



NORTHEASTERN  
ANTHROPOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

# NEAA NEWSLETTER

The 46<sup>th</sup> annual meetings of the Northeast Anthropological Association were held in Albany, New York, at the Clarion Hotel from May 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Fifty-five professionals and 107 graduate and undergraduate students and avocationalists attended two-and-a-half days of programs. Throughout the conference, Robert Gordon (UMass Amherst) screened a fascinating series of anthropological videos. Displays were set up by the New York State Museum and the New York Archaeological Council. Mike Tarbell of the Iroquois Indian Museum set up a wonderful display of native flintknapping and technology.

The conference began during the afternoon of Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> with sessions on health in urban spaces, Meso-american archaeology, ethnicity and inequality, and archaeological method and theory. Following paper presentations on Friday there was a workshop on careers in anthropology hosted by John Omohundro and Jessica Skolnikoff. The evening concluded with a welcome reception during which members of the Albany area anthropological community serenaded the attendees with karaoke.

Presentations continued Saturday morning with sessions on Old World archaeology, the identity of women, the use of constructed space, northeastern archaeology, immigrant identity dynamics, and culture and tourism. Following morning sessions there was a student luncheon hosted by the anthropology graduate student organization of the University at Albany and a

department chairs luncheon hosted by Dr. James Collins, of the anthropology department at the University at Albany. On Saturday afternoon a memorial session for the late Estelle Smith was held during which presentations that were influenced by Estelle's work were made, and those who knew her shared their memories. Later that afternoon a session on the ethnography of water was held, as well as a poster session. Saturday's events concluded with a banquet at the New York State Museum, followed by a key note address by Dr. James Axtell of the College of William and Mary.

The conference concluded Sunday morning with sessions on virtual and visual anthropology, the anthropology of ritual, culture and identity, bioarchaeology, applied anthropology, and biomedical anthropology.

The entire program and abstracts are available on line at [www.neaa.org](http://www.neaa.org).

The co-organizers of this event were the University at Albany and the New York State Museum. Special thanks go also to Hartgen Archaeology Inc. and the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for loans of audiovisual equipment. Thanks also to the anthropology graduate students of the University at Albany without whom the conference would not have been nearly so successful.

Sean M. Rafferty, University at Albany

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## Message from the Editor

It was another successful conference thanks to Sean Rafferty and his students at SUNY Buffalo. As I have written in my two previous Spring/Summer Newsletters I am always pleased to see so many graduate and undergraduates students participating in this conference. It truly is a great experience for students to attend and present at an academic conference.

I would also like to say, and I speak for the NEAA Executive Board, a BIG THANK YOU to outgoing President Grace Frazer. She went above and beyond her duties as president and we truly appreciate the time and energy she has put in to being NEAA President.

In addition, contributing Cultural Anthropology Editor Riva Berleant has stepped down from the post. We would like to thank her for the on-going contributions she has made to the newsletter. This means, however, that we have an opening for a cultural anthropology contributing editor. If anyone is interested or would like to suggest someone, please contact me.

I would be remiss not to mention a project that I have been working on for the last month and a half and the two lessons I have learned from it. I presented a paper this month at the 2006 Cooperstown Symposium on Baseball and American Culture at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. One might think...what would an anthropologist be doing at a baseball conference? However, I was not the only anthropologist there...to my surprise there were two more of our kind in attendance. It was unlike the academic conferences than I am used to attending. Instead of participants coming from the same discipline or frame of reference, everyone at the baseball symposium was linked because of their interest in the game of baseball. In the audience for example were social scientists, historians, writers, business people — all analyzing the game from their perspective but wanting to hear, learn and discuss baseball from the other perspectives as well. *First lesson:* I encourage everyone to not only share your research and discoveries with other anthropologists but to share your information at different venues whether it be baseball, environmental management, corporate identity or healthcare — we are trained to examine culture in a unique way and we need to share our insights with others. The *second lesson* is to write a paper with someone else. The paper I presented at the baseball symposium was co-authored with Dr. Robert Engvall in the School of Justice Studies at Roger Williams University. As many of us know, collaborating on research and writing may not be easy for a variety of reasons. However, it can push you to write differently, explain your points more clearly and challenge you to not only work outside of your frame of reference but to examine things in quite a new way. It was a very positive experience for me so next time you see a “Call for Papers” from a conference or organization that you think you cannot possible “fit into”—think about it again.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer and remember... we are always looking for submissions.

Jess Skolnikoff

## C. Richard Beam Honored

Joshua R. Brown  
The Pennsylvania State University

It is a rare occasion that those working in the rather intimate world of Pennsylvania German studies have the opportunity to show their appreciation for one of the field's most outstanding scholars. However, the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of C. Richard Beam presented the opportunity to compose articles for a *festschrift* in his honor. The publication is to appear this year as a special issue of the annual *Yearbook* of the Society for German-American Studies.

Beam was born in 1925 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and learned Pennsylvania German from his grandparents. He attended Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster and worked alongside J. William Frey in the German department. He studied abroad at both the Philipps-Universität in Marburg, Germany and the University of Vienna in Austria. He received a master's degree from Middlebury College in Vermont and completed doctoral coursework with Albert J. Buffington at the Pennsylvania State University.

Beam taught for many years in the German department at Millersville University of Pennsylvania and established the Junior Year in Marburg exchange program. In 1964, he married Dorothy J. Pozniko, a music professor at Millersville. Importantly in 1986, Beam created the Center for Pennsylvania German Studies at Millersville University and has been its director ever since.

Beam's contributions to Pennsylvania German studies are considerable. His field work, recordings, and word lists document the language, which, while still widely spoken among Old Order Amish and Mennonite groups, is disappearing among non-sectarian speakers. Above all, his massive dictionary project is now nearing completion after a half-century of work. Since 2004, Beam and his co-editors have published regular installments of this comprehensive Pennsylvania German dictionary, which contains a variety of linguistic, folkloristic, historical, and cultural gems for both the everyday-enthusiast and serious researcher.

Dick Beam actively and passionately promotes Pennsylvania German studies with weekly dialect columns in *Ephrata Shopping News* and the *Sugarcreek (Ohio) Budget*, a weekly dialect radio program *Die Alde Kummraade*, a quarterly *Journal of the Center for Pennsylvania German Studies*, and sponsorship of the annual J. William Frey Lecture for Pennsylvania German Studies at Franklin & Marshall College. His refinement of the Buffington-Barba orthography and reprinting of grammars, dictionaries, histories, and folklore collections have aided many researchers and brought Pennsylvania German studies further into an academic light. Moreover, he has continued to encourage written material and publications from dialect writers and to support Pennsylvania German language classes.

The collection of essays in his honor represents a broad compilation of works on German-American studies. Michael Werner (editor, *Hiwwe wie Driwwe*) reminisced on Beam's crucial role in helping with the dialect newspaper *Hiwwe wie Driwwe*. Karen Johnson-Weiner (SUNY

*Continued on the bottom of page 5*

## GET PUBLISHED HERE.....

### Call for Submissions

As we begin planning the upcoming newsletters for the Northeastern Anthropological Association, we would like to extend an invitation for YOU to contribute to the publication.

Please submit anything you think will be of interest to our community. You may wish to update colleagues on your recent projects or report on some significant research. You may want to tell us about your school or your department. You may want to discuss global events that affect us here in the Northeast. Or you may just want to offer your reflections on the field. We are also beginning to develop a review section of the newsletter. If you would like to suggest a book for review or if you would like to review a film or text that has been recently released or published, please let us know.

The NEAA publishes the newsletter three times per year (in Fall, Winter, Spring/Summer). You may email your submissions to Jessica Skolnikoff ([jskolnikoff@rwu.edu](mailto:jskolnikoff@rwu.edu)) or Alan Hersker ([herskeal@potdam.edu](mailto:herskeal@potdam.edu)). While there are no length requirements for submissions, our current format for the newsletter works best if articles are no longer than 600 words (although this is not set in stone . . .). Please use the AAA Style Guidelines for citations and the works cited page and submit the article in .rtf format.

This is a great opportunity for students to get their work in a publication, for faculty and staff to let colleagues know about their research and for independent scholars to keep us updated on their projects. Please help us to make this newsletter an important benefit of membership in the NEAA!

## Message from the President

I'm honored, and a bit humbled, to take over from Grace Morth Fraser as President of the NEAA. Grace has served the Association so well over the past four years as President elect and President; we are glad that we will continue to benefit from her presence and wisdom as she continues to serve as Past President and an active member of the organization.

The 2006 meeting in Albany was, as usual, full of fascinating papers, interesting exhibits, and engaging interactions with colleagues. Many thanks to Sean Rafferty of SUNY Albany, and his many assistants, especially Kris Primeau, for organizing such a successful meeting. The New York State Museum graciously hosted the banquet in a wonderful hall, complete with antique airplanes! Museum staff were also helpful in providing audio-visual equipment and other necessities. Thanks again to all involved!

Now on to Ithaca, where Jack Rossen and his colleagues are already beginning to organize the 2007 meeting for April (T.B.A). Begin now to think of what papers, posters, or exhibits you would like to contribute. At the 2006 meeting, I heard some interesting papers and discussion about how academic discourse standardizes presentation, and therefore masks or dismisses other ways of speaking. I'd like to encourage you to think about contributing papers that use other modes of discourse - the NEAA is, I think, a safe and welcoming venue for this kind of productive experimentation!

I'm writing this from Bettyhill, in the very far north of Scotland, where it is cold and windy, but where we are enjoying an invigorating archaeological field school. Here's to a restful, productive, and enjoyable summer for you all.

Amy Gazin-Schwartz  
Assumption College

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*Brown Continued from page 3*

Potsdam) writes on identity and sectarian education, and Bill Keel (University of Kansas) writes about Kansas German varieties. An article on linguistic convergence by Achim Kopp (Mercer University) precedes an article on historical dialect analysis by Walter Sauer (University of Heidelberg). There are two articles on Pennsylvania German folkloristic studies: Simon Bronner (Penn State – Harrisburg) writes about folk narratives and David Kriebel (University of Maryland) includes an article on powwowing practices. Leroy Hopkins (Millersville University) proposes areas of research into Afro-German diaspora. The *festschrift* ends with an interesting article on language island research by Helmut Protze (Leipzig).

For all that Beam has given to the field of Pennsylvania German studies, it is our hope that this volume will prove to be a pleasant contribution to the field.

## Special Highlight: Language Funding Opportunity

The Alice Cozzi Heritage Language Foundation announces its third grants competition: Individuals and groups working to revitalize and maintain endangered heritage languages are invited to apply for small grants (up to 500 USD\*). Past awards have been made for the publication and distribution of dictionaries, lesson books, reference books and literary works as well as for teacher stipends and recording supplies, among other projects.

Applicants must answer the following questions in detail:

- (1) Describe the community the project serves. Where is the language spoken and how many people speak it? What materials are available in the language?
- (2) Describe your involvement in the language community.
- (3) Describe the project, including the objectives, timeline and other funding received and/or applied for. Describe how the small grant would be used and how much you are requesting.

Applicants must also include the following information:

Name(s)  
Mailing address  
E-mail address  
Phone number  
Project location, address and phone (if different)

Applications which do not include the requested information will not be considered. Recipients agree to submit a copy of the funded work.

The deadline for receipt of applications is September 30, 2006; decisions will be announced at the end of October.

Applications should be made in or attached to an e-mail to [alice\\_cozzi\\_hlf@hotmail.com](mailto:alice_cozzi_hlf@hotmail.com). Confirmation of receipt of application will be e-mailed within 30 days. If you are unable to apply by e-mail, send 6 hard copies to the Alice Cozzi Heritage Language Foundation, 96 Bard Lane, Ventura, CA 93001 USA.

In awarding grants, preference will be given to those projects which most directly serve economically and educationally disadvantaged communities and whose plans, objectives and budgets are best met by this small award.

Past applicants are welcome to apply for the 2006 awards for a revised project. Descriptions of past awards should be available in August at [www.nonprofitpages.com/achlf](http://www.nonprofitpages.com/achlf).

\* Awardees who are unable to receive the funds in a check from a US bank drawn on US dollars may apply for up to 450 USD only.

## 2006 Student Paper Awards

### *Climbing Stairs: The Built Environment as an Enforcer of Normalcy*

**Joannah Whitney (University of Massachusetts at Amherst)**

The study of disability has a long history of defining and redefining human, social experience in ever more refined, physical terms, different from “well” and “able”. At the same time, the category “able-bodied” remains undefined; we know it when we see it, or better yet, when we are it. The way we build our environment sends a strong message about who we expect to be in these environments. Public architecture is designed to accommodate who we expect the public to be. It can, therefore, be used to gain insight into how the experience of normalcy is created and maintained.

### *Reclaiming Č'ixwícən: Contesting Burial Rights in the Pacific Northwest*

**Alexandra Spielhagen (Dartmouth College)**

This paper examines the contestation of Native American burial rights, focusing on the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe's reburial conflict with the Washington State Department of Transportation and the community of Port Angeles. Contemporary power relations between Natives and the state cannot be understood in a simplistic oppressor-oppressed paradigm, but must be considered as a dialogue, both within modern legal structures as well as within the “traditional” cultural past and the effects of colonial history. My initial research focused on understanding the daily influence č'ixwícən (ch-WHEET-son) had on the Lower Elwha Klallam people, whether through reconnecting with the old ways, providing employment, causing mental and emotional trauma, or influencing tribal and family politics. Because of unanticipated changes during the course of field research, this paper, however, will focus on unraveling how the Klallam are using Western systems of justice to achieve their goal of reburial and how these same systems dictate Klallam efforts, using my fieldwork as an ethnographic grounding to my arguments. By examining the conflict through the lens of the colonial past, I hope to determine how litigation of cultural rights influences the experience of being Klallam today.

#### **NEAA NEWSLETTER VOLUME 28 NUMBER 3**

**Editor - in- Chief:** Jessica Skolnikoff (Roger Williams University) [jskolnikoff@rwu.edu](mailto:jskolnikoff@rwu.edu)

**Copy Editor:** Alan Hersker (SUNY Potsdam) [herskeal@potsteam.edu](mailto:herskeal@potsteam.edu)

#### **Contributing Editors**

Physical Anthropology: Barrett Brenton, (St. John's University) [BRENTONB@stjohns.edu](mailto:BRENTONB@stjohns.edu)

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Archaeology: Kelli Ann Costa (Franklin Pierce College)

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**Archivist:** H. Martin Wobst (Umass-Amherst) [wobst@anthro.umass.edu](mailto:wobst@anthro.umass.edu)

**Film and video consultant:** Robert Gordon (University of Vermont) [rgordon@zoo.uvm.edu](mailto:rgordon@zoo.uvm.edu)

**Grad Student Rep:** Kristy Primeau (SUNY Albany) [keprimeau@yahoo.com](mailto:keprimeau@yahoo.com)

**Undergraduate Rep:** Andrew Hamilton (Dartmouth College) [Andrew.R.Hamilton@Dartmouth.edu](mailto:Andrew.R.Hamilton@Dartmouth.edu)

**Webmaster:** David Houston (University of Vermont) [David.Houston@uvm.edu](mailto:David.Houston@uvm.edu)



NEAA NEWSLETTER  
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY/  
SOCIOLOGY, CAS 158  
ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY  
ONE OLD FERRY ROAD  
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