ANT110-01 Intro to Cultural Anthropology (MWF 11:45-12:50 Gmelch,S)
ANT110-02 Intro to Cultural Anthropology (MWF 1:50-2.55 Gmelch,S)
ANT111-01 Cultures Through Film (T 3:50-7:20pm Gmelch,S)
ANT210-01 Anthropology of Poverty (TTH 9:00-10:45 Witsoe,J)
ANT241-01 Environmental Anthropology (TTH 1:55-3:40 Shever,E)
ANT250-01 Humans and Animals (MW 7:00pm-8:45pm Garland,E)
ANT265-01 The Museum: Theory & Practice (MWF 10:30-11:35 Witsoe,J)
ANT287-01 Postcolonial Africa (MW 3:05-4:45 Garland,E)
ANT363-01 Research Methods & Design (TTH 10:55-12:40, Cool,L)

From the Chair: It’s been a brutal winter here in Schenectady and we are looking forward to spring! Elana Shever will be leaving us at the end of this academic year to take a position at Colgate. We will miss her but are happy for her. I spent the summer in Fiji visiting old friends and attending services in independent Fijian Pentecostal churches (of which there are many!). I discovered that one can spend every waking hour involved in some church activity in Fiji if one so desires and that Fijian Pentecostals are generally very friendly and thoughtful people. So all in all, summer was good. I went right on from Fiji to Palau, a tiny Pacific Island country with a population of less than 20,000 where I led a term abroad in fall term with 7 students, including anthropology majors Amanda Bauer (2012) and Matt Kelleher (2012). The Palau students did internships in schools, at the hospital, at the Palau Conservation Society and at the Bureau of Arts and Culture, a government agency charged with preserving Palau’s cultural heritage. We all learned a lot about American imperialism in the Pacific. Palau and many other Micronesian nations were territories of the US until the early 1980s and are now in a compact of free association with the US. The compact infuses money into Palau and other areas of Micronesia and gives Micronesians open access to the US but leaves them economically dependent with few options for developing independent economies. We all had a great time (despite the heat) and all learned to scuba dive in our free time enjoying some of the most beautiful and pristine reefs in the world.

Next year, anthropology will start a new term abroad in Tanzania (see page 5). Prof. Garland will be working with George and Sharon Gmelch to set up the term this summer and the Gmelchs will direct the term next winter (2012). We are excited about this term and encourage you all to look into it.
Since September 2009, I have been living in Northern Rwanda working for Wyman Worldwide Health Partners (WWHPS) with their Comprehensive Community Health Initiatives and Programs (CCHIPS) project. CCHIPS works at rural health centers and has developed a comprehensive model, utilizing trainings and resource provision, to improve the systems and care offered at health centers. I’ve been working with CCHIPS to research, develop and pilot a psychosocial program. CCHIPS recognizes that integrating treatment of psychosocial/mental health issues at the health center level presents an important opportunity to intervene at a community level in Rwanda and to reach people who are unable to access other forms of psychosocial/mental health treatment. Our program is serving as a test as to how psychosocial/mental health care can be effectively integrated into primary health care and we are hoping that this program will yield a viable model, which could be implemented in other health centers across Rwanda. The program has three main activities: consultations at the health center where clients are given basic counseling, advocacy, and if appropriate referred to other existing organizations; focused trainings for the health center nurses and community health workers; and a community based referral and follow-up system. We started the first stage of implementing the program at the end of October, 2010 and have been impressed with the initial success of the program.

~ Julie Lichtblau '10 ~
I pretty recently started my job as a Production Assistant for both the 'Branding, Marketing and Communications' as well as the 'Multi-Cultural Marketing' departments at a translation firm in New York City.

~ Brian Rosenblatt '10 ~
Since November of last year I’ve been working as the Marketing Production Coordinator at The Tem-Positions Group of Companies, an employment agency in Manhattan. Besides helping plan different marketing campaigns for the company, I also get to do a lot of graphic design work.

~ Mara van den Bold ’06 ~
After graduating from Union in 2006, I worked in a law firm in Washington for a year. I moved to London in 2007 to do my MSc in Anthropology and Development at the London School of Economics (LSE), where my research focused on globalization theory and identity formation of social movements (mostly in West Africa). Since 2008 I’ve worked as a Programme Officer in the International Programs Department at WaterAid, an international NGO focused on improving access to water and sanitation, mostly in Africa and Asia. I’ve worked mostly on developing WaterAid’s Pan-Africa Strategy, looking at how we can work more at continental level with institutions such as the African Union. Although London has been great, I’m ready for a change, getting back into the anthropology world and doing more research. Not sure yet what I will do next, but I’m excited to change gear and hopefully move to a warmer climate!

~ Amber Johnson ’00 ~
Since September 2009, I have been living in Northern Rwanda working for Wyman Worldwide Health Partners (WWHPS) with their Comprehensive Community Health Initiatives and Programs (CCHIPS) project. CCHIPS works at rural health centers and has developed a comprehensive model, utilizing trainings and resource provision, to improve the systems and care offered at health centers. I’ve been working with CCHIPS to research, develop and pilot a psychosocial program. CCHIPS recognizes that integrating treatment of psychosocial/mental health issues at the health center level presents an important opportunity to intervene at a community level in Rwanda and to reach people who are unable to access other forms of psychosocial/mental health treatment. Our program is serving as a test as to how psychosocial/mental health care can be effectively integrated into primary health care and we are hoping that this program will yield a viable model, which could be implemented in other health centers across Rwanda. The program has three main activities: consultations at the health center where clients are given basic counseling, advocacy, and if appropriate referred to other existing organizations; focused trainings for the health center nurses and community health workers; and a community based referral and follow-up system. We started the first stage of implementing the program at the end of October, 2010 and have been impressed with the initial success of the program.
Karen Brison says ...

Hi All: here are some pictures from my summer in Fiji and fall in Palau. In Fiji, between catching up with old friends, I attended numerous Pentecostal gatherings including the annual convention of the All Nations, an independent Fijian church, (praying in Fiji), an event that packed the National Stadium for a week. Palau is renowned for its hundreds of rock islands (rock island), limestone islands, undercut as the limestone is dissolved by ocean water, that were formed when coral reefs were pushed above the surface by a volcanic eruption. Palauans are involved in many life cycle rituals, the most entertaining of which is the first birth ceremony (first birth). The new mother is smeared with coconut oil mixed with turmeric and stands motionless in the sun with her arms raised for a couple of hours while all her female relatives dance around her (dancing) and thrust money in to her hands. This event raised $17,000 for the new couple. We had a great time touring one small island state, Angaur (population 200), on the back of a tiny Asian firetruck (firetruck) that the Angaur state government had bought used from Japan. We also visited cultural sites such as a bai (bai) or men's meeting house. Our tour guide assured us that the male title holders still make important decisions but that they like to meet in restaurants in town these days because there are too many mosquitoes in the unscreened bai.
Faculty News

From George and Sharon Gmelch

Sharon will be teaching introductory anthropology and cultures through film on campus in the spring.

George and Sharon's new book Tasting the Good Life: Wine Tourism in the Napa Valley will be published by Indiana University Press in June. In this book they look at wine tourism as a particular type of tourism, the working lives of people in tourism, and the social and environmental impacts of tourism in the Napa Valley. IUP is also bringing out a much revised second edition of George's book on Caribbean tourism: Behind the Smile: the Working Lives of Caribbean Tourism. Anthropology students Pearl Jurist Schoen and Chelsea Tussing travelled with the Gmelches last summer to do research for updating the book. An updated and much revised edition of their book The Parish Behind God's Back: Culture Change in Rural Barbados is also being published this year.

Senior Theses Topics

Carolyn Canetti

My senior thesis is about the effect of the Internet's social networking sites: Facebook, YouTube, MySpace, etc. on the music industry. I'm interviewing employees from Universal Music Group and Smithsonian Folkways to get a label's point of view of how they utilize the Internet to find new artists. I am also interviewing aspiring musicians from New York City on how they use the Internet to gain fans and spread their music and whether or not social networking sites have really changed the method of getting signed to labels and so forth.

Pearl Jurist-Schoen

Through my own field research on tourism in Barbados, my thesis focuses on assessing the cultural exchanges that occur between hosts and guests. The specific setting that I chose to explore is the bar. A bar harbors many important elements of the Caribbean tourism literature; neocolonialism, service versus servitude, and authenticity and genuineness. Bartenders arguably have the most intimate and in-depth interactions with tourists, and their encounters with tourists are extremely representative of many issues surrounding Caribbean tourism. Through formal and informal interviews and participant observation, this ethnography serves the purpose of analyzing the role that tourism plays in local Barbadian culture with a focus on the micro setting of the bar.
Moshi, Tanzania – Winter (Even Years) Term Abroad

The East African nation of Tanzania has long been famous for both its rich cultural heritage and its iconic natural wonders like the Serengeti plains, the Ngorongoro Crater, and Mt. Kilimanjaro. In this term-length program, students will explore the ways that culture and nature are connected, by studying cultural ecology and economic development in the heart of Tanzania’s booming international tourism scene.

The program will be based in Moshi, a pleasant town of about 150,000, located at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro, in a region of the country known for its relatively cosmopolitan and educated population. Important amenities like good medical care and internet access are readily available, but the region is also the cultural heartland of the Chagga people, and students will have many opportunities to learn about contemporary African ways of life. The program will combine intensive Swahili language instruction, guest lectures by local researchers, officials, and activists, an independent research project, and several field trips, including an educational safari to the Serengeti. One term of Swahili study (offered for course credit in the preceding fall term) is required prior to departure.

From Karen Brison

former Fiji students ...

here are the latest pictures of Mere, Rachael Bale's new baby. I got to meet Mere this summer and she was even cuter than her pictures.