *Elysian Fields Quarterly*. The reprinted essays were “Nice Girls Don’t Talk to Rastas,” “Lessons from the Field,” “Baseball Magic,” and “Coming Home: Return Migration to Barbados.”

Sharon Gmelch has a new book coming out this Fall, entitled *The Tlingit Encounter with Photography*, to be published by the University of Pennsylvania Museum Press. It contributes to recent scholarship on photography and representation by exploring early photographic imagery of the Tlingit Indians of Southeastern Alaska. It compares the Tlingit photographs taken by surveyors and scientists, museum collectors, commercial photographers, and tourists and discusses how there were disseminated and used. It also examines the extent to which the Tlingit were active agents in creating the images we find of them in archives today and the ways in which they incorporated photography into their own culture and used it for their own purposes (e.g., in ceremonies, to validate claims to clan status items). The book includes 130 photographs and is based on extensive archival research and interviews with Tlingit elders. It covers the period 1868 to 1929. A traveling exhibit of the photographs is also being planned.

Linda Cool has spent much of her sabbatical leave traveling around the country to re-interview as many of the 231 faculty members (at 21 colleges and universities) in her original research sample as possible. She reports that “some of them are farther along in their retirement experience and feeling the effects of a difficult economy, some have retired in the intervening years and have stories to tell about making the decision and setting off on a new phase of their lives, and there are a few in their mid-to-late seventies who are still teaching today.” She has also been working on a new course she hopes to offer next year on “Organizational Culture.” It will be based on the experiences she has had “helping to start up a non-profit business with huge for-profit corporate business partners (Fidelity Investments and Aetna Insurance Company). I find myself increasingly interested in applied anthropology and learning what it can contribute to our understanding of how businesses operate in the US and around the world and what serves to differentiate successful businesses from those that encounter difficulties.” Linda has enjoyed her sabbatical but has also missed interacting with her colleagues coming to an end. After four years, I feel that I share the mixed emotions of many graduating seniors — I’ve had a great time and learned so much, but also excited about the adventures ahead. Union has been such a great place to teach and I am particularly grateful to the students who suffered through my classes. I hope you enjoyed them half as much as I did. Also, I wish to thank my excellent colleagues. It’s been wonderful to be in such a supportive and interesting environment. As Skidmore is just up the road, please come visit me (or, come take a class with me) I’m looking forward to visiting Union again soon.”