From the Chair

As 2008-09 draws to a close we bid farewell to Prof. Ari Gandsman and Prof. Alicia DeNicola. It’s been great having both of them here and they will be very much missed next year! We also congratulate Anne Hanson and Jeff Hyde, co-winners of the Lewis Henry Morgan Prize for best senior thesis in anthropology. Anne analyzed cultural sensitivity training programs in Planned Parenthood and suggested ways that Planned Parenthood could improve strategies for communicating with other cultural communities. Jeff examined students’ constructions of identity on Facebook arguing that students are preoccupied with creating social personas and lose sight of the way that the information they put on Facebook pages can be exploited by corporations. We will be joined next year by two new faculty members, Elizabeth Garland and Elana Shever. Have a great summer everyone!

Karen Brison

Faculty News

Elizabeth Garland will join the Anthropology Department in the fall of 2009. Professor Garland specializes in the anthropology of East and Southern Africa. Her research interests include colonialism and postcoloniality, globalization, environmentalism, and tourism. In a recent project on national parks and conservation workers in Tanzania, she examined the ways that Euro-American images of Africa as wild and natural constrain and shape the lives of contemporary African people. Prof. Garland is currently working on a new project on US-Rwandan relations in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide. Professor Garland will be directing senior theses in the fall and will teach Tourists and Tourism and Introduction to Cultural Anthropology in winter, 2010.

Also joining the Anthropology Department this fall, will be Elana Shever. Professor Shever specializes in environmental, economic and political anthropology, especially issues related to development, globalization and the critical ethnography of corporations. She studied the Shell Oil Corporation in Argentina looking at international company executives, local refinery workers and residents of squatter settlements next to Shell’s toxic waste dump sites. She is currently writing a book entitled Resources for Reform: Oil, Kinship and Citizenship in Argentina. Professor Shever will be teaching Environmental Anthropology and a Sophomore Research Seminar in winter, 2010.
**Faculty News (con’t)**

**Sharon Gmelch** has been teaching at the University of San Francisco this year while on leave and sabbatical from Union. Her book, *The Tlingit Encounter with Photography*, was published by the University of Pennsylvania Museum Press in October. She is currently finishing the revisions for the second edition of *Tourists and Tourism*, an edited collection of articles on the many facets and global implications of tourism, which will be published this coming Fall.

The Tlingit Encounter with Photograph/y examines the contact between the Tlingit--an Alaskan Native group--and the many outsiders who photographed them from the mid-19th through early 20th century. It explores the extent to which Tlingit were active agents in creating the archival images we see of them today or whether they were victims of yet another form of colonization, that of photography? Some of the specific questions it answers are: Who photographed the Tlingit during this early period and why? How were they portrayed and how were their images disseminated? How active were the Tlingit in shaping the images Euro-Americans took of them; to what extent did they control their representation? Did photography remain an alien technology and activity, or did the Tlingit incorporate it into their own culture? And if so, in what ways? The book is the first on this topic and contains many little-known images of the Tlingit. It also provides the first full treatment of the Tlingit photography of Elbridge W. Merrill, a neglected figure in the history of ethnographic photography. It provides valuable insights on the motivations and reactions of a native people to being photographed and shows the ways they incorporated photography into their own culture and used it for their own purposes. The book is aimed at general readers as well as academics interested in Native Americans, photography and Alaska and contains about 130 illustrations which illustrate the points made in the text.

The book is based primarily on a close examination of hundreds of photographs of the Tlingit taken members of early survey teams, studio photographers, tourists, and resident amateur and commercial photographers. She also conducted oral history interviews with Tlingit and non-Native residents of Sitka about photographer Elbridge W. Merrill who is the subject of one chapter. Prior to this research she co-produced *A Matter of Respect*, an ethnographic film on cultural revitalization among the Tlingit in Sitka, and carried out applied anthropological research on subsistence there.

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**From George Gmelch:**

*George* has been at the University of San Francisco this year where he is developing a new anthropology program. He will return during the Union winter term, 2010, to direct the Tasmania field program. He has been busy working on a new edition of a book *Urban Anthropology: Readings in the Anthropology of the City*. He recently had an article, "Anthropologist on the Team" published in *Anthropology Today*, and has also finished an article that compares the field and research experiences of the Union students on the rural field program in Barbados with that of the city-based field program in Tasmania. This summer he is looking forward to working with Union summer research fellow Cristina Liquori on his ongoing study of tourism in California's Napa Valley.
Alumni News

Carly Aimi, ‘08, writes: Since, graduating Union last Spring I have been working at the Global Health Council in White River Junction, VT. The council is a membership and advocacy non-profit headquartered in VT with a legislative office in Washington, DC. We represent hundreds of grass-root NGO’s, academic institutions, foundations, government agencies and corporations. With this pool of information and communication among our members we build a strong and influential platform to advocate for global health issues in legislature. Along with this we host an international health care conference with close to 2500 attendees and representatives from over 150 countries. This year is our 36th annual conference, New Technologies + Proven Strategies = Healthy Communities, will highlight the ways in which technologies in combination with best practices and evidence-based policies improve health around the world. I am assisting in coordinating this conference. I have gotten to take lead in projects such as organizing the Technology Expo and Speaker’s Corner, an informal presentation panel, as well as coordinating the exhibition hall and handling all conference registrations. The job has kept me on my toes but I have loved getting to correspond with so many interesting health professionals from around the world. I am also looking forward to spending the week in DC, at the end of May for conference. I miss the Anthropology Department and the professors at Union dearly but am excited to continue a pursuit in higher education. Working at the council has made me realize I want to work in Global Health and am planning on getting my Masters in Public/Global Health.

Sarah Tidman, ‘05, writes:

After graduating from Union in 2005, I knew that I wanted to live / work somewhere abroad. This led me to apply and later accept a position as an English teacher at a middle school in Shenzhen, China (a city near Hong Kong). After almost a year in China, I knew that I wanted to pursue a graduate degree in anthropology at some point in the future, but knowing that I wasn’t ready to go back to school quite yet, I applied to the Peace Corps.

I am currently serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Armenia, where I am a Community Health Volunteer in a small village that is situated in the northernmost part of the country. I work with an Armenian counterpart, and together we teach lessons to the 5th through 8th form classes about a wide range of basic health topics (all in Armenian). I’ve also done a great deal of work trying to spread awareness about HIV / AIDS to the people in my village and elsewhere around the country. My work related to HIV / AIDS has proven to be the most rewarding and the most challenging—this is because there are so many misconceptions amongst the public about the disease, and because it is considered a taboo subject to speak about openly.

Reflecting back on my two years in Armenia, it has been extremely challenging at times, but has also been an experience I will never forget. After I finish up this summer in the Peace Corps, I will be heading to the University of London, Goldsmiths College, to receive a masters in social anthropology. With this masters, I will finally be able to acquire the detailed knowledge I desire in anthropology to later pursue a career related to cultural anthropology.
Alumni News (con’t)

Rebecca Altheu, ’08, is currently pursuing her masters in Conflict Transformation at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, VT. The School for International Training’s philosophy is unique because you must complete degree coursework as a well as a practicum in the field. For those of you who do not know what conflict transformation is, simply it is international relations with a heart. Conflict transformation is based on the ideal that discord can ultimately provide positive change among the people it affects. Rebecca’s degree forces her to deeply analyze conflicts as well as formulate culturally sensitive solutions to help those in need. Another important aspect of her degree is that positive change can be fostered through dialogue, mediation and discussion. Rebecca looks forward to applying what she has learned at the School for International Training to her upcoming internship at the International Indigenous Women’s Forum in New York City.

Fall 2009 Courses & Descriptions

ANT 110 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. (Cool: TTH 10:55-12:40; and Witsoe: MWF 1:50-2:55). The basic concepts, methodology, and findings of cultural anthropology. Examines the similarities and diversity of human societies through in-depth case studies and cross-cultural comparisons. Emphasis on non-Western cultures.

ANT 114 Language and Culture. (Brison: MWF 9:15-10:20). Examines the complex relationship between culture and language. Case materials drawn from societies in North America, Oceania, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East are used to explore various theories about how language is shaped by, and in turn shapes, culture and social relations. Topics include the acquisition of language by children in various cultures, everyday speech styles, verbal art, and the ways of talking about such things as emotion and illness to show how linguistic categories and patterned ways of using language influence the way we perceive the world around us.

ANT 125 Childhood in Anthropological Perspective. (Brison: MWF 11:45-12:50) (Same as WGS 192). The comparative study of childhood: examines child-rearing practices in various cultures including the U.S. Topics include theories of gender difference, play as socialization, education across cultures, and socialization practices

ANT 182 Anthropology of Mediterranean Europe. (Cool: TTH 1:55-3:40). Sources of similarity and diversity in the rural and urban cultures of Mediterranean Europe from Spain to Greece. Emphasis on modes of social relationships such as patronage and on cultural formulations such as honor and shame. Economic development and change in rural communities, urban life and the urbanization of migrants, and the rise of ethnic and regional movements are analyzed.

ANT 270 Political Anthropology. (Witsoe: MW 3:05-4:45). The course introduces anthropological approaches to the study of politics. We will examine influential theories of power, democracy and the state and apply them to understanding particular cases in various areas of the world. Topics covered will include: ethnographies of local politics, democratic elections, ethnographies of bureaucracy and other state institutions, ethnographic accounts of the political implications of development practice, and ethnographies in and of the “world system.” We end by exploring the implications of globalization for studying politics and the state.