SOAN Department Senior Picnic, May 13, 2007

**Back row:** Doug Hale, Sara Granstrom, Charlene Barrett

**Second row:** Liz Kofmann, Sienna Chambers, Claire Schultz, Elise Shanbacker, Aysegul Savas, Tina Coll, Chris Heinrich, Richie Meyers, Marc Garcelon, David Napier, James Fitzsimmons

**Third row:** Sarah Norton, Adam Fazio, Tamara Vatnick, Christine Bachman, Talia Lincoln, Izzy Marshall, Caryn LoCastro, Peggy Nelson, Ted Sasson and Asher, Ari Sasson

**Front row:** Kerri Ortega, Erin Oliver, Tatiana Virviescas, Mio Perez, Carol Wilson, Mateal Lovaas, Carolyn Barnwell, Kineret Sasson, Laurie Essig, Georgia Essig, Willa Essig

**Shadow:** Mike Sheridan
Letter from the Chair

Hello everyone! We have been through some changes since our last newsletter in 2002. We have some new people around, including the editor of this newsletter. Some of you may remember Michael Sheridan from when he taught here in 2001-2003. He returned in 2006 in a tenure-track position and is teaching our courses on Africa, human ecology, anthropological theory and sociolinguistics. We have also hired another new tenure-track professor from UVM, Laurie Essig, who is teaching gender and queer theory in a joint appointment with Women and Gender Studies. Last week, at the conclusion of Laurie's first year at Middlebury College, she won WAGS' Feminist of the Year award. A third new tenure-track hire is James Fitzsimmons, SOAN's first archaeologist in several decades. James is a specialist in the Classic Maya and is excavating the city-state of Jaguar Hill in Petén, Guatemala. He will also teach the course on human origins (SOAN 159). A fourth new tenure-track hire is Lynn Owens, currently at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, who will teach introductory sociology and courses on tourism, social movements, and globalization.

What about bygone faculty whom we sorely miss?
• To be closer to his family in the Bay Area, David Eaton left the College in Spring 2005 and now teaches anthropology at California State University-Chico.
• Hilda Llorens also left in Spring 2005 to do a master’s degree in community art in Los Angeles.
• Dwight Fee left the college in Spring 2005 and is teaching at various institutions in Boston. Last summer he and his girlfriend Maritza tied the knot.
• Erin Koch has accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Kentucky.
• Linda White has just wrapped up two years of teaching for SOAN. In Fall 2007 she will begin teaching for International Studies and the Japanese Department, including a new course in contemporary Japan that will be cross-listed with SOAN.
• Richie Meyers, our dissertation fellow since Fall 2005, is applying for several different jobs in Native American programs.
• Mark Southern of the German Department, who cross-listed his courses in linguistics with SOAN, died suddenly at his house on South Street in March 2006. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, and the many students he inspired.
• Jennifer Post of the Music Department, who cross-listed her courses in ethnomusicology with SOAN, has taken a new job as a librarian at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania.
• Marc Garcelon will start a new job at Yeshiva University in the Bronx in Fall 2007.

The Old Bones who are still with us include Burke Rochford, who is rolling along better than ever on two new hips. Burke will chair the department in 2007-08. Peggy Nelson and I are getting by on the same hips as before, on which we will both go on sabbatical in 2007-08. Peggy is writing a book about how American parents are using new electronic gadgetry to monitor their children. As for myself, I will split my time between Guatemala and my family in Gorham Lane. Ellen Oxfeld and her husband Frank Nicosia spent their 2006-07 sabbatical in Berlin and China and will be returning to Middlebury for the coming academic year. David Napier will also return full-time next year after several years at the University of London. Ted Sasson continues to split his year between Middlebury
and Brandeis University but will return full-time in 2008-09.

Last but not least, Charlene Barrett won the College’s Staff Recognition Award (established by Rudolf K. Haerle, Professor Emeritus of Sociology) in Spring 2006. She has also continued to win SOAN’s Most Valuable Player award, every year that this coveted award has been offered.

Please write and let us know how you’re doing. David Stoll
SOAN chair

Faculty and Staff Updates

Charlene Barrett
I am enjoying the summer sunshine with my family as much as possible. I am also planning and preparing for another busy academic year. This fall, I will celebrate working in my office for 10 years. It is amazing how fast the years go by! This fall, three (out of four) of my kids will be in college (yikes!) They are attending Alfred University, University of Maine in Orono, and Vermont Technical College. So, the eastern part of the United States is THE place to be!

Laurie Essig
I have been busy immersing myself in the culture of plastic surgery this year. Besides watching a ridiculous amount of Nip/Tuck, I have been interviewing plastic surgeons and plastic surgery patients from around the country. As a fieldworker, I know that there is always a danger of “going native,” of accepting local customs and mores as my own, and to some extent this has begun to happen to me. Plastic surgery now seems like an increasingly logical response to a surface-obsessed culture, where both the job and the romance markets reward youth, thinness, and certain sorts of noses and breasts. But before I pump my face up with Botox, I am also taking the time to examine the plastic surgery debt (in my estimate, in the billions of dollars annually) and the eugenicist impulse that leads us to believe that physical traits reflect inner characteristics- like intelligence and discipline. All of this has me simultaneously using all the free anti-wrinkle creams the surgeons give me and attempting to not notice all the wrinkles on my face- a fairly schizophrenic relationship with my field, I suppose, but no different than any fieldworker thrown into a culture radically different than her own.

James Fitzsimmons
These days I am spending most of my time writing. Having sent off the final version of my book manuscript, Death and the Classic Maya Kings, to University of Texas Press for editing, I am now trying to finish off a number of projects that have been on the back burner for some time.

At the moment, I am working on a chapter and the introduction for an edited volume I am writing with Andean archaeologist Izumi Shimada for University of Arizona Press. The tentative title is Between the Living and the Dead, and it focuses on how peoples of Latin America deal with relics and other heirlooms. In July and August I will be finishing up an article on Jaguar Hill and writing grants for the 2008 season in Guatemala. Lately, I’ve also been heavily involved in yard work and other home improvements; my wife and I have been outside almost every evening these last two weeks, tinkering with the house. Unfortunately, our dogs just watch while my wife and I employ tools we barely know how to use! The new chainsaw is fun, however.

Peggy Nelson
I have been finishing up some writing on my last project on single mothers and beginning to work on my new project. Next year I will be on leave (mostly home in Vermont but also on Cape Cod for the beginning of the fall); I hope to finish
Ellen Oxfeld
I've been on academic leave this year (2006-07). During the Fall, I was working on an ethnography of moral ideas as they apply to different domains of action in a Chinese village. This was based on previous fieldwork. I spent spring semester 2007 living in a Chinese village where I had lived ten years ago. My research was on changes in the uses and meanings of food. However, one very interesting experience I also had was renewing my contacts with students who had been in my fourth grade English class in 1995. Now they are all young adults. Some have migrated away to work in larger cities, but I had a chance to reconnect with them when the returned home for the New Year's holiday. Some have remained in the village and found employment nearby, and a few are attending college. The chance to connect with a group of individuals as they pass from childhood to young adulthood, amidst the many changes China is now undergoing, was particularly interesting. I collected information to update my previous research, and also started a new project on changes and continuities in the uses and meanings of food in post-Mao rural China.

Burke Rochford
My book *Hare Krishna Transformed* was published by New York University Press in May. A paper that I did with Kendra Bailey ‘06 won the Thomas Robbins Award for excellence in the study of new religions (see page 19). My new research project focuses on the development of the New Vrindaban community, a renegade Hare Krishna community in West Virginia. I spent a week in May interviewing present and former members of the community. Previous to that, I interviewed the former leader of the community over three days in February 2007.

Ted Sasson
I have three or four new articles coming out this summer, so I’ve been very busy! In addition to this scholarship, I have been working as co-principal investigator on a large scale evaluation of Taglit Birthright Israel, an organization that brings Diaspora Jewish young adults to Israel on free tours. Over the summer, I'll be in Israel researching the Israeli side of the bi-cultural exchanges between Israeli and Diaspora young adults that occur in the context of Birthright Israel tours. Over the summer, 30,000 Diaspora Jewish young adults will visit Israel in the context of the program, and they'll spend half their time in bus groups with their Israeli peers traveling the country. My research is on the 5000 or so Israelis who will participate in the program.

Michael Sheridan
I’ve just finished my second first year at Middlebury! It’s been a bit strange to be both ‘new’ (in a tenure-track position) and ‘old’ (having taught here before), but overall it’s been sort of like pulling an old pair of shoes from the back of the closet and rediscovering how comfortable they are. I have a co-edited book on African sacred groves coming out this fall, and I am working on a project about the social life of a common American houseplant in rural Africa.

David Stoll
I will be on sabbatical in 2007-08, and will be spending my time doing further research in Guatemala and writing at home in Middlebury. [see Letter from the Chair, page 2]

Senior Essay and Thesis Abstracts
Armstrong, Lauren
“Helping Mexican Farm Workers Meet Basic Needs in Addison County, Vermont”
There are currently over 500 Mexican farm workers living in Addison County, Vermont. They have become a vital component of the area’s economy over the past decade by filling the struggling dairy industry’s desperate need for cheap, reliable labor. The farm workers face many health issues due to difficult working conditions, language barriers, and geographic isolation. Most of them are undocumented and live in constant fear of deportation. Previous studies have shown that recent immigrants rely heavily upon co-ethnic social networks to access basic services such as health care in the host country. Through participant observation of the interaction between the farm workers and U.S. citizens, particularly members of a group called the Addison County Farm Workers Coalition, I have been able to understand the extent to which different types of relationships are helping to meet the basic health needs of the farm workers. I conducted informal interviews with several members of the Coalition, as well as in-depth interviews with one Mexican woman over a period of six months. I discovered that in the near absence of co-ethnic social support networks in Addison County, the area’s citizens are providing health services for the farm workers. However, national immigration laws barring them from obtaining legal status ultimately shape the workers’ situation. I discuss the potential impacts of proposed national immigration reform on farmworkers in Vermont.

Aroneanu, Philip
“Energy and Development in West Africa: Micro-biofuel Production in the Casamance, Senegal”
Climate change and poverty are the two defining global issues of our times. This study explores how a decentralized biofuel production system in the Casamance region of Senegal could help increase economic and social equity, and contribute to the overall goals of security, democracy and sustainability by building institutional legitimacy, accountability and local infrastructure from the ground up. The Casamance, once considered the “breadbasket” of Senegal, has, since Senegal’s independence in 1960, been ignored and underdeveloped, and subject to a violent twenty-year secessionist struggle. I examine the current and historical economic, cultural, political and agricultural contexts of the region in order to assess the feasibility of a small-scale biofuel development program. Interviews and ethnographic field work in five rural villages in the Casamance, and in the regional capital of Ziguinchor, revealed that increased cultivation and production of palm oil for biodiesel could lead to more participatory, decentralized and equitable development while reducing the social, environmental and economic costs of importing petroleum-based fuels. Phil was one of the organizers of Step it Up 2007, the first nationwide American event on global warming.

Barnwell, Carolyn
“Organic Solidarity: The Hybrid Discourse and Practice of Alternative Agriculture in Northeast Thailand”
Using the framework of political ecology, I explain how Thailand’s Alternative Agriculture Network has combined ideological, political, social, and economic processes to form socially progressive, ecologically regenerative agricultural systems. I explore the implications of discourse among various international institutions, agents of the state, non-governmental organizations, and influential individuals upon rice farmers’ ideology. How do relationships among these different groups affect how farmers comprehend and practice alternative agriculture? Social capital, network building, and collective consciousness are important in creating new discourse and practice. My ethnographic research uncovered hegemonic power structures,
socio-economic differentiation, and links between development, the environment, and grassroots collective action within the People’s Movement. The Rice Fund in Northeastern Thailand serves as a case study of agricultural adaptation. The farmers in this organic cooperative are discussing, negotiating, and creating a new reality through hybrid discourse and practice. They exercise their agency by choosing an adaptive agricultural strategy that combines organic practices of old with new horizontal and vertical social and market relationships at local and global scales. These farmers have chosen alternative forms of dependency within the Fair Trade model to resist the Thai state’s neoliberal economic agenda and operate as a semi-closed corporate community striving for food sovereignty and a moral economic system.

Bolger, Christine

“Negotiating Bodies: A Meditation on the Multiple Identities of Athletes on the Middlebury Women’s Soccer Team”

Although the idea of female athletes is now accepted in the United States, women who play sports are forced to negotiate their athletic identities to fit within a somewhat contradictory socially constructed feminine identity. Using Cox and Thompson’s “multiple bodies” framework, I show the five different bodies of the athletes of the 2006 Middlebury women’s soccer team. The bodies are: the soccer body, the private body, the feminine body, the heterosexual body, and the team body. These women are forced to negotiate their gender in a way that is filled with tensions and contradictions, and by looking at each ‘body’ or identity individually, I analyze how they are able to fit them together to create their own integrated individual identities.

Brown, Minna

“Telling the Truth about Science: Journalistic Experiences of Covering Climate Change”

The news is an arena in which social claims are debated and exposed to the public. Just as claims are interpretations of the social world, so is the news, with actors making decisions of how to report on that world. Climate change is an established social problem of high magnitude in the scientific community, but research on climate change journalism suggests that journalistic norms and powerful counter-claims and claim-makers have caused journalists to interpret climate change as an “issue” with multiple relevant sides of debate, thereby exposing the public to ambiguities that do not represent the overwhelming scientific consensus. Using interviews with nine American climate change journalists, this thesis explores their opinions surrounding their norms and ideals in the climate change context and their resulting coverage. Although they expressed regret for general journalistic reliance on “balance” and “objectivity,” they used other ideals – primarily a quest for “truth” – to orient their reporting and thus feel as though they present an accurate version of climate change. They do not attempt to be claims advocates, but they do attempt to present the “facts” in truthful, comprehensive and meaningful ways in order to inform the public of the limits and extents of the climate change consensus.

Chambers, Sienna

“‘Aspect Suspect’: Muslim Ethnic Identity in French Rap”

The riots that occurred in the suburbs outside of Paris in 2005 resulted in a renewed emergence of public discourse on the integration of Muslim youth in France. Although this group comprised only a small portion of the rioters, this discourse exemplifies the identity politics that pervade French society today. The historical background of Muslim immigration to France and their contemporary situation reveals their marginalization in French society. An analysis of French lyrics by Muslim rappers shows the construction of what they believe French society views as their ethnic identity. The rejection of this identity is shown through their creation of a new ethnic identity that emphasizes different attributes. In their expression of this identity, the rappers attempt to create a political platform to enact change.
Enemark, Stephanie
“Steeped in Controversy: Guatemala and Adoption”
Adoption from Guatemala to the United States has been receiving harsh criticism both from Guatemalan and American journalists. This bad press is rooted in allegations of “baby-trading” that have circulated since the end of the Guatemalan civil war. At that time, some military officers seized orphaned children that they found wandering the streets, put them up for adoption in the U.S., and charged large sums for these services. The increasing demand for Guatemalan infants sparked criticism of that the arrangement closer to economic exploitation than a solution to a social problem. This essay analyzes this system with interview material from three adoptive parents.

Fazio, Adam
“Risky Business: Constructing Masculinity Through Risky Sexual Behaviors”
This research uses a three-part methodology to examine the relationship between masculinity and a willingness to participate in sexual behaviors that put an individual at risk for HIV infection, most notably the practice of barebacking (intentional, unprotected anal intercourse). The current literature available on the topic of barebacking suggests that many men who choose not to use a condom during anal intercourse do so in an effort to make themselves feel and appear more masculine. This research attempts to establish a cultural context for barebacking through the quantitative analysis of language in personal ads and the analysis of the imagery in pornography. The study concludes with a survey that examines participants’ attitudes toward barebacking, which gauges the validity of the cultural context established in the first two parts. My results show that individuals who bareback tend to legitimize their behavior as an authentically gay experience, whereas individuals who do not identify with the practice of barebacking establish a discourse that is more congruent with a heteronormative model of relationships and behavior.

Granstrom, Sara
“Embodied History: Dancing the Ancestors’ Legacy in Atsiagbekor in Anlo, Ghana”
In Ghana, West Africa, one traditional Anlo-Ewe dance, the Atsiagbekor, has declined and then been revitalized in the past several generations. The original purpose of the dance, to prepare for and commemorate war, is now obsolete, which prompts two questions: How has the dance changed in recent years? And why is it still performed today? I spent several months in 2006 researching the dance in the capital (Accra) and in two villages in the Volta Region, Dzogadze and Kopeyia. I found that the dance has been quite consciously preserved by performance groups both in urban and rural areas, and has undergone some structural changes in the process. I believe that one of the reasons the dance continues to be performed is that it forges a physical connection between the bodies of dancers today and their ancestors who danced this piece or centuries.

Harwood, Casey
“General Stores in Vermont: Icons of Community Spirit and Cultural Change”
General stores in Vermont have changed in many ways since they were established in the early 1800s. Where there was once a hitching post for horses and buggies, there is now a gas pump. Strangely enough, these relic
institutions continue to represent Vermont history as well as its future. The continued existence of the general store and the clientele that support them prove that community spirit is very much alive today. These stores are not merely vestiges of a distant past catering to tourists; they are also reminders of meaningful traditions as well as beacons for a future of community integrity. Through the analysis of country store histories, past and present, this study tracks the fascinating changes that the general store has undergone in terms of how its clientele, surrounding community, and functional roles have shifted over the years. As opposed to the image of the general store as a decorative tourist vehicle, contemporary stores in Vermont are integral parts of many local communities in which the idea of a local, friendly, cohesive, community space is now the main selling point.

Head, Angela

Green advertising can be understood as advertising that makes an environmentally positive claim. The message behind a green advertisement, however subtle or overt, equates a particular product or company with an attitude or practice related to helping the environment. The origins of green advertising date to the 1970s, the time when degradation of the earth started to become a mainstream concern. This essay examines the phenomenon of green advertising within its historical and cultural context and creates an analytical typology of green ads.

Heinrich, Chris
“Power Used Poorly: A Critical Analysis of President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief”

This thesis provides a critical analysis of the Bush Administration’s response to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. I focus on the administration’s international AIDS policy, the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which is currently being implemented in fifteen countries throughout African, the Caribbean, and Asia. I argue that the moral and religious ideologies of the administration have informed the design and implementation of the plan’s programs. My analysis suggests that when introduced into the target countries, the plan has been a poor fit for local cultural and social contexts, thus hindering its potential effectiveness. I use Vietnam as a case study of PEPFAR and cultural responses to it. When aid from the industrialized world is given to poorer countries, it is important to pay close attention to cultural specifics and to leave out the benefactor’s assumptions about morality.

Kline, Seth
“Living Virtually, Virtually Living: The Conversion and Exchange of Social and Cultural Capital in Online Virtual Communities”

Online interactions provide a new area of sociological study, and utilize unusual modes of communication. This essay outlines the exchange and conversion of social, cultural, and economic capitals within Massively Multiplayer Online Games, or MMOGs. Studying two different MMOGs through participant observation, systemic analysis, and case studies, I explore three hypotheses about life in MMOGs using classical sociological concepts. The theoretical approach relies on Bourdieu’s concepts of capital and habitus, Putnam’s further development of social capital, and Barth’s analysis of ethnic boundaries. I hypothesize that the interaction of anonymous individuals leads to the formation of arbitrary social groups, which then experience boundary formation as they become networks for the formation and exchange of social capital. Second, capital exchange and conversion in MMOGs is as
fluid as in real life, in part due to the structure of the games, but also because of the new institutions developed spontaneously by the inhabitants of these social worlds. Third, sociological theories about social and cultural capitals are effective tools for describing and analyzing a virtual society. I conclude that the first hypothesis is correct to a degree, but not pronounced; the second hypothesis holds true, while the artificial nature of the environment often made it difficult to distinguish the games’ institutions from the social assumptions of the players; while the third hypothesis is proven true by example.

Kofman, Liz
“Preschool and the PMC: How Professional Middle Class Parents Negotiate Advantages for their Children in the Early Education Market”
Drawing on qualitative data from interviews with professional middle class parents in a New England college town, this thesis explores the micro-practices through which social class is performed and reproduced in the field of early childhood care and education. Through the narratives of professional middle class parents, the author (1) describes how these parents narrate their own and other people’s early educational choices and (2) portrays how these parents negotiate advantages for their children in the early education market. Findings in this study suggest that class strategies successfully secure the children of professional middle class parents with advantages in the education system at a very early age. Moreover, parents are unlikely to give up these advantages as long as the economic structure of the United States remains as unpredictable and competitive as it is today.
Liz was the winner of the 2007 Lank Prize in Sociology and Anthropology.

Kuhl, Laura
Losing a Stigmatized Commons: Identity and Community Solidarity for Ecuadorian Concheros
San Felipe is a village on the coast of Ecuador known for collecting clams. However, the development of shrimp farms has led to the loss of 90% of mangroves in the estuary of Caráquez, making clam collecting economically unviable. As their relationship with the mangroves changes, the concheros of San Felipe are in the process of negotiating new relationships within the community and between the community and the outside world. I analyze the role that the connection to the mangrove resource played in the formation and maintenance of community identity and solidarity. Drawing on Wolf’s concept of the Closed Corporate Peasant Community, this study offers insight to ways that the changes in resource use are changing San Felipe today. This study brings together post-structural political ecology and common property theory by treating the commons and community as political arenas of cooperation and conflict. This study adds to the literature on shrimp farms by employing a political ecology approach focusing on identity and community solidarity. It adds to the common property literature by suggesting a fifth category of property: stigmatized property, in which boundaries are maintained not through active defense by the community but through the social stigma associated with particular resource use strategies. Laura’s thesis won the Rohatyn Center’s prize for the best senior thesis in International Studies.

LoCastro, Caryn
“Fitting In: An Analysis of Exercise Motivations and Perceptions of Fitness at Middlebury College”
While physical inactivity has become a matter of national concern, Middlebury College students seem to embrace exercise and maintain high
standards of fitness. I conducted an exploratory study to examine the socio-psychological influences on exercise behavior at Middlebury and the significance of fitness in a broader sociological context. I distributed a questionnaire and conducted focus groups to address the following research questions: How do Middlebury students understand and construct perceptions of fitness and body image? What factors play a role in motivating and inhibiting exercise at the fitness center? What are the sociological implications of fitness behavior at Middlebury and in society at large? I framed my research using the social cognitive theory of motivation, which primarily attributes behavior to feelings of competence, supportive social stimuli, and the perceived extrinsic or intrinsic benefits of participating in an activity. My findings indicate that competence is an effective predictor of exercise, but it focuses too heavily on positive social forces and ignores the very significant impact of social pressure. Furthermore, many students cited intrinsic motivations for exercise when extrinsic, appearance-based concerns actually seemed central to their fitness behavior. There appear to be broader sociological forces at work, which largely determine how individuals construct and act on their perceptions of the body. Sociological theories from Foucault and Marcuse demonstrate that ideological mechanisms of control induce the internalization of cultural norms and the reproduction of fit, docile bodies. These theories challenge the effectiveness of social psychological theories of motivation for fully explaining exercise behavior.

Oliver, Erin
“Gender Ink: An Analysis of the Forms of Power Portrayed in Sports Images in the Media”
This research project focuses on images of sport found in the media. More particularly, it examines images of sport found in magazine advertisements. Using advertisements found in male and female targeted magazines, as well as non-sport and sport magazines, this research interrogates the messages about power that emerge from these images of sport. Based on theories from sociology of sport, gender studies, and theories of consumption and advertising, this project interrogates which images of sport are believed to best sell products and what those images say about many forms of power. This research shows how images of sport in these advertisements reflect dominant cultural values regarding gender, race, class, and sexuality.

Ortega, Kerry
“Up in Smoke: Tobacco Use, Functional Values, and More Effective Anti-Smoking Measures”
The serious health risks of smoking are well-known. However, approximately one-fifth of Americans still engage in the habit. As a consequence, there are about 400,000 deaths from tobacco-related illness in the United States every year. This essay examines the complex social factors that lead people to smoke. I obtained primary data through interviews and informal fieldwork in Melbourne, Australia from mid-April to mid-May 2006. However, in this essay I use a cross-national analysis between the United States and Australia because smoking rates and anti-smoking measures are similar in these countries. I emphasize the functional values of social influence and rebelliousness to explain tobacco use. I further analyze their importance in relationship to current statistics that indicate smoking is concentrated in lower socioeconomic groups. Based on my analysis, I argue for a change away from paternalistic anti-smoking measures. Moreover, I suggest innovative small-
scale and bottom-up policies to promote tobacco cessation.

Putnam, Alemtsehay
“Deinstitutionalization and the Social Construct of Service Dependency”
The focus of this essay is the discharge and transfer of care of the dependent population from large-scale institutions and their subsequent fate in community-based care systems. This process, now known as deinstitutionalization, has been the most important recent change in the care of the mentally ill in the United States. Spurred by lawsuits, federal initiatives; and parent, consumer, and professional activism, deinstitutionalization caused the cessation of one set of social arrangements in favor of a community-based care program. This essay examines the factors which have played a role in the transition from institutions to community-based housing of a the mentally ill, and traces the social history of service dependency in the United States since the 19th century. In order to understand the factors leading up to deinstitutionalization, I examine each historical period for the prevailing public attitudes toward dependent groups and the ideologies held by society and the specialists supervising treatment and care. While deinstitutionalization did bring an end to the inhumane treatment of the mentally ill in America, the new system has not fully achieved its goals. The mentally ill still remain segregated, isolated and excluded from their communities.

Reingold, Rebecca
“The Struggle for Abortion Rights in Chile and Mexico”
The abortion debate in Latin America continues to be one of the leading issues in public health, social justice and women’s rights. Despite the growth of the women’s movement internationally and the liberalization of abortion laws in other parts of the world, abortion policies throughout the region remain restrictive. However, Latin American women continue to seek abortions in countries where access to safe and legal services is limited. These women, who have little agency over their sexual health and receive little education about their reproductive rights, should be active participants in the struggle for abortion rights – but they are not. To explain this pattern, I take a closer look at how political, economic and religious conservatives have limited political reform on issues related to sexual morality in Chile and Mexico. Unlike other policy issues, abortion rights directly challenge dominant patriarchal and Catholic moral frameworks. Consequently, a complete discussion of abortion rights anywhere requires an in-depth analysis of local politics, conservative religious discourses and the struggle for women’s rights. In comparing the two countries’ experiences, it becomes apparent why Mexico has had more success in reforming restrictive policies than Chile. The comparison also highlights some of the issues that many Latin American countries face when challenging traditional gender roles and considering new positions on reproductive rights.

Savas, Aysegul
“‘No Difference, Really’: Migration Narratives of Kurdish Women from Eastern Turkey to Istanbul”
This thesis analyzes the migration narratives of 20 Kurdish women who moved from eastern Turkey to Istanbul in the past fifteen years. The research was conducted in the lower-class neighborhood of Kayisdagi, Istanbul. The thesis shows that the women do not self-identify as Kurdish, and argues that the national/ethnic identity of being “Kurish” is a predominantly male/public identity. It looks at the categories of belonging expressed by the women themselves, and suggests that the social scientific vocabulary
for analyzing identities shapes identities through a male lens and overlooks multiple categories of belonging. These women do not express a Kurdish identity because of limited access to the public sphere and the dominant patriarchal discourse in their lives.

Schultz, Claire
“‘It Just Happened’: How Teens Rationalize Becoming Mothers in the Context of a Disapproving Society”

Through observations and semi-structured interviews with eleven teenage mothers in a rural Vermont town, this thesis analyzes how poor teenagers in a rural and socio-economically diverse community explain why they became pregnant and rationalize their decisions to become mothers. I also analyze how their accounts are embedded in the broader context of a society that discourages and stigmatizes teen pregnancy. I argue that in this community, which has one of the lowest teenage pregnancy rates in the country and which is relatively diverse socio-economically, young women with children are more visible as outliers than they would be in inner-city neighborhoods. They therefore appear to more acutely notice and internalize their position as part of a stigmatized sector of society. This thesis follows the young women’s experiences from meeting their boyfriends to finding out that they are pregnant, preparing to become parents, and finally experiencing motherhood. I find that these young women attempt to neutralize the negative associations linked to their actions and decisions about motherhood through a mixture of shifting blame and denying culpability for various aspects of their pregnancies and parenting decisions, freeing them to be proud and confident parents.

Shanbacker, Elizabeth
“Mobile Homes, Fixed Communities: The Dimensions of Social Life in a Single-Wide Neighborhood”

Millions of Americans rely on mobile homes as their permanent residences and as one of the few non-subsidized forms of affordable housing available to them. The poor reputation of “trailer parks” begs the question, are mobile homes part of the housing problem, or part of the solution? Using ethnographic data, this qualitative study of a rural Vermont mobile home park indicates that some parks can foster a healthy community, characterized by generalized reciprocity, active neighbors invested in the park, and general satisfaction with the neighborhood. These findings suggest that parks should be pursued as part of a sound housing policy. Nevertheless, significant barriers to the successful utilization of mobile home parks as good affordable housing need to be removed in order for parks to become truly healthy communities. To begin this process, policy makers must define their housing needs and goals, because the dual identity of mobile home parks requires distinct choices depending on which identity is ultimately desired. On one hand, mobile home parks can be life-long, permanent communities. On the other hand, they can be temporary housing on the way to ownership of a site-built home.

St. Jean, Terry
“Framing the Frame: The Science of Mobilizing Social Change through visions of Collective Action”

In this essay, I analyze data gathered through participant observation with an on-campus student activist group, Incarceration In Question. I compare this local movement to a national organization to see how these two separate organizations use theories and practices of
collective action to meet their differing goals. Collective Action Theory and theories about creating mobilization through Message Framing inform my data analysis. The key theoretical frameworks are derived from Donileen Loseke, Sidney Tarrow, and Pierre Bourdieu.

Vatnick, Tamara
“Queer ‘I’s: Negotiating Identity, Community, and Power at a New England College”
This study examines trends in ideas, language, and political beliefs on the concept of “queerness” among different generations of queer people. To that end I interviewed 28 openly queer people—faculty, staff and students—at Middlebury College. In addition to these interviews, I utilize three and a half years of participant observation in the field, not only as an ethnographer, but also as a member of the population that I examine. I use theories from Michel Foucault, Judith Butler, and Erving Goffman to examine concepts of sexuality as well as concepts of the self. I also use James Scott and George Lakoff for linguistic analysis. In the process of interviewing, I discovered that generational differences were not necessarily an important factor in creating these different aspects of a queer identity. Instead I found that queer people negotiate two conflicting dynamics: the norm of compulsory heterosexuality in U.S. society, and the fairly recent liberal conceptions of the acceptable gay person who is part of a cohesive “gay community.” I focused especially on the language queer people use to express their own identity as well as their understandings of “gayness.” I found that the complications and contradictions inherent in how we speak and think about “gayness” in American culture resulted in individuals creating their own unique conceptions of “gayness,” repudiating the idea of a cohesive “gay community.”

Tamara was the winner of SOAN department’s Blum and Company, Inc. Award for 2007.

Virviescas Mendoza, Tatiana
“The Colombian Diaspora in Paris: A Study of Immigration through the Emergence of a Hybrid Colombo-Parisian Social Dance”
Colombian immigration to industrialized countries such as France has increased in recent decades, and diasporic Latin American communities have formed. Important aspects of Colombian traditions such as social dance are now influencing French culture. As a result, a new hybrid version of Colombo-French salsa has emerged, and contemporary Parisian social dance has changed through the appropriation of Colombian movement. I examined the political, economic, and geographical issues involved in migration from a kinesthetic perspective. Social, ethnic, and cultural characteristics are present in dance, and they reflect the society in which they are generated. I attended Latin and French dance clubs in Paris and received salsa lessons in these places. I interviewed dance instructors, students, and Colombian immigrants and filmed and photographed classes, rehearsals, and people dancing in night clubs as part of the research. The thesis demonstrates how globalization is leading to hybridized cultural forms.

Warnow, Jonathan
“Heating up the Frame: Global Warming and the Battles over Meaning in the New Coal Rush”
Social movement scholars have identified framing processes, resource mobilization, and political opportunity as the principal factors for understanding the nature and development of social movements. This paper applies these theories of framing to the emerging social
movements opposing recently proposed coal-fired power plants. I first assess the historical context from which contemporary conceptions of framing processes arose. Then, I analyze how these framing processes play out in the organizations opposing the new coal rush, pointing to ways that collective action frames can be improved and refined for greater to achieve greater mobilization. I then appraise the role of global warming in the processes of framing and counter-framing between social movement organizations and energy companies. In the paper's final predictive section, I identify a potential master frame involving global warming, and demonstrate how it can be harnessed by social movement organizations opposing the coal rush. Finally, this paper reveals a direction forward for social movement organizations involving collaborative framing and the forging of new alliances.

Wheeler, Emily
“Small Town vs. Big Wind: Exploring the Complexity of the Wind Power Debate In Rural Vermont”

Due to the rise of global warming and much conflict over foreign oil in the last decade, there has been a renewed goal of integrating alternative energy into our national and global energy supply. As more domestic energy companies look for renewable energy options, Vermont is a state that has been targeted for potential wind farm sites. One site in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont has sparked a tremendous debate over wind power, pitting locals, town governments, companies and environmentalists against one another as they try to reach a conclusion. This paper presents the argument against industrial wind power from the viewpoint of four members of local opposition groups. While accused of having a NIMBY argument, the opposition explains why their position asks fundamental questions of legitimacy and consequence. Ultimately, the opposition feels as though they should not be taking responsibility for a problem they do not contribute to and they propose alternative solutions to meet and manage energy demands. This paper further explores the tension between environmentalists in finding solutions to the energy problem and whether the notion of wind power needs to be re-evaluated.

Emily’s essay won the 2007 Bryan award from the Center for Research on Vermont at UVM.

Wilson, Carol
“Aesthetic Dilemma: A Study of the Social Significance of Hair among African American Women at Middlebury College”

This thesis uses the accounts of ten African American Middlebury College women to explore the gap between academia and the Black hair community in modern Black hair discourse. African American hair is a social arena in which many social and historical dynamics play out, yet very little has been done to investigate it. Although a distinctive discourse about hair is regularly used in African American communities, my interviews suggest that Black hair is never openly discussed at Middlebury. As African Americans living in a primarily White environment and women well versed in the culture of Black hair rhetoric, their voice represents a distinctive perspective rarely articulated in the Black hair and academic community. My analysis shows that these women have uprooted the hair community from their urban home-towns and reassembled it
here in Middlebury. They have developed their own version of Black hair culture where hair is discussed in intimate settings as a source of support and solidarity. As they rebuild, they account for Middlebury’s influence on their relationship with their hair by using a unique style of expression that bounces back and forth between a critical academic voice and colloquial narrative as they talk about Black hair.

Ian O'Reilly throws an atlatl in Intro to Archaeology

**Study and experience at home and abroad**

**Biological Anthro after Middlebury**

by Lydia Beaudrot ‘05

Two weeks after graduation, I moved to Costa Rica to chase capuchin monkeys around a forest. For an entire year, I had the chance to get to know another species, another ecosystem and another culture. I also had the chance to get to know a top-level researcher in the field of primatology. Fifteen months after graduation, I moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts to work as a research assistant at Harvard University. I’m working in the biological anthropology department for a primatologist who studies orangutans. It’s my job to manage her database and assist with ongoing projects. More interestingly, I have the opportunity to work on spatial analyses of orangutan movement patterns using geographical information systems (GIS). I’m pretty psyched about it. Not only do I get to use the GIS skills I learned at Middlebury, but I also have had the opportunity to take additional GIS courses through Harvard as a part of my work schedule. How did I get here from a BA in Anthropology at Middlebury College? During my sophomore year at Middlebury, I took SOAN 159 and I thought it was the most interesting class ever. I devoured the readings from the class and really enjoyed the opportunity to make connections to bio-anthro ideas during other major SOAN courses especially during the theory course. The only problem was that SOAN 159 was the only biological anthropology course offered in the school. Professor Eaton advised me to look outside of Middlebury for other learning venues, but had this been a different subject the same steps could have applied within the college. I took his words to heart and that has made all the difference. Each of the opportunities that I have had has built upon the other. My experience was something like this:

- Take an interesting course at Middlebury. Do the reading. Get to know the professor. Ask advice.
- Explore areas of interest following advice of professor. Read more. Start getting to know the key players writing on the topic.
- Use senior work as an opportunity to explore the area of interest and become familiar with the ideas of the key players in the field.
- Get to know experts in the area of interest by contacting them with questions or about research opportunities. Ask them for advice… and follow their advice.
• Volunteer for experts or find grant money to do work for them.
• Enjoy gainful employment from experts!

Red Lights, Ping Pong and the Not-So-Underground World of Commercial Sex in Thailand
by Carolyn Barnwell '06.5

The doors of the mass-transit Skytrain open at Saladaeng in Bangkok, and I'm hit with humid air, the sound of hustling high heels clicking on the stairs and honking taxi horns. It's not dark yet, and those that don't know would never guess this area transforms into a world-renowned red light district.

A middle-aged woman is selling crunchy snacks at the side of the road. I ask her, "Patpong nung ya tee nai ka?" [where is Patpong 1?]. I wonder if she thinks I want to find an upscale sex club and a young Thai man... hardly. But I don't take the time to explain what I'm doing; I walk across the street and look for my landmark sign: “Pussy Show!” My heart beats a lit'le faster.

There's a cement staircase that twists up five floors to where I find the small sign for SWING. I open the door. "Ohh, I remember you!" I'm greeted by a familiar face, Surang, a woman who has dedicated her life to helping commercial sex workers by educating them about HIV/AIDS and safe sex. She's also opened this haven known as SWING, where free condoms, advice, and English lessons abound, five floors above the red lights. Surang ushers me into the office, where the entire wall is covered in multi-colored condoms. Before arriving in Thailand, I would have never planned on willingly surrounding myself with this (yes, illegal) industry. But after being exposed to the dangers and injustices, I couldn't believe what I learned; what I saw. I wanted to get involved and help, so I came to teach English and, being an anthropologist, do some participant observation. I ask Surang, "What do you think the students [sex workers not yet on duty] will want to learn today?" My buddy Dee, who used to be a sex worker but now works for SWING, says, "Just ask them what they want to know."

After practicing some conversational phrases and prices with ten men and women, Dee encourages me to move to "romantic sweet words." I never learned the equivalents in Thai, so I act out romantic scenes in front of the class. This crowd is one of the few Thai crowds that is not embarrassed by talk of intimacy, but appreciative. "Okay, all together!" I encourage. The group responds, "I wahnt doo keesss youuu." My class runs over by thirty minutes because we are laughing and having a great time.

I am ready to get more involved, so I grabbed a pink velour bag filled with condoms and go out with SWING outreach workers Ehg and Bui. We're in search of ‘underground’ male sex bars and workers who need protection. In the past few years, the female bars (with young girls straight from the rural farming villages, in all shapes and sizes) have lost popularity. Most female sex bars have resorted to shocking customers with circus shows like "Pussy Ping Pong" or "Pussy Cuts Banana" – you guessed where the knives are held. In contrast, the most crowded bars I saw were those with dancing katheoy or transwomen; the most beautiful women in Thailand. Of course they're beautiful – their entire bodies have been under the knife. Customers are forewarned it's okay to check to see what you're getting into – some katheoy still have penises tucked into their bikini bottoms.

The first bar Ehg and Bui and I approach, "The Golden Cock," has string beads hanging in the doorway. My stomach lurches as I duck through the beads, afraid of what I'm about to see. The men inside are hanging out and playing cards– it's only 7:30 pm so I guess it's too early for
customers. Since I'm the only female in the place, everyone stares. (Not to mention I am white, and a foot taller than Ehg and Bui). I smile and hand them condoms, which each young guy eagerly takes.

We round the corner, so we're off infamous Patpong 1. There are puddles on the side of the road, and only a few streetlights or cars. I would never have wandered back here without my 'bodyguards' Ehg and Bui. The bars we stop at are no longer obvious, with signs like "The Golden Cock" in English and Japanese. In the almost empty alleyways, we pull open heavy doors to reveal rooms with no windows and no air circulation. The bars get progressively more seedy and smoky. Fake leather couches have stuffing protruding from the cracks that haven't yet been patched with duct-tape. In this bar, the Thai men look my age or younger, and they're sitting on the laps of 200 lb. balding white men. They're happily being rubbed down so they hardly notice my widening eyes.

After our bag of condoms is empty, I decide I don't need to stick around Patpong to refuse the offers of Pussy Shows and Big Boy Dancers 'with glow-in-the-dark paint!' that will start in about an hour. I'm completely over-stimulated. In Patpong, female “dancers” bop to the beat on stage in sheer bikinis, hoping to catch the eyes of a customer who will take them home so they don’t end the day making only $3 USD from the bar owner. Male dancers are usually more aggressive and offer their erection after rubbing up against you. They all need to make money in order to buy food and keep their families alive.

The hardest part of being in what some find a thrilling and exotic industry was looking at these dancers, knowing I lived with their grandparents and parents in the villages up north where I did thesis research. My host families are receiving the money their kids send home, but they don't know what their kids are doing in Bangkok to make that money. My head is spinning because Dee told me 28% of men who have sex with men in Thailand have AIDS, and the fastest growing sector is married women whose husbands bring home the HIV virus.

Patpong is getting crowded because the market stalls have been set up in the street with T-shirts, lamps, touristy knick-knacks and food. Bui says, "Okay, we're going to walk you back to the Skytrain."

"Thanks for letting me help you tonight." I say. "It was easy! We didn't even have to pretend you are a katheoy to get you into the male bars!" All I can do is laugh. I tell them to keep up their good work and walk up to my air-conditioned escape on the Skytrain—but not before snapping a last photo of the neon red lights so I will never forget.

Carolyn has received a Watson Fellowship for 2007-2008 to study how Pacific islanders are preparing for global warming.

**Gender is a Drag: Fun Activities this Semester**
by Laurie Essig

In February, a bunch of Midd students joined me at the University of Vermont for the Translating Identity Conference (TIC), one of the largest conferences dealing with trans issues (transgender, transexual, and gender queer). We were all excited to attend a variety of workshops on trans issues and learn more about one of the fastest growing gender/sexuality movements in the country.

At the end of April, a van full of Middlebury students came to my house in Burlington for a seminar on drag. The students wanted to do a drag section for the AAA Fashion Show and since I have done a fair amount of drag, both as a female to male drag and as a female to female drag queen (and also as “it,” a half male, half female), they asked me to give them some tips.

Besides borrowing all my dress-up clothes, learning the tricks of the trade (binding, stuffing, and false eyelashes), the students went on a little shopping trip to a local thrift store where they bought some fabulous accessories for their costumes. The result can be seen at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtzN8ipnZc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtzN8ipnZc).
Selected Faculty Publications
2003-2007

Laurie Essig

James Fitzsimmons

David Napier

Peggy Nelson
2007 "Day care differences and the reproduction of social class" (co-authored with Rebecca N. Schutz ’05), Journal of Contemporary Ethnography 26:281-301. [Note: this article is based on Rebecca's senior thesis.]

Ellen Oxfeld
2004 “‘When you drink water, think of its source:’ Morality, status, and reinvention in rural Chinese funerals" Journal of Asian Studies 63:3.


Burke Rochford


Ted Sasson
2007 "From shrine to forum: Masada and the politics of Jewish extremism" (co-authored with Shaul Kelner), forthcoming, Israel Studies.

2007 “Triangulation and mixed methods designs: Practicing what we preach in the evaluation of an Israel experience educational program” (co-authored with Charles Kadushin, Shahar Hecht, and Leonard Saxe), forthcoming, Field Methods.

2006 “Qualitative research on American Jewry,” Contact 8(4):9-10.

Michael Sheridan


2003 “Representing environments in flux: Case studies from East Africa” (co-authored with


**David Stoll**


**Alumni News**

**Kit Barron ‘05** is working at Harvard’s Center for Latin American Studies. After graduation he worked on agricultural development projects in Kenya, Zambia, Mozambique, Pakistan, and Spain.

**Lila Buckley ‘04** returned to Middlebury in October 2006 to give a series of talks on conservation and development in China. She is the assistant director of a Chinese environmental NGO and a journalist for the WorldWatch Institute.

**Zach Center ‘05**

Zach is now in his eighth month of teaching English in Mozambique. This is his second Peace Corps assignment after the Chad program pulled the volunteers out due to political unrest.

**Julia Davidson ’04.5** is the development director for the Southside Family Nurturing Center, a social service agency for at-risk families and children in Minneapolis. She says that the job is a sort of applied anthropology.

**Andrea Hamre ‘05** is working for the Department of Justice in Washington DC and getting increasingly involved in environmental activism.

**Danielle Naugle ‘06.5** is going to Togo, West Africa, as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Keep tabs on her at [http://amanicorps.blogspot.com/](http://amanicorps.blogspot.com/).

**Judith Schutter ‘05** has been doing conservation work in Washington DC since she returned from Peace Corps-Peru.

We want to know what you’re doing. **Please write us** (email, postcards, extended analyses of the state of your world, etc.). We would also be delighted to publish brief articles showing our alumni in action and using sociology and anthropology beyond Middlebury.

**Future issues**

This is YOUR newsletter. We are open to your contributions and suggestions. Have you read a new book that transformed your approach to culture and society? Write a book review. Have you done some interesting research? Volunteer for an interview. We’d like to publish news of your internships, research projects, awards, and any other experiences of sociological and anthropological interest. What do **you** want in **your** newsletter?

This newsletter is available online at [http://www.middlebury.edu/NR/rdonlyres/21210C2D-D7DC-4F66-AA93-8207DCDD5F53/0/field_notes_no3.pdf](http://www.middlebury.edu/NR/rdonlyres/21210C2D-D7DC-4F66-AA93-8207DCDD5F53/0/field_notes_no3.pdf)

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