

ANTHROPOLOGY (1996-1997)

Karma J. Foley

Advisor: Loring Danforth

The Construction of Tibetan National Identity in the Diaspora

This thesis focuses on the construction, maintenance, and reconstruction of nationalism and national identity throughout the Tibetan diaspora. Since the Chinese occupation of Tibet beginning in 1950, over 100,000 Tibetans have gone into exile, creating a refugee community across the globe. Throughout the years the cultural, religious, and political center of the diaspora has been Dharamsala, India. Communities of Tibetans can also be found elsewhere in South Asia, in Europe and in North America. In this thesis I look comparatively at different areas of the diaspora — specifically Dharamsala and Boston, Massachusetts - in an attempt to discern some of the issues and symbols underlying Tibetan nationalism. Some of the issues to be addressed include: the creation of a Tibetan national identity in response to the Chinese occupation, the use of education in maintaining that identity, the effect of non-Tibetan groups on the re-creation of national identity, and an analysis of material culture as a tangible expression of identity.

Rana D. Ozbal

Advisor: Bruce Bourque

Early Complex Society in Fourth Millennium Anatolia

During the second half of the fourth millennium BC, the alluvial plain of southern Mesopotamia witnessed the birth of civilization in the Uruk period. This period has been a longstanding field of research among archaeologists due to an interest in the origins and evolution of prehistoric states. In the recent decades, a multitude of distinctively Uruk artifacts and architectural styles has been excavated over a vast geographical area reaching east into the Iranian Plateau and the Zagros Mountains and north into the Anatolian Highlands and Syria. In an attempt to explain the "Uruk Expansion", Guillermo Algaze has relied on a "World Systems" approach, whereby Uruk states ensured the influx of raw materials by exploiting less complex peripheral regions and by controlling trade routes. This thesis aims at reviewing the evidence for Anatolia in order to raise a few critical points concerning the dominant position of the southerners in the relationship between the Uruk and Anatolian societies. Not only will this thesis illustrate that the various indigenous local communities were technologically advanced, but it will also argue that Anatolians had an efficient and well organized administrative system prior to Uruk contact. The artifact categories used in order to make these claims are Anatolian seals and sealings representative of the administrative bureaucracy as well as Anatolian metal objects to elucidate their advanced technological achievements.

Sarah E. Standiford

Advisor: Elizabeth Eames

Self Sufficient Living as Social Transformation

Maine is a locus for a diverse array of families who are striving towards self-sufficiency in food production, energy use, entertainment, home construction, and schooling. Their lives are informed by homesteading and the ideas of voluntary simplicity and connection to place. I did fieldwork with families living self sufficiently in many of these different capacities, in an attempt to understand to what extent self sufficient living constitutes a social movement. At the same time I am asking the larger question: when does a personal life-choice become a political means

for change?

ANTHROPOLOGY (1997-1998)

Michelle L. Baldwin

Advisor: Elizabeth Eames

A Study of Feminist Spirituality, Empowerment, and Song

The Feminist Spiritual Community (FSC) of Portland, Maine is a group of women who meet weekly to discuss issues of social and political concern, to celebrate and explore their spirituality, and to create and strengthen the bonds between themselves and other women. These processes all ultimately serve the goal of empowerment. As an individual who shares FSC's ideological systems and had attended their meetings in a personal context prior to my fieldwork, I will address the potential problems and advantages posed to anthropologists studying their own cultures. Then, by focusing on the group's self description, I will use the themes of feminism, spirituality, and community to illustrate the ways in which singing serves as a means of expressing their ideologies. Music will be shown to be a powerful communicative medium which reflects - through its various contents, forms, and uses — the meanings and goals that lie behind FSC's structures, practices, and beliefs.

Jennifer Bergeron

Advisor: David Jenkins

Image Constructing in the American Southwest

The Southwest United States has become one of the primary tourist destinations in America. Tourists traveling to the Southwest arrive with expectations and perceptions of what they will encounter. The Grand Canyon, Native American cliff dwellings, Pueblo villages, desert landscapes, and vestiges of Hispanic culture are all part of the Southwest's image. Americans' perceptions and expectations of the Southwest have been molded by over a century of material culture that has promoted the Southwest as a region worthy of tourist travel. This analysis will use semeiotics to look at a wide variety of material culture from the turn of the century. Photographs, souvenirs, advertisements, World's Fair exhibits, and descriptions of landscapes and native people are examples of material culture that also act as signs which encode meanings that are implicit in forming Americans' perceptions of the Southwest. The objective of this analysis will be to interpret the "signs," and show how their meanings helped create the image that Americans now take to be reality in the Southwest United States.

Renee A. Leduc

Advisor: Elizabeth Eames

The CITES Agreement and Elephants in Southern Africa: Perspectives on Changing Their Trade Status

In January 1997, the Republic of Botswana submitted a proposal to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to change the trade status of the African Elephant (*Loxodonta affricana*) from Appendix 1 to Appendix 2. This would enable Botswana to trade their stockpiles of ivory with Japan. Widely different perspectives exist both within Botswana and in the international forum on whether trade in ivory should be allowed. This thesis is based upon ethnographic research at the CITES Conference in Harare, Zimbabwe in June of 1997 as well as in the Community Based Natural Resource Management Project (CBNRMP) areas of Northern Botswana both before and after the conference. I found that the different perspectives on the ivory trade in both Southern Africa and at the international level

can be represented by different polarities of environmental philosophy such as: the species preservation approach versus the conservation and sustainable utilization approach to the management of Africa's wildlife. The decision on whether to reopen the ivory trade is not only a debate on the environment, but also rural development. Much of the debate has come to the question of determining what is more valued by the signatory countries to CITES: animal rights or human rights? Through the explanation of the different perspectives on this issue, I have utilized both dependency and semiotic theory to assess the cultural significance of ivory and wildlife in both a rural Southern African and international context.

Katie Lipp

Advisor: David Jenkins

Nizhoni Mesa School: A Struggle For Successful Bicultural Education

In the 1960s bilingual/bicultural education received a large push from educators in the United States, urging growth in the number of such programs around the country. The first of these were designed for immigrant children who were Limited English Proficient (LEP). Theories and governmental funding spread quickly to Native American communities, including those on the Navajo Nation. However, while many people are motivated to improve Navajo education, numerous schools are still struggling to implement successful bilingual and/or bicultural programs. One reason for this is a conflict of beliefs in most communities regarding such education. Numerous studies have shown, however, that bilingual/bicultural curricula are beneficial for LEP children, both educationally and psychologically. In this type of setting, many LEP children perform better academically, and their self-esteem grows. For Native American children, bilingual/bicultural classrooms also allow them to have pride in who they are and can help to pass on cultural traditions. Nizhoni Mesa School currently has what many of its teachers call an 'ineffective bicultural curriculum;' it is not serving the desired purpose. There are a few schools on the Reservation, however, which have succeeded in creating exemplary bilingual/ bicultural curricula; many of their ideas, theories, and results can be useful in re-examining the classes at Nizhoni Mesa. My thesis, in addition to providing a brief history of education on the Navajo Nation, will present these theories as curricula which could be transferred to Nizhoni Mesa. With empirical data I will show that a bicultural curriculum is most beneficial to the children in the community. Based on teachers' and parents' concerns, I will provide possible methods for restructuring the current curriculum. The final product will be a school-wide curriculum which prepares the students for life on or off the reservation while ensuring that their backgrounds, language, traditions, and self worth are celebrated and not forgotten.

All names of people and places have been changed.

Martijn Rasser

Advisor: Bruce Bourque

Wampum: Its Functions and Role as a Mnemonic Device in Early Colonial North America

My thesis is on the subject of wampum, which had important symbolic and economic values to the participants of intersocietal interaction in post-contact northeastern North America. I am most concerned with the role wampum played as a mnemonic device and a vehicle for diplomacy (generally in the form of wampum belts) and its role in forming intergroup relations between the Iroquois, Algonquian-speaking groups, the French, English, and Dutch. A main argument is that the value of wampum was of a symbolic, rather than economic, nature for the Iroquois, explaining its subsequent role in its mnemonic and diplomatic contexts. Included in the thesis is an overview of the origins of wampum, a chapter concerned with historical context and geographical setting, and a comparative chapter on similar exchange systems such as the use of cowrie shell in western Africa and the use of the calumet in the western United

States.

ANTHROPOLOGY (1998-1999)

Michelle A. Campbell

Advisor: Bruce A. Bourque

Seasonality Analysis of Prehistoric *Mya arenaria* Harvesting on the Fox Islands, Penobscot Bay, Maine

The Fox Islands, located in Penobscot Bay, Maine, were home to Native Americans for almost 5,000 years. This is in part due to the unique habitat that the Gulf of Maine makes possible through nutrient rich tidal mixing, thus supporting many species of marine life. The prehistoric populations that lived and used the gulf were hunter-gatherers. Using anthropological models and archaeological data, it is likely that these people were organized, during occupation of the littoral zone, as male-led bands of nuclear to slightly extended families, approximately 30 people. At the sites on the Fox Islands which date to the Ceramic Period (3000 B.P. - 500 B.P.), large mounds of shell refuse have preserved bone artifacts which would, in the absence of shell, normally decay and not be found by archaeologists. Due to this phenomenon, archaeologists are able to recover bones from fish, birds, and mammals that made up a large portion of the prehistoric diet and can also indicate season of death and thus season of occupation. The shells, commonly *Mya arenaria*, can also be studied for season of harvest. This thesis conducted a laboratory procedure on over 300 *Mya arenaria* shells to determine season of harvest. The shells were cleaned, embedded in epoxy, sectioned, polished, etched, and imprinted on acetate. With the use of new computer technology, more accurate measurements of growth lines were taken than has been previously possible with the traditional ocular micrometer. This data will be used to indicate season of occupation by native populations in conjunction with other faunal data to support the theory that Native Americans occupied the coastal region on a year-round basis. While relatively simple, this theory is in direct opposition to the common misconceptions held by the general public and academics alike. Therefore, it is the goal of this thesis to present data supporting previous work on year-round coastal occupation and to further the discussion of the hunter-gatherer model.

Karen J. Fletcher

Advisor: Charles V Carnegie

Women and 'Zuo Yue Zi': Contemporary Dialogues of Change in a Taiwanese Postpartum Practice

This thesis will explore the patterns of change in a Taiwanese postpartum practice, *zuo yue zi*, and how these changes relate to and/or reflect the changing status of women in Taiwanese families. By first examining the structure of traditional Chinese patriarchal families and how this cultural practice grew out of and was shaped by this structure, I will then look at the patterns of change in contemporary Taiwanese families and their relation to current practices of *zuo yue zi*. A major part of the research for my thesis comes from the ethnographic fieldwork done this past summer in Taiwan. Living and working with the women of three different families, I not only witnessed the postpartum practice first hand, but also talked with women of various ages about their personal postpartum experiences. Drawing in large part on the case studies of two women, one in her fifties and one in her early thirties, as well as on literature discussing women and modern socioeconomic changes in Taiwan, I will look for the patterns and contradictions in *zuo yue zi* practices as they relate to women's changing family status.

Jeremy M. Poore

Advisor: Loring M. Danforth

Developing Rain Forests: A Post-Modern Analysis of an NGO Project in Ecuador's Amazon Basin

This thesis, which is based on six months of fieldwork in the Amazon Basin of Ecuador, analyzes the intricacies of development practices that are currently changing the area in fundamental ways. The history of development in Ecuador provides the basis for a critical interpretation of the practices of a small non-governmental organization located among nearly thirty communities on the Napo River. I use postmodern critiques of development to make evident the role of power between the 'developer' and the 'developing' and to determine the negative effects that accompany the discourse of development. I focus my analysis on several of this organization's projects including the introduction of ecotourism, health care, and micro-enterprise to the community of Mondana located within these thirty communities. These projects were initiated by foreigners to the area and are each current trends within the discourse of development. It is my contention that due to the trendy nature of these projects and the fact that they were designed from the outside, they are therefore imposing a power relationship in which local people are the subordinates to an external force.

ANTHROPOLOGY (1999-2000)

Katharine Y. Sidell

Advisor: Loring M. Danforth

Cultural Primatology: The Emergence of a New Paradigm in Anthropology

This thesis explores the emerging sub-field of cultural primatology, whose practitioners argue that nonhuman primate species possess culture. Using the concepts of paradigm and discourse as developed by Thomas Kuhn, Michel Foucault, and Edward W. Said I analyze the field of cultural primatology as a new anthropological paradigm located at the boundary between cultural and physical anthropology. Cultural primatologists assert that when one population of a species is distinguishable from another population of the same species by behaviors that are not explained by genetic or ecological differences, culture exists. Most also believe that culture has evolved through the apes to humans emerging before primates crossed the hominid threshold. Cultural anthropologists believe that culture is distinctly human and includes complex behaviors such as religion, symbolic meaning, and language. Most believe that culture did not emerge until after primates crossed the hominid threshold and acquired social cognition. I examine the emergence of cultural primatology in its moral and political context by analyzing animal rights organizations, the recent controversy surrounding primate taxonomy, the role of the Judeo-Christian tradition, and research methods of cultural primatology. Finally, I consider parallels between the emergence of cultural primatology and the development of cultural anthropology. I believe that cultural primatologists have satisfactorily demonstrated the existence of nonhuman primate culture.

ANTHROPOLOGY (2000-2001)

Holloway W. Constantine

Advisor: Steven E. G. Kemper

Study Abroad as a Rite of Passage

Students traveling abroad walk the line between being residents of their host country and being tourists. At most, students can only have moments in which they are included in the intricacies of the culture of their host country. One way that the role of students as tourists is reinforced is the self/other dichotomy that is formed prior to leaving home. In this thesis I examine the mechanisms by which students can attempt to break down the self/other dichotomy and have moments of inclusion in the culture in which they are studying. I address these issues in three segments. The first covers the advertising and propaganda of study-abroad programs as they contribute to the formation of the self/other dichotomy. The second explores tourist issues and the ways in which students get involved

in the public arena of life abroad. The third focuses on the issues unique to homestay experiences and the personal relationships formed in this part of students' experiences abroad.

Holly A. Scheuhing

Advisors: Elizabeth A. Eames and Mary T. Rice-Defosse

L'Interaction des Cultures: La Litterature Malgache Ecrite en Francais

This thesis examines three Malagasy novels: one written during the period of French colonization, one written during the postcolonial period, and one more modern novel. It discusses the restraints faced by three Malagasy writers who chose to write in French, using a French mode of communication, the novel. Depending partly on the time period during which the author wrote, each author transforms the novel in his or her own way to make it more of a Malagasy mode of expression. The novels are examined with the combination of literary and anthropological analyses. Ethnographic information is used to decipher the novels. In the case of the second novel, little ethnographic information is available from outside sources and therefore it is derived from within the text itself (which is highly ethnographic in nature). This study calls into question the role of language in a postcolonial setting, and the value of novels as a source of anthropological knowledge.

Kelly A. Spence

Advisors: Loring M. Danforth and Shuhui Yang

Nuosu Shamanism: Ritual and Meaning in Southwestern China

Little is known about the Nuosu subgroup of the Yi minority in China's northern Yunnan Province. Because of their history of isolation from the Han and other minorities, however, the Nuosu have developed a unique culture, distinct from any other in China. A source of identity and pride for the Nuosu are their Bimo, or shamans. Not only do the Bimo serve as religious healers, diviners, teachers, and mediators, but they also maintain and preserve a rich culture of unique religious beliefs and practices. Using my own fieldwork with the Nuosu, I examine the ritual of *Xikebu*, performed to expel evil caused by malevolent spirits. During this ritual, elaborate myths are chanted, and rites of passage such as sacrifice are performed to heal the participants. These aspects of Bimo ritual embody symbols that, to paraphrase Clifford Geertz, constitute a story the Nuosu tell themselves about themselves. To illustrate this, I draw on Clifford Geertz's interpretative anthropological approach to understand symbolism; Levi-Strauss' structural examination of myths; Turner's and van Gannep's insights on liminality within rites of passage; and Kleinman's assessments of religious healing.

ANTHROPOLOGY (2001-2002)

Heather S. Thomson

Advisor: Charles V. Carnegie

The Women's Agricultural Network: A Strategy for Empowerment and Entrepreneurial Success

The Maine Women's Agricultural Network (WAgN) was established to support women in agriculture to own and operate agriculturally related enterprises. This thesis applies a feminist economic perspective to WAgN to examine how the group has evolved into an organization for economic development. Additionally, this thesis provides a brief overview of the history of women in American

agriculture in order to gain a perspective from which to view the emergence of a network like WAgN. Interviews with WAgN members are used to document the support the network provides and to show how members are empowered and better prepared to take on the tasks necessary to successfully operate their own agricultural businesses.

ANTHROPOLOGY (2002-2003)

Elizabeth E. Hoagland

Advisor: Loring M. Danforth

The Construction of Male Homosexualities in Oaxaca, Mexico

Homosexuality is not a concept universal to all cultures. Homosexual behavior exists in all cultures, but a specific homosexual identity associated with people who engage in homosexual acts does not exist in all cultures. The concept of homosexuality does exist in Oaxaca as do homosexual identities. However, the ways in which homosexuality is understood and homosexual identities are understood are unique to Mexico and more specifically to Oaxaca. This thesis examines the social construction of homosexualities in Oaxaca and the role of global cultural exchanges in this process. Local conceptions of homosexualities in Oaxaca can only be understood through the understanding of the interaction between global cultural exchanges and traditional concepts of homosexualities. The ethnographic material covered includes a narrative chapter on a typical day for a gay man in Oaxaca, and three analytic chapters that examine coming out in Oaxaca, *la marcha*, a gay pride march, and *la vela*, a traditional party. The last two chapters on *la marcha* and *la vela* are the two main events of Orgullo Gay Mexico, Gay Pride Mexico, and demonstrate local agency interacting with global cultural exchanges.

Sara T. Montrone

Advisor: Loring M. Danforth

Moscow's Monumental Landscape: Contesting Russian National History

This thesis examines the relationship between the state, monuments of the state, and Russian national identity in the Russian Federation. Monuments are erected by the state to achieve certain goals, whether to propagate a certain ideology or influence the people to some end. However, the meaning of a monument after its construction is continually changing as it becomes a part of the symbolic landscape. The value of monuments to the construction of national identity lies in their ability to create various versions of the past. I elucidate the different meanings the monuments have for the nation and state. After giving a general overview of the role of monuments as symbols in Russia's history, I concentrate on specific monuments in Moscow. One chapter analyzes the monument to secret police founder Feliks Dzerzhinsky and the change in its meaning depending on time and location. Another chapter analyzes state use of pre-Soviet monuments to reconnect with a less painful national past. Finally, I analyze Lenin's mausoleum through the artwork of Soviet dissident artists, Komar and Melamid.

ANTHROPOLOGY (2003-2004)

Jesse M. Lewin

Advisor: Heather Lindkvist

Interactions Between Somali Secondary Migrants and Physicians in Lewiston, Maine: An Ethnographic Field Study in Refugee Health Care and Cultural Competency

This thesis will determine factors influencing the health care of Somali secondary migrants in Lewiston, Maine. It also documents the local Somali population's understanding of U.S. health care, and American physicians' understanding and interaction with this newly introduced ethnic group. Medical anthropologists have studied the physician-patient relationship in Western biomedicine extensively over the last two decades. Research has focused on the various hegemonic forces involved in shaping this encounter, and implicitly, the respective roles of the participants. These studies have demonstrated that certain cultural, linguistic, intercultural, and interactional elements influence the physician-patient relationship and have the potential to create difficulties in achieving accurate diagnosis and treatment. Such barriers to diagnosis and treatment may be exacerbated when the patient is an immigrant or refugee and the provider is ignorant about the patient's cultural background and health beliefs. This interaction warrants continued study given current demographic transformations in the United States, and locally with the influx of nearly 1,200 Somali secondary migrants. Using documentary research and semi-structured interviews with Somali secondary migrants and local physicians, this thesis unravels the interaction between Somali patients and Western-trained physicians in order to examine shortcomings in the present system and to promote increased communication and understanding.

Valerie Z. Wicks

Advisor: Loring M. Danforth

The Search for Authenticity: Cultural Tourism in Ghana

This thesis explores themes of "authenticity" in Ghana's cultural tourism. I analyze symbolic relationships which shape the way tourists interpret the sights they visit. Drawing on the theoretical contributions of anthropologists including Clifford Geertz and Edward Said, I explore the way Ghanaians are symbolically "represented" for a tourist audience. I focus on two categories of tourist "texts," namely representations of Ghana from "outsiders" (in the form of travel guides and group tours), and representations of Ghana from Ghanaians themselves (primarily in the form of "cultural centers"). I examine historical and symbolic reasons for the presentation of a "static" and "traditional" view of Ghanaian culture, in which expectations and confirmations become a part of a dialectical process. "Models of Ghanaian culture in tourist literature, photographs, and websites create an image of Ghana, which then becomes a "model for" Ghana, as these projected traits are accepted as characteristics of Ghanaian culture.

ANTHROPOLOGY (2004-2005)

Jessica T. Celentano

Advisor: Elizabeth A. Eames

Giving Credit Where Credit is Due: Microfinance, Economic Education, and Entrepreneurship Among Women in Senegal

In recent years, development experts, government officials, international aid donors, and scholars have invested considerable time and resources into promoting microcredit schemes. Success stories from around the world demonstrate the potential of providing small sums of money to low-income women as an empowering and effective poverty alleviation strategy. Support from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund ensures a dramatic increase in funding for microfinance institutions within the next few years. Yet a growing number of researchers question this enthusiasm, arguing that microfinance programs divert attention and resources from more effective means of poverty eradication. Exploring such criticisms by way of six case studies of Senegalese female entrepreneurs, this thesis demonstrates the necessity of cultural-specificity and gender-sensitivity in order for the microfinance industry to circumvent past hegemonic development praxis and reach its anticipated potential.

Margaret K. Haskell

Advisor: Steven E. G. Kemper

When a Ritual is Textualized: A Look at the Various Depictions of the *Palio* of Siena

This thesis examines the various ways that Siena's *Palio* is depicted in text form. The *Palio* is a horse race that occurs biannually in Siena and holds cultural significance because the outcome of the race shapes social, political, and economical relationships among the townspeople. Over the last two decades there has been a drastic increase in "heritage tourism;" the popularity of the *Palio* has therefore expanded into a huge event with different audiences. Media coverage, including books, magazines, and videos, has shaped the way in which spectators view the *Palio*. This thesis reviews what happens to a ritual when it is textualized, focusing on how the *Palio* is portrayed in both "tourist guidebooks" and "locally authorized" versions. It uncovers the similarities and differences in information provided and claims made. It utilizes a multifaceted approach, incorporating published primary source materials, field notes, tourist guidebooks, locally authorized guidebooks and interviews with locals and tourists who attended the *Palio*. I argue that the tourist gaze is constructed through the information written in each book, resulting in the experience and presentation of multiple *Palii* for spectators.

Rachel E. Silver

Advisor: Patricia S. Buck

Negotiating New Lives: Using Somali Refugee Women's Participation in an ESOL Program to Re-envision the Purposes of Schooling in Transnational Times

The school as a symbolic site serves multiple, yet often contradictory purposes. According to Levinson and Holland (1996), schools maintain unique, yet "paradoxical potentialities" to both foster student empowerment and meritocratic opportunity, as well as reproduce structural inequalities. This ethnographic study investigates the meaning a group of Somali refugee women attach to learning at a local adult education center in an effort to create dialogue around the role schooling plays in processes of cultural belonging. I seek to understand how, as agents negotiating the structural forces at work in school, the women construct understandings of the experience. How can they echo, resist, or stand tangential to the purposes ascribed to education by the institution's personnel? Framed by a review of critical educational theory's analyses of school and contextualized in the women's journeys to Maine, my thesis builds on three years of teaching and participant-observation at the local educational center. I contend that a deepened understanding of the women's experiences of schooling, particularly as they articulate with the process of transnational migration, can enrich national discussion about what the purposes of education should be.

Anthropology (2005-2006)

Tracey Begley

Advisor: Steven Kemper

NGOs in the Face of Development Criticism: Humanitarian Landmine Removal in Afghanistan

After the successful revival of the post-World War II European economy, intergovernmental organizations focused on developing "Third World" countries. Recent years have seen a rise in criticism against poorly implemented development projects often utilizing "top-down" techniques, disregarding local interests. Criticism splits into two main groups: those who hold economic laws true on a global scale, emphasizing the free market, and those who assert development as a discourse allowing powerful

institutions and countries control over the less powerful. As the tension within development practices grew, the number of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) rose dramatically, many concerned with development aid. Struggling for options under this heavy critique, NGOs came to the forefront as international actors with fresh ideas. Katy Gardner and David Lewis propose that NGOs, with attributes such as flexibility, local connections, and participation, could serve as "alternatives" to traditional development practices. I study one NGO, The HALO Trust, investigating its characteristics in light of its role as a possible model for alternative approaches to conventional development work. The HALO Trust, a British NGO, was the first organization to undertake humanitarian landmine removal, beginning in Afghanistan in 1988. Humanitarian landmine removal organizations have only recently been considered development work, and my thesis provides insight into the unique strengths of HALO, while acknowledging factors hindering it from complete independence.

Lindley Brainard

Advisor: Heather Lindkvist

Deconstructing Edgar Cayce and His Impact on Contemporary Holistic Medicine

Edgar Cayce, a clairvoyant diagnostician, was prescribing holistic medical treatments more than half a century before the emergence of the holistic health movement in the United States. Cayce's treatments of patients often employed both known and unknown methods of healing, including traditional western medicine, osteopathy, homeopathy, hydrotherapy, natural remedies, and different chemical interventions. Similar to modern holistic approaches to healing, his recommended treatments encompassed the whole person, going beyond physical symptoms to address the mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of the patient. Consequently, contemporary practitioners often credit Cayce with being the "father of holistic health" in the United States. Through a comprehensive ethnographic analysis, this thesis examines the underlying philosophies of holistic healing as practiced by Cayce and the continued research and promotion of his work through educational organizations, such as the Association for Research and Enlightenment, in order to show how Edgar Cayce opened the door to the contemporary holistic health movement during a time when allopathic methods have dominated the field of medicine.

David Desjardins

Advisor: Bruce Bourque.

An Exploration of the Iroquois Frontier

Throughout the colonial period, the Iroquois League of Five Nations (later Six Nations) came into contact with European and Algonquian groups along dynamic geographical and cultural frontiers. This thesis explores how the nature of these frontiers changed through time, both before and after the Iroquois began to interact with Europeans, and how these frontier processes ultimately affected Iroquois identity. Did the Iroquois peoples undergo a nation-building process analogous to that of their European neighbors on their colonial frontier? To fully understand the transformation of Iroquois society during the colonial period, this study begins by examining the origins of these people as an identifiable group. It then explores historical events that took place along the frontier with English, Dutch, and French colonists as well as the Algonquian tribes in order to understand the motivation of the Iroquois in interacting with their neighbors. Overarching traditional frontier and tribal zone systems are then applied to examine these interactions and come to terms with how they affect overall Iroquois identity.

Charlene Impey

Advisor: Loring Danforth

Making Citizens, Making Soldiers: The Militarization of an American High School

At Lewiston High School (LHS) and over 1,500 other American high schools, students walk the halls in military uniform and practice drill in the school's gym as part of their normal day as high school students and members of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corp. The JROTC, funded and created by the Department of Defense, is a military program designed for high school students. Critics of the JROTC claim that it is a recruiting strategy and a means for indoctrinating youth with military ideology. The Department of Defense refutes these accusations and argues that it is an academic program of civic education aimed at "motivating youth to be better Americans." My analysis of the JROTC focuses on how the discourses used in this debate position the JROTC in relation to LHS. Using Foucault's concepts of discourse, power/knowledge and genealogy, I examine how the extension of modern disciplinary power to the military has intensified the process of militarization and enabled the JROTC to be "just another program" at LHS. The goal of this thesis is not to evaluate the JROTC, but rather to examine it as a form of militarization of American schools and citizenship.

ANTHROPOLOGY (2006-2007)

Sara Gips

Advisor: Heather L. Lindkvist

The Commodification of Guatemalan Women's Bodies: The Production of Children for Intercountry Adoptions

Recent news reportage criticizes intercountry adoption between Guatemala and the United States, suggesting that babies are sought out or produced for the "adoption market." This thesis examines the validity of such assertions by considering an ethnographic case study of the production of "adoptive children" in Guatemala and how the Guatemalan female body becomes commodified through this process. This thesis employs extensive literary research as well as direct participant observation and interviews both in Guatemala and the United States. Through adopting a critical cultural relativistic position and using a conceptual framework based on feminist theories from medical anthropology and studies of reproduction, this thesis examines to what extent political, economic, social, and inter- and intracountry powers influence the adoption process in Guatemala. By focusing on the production of Guatemalan children for the benefit of intercountry adoption, this thesis seeks to ascertain whether the current adoption system in Guatemala serves the children's and the biological mothers' best interests or whether these interests are subordinate to the interests of American parents who hope to adopt Guatemalan children.

Hannah R. Kusinitz

Advisor: Gerald F. Bigelow

Tilapia, It's What's for Dinner! The Impacts of an Invasive Fish on Rural Creole Culture in Crooked Tree Village, Belize

The rural village of Crooked Tree, Belize, is located within a lagoon, and most villagers regularly fish in the lagoon for subsistence and economic purposes. Throughout the village's 300-year history, fishing has been crucial in defining the culture of the Creole people who live there. However, in the past decade, the foreign fish tilapia has escaped from a nearby aquaculture facility

and invaded the lagoon. As a result of this invasion, the indigenous fish species are hard to find, and tilapia is nearly all that villagers catch. Many changes in the local culture seem associated with this event. This thesis addresses how cultures adapt to changes in environmental conditions by examining the case study from Crooked Tree. Located within the field of cultural ecology, this thesis takes an event-focused approach to studying how human cultures respond to environmental changes. The character of cultural adaptation to events depends greatly on cultural and economic arrangements as well as the history of change in a culture. Because of economic generalization and flexibility, as well as a history of dealing with significant changes, Crooked Tree villagers quickly adapted to tilapia's invasion and integrated the fish into their rural Creole culture.

ANTHROPOLOGY (2007-2008)

Kristofer T. Jönsson

Advisor: Charles V. Carnegie

The Way Life Should Be? Negotiating Maine as “Vacationland”

This thesis investigates what Maine means to the people who live there, as well as to visiting tourists. In particular, it asks three pertinent questions: How has the “Vacationland” slogan risen to prominence as Maine’s alternative state motto? How does Maine perpetuate the image of untouched wilderness when, in fact, the vast forests have a long history of management and settlement? Why is tourism a political issue in many Maine communities? To answer these questions, this thesis draws on a case study of the Plum Creek Corporation land development proposal for Moosehead Lake as well as ethnographic fieldwork conducted in and around Greenville, a town in Piscataquis County, Maine. It then applies anthropological scholarship to provide a framework for studying tourism in Maine as an anthropological subject. Specifically, the analysis is informed by Michel Foucault’s idea of the medical gaze, which is applied to tourism by John Urry, and Dennison Nash’s and Valene Smith’s respective scholarship on the anthropology of tourism. The intended purpose of this project is to connect the tourist encounter in Maine, local concerns regarding tourist development, and anthropology in order to understand how Mainers and tourists alike negotiate the notion of Maine as “Vacationland”.

Emily A Maistrellis

Advisor: Heather Lindkvist

Creating Healthy Moms and Healthy Babies through Childbirth Education

Since the introduction of Lamaze in the 1970’s, childbirth education (CBE) classes have become a normalized stage of childbirth preparation for many expectant mothers in the United States. Furthermore, many CBE classes in the U.S. are produced by medical institutions, placing authoritative birth knowledge under the domain of biomedicine. As such, biomedical practice carries the potential to influence women’s expectations of labor and delivery in a hospital setting. This thesis utilizes the conceptual frameworks of authoritative knowledge, embodiment, and the body politic in an examination of the production of authoritative birth knowledge and how it shapes childbirth as an object of culture. I employ participant observation at local CBE classes and interviews with CBE instructors, cultural brokers, and women’s healthcare providers in order to analyze how “native” and foreign born expectant mothers access resources about childbirth in the hospital setting, and in turn how hospitals facilitate CBE, labor, and delivery for these women. Based on extensive literary research and an analysis of course materials and popular literature on childbirth, I contend that once integrated in the biomedical setting, CBE curriculum produces knowledge and regulates the process of birth, managing women’s expectations and embodiment in the birth setting.

David M. Miller

Advisors: Loring Danforth and Sonja K. Pieck

Common Property and Contentious Values: A Political Ecology of the Management of Sea Turtles in Isla Cañas, Panamá

In this thesis I examine the struggles and interdependence between turtles and people both fighting to survive on Isla Cañas, Panamá. The beach of Isla Cañas serves as a critical nesting site for olive ridley sea turtles, and the sale of turtle eggs has been essential to the community's economy. Since 1975, the Panamanian government and local community have co-managed a project to commercialize as well as conserve the eggs. I examine values and power struggles at local, national and transnational scales as they are negotiated by local people directly involved in the turtle project. Ethnographic fieldwork conducted on Isla Cañas in 2006 and 2007 creates a base for understanding local realities within a global context. Focusing on conceptions of ownership and practices of management, I present an anthropologically grounded political ecology that teases apart the complex meanings, values, and ethics behind consumption and conservation of sea turtle eggs. By understanding the values behind power struggles in Isla Cañas, I hope to inform more effective policy. I conclude by situating the Isla Cañas case study within the context of global conservation and poverty, showing how this unique case puts into clear relief the complicated tensions between conservation and development worldwide.

Michelle B. Sisco

Advisor: Steven Kemper

“They Sing Only for the Widow and Not for the Man”: Oppari Crying Songs as a Subversive Discourse to Tamil Hierarchies of Gender and Caste

With the support of the Hoffman Research Support Grant and the Hamill Prize, and with the assistance of a non-profit organization, the National Folklore Support Centre (NFSC), I was able to research South Indian performance from a feminist perspective in the Tamil city of Chennai, India. As a non-paid intern working for the NFSC, I spent my eight weeks in Chennai conducting ethnographic fieldwork with low-caste widows, who lived in a small fishing village on the coast of the Bay of Bengal. My research centered on Oppari performance, a ritual lament sung by dalit widows at funerals and other death-related ceremonies. My primary informants were four professional Oppari singers whose livelihood depended on invitations to perform at funerals in the area. Under the guidance of Professor Steve Kemper and the Bates Anthropology department, I began to write my year-long honors thesis for Anthropology, which examines Oppari performance as a form of subversion to patriarchal and brahminical ideologies.