

ANSO News

For alumni & friends
of Anthropology & Sociology
at Williams

Issue 2, Spring-Summer 1999

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Last October, the fields behind Poker Flats were the scene of Williams College's first-ever Intertribal Powwow. To learn more about the event, click [here](#).



ANSO majors have been actively pursuing independent research and traveling the world as part of their studies at Williams. [\(More\)](#)

In the past six months, we've heard from or about a number of ANSO alums. One of the most memorable letters came from James Kossuth '98, a double major in Classics and Sociology, who soon after graduation snagged a job as a lexicographer for Merriam-Webster. Among his first jobs: updating entries for a familiar four-letter expletive. James has sent out a call to ANSO alums for information on new words. [\(More\)](#) We also heard from Jan Lin '83, who now is a professor of sociology at Occidental College. [\(More\)](#) For more alumni news and sightings, click [here](#).

The ANSO faculty continues to work on research projects ranging from the meaning of ritual in contemporary Jewish life to the future of intellectual property. [\(More\)](#)

In the fall of 1999, ANSO will welcome three visiting faculty members. [\(More\)](#)

Ever wondered what happened to members of the ANSO faculty who moved on to positions elsewhere? The following is an informal listing of former ANSO staff and their present location, when we know it.

[\(Click here.\)](#)

Finally, a short trip down ANSO's memory lane begins here, with two photos from the ANSO archive. [\(More\)](#).

We welcome cards, email, and photographs (digitized, if possible) from ANSO alums. Please remember, though, that all correspondence about changes of address should be directed to the offices of [Williams College Alumni Relations](#). Until next time, happy trails!

Department of Anthropology & Sociology, Stetson Hall, Williams College, Williamstown, MA 01267 USA

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**First Intertribal Powwow at
Williams, October 1998**

The brainchild of Liz Hoover '01, who is majoring in Anthropology and Psychology, the powwow drew participants and spectators from communities throughout New England. An article in the *Williams Record* said of the event: "Tomahawk throwing proved popular among many Williams students, while others enjoyed participating in the intertribal dances--in which dancers do not have to be affiliated with a specific tribe in order to participate. . . . 'We are definitely having another Powwow in the future,' [Liz] Hoover said. 'I have a feeling it will be much easier next year, if B&G doesn't banish me for all of the ruts on Poker Flats.'" [\[Full Record story\]](#)

The recent powwow reflects growing interest in Native American issues at Williams. Aside from ANSO's longstanding course on North American Indians, ANTH 207, new courses on Indians are being offered in the History and English departments in 1999-2000.



Costumed participants and audience prepare for entry of dancers into dance circle.



Dancers.



Vendor's stall at Powwow.

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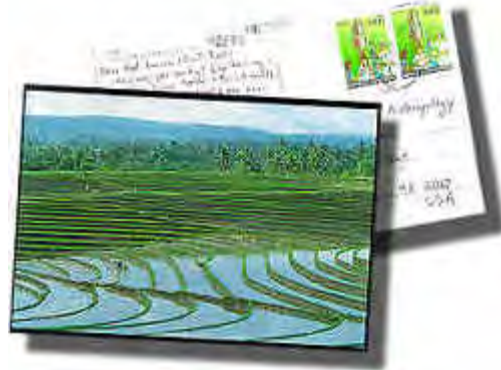
The ANSO Boom, plus ANSO students abroad & independent projects at Williams



Prof. Antonia Foias (left) and Meg Davis
'00, a sociology major.

The number of incoming juniors who declared majors in anthropology or sociology grew dramatically this year: the Class of 1999 graduated 8 majors, compared to the 21 (Anthropology 9, Sociology 12) who will graduate in the Class of 2001.

Tee Leathers '00, an Anthropology major studying in England during the Spring semester, reports that she has been conducting research on the current state of race relations in the UK. When she returns home this summer, she expects to continue her study of female African-American ministers.



Phil Groth '00 sent the department a postcard from Bali, where he's enrolled in the [School for International Training's study-abroad program](#). Phil's independent research concerned "the flow of information between *pemangkus* (lay priests) and the individual farmers in the *subak* organization." He reports that he "learned more than I ever thought possible and having a good time as well." We're sure that his upbeat report has nothing whatsoever to do with his having missed the interminable Berkshire winter.

Joan Walling '99, a Sociology major, completed a thesis entitled "First Generation College Students: The Process of Social Adjustment Amidst Class Mobility" under the direction of Prof. Jean Bacon. Walling's research focused on college students from working-class families and explored issues of identity change and social adjustment. Her work confirmed that these students experience a shift toward a dual identity--oscillating between "middle class" and "working class"--as they progress through their college careers. Next year Joan will enter Princeton University's doctoral program in Sociology.

In recognition of Walling's thesis work and her overall performance in sociology courses over the past four years, the

department was pleased to award her the Robert W. Friedrichs Prize in Sociology for 1999. The Friedrichs prize, which includes a \$100 cash award, was endowed by Williams parents who wish to remain anonymous. The award recognizes a graduating senior who has demonstrated distinction in his or her study of sociology at Williams.

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Faculty News, including prizes and grants, Spring 1999



San Xavier del Bac Mission, Arizona. Story, such as it is, follows below. It's here because the page needed something colorful. Photo credit: Michael F. Brown

It has been a good year for ANSO's assistant professors, two of whom succeeded in winning major fellowships for their upcoming research leaves. **James L Nolan, Jr.**, a sociologist, received a National Endowment of Humanities Fellowship and a Fulbright Fellowship. Nolan's project, titled "Reinventing Justice: Therapeutic Jurisprudence and the Drug Court Movement" will explore "how the institutionalization of therapeutic ideals and practices in criminal law, as represented in the drug court movement, redefines public understandings of justice, guilt, and the purposes of criminal adjudication." His most recent book, [*The Therapeutic State*](#), was mentioned favorably in a syndicated article by the columnist [George Will](#) early in 1999. Jim will spend next year working with colleagues in the United Kingdom.



Jim Nolan and Antonia Foias

Antonia Foias, the college's first-ever archaeologist, won a

fellowship at [Dumbarton Oaks](#), a famous research facility familiar to residents of Georgetown and the Washington, D.C. area. Antonia will be writing up the results of her archaeological investigations of the Maya. [She expects to continue her excavations at Motul de San José, Guatemala, during the summer of 1999 under the auspices of the National Science Foundation, which has awarded her a six-figure research grant.](#) [\[Williams Record on Prof. Foias's NSF award.\]](#) [\[NSF announcement of award.\]](#)


The [Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation](#) of New York recently announced that **Robert Jackall** had won its international competition for the best proposed syllabus for an undergraduate course on the subject of violence. In its announcement, the foundation declared that Professor Jackall "has produced a comprehensive, well-integrated integration introduction to the role of violence in human behavior that draws on relevant material from ancient Greece to the present . . . The readings and the provocative questions that accompany them are an exceptional introduction to understanding the human capacity for violence." Jackall will be teaching the award-winning course during the 99-00 academic year. (For additional information about Professor Jackall's prize-winning syllabus, click [here.](#))

David Edwards, Associate Professor of Anthropology, is currently an NEH Fellow at the [School of American Research in Santa Fe](#), New Mexico, where he is completing the second book of his projected trilogy on Afghanistan. [\[For details, click here.\]](#)



David stokes his Southwestern-style fireplace in Santa Fe, early 1999 (Photo: Michael F. Brown)

Robert Jackall and Janice Hirota will soon publish their study of public relations and advertising, *Image Makers: Advertising, Public Relations, and the Ethos of Advocacy*. The publisher, The University of Chicago Press, should have the book ready for shipment early in 2000.



Michael Brown continues work on a new book about controversies related to the ownership of the intellectual and cultural property of the world's native peoples. During his recent participation in a conference dealing with these issues sponsored by the National Park Service, he took the photograph of the San Xavier del Bac Mission shown above. San Xavier is located in the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation, nine miles south of Tucson.

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Other ANSO alums

Bo Peabody

ANSO Internet entrepreneurs are in the news again. **Bo Peabody '94**, CEO of Tripod.com, has written a preface for Tripod's new book, [*Tools for Life*](#). Last year Bo was named Young Entrepreneur of the Year by the Massachusetts Interactive Media Council (MIMC) [\[More\]](#). On the Left Coast, **Paul Ham '97**, who continues to work for [Amazon.com](#), has joined forces with another Williams alum to found the Internet portal [YourCompass.com](#). [\[Williams Record story\]](#).

The department received letters from several alums in response to the *ANSO News* No. 1. **Chris Page '90** reports that he has completed an M.A. in Public Affairs at the University of Washington. He's also working as the coordinator of the Green/Duwamish Watershed Alliance, which is trying to restore the health of the river systems south of Seattle . . . **Jane Roper '96** noted that she was getting ready to head off for travel in Peru, a brief break from her work in advertising, which she describes as "incredibly stimulating and exciting and creative."

Michael Brown and Peter Just were delighted to run into **Wendi Haugh '91** and **Adam Chau '93** at the 1998 annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Philadelphia. Both are close to completing their doctorates in Cultural Anthropology (Wendi at Penn and Adam at Stanford), and they were already testing the waters of the academic job market . . . **Mac Stocco '98**, who majored in Astronomy, will begin doctoral training in Sociology at the University of Virginia.

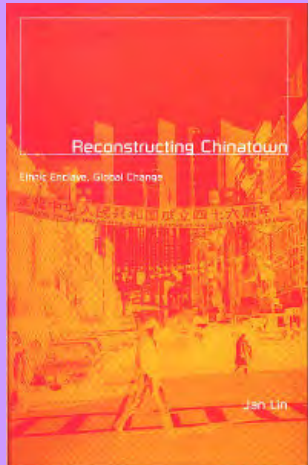
Barbara Fusco '96, an Anthropology major, is now working at the Communitarian Network in Washington, DC. According to the group's homepage, the Communitarian Network is a "nonsectarian, nonpartisan, international association" which believes that "individual liberties depend upon the bolstering of the foundations of civil society: our families, schools, and neighborhoods." If you'd like to check out the Network's goals, activities, and publications, click [here](#).

Catherine Bolten '98 continues to work as an arborist for the City of New York, planting trees throughout Gotham. Cat reports that her classmate **Jane Woods** has just given birth to Jakob Lawrence Woods Weber, quite possibly the first baby for the Class of 1998.

Don't forget to check out additional news from [James Kossuth '98](#) and [Jan Lin '83](#).

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News from Jan Lin '83

"Greetings from a class of '83 graduate who is quite thrilled to reconnect with the Williams AnthSoc community and learn about faculty/student work, travels, and gastronomical festivities! Here is my personal update. I obtained a contract major in Anthropology (the major wasn't official yet). Gillian Feeley-Harnik was chair of the program at the time and Louis Lindsay (Political Science) supervised my senior thesis on Racial Conflict in Britain. I went on to the London School of Economics to pursue a master's degree in sociology and returned to the U.S., where I found a job doing evaluation research with the Division of Employment Services in Boston. I spent over two years writing reports based on database work and field visits to declining mill towns (such as North Adams) throughout Massachusetts. Then I moved to New York City to start a Ph.D. in sociology at the New School for Social Research, where I was trained in methods applying concepts of globalization to community and urban studies. I did my fieldwork in New York's Chinatown and Lower East Side. After finishing my degree, I taught three years at the University of Houston and four years at Amherst College. I'm now an associate professor of sociology at Occidental College in Los Angeles. I'm pleased to be in L.A., which I regard as an intriguing research and teaching laboratory. I teach and publish in the areas of globalization, community/urban sociology, race and ethnic studies, and Asian American studies. I have published a book titled *Reconstructing Chinatown: Ethnic Enclave, Global Change* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1998). [See cover left] I also have published a number of articles, the most recent of which is "A Globalization and the Revalorizing of Ethnic Places in Immigration Gateway Cities," *Urban Affairs Review* 34, 2 (November 1998): 313-339. I'm available to communicate with any students interested in my academic areas or research on Los Angeles."

-- Jan Lin, Sociology Department, Occidental College 1600 Campus Rd. Los Angeles, CA 90041-3314, Email: jlin@oxy.edu

News from [James Kossuth '98](#), intrepid lexicographer

[Browse Merriam-Webster Online @ www.m-w.com.](#)

"**A** truly enjoyable part of my job is answering correspondence. People write to us about EVERYTHING. I have a letter right now from a convict in Texas who wants to know, among other things, the ZIP code for Plainfield, NJ. I had an e-mail Friday from someone who wanted to know why "spork" wasn't in the dictionary . . . There hasn't been a single day when I haven't learned something, be it a new word, factoid, what have you. This morning, I had to answer an email from someone who wanted to know why we didn't have "yearnful" in the dictionary. My first reaction was, "because it's not a word, idiot." But, alas, I was wrong. It's in Webster's Third. The call is out for citations, so you can put in the Anso Alumni News. New, interesting, uncommon, out-of-this-world uses and words can be sent to me. Include the relevant (or more) section or passage, along with author, title, page number, year, nationality of author or speaker (if other than American), with the word underlined, to me at James Kossuth c/o Merriam-Webster PO Box 281 Springfield MA 01102, email: jkossuth@m-w.com."

**Former
Faculty:****Where are
they now?**

The following is a list of former members of the faculty (including short-term visiting professors and Bolin Fellows) whose recent whereabouts we have been able to determine. No claims are made about this list's completeness or accuracy, especially in view of the peripatetic life of sociologists and anthropologists!

- Lila Abu-Lughod, NYU
- Elisabeth Bacus, Univ. College, London
- Jeanne Bergman, Housing Works, New York City
- Christian J. Churchill
- Jennifer Cole, Harvard
- Eileen Crist, VPI
- Susan DiGiacomo, U. Mass-Amherst
- [Troy Duster, NYU](#)
- Kai Erikson, Yale
- Gillian Feeley-Harnik, U. Michigan, Ann Arbor
- Bob Friedrichs, retired (Williamstown/Martha's Vineyard)
- Mary Hodge, died 1996. For obituary, click [here](#).
- [Phil Kasinitz, CUNY](#)
- Mark Jacobs, George Mason University
- Matthew Lawson, College of New Jersey
- Carole Marks, Univ. of Delaware
- Marcella Mazarelli, Framingham, Mass.
- [J. Lorand Matory, Harvard](#)
- Gillianne Monnier, U. of Minnesota
- Abdul Mu'min, not known
- Suzanne Oakdale, Univ. of New Mexico
- [Charles Payne, Northwestern](#)
- Francesca Poletta, Columbia
- [Joseph Rhea, Arizona State U.](#)
- Jennifer Robertson, U. Michigan, Ann Arbor
- Candelario Saenz, Wellesley College
- [Helen Siu, Yale](#)
- Julia Thompson, Telluride, Colo.
- Gilbert Tostevin, U. of Minnesota
- Frederick Hadleigh West, Peabody Essex Museum

From the ANSO archive

The following images may bring back memories for some ANSO staff and alumni.



Anthropology & Sociology, 1982. L. to R.: Bob Friedrichs, Carole Marks, Michael Brown, Bob Jackall (missing: Gillian Feeley-Harnik). Courtesy Williams College Archives & Special Collections.



Peter Just fires up the barbie at the department's 1991 picnic. In the background: David Edwards and Bevin Cooper '91.