



NEAA NEWSLETTER

Message from the President

The NEAA conference will be hosted this year by the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The conference theme, *Anthropology Comes Home: The Enduring Promise of a Holistic Discipline*, not only reflects the role of UMass anthropologists in the founding and history of the NEAA, but also the character of anthropology that makes it relevant and important today. How can we promote and develop the “enduring promise” of anthropology?

The NEAA meeting is an excellent venue for anthropologists from all subfields, both academic and applied, professionals and students, to share their work and participate in engaged, active, and rewarding discussions about the promise of our holistic discipline! Particularly these days, when academic departments often have to justify their roles in the university, and when national and global politics seem to need the insights of anthropology, it is important for us to be able to think together about how those insights can be developed and employed. My experience is that, in contrast to large national meetings, the NEAA meetings are venues where people from a variety of fields can and do talk to each other!

So: I hope you will plan to attend the conference March 7-9, 2008 in Amherst. Amherst is easily accessible, and the town and campus have many attractions. But the main attraction will be the interesting sessions, posters, and roundtable discussions, and the vital and renewing opportunity to connect with anthropologists from around the Northeast. From these connections, we can forge new ideas to help us fulfill the enduring promise of anthropology!

Amy Gazin-Schwartz

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Grassroots Health Democracy and Anthropological Advocacy in Ithaca

Anthropological advocacy takes many forms and has a long history within our discipline. The sheer number of pressing issues today, from environment and health to human rights, presents numerous possibilities for us to act, and engage our students in the process. The recent emphasis in many academic institutions on service learning, in communities both near and far, only furthers this mission to actively improve conditions in the world. In Ithaca, I have had the opportunity to articulate with the global and national health care crisis at the local level through an organization promoting health democracy, the Ithaca Health Alliance (IHA), which opened the Ithaca Free Clinic (IFC) in 2006. In this context, I have functioned as an activist, advocate, critic, board member, committee member, fundraiser and educator for the IHA and IFC. In addition to being secretary for the IHA during the period of the clinic opening, I have also spent a significant amount of time organizing student interns from Ithaca College, many of whom came from my class, Integrative Health Care in American Culture. Philosophically, I have emphasized core anthropological concepts at the IHA of keeping sight of the holistic perspective and promoting cultural pluralism while we pursue a model of social equity in health care.

The IHA fits within the expanding health democracy movement which promotes an agenda for addressing multiple facets of the health care crisis in America: 1) the *disempowerment* of health care consumers; 2) the growing numbers of *uninsured and underinsured* -- at least 10,000 people in Tompkins county, where Ithaca is located, are uninsured and most of those live at or below the poverty line; and 3) the negative effects of a *capitalist medical system* and culture that privileges hierarchy, profits, reductionism, individualism and ethnocentrism. As the U.S. attempts to address these issues, many community based models have been implemented (and can trace their roots to earlier historical models, especially from the 1960s and 70s), including volunteer driven *free clinics*, *holistic health centers*, and *health cooperatives*.

The Ithaca Health Alliance, founded by Paul Glover in 1997 as the Ithaca Health Fund, established a community-based system of health "assurance," that provides grants, education, and outreach to meet health care needs in Ithaca, all for \$100 per year membership fee. As the organization expanded its mission, it became clear that providing direct no cost health care services (biomedical and integrative) was necessary to promote the ideals of health democracy, so the board targeted funds to open a free clinic, saving eight year's worth of money generated by IHA memberships. The Ithaca Free Clinic represents a collaborative effort between the IHA Board of Directors and committee members, local health care practitioners, community members, and significantly, area colleges (Ithaca College and Cornell University) with their faculty, student interns and volunteers. The IFC opened its doors in January 23, 2006 and is one of the few models in the country of an integrative volunteer driven clinic which almost always has an herbalist on staff. Professional services are provided by the volunteer staff of almost twenty doctors and nurses alongside over a dozen other practitioners, including herbalists, acupuncturists, massage therapists, and chiropractors.

The Ithaca Free Clinic focuses on preventative and immediate primary care and provides facilitated enrollment into state programs. The IFC serves those with no health insurance, those with unaffordable deductibles, and those who may not have insurance coverage for complementary / alternative medicine and cannot afford to pay full price for those services. The ability to service Medicaid patients has, however, been limited, due to the economic and political ties Medicaid funding has with other facilities in the region. In the first year, there were 800 visits to the clinic, with 2000 visits so far in 2007.

The path has not been easy to find another way to address health care issues. Some of the challenges, which will be familiar to anthropologists working in communities and non-profit organizations, include: 1) *integrating diverse practitioners* – overcoming distrust and misunderstanding, mainly between biomedical and complementary and alternative practitioners, in both philosophy and daily interactions

during clinic hours; 2) overcoming *interpersonal conflicts* (often dealing with people's status, amount of volunteer hours, and feelings of ownership of the IHA/IFC); 3) *balancing grassroots origins with the need for organization and bureaucracy* – as the organization grows, there is increasing need for bureaucratic organization and legitimation, especially from the IRS, in order to receive donations on a tax exempt basis. This is in direct conflict with the cultural values of grassroots movements, which favor organic process and decentralization of authority; and 4) *benefit burnout* -- in a town with numerous non-profit organizations and sociocultural movements, how can grassroots support be sustained? Upscale gala benefits? Cheaper benefits with broad appeal?

While all of these issues have been pressing, they have been overshadowed by the challenge of convincing the state that community based health assurance is not a guise to operate a capitalist health insurance company. This long battle with the New York State Department of Insurance was won in 2006 when NYSID agreed to let the Ithaca Health Alliance continue its mission, with specific guidelines, such as not using the term “reimbursement” for the grants given to IHA members to help with health care costs. The current battle, as 2007 draws to a close, is gaining recognition and legitimacy from the IRS who has denied the 501-C3 application of the IHA several times, questioning whether or not helping to keep people healthy is a charitable endeavor.

I encourage anthropologists to work on similar initiatives in their own communities and involve their students along the way. Alicia Thomas, senior anthropology major, reflects on her involvement:

Spending time at the Ithaca Free Clinic and the Ithaca Health Alliance as a volunteer has introduced me to and taught me about a lot about community health resources. Not only do I feel like the IFC and IHA is helping those in need of immediate medical assistance, but I feel as if they are helping people find life-long connections to health care for those un- and under-insured. Between the other volunteers, office managers, and patients at the Ithaca Free Clinic I have learned so much. Whether it be how a medical office works, how much integrative healing modalities are being used by the community, or how important an establishment like the IHA or IFC is to so many individuals, I have gained a mountain of knowledge that will help me when I go in to the world and begin my career.

In addition to the benefits for students of service learning, raising issues of inequities in health care can shed light on another underserved population – part-time staff and adjunct instructors at our colleges and universities who are often offered just below a maximum load so that benefits will not be included. At Ithaca College, several of us worked with human resources and were able to include applications for the Ithaca Health Alliance for these personnel, where for just \$100 a year, people can gain assistance with medical emergencies, dental check ups, and more for up to \$3,000-4,000 per year in grants.

For more information on the Ithaca Health Alliance and Ithaca Free Clinic, visit <http://www.ithacahealth.org/index.htm> . For more information about starting a co-operative health plan in your community, visit <http://www.healthdemocracy.org>, maintained by Ithaca Health Fund founder Paul Glover.

Brooke Hansen
Board Member, Ithaca Health Alliance
Associate Professor, Ithaca College

Network with Professionals in Your Field! Build Your Resume!

We are currently looking for Contributing Editors for Cultural Anthropology and Archaeology for the NEAA. If you are interested, please contact Alan Hersker, SUNY Potsdam, herskeal@potsdam.edu

Message from the Editor

I'm pleased to be filling in for Jessica Skolnikoff as editor-in-chief while she's traveling across the US doing fieldwork. We're in touch frequently and she wanted me to let everyone know that things are going well. She may even be able to put in an appearance at the annual meeting in Amherst this March.

I've been working with two of our students at SUNY Potsdam, Abby Mastin and Natisha Romain on a survey of NEAA members and non-members. I would like to thank those of you took the time to speak with them about NEAA concerns and commendations. We were also able to interview several faculty members who were not active in the organization for an important "etic" perspective. Thank you, also, to those of you who took the time to fill out the online survey. Of the 300 email invitations sent, we had 114 students, faculty and professionals respond to the survey, a return rate of over 30%. We're thrilled with the response and looking forward to making a formal presentation of the results at the NEAA meetings at the University of Massachusetts Amherst on 7-9 March, 2008.

I did, though, want to share some of the more interesting findings from our preliminary data analysis. Of current members, 33% are less than 30 years old and 71% of current members have belonged to the NEAA for less than 5 years. Those numbers suggest that we have a great opportunity here to get new folks involved in the organization. I hope that we'll have some opportunities at the meeting to strategize. In the meantime, I would ask that everyone think of new ways to get members actively involved in the NEAA and, if you're a newer member yourself, think about how you could contribute to the organization.

When queried about the conference, 57% of respondents felt that there are not enough presentations by faculty and professionals. We all know that the conference is a great way for undergraduates and newer graduate students to "cut their teeth" on presenting papers, but these numbers really highlight the need for faculty and professionals to present *their* work, also. Your efforts won't be wasted: of NEAA members, over 78% of survey respondents noted that they attend the conference to learn about current research in their field. I don't know about you, but I'm off to work on my abstract ...

Alan Hersker

Call for Papers

NEAA Session Proposal, March 7-9, 2008

(Em)bodied/(En)cultured

please contact Joannah Whitney <jwhitney@email.smith.edu>

The papers in this session represent a four field approach to the experience and anthropological study of embodiment. More common approaches to the study of the human body explore biological and medical dimensions of human experience. The papers in this session, taken collectively, examine the nature of embodiment as an expression of culture and as a view into the intersection of the "natural" and the "cultural" vis-à-vis the human body. These papers, taken individually, explore ways the body can provide insights into cultures along dimensions of experience that are often poorly articulated, even while they are also common.

Northeastern Anthropological Association
48th Annual Meeting
March 7-9, 2008 University of Massachusetts Amherst

“Anthropology Comes Home: The Enduring Promise of a Holistic Discipline”

Abstract and Session submission deadline is February 8th, 2008
Forms and Registration information are available online at www.neaa.org

Some highlights

- Friday, 5 p.m. reception with cash bar
- Saturday evening banquet with keynote speaker
H. Martin Wobst (UMass Amherst) “Archaeologies: Their Anthropological Pasts and Futures”
- Annual Members’ Meeting (a.k.a. Business Meeting)
- Book exhibit
- Poster sessions
- Film screenings
- Graduate and undergraduate paper prizes
- Modest registration fees (includes Conference Fee and NEAA membership dues)
 - \$65 professional
 - \$40 student
- Canadian funds accepted at par

Conference Hotel: The Campus Center Hotel (1-413-549-6000, or toll-free, 1-877-822-2110) is conveniently located at the heart of the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus in the Murray D. Lincoln Campus Center. We encourage all attendees to register at the Campus Center Hotel (<http://www.aux.umass.edu/hotel/>). NEAA members receive a significant discount for use of the conference center based on hotel room registrations. Mention NEAA for conference rate of \$110 double occupancy (80 rooms reserved). There are also several hotels near the University (<http://www.hampshirehospitality.com/>) that are available in the event the Campus Center reaches capacity.

Forms, information, and registration: www.neaa.org

Questions:

General questions: Dr. Ventura R. Pérez (vrperez@anthro.umass.edu)
Book display: Julie Woods (woods@anthro.umass.edu)
Film exhibit: Dr. Jacqueline Urla (jurla@anthro.umass.edu)

Welcome from the Organizers

The Department of Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst is pleased to be hosting the 48th annual meeting of the Northeast Anthropological Association on the UMass campus in Amherst, Massachusetts. The town of Amherst, settled in the late 17th century, is situated in the middle valley of the beautiful Quinneticook (“long river”), now called the Connecticut River. This region encompasses the indigenous homelands of several bands of Algonkian Indian peoples - Agawam, Nonotuck, Pocumtuck, and Sokoki - who, during the 18th century, folded in with Western Abenaki peoples.

This Year’s Theme

The theme of the 48th annual meeting is “Anthropology Comes Home: The Enduring Promise of a Holistic Discipline.” North American anthropology today finds itself at a crossroad. Many departments are fissioning into subdisciplines and separate departments, and many newly minted Ph.D.s in anthropology come from graduate programs with only token courses in other subfields. This trend was discussed in considerable detail in the March 2004 (Vol. 4, No. 2) issue of the Society for American Archaeology’s Archaeological Record and the March 2003 issue of American Anthropologist (Vol. 105, No. 1) and most recently in the January 2008 issue of Anthropology News (Vol. 49, No. 1) in the article “A House Divided: Skirting the Rift Between Archaeology and Anthropology.” The underlying theme of this conference is clear: a celebration of the four field approach to anthropology. We hope that this conference will – at least in our region – increase the connections among the subfields and foster a dialog that will serve not only the discipline but allow us to more effectively work with and communicate our ideas to those outside of anthropology. While we present a wide variety of topics during the conference, proposals that deal in some way with this year’s theme will be especially favored by the session organizers.

Local Information

Unique shops, restaurants, pubs, cafes, and galleries can be found in Amherst as well as in the nearby towns of Northampton and Deerfield. Dozens of museums and historic sites offer insight to thousands of years of human history and creativity in the Valley. More information on the Pioneer Valley and Five Colleges are available from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce (<http://www.amherstarea.com>) and a comprehensive visitor’s and dining guide will be included in your registration material. Information and directions to UMass Amherst can be found at http://umass.edu/umhome/visit_campus.html.



We hope to see you in March!

-Program Committee of the 48th annual meetings-

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM
 48th Annual Meeting of the NEAA

Email completed forms to: neaa1@anthro.umass.edu
 March 7th – 9th University of Massachusetts Amherst

This form is for conference registration for the 2008 NEAA meetings and for NEAA membership. You must register to attend the 2008 NEAA meetings and all registrants must be NEAA members. Registration must be completed before presentation proposals will be accepted. PLEASE FILL OUT ONE FORM PER REGISTRANT. Please use your PERMANENT ADDRESS.

Name: (Last)		(First)			
Address:		Affiliation:			
City:		State/Province:		Postal Code:	
Phone:		Fax:		E-mail:	
CONFERENCE FEE and NEAA MEMBERSHIP DUES					
Employed Professionals :			Check box <input type="checkbox"/>		\$65.00
(includes \$40 conference fee and annual \$25 NEAA membership dues)					
Students, Adjuncts & Avocational:			Check box <input type="checkbox"/>		\$ 40.00
(includes \$25 conference fee and annual \$15 NEAA membership dues)					
Please check here if this is a membership renewal <input type="checkbox"/> or for new membership in the NEAA <input type="checkbox"/>					
PLEASE CHECK THE DINNER OPTION(S) OF YOUR CHOICE					
NEAA BANQUET, (March 8 th , Keynote address to follow)					
Non-vegetarian		Professional	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$ 30.00
Non-vegetarian		Student	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$ 20.00
Vegetarian		Professional	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$ 30.00
Vegetarian		Student	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$ 20.00
RECEPTION (March 7 th)		Free, Cash Bar	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$ 0.00
RECEPTION (March 8 th)		Free, Cash Bar	<input type="checkbox"/>		\$ 0.00
		TOTAL:			\$

Email this completed form to: neaa1@anthro.umass.edu. If you would prefer, you may print the completed form and mail it with payment to NEAA, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA 01003. Questions about your registration should be emailed to vrperez@anthro.umass.edu.

This form does not register you for a room at the conference hotel. For additional information about the conference hotel, see next page.

Payment – please check one: Check or Paypal (via www.neaa.org)

For payment information, see next page.

ABOUT PAYMENTS

Please make payments in advance of the conference. Payment can be made by check or through PayPal. Canadian funds are accepted at par. Please send a check or money order (made out to **“NEAA”**) for the total amount above to:

NEAA, Department of Anthropology
University of Massachusetts Amherst
240 Hicks Way
Amherst, MA 01003.

If you would prefer to use the Paypal option, please check the website: www.neaa.org.

ABOUT the CONFERENCE HOTEL

This form does not register you for a room at the conference hotel. You may make reservations at the Campus Center Hotel (University of Massachusetts, 1 Campus Center Way, Amherst, MA 01003-9243) by calling: 1-877-822-2110. The Campus Center Hotel is conveniently located at the heart of the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus in the Murray D. Lincoln Campus Center. The Campus Center Hotel is a teaching hotel, providing an educational opportunity for students in the Hospitality and Tourism Management program, while offering a pleasant, professional experience for guests. The Campus Center Hotel has 116 guest rooms, including 2 one-bedroom suites and 2 junior suites. All rooms overlook the beautiful and scenic UMass campus. You can visit the web site for this hotel: <http://www.aux.umass.edu/hotel/>

To ensure that you receive the special conference rate when you make your reservation, please state that you are attending the NEAA conference. Rooms start at \$110/night double occupancy. We encourage all attendees to register at the Campus Center Hotel. NEAA members receive a significant discount for hotel rooms. There are also several hotels near the University (<http://www.hampshirehospitality.com/>) that are available in the event the Campus Center reaches capacity.

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Archaeology: *OPEN*

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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

48th Annual Meeting of the NEAA

Email completed forms to: neaa1@anthro.umass.edu

March 7th – 9th

University of Massachusetts Amherst

PLEASE COMPLETE and SAVE THIS FORM, then EMAIL IT AS AN ATTACHMENT TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

Abstracts are due by February 8th, 2008

Paper/Poster Title:

Author(s):

Address:

Affiliation:

City:

State/Province: Postal Code:

Phone:

FAX: Email :

Subfield:

Area:

Three Key Words:

Is this a... Paper? or Poster?

If this is a paper, is it part of an organized session? Yes No

Name of Session:

Name(s) of Organizers:

Audio-visual requirements:

VCR PowerPoint

PowerPoint presentations must be available on a flash drive or CD.

Abstract (200-word maximum)

All papers submitted by undergraduates must be accompanied by a note from the student’s advisor or a professor from their department, indicating that the work is an original piece and that the professor believes it to be appropriate for presentation at the conference.

***Please note: a completed registration form must accompany the paper abstract and abstract form. Membership in the NEAA is also required to present.**

Email this completed form to: neaa1@anthro.umass.edu. If you would prefer, you may print the completed form and send it with payment to NEAA, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 240 Hicks Way, Amherst, MA 01003. Questions about your registration should be emailed to vrperez@anthro.umass.edu

SESSION PROPOSAL FORM
48th Annual Meeting of the NEAA
Amherst

Email completed forms to: neaa1@anthro.umass.edu
March 7th – 9th University of Massachusetts

PLEASE COMPLETE and SAVE THIS FORM, then EMAIL IT AS AN ATTACHMENT TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE.

Abstracts are due by February 8th, 2008

Paper/Poster title:

Author(s):

Address:

City:

Phone:

State/Province:

Fax:

Affiliation:

Postal code

E-mail:

List the participants of the proposed session below. A session is limited to 6 presenters. Alternative session formats (for example a roundtable discussion of shorter papers) that fit into the same timeframe are welcome.

Please note: a paper abstract for each presenter must accompany the session proposal. Also, a registration form must accompany each paper abstract. It is the responsibility of the session organizer to ensure that all abstracts and registration forms for presenters are received.

1. **Name** : Affiliation:

Address/Phone/Email:

Paper title:

2. **Name** : Affiliation:

Address/Phone/Email:

Paper title:

3. **Name** : Affiliation:

Address/Phone/Email:

Paper title:

4. **Name** : Affiliation:

Address/Phone/Email:

Paper title:

5. **Name** : Affiliation:

Address/Phone/Email:

Paper title:

6. **Name** : Affiliation:

Address/Phone/Email:

Paper title:

Discussant(s):

Audio-visual requirements:

VCR

PowerPoint

Session organizers must compile all presentations using PowerPoint/computer media on one flash drive or CD.

Email this completed form to: neaa1@anthro.umass.edu. If you would prefer, you may print the completed form and send it with payment to NEAA, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 240 Hicks Way, Amherst, MA 01003. Questions about your registration should be emailed to vrperez@anthro.umass.edu.

**2008 NEAA Student Paper Competition:
M. Estellie Smith Graduate Paper Prize
John Omohundro Undergraduate Paper Prize**

Each year the NEAA awards prizes of \$200 each to the best graduate and undergraduate papers presented at the annual meeting. Guidelines for submissions are:

1. Separate graduate and undergraduate prizes are awarded. The abstracts are published in the NEAA newsletter and publication of the articles in professional journals may be facilitated.
2. **To be eligible, the papers must be presented in a conference session by the author at the 2008 NEAA meetings in Amherst, Massachusetts.**
3. The topic may be in any subfield of anthropology and the paper may be given in French, Spanish, or English.
4. Only the “conference version” of the paper (*i.e.*, **the version that is actually read**) is eligible; this is a paper of 8-12 pages, double-spaced, exclusive of bibliography. It is anticipated that few presenters could get through more than 12 pages in the 15 minutes allowed for presentation. The bibliography should be included with the paper.
5. The conference version of the paper must be submitted by **March 1, 2008** via email or snail-mail to:

Barrett Brenton, Ph.D.
Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology, St. John’s University
8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens, NY 11439 U.S.A.
brentonb@stjohns.edu
6. A cover page must be attached with the author’s name, address, phone number, institution, department and program, and the name of the session and session organizer where the paper is to be presented. Entrants must specify the competition (graduate or undergraduate) that they are entering.
7. Shared authorship papers are eligible provided that the category in which they are entered (*i.e.*, undergraduate or graduate) is that appropriate for the most senior author. Papers co-authored with professionals are not eligible for the competition.
8. All papers submitted by undergraduates must be accompanied by a note from the student’s advisor or a professor from their department, indicating that the work is an original piece and that the professor believes it to be appropriate for presentation at the conference. (Such a note is required for all undergraduate papers at the conference.)
9. The submissions will be evaluated by a panel of judges under the direction of the President-Elect of the NEAA.



NEAA NEWSLETTER
C/O DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
MACVICAR HALL
SUNY POTSDAM
44 PIERREPONT AVENUE
POTSDAM, NY 13676

YOUR INVITATION TO JOIN THE NEAA!!

TO JOIN THE NEAA SEND this form and the membership dues to:

Alan Hersker, Treasurer, NEAA
Department of Anthropology, SUNY Potsdam
44 Pierrepont Avenue
Potsdam, NY 13676-2294

Dues: \$25.00 for full-time professionals; \$15.00 for students, adjuncts or sessionals.

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Permanent Address _____

Phone _____

email _____

Please check if this is a renewal _____ and/or change of address _____

MEMBERS RECEIVE 3 ISSUES OF THE NEAA NEWSLETTER PER YEAR AND A REDUCTION ON FEES TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE