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ISSUE 9, SPRING-SUMMER 2006

## News about students and alumni of Williams Anthropology & Sociology



As the department prepares to graduate one of the largest groups of Anthropology and Sociology majors in recent memory, 20, we present this report on the year's activities with the hope that it will be of interest to our (now) numerous ANSO grads.

As part of the ongoing contribution of *ANSO News* to an understanding of the department's history, this issue includes **information about the origin of Anthropology** at Williams College.

Let us know what you're up to!

*Michael F. Brown, Chair*

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY  
Stetson Hall, Williams College, Williamstown, MA 01267 USA

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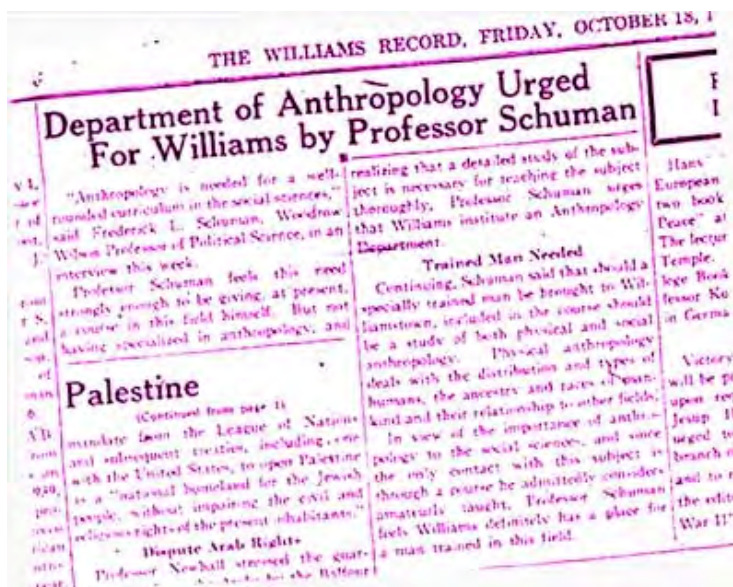
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## One from the crypt!

Someone was kind enough to pass me a photocopy of the *Williams Record* from 18 October 1946, which included the headline "Department of Anthropology Urged for Williams by Professor Schuman" as well as an editorial and faculty opinion pieces arguing for (and against) adding the discipline of anthropology to the Williams curriculum.



### The Woodrow Wilson Professor of Political Science, Frederick L. Schuman

declared in an interview that "anthropology is needed for a well-rounded curriculum in the social sciences." Schuman, then teaching the only anthropology course offered at Williams, went on to argue that the college needed a "trained man" to represent this new field. (In 1946, the American Anthropological Association had already existed for 44 years, suggesting that what is "new" at Williams may not be so new to the rest of the world.)

Prof. Schuman's enthusiasm was not shared by **Richard A. Newhall, Professor of History**. Under the headline "Significance overrated," Prof. Newhall expressed doubts about anthropology's relevance to the understanding of contemporary societies. In any case, he observed, it was "doubtful . . . that a small undergraduate college can legitimately add to its curriculum any offering in this field sufficient to attract a really competent anthropologist to the faculty."

**Williams doesn't rush into things.** According to Linda Hall of the college's Archives and Special Collections, a full-time anthropologist wasn't hired by Williams until 1965, when Thomas J. Price joined the faculty. Price, a graduate of Wesleyan and Northwestern's doctoral program, taught here between 1965 and 1970. His special research interests include African communities of the New World. He resigned from Williams in 1970 to accept a position at North Adams State, now Massachusetts College of the Liberal Arts, on whose faculty he served until his retirement in 1986. He died in 1989.

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## News about faculty

**Films, books, buildings, and programs.** The ANSO faculty continued its diverse activities in 2005-2006, both in class and beyond. **Prof. James Nolan** completed his second and final year as director of the [Williams-Exeter Programme at Oxford](#). We are looking forward to his return to Williamstown this summer. **Robert Jackall** successfully led the fledgling [Williams in New York](#) program through its first year of operation. (W@NY was featured in a recent article in the *Williams Alumni Review*. If you're using broadband, you can download a large pdf file of the article by clicking [here](#).)



Scene from *Kabul Transit*

The long-awaited documentary about Afghanistan directed by **David B. Edwards** and Greg Whitmore, *Kabul Transit*, made its world debut at the [Full Frame Documentary Film Festival](#) in Durham, N.C. in April. Edwards has taken the film on the road to a number of university venues, including Princeton, UC-Santa Cruz, and USC. The film will also be featured in the [LA Film Festival](#) this summer.

In March, Michael F. Brown published the article "Faut-il breveter les cultures en danger?" in *Sciences Humaines*, Paris. (Francophilic alums may download a copy [here](#).) Along with **Peter Just**, a long-time member of the Stetson-Sawyer Building Committee, **Brown** continues to co-chair the Stetson-Sawyer project, which will break ground early in 2007. The project's North Academic Building will include an archaeology teaching lab, something the college has promised the department since **Prof. Antonia Foias** was hired a decade ago.



*Computer-graphic rendering of two new academic buildings to be constructed starting in 2007. The rendering shows the site after Sawyer Library has been razed in 2011. New Sawyer Library will be attached to Stetson Hall. Courtesy Bohlin Cywinski Jackson Architects.*

Bob Jackall's latest book, *Street Stories*, received a glowing **review** in the *Times Literary Supplement*. The reviewer, Mark Kamine, describes the book as a "fascinating peek into a world most of us would not want to inhabit--but can't resist wanting to hear about."

Some of you may remember **Prof. Troy Duster** (right), who taught in the department as a Bernhard Professor more than a decade ago. He returned to Williams in February 2006 to participate in a panel discussion on the subject of genomic research and changing concepts of race.



**New faces in 2006-2007.** Next fall, the department will be joined by two visiting sociologists. **Danielle Bessett**, a student of Troy Duster's who is completing her doctorate at NYU, will offer courses on gender, family, and medical sociology, among other things. **John Downey**, who teaches at Loughborough University in the UK, will offer two courses in the department in Spring term, 2007. A familiar face, **Prof. Antonia Foias**, will chair the department when she returns from her sabbatical in Guatemala in August.

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## News about students and alumni

**Friedrichs, Orton, and Other Prizes, 2006.** This year's winners of the Robert Friedrichs Prize in Sociology and the James Ortnier Prize in Anthropology are the two Rachels: Rachel Winch and Rachel Segretto, respectively. Rachel Segretto's award was presaged by her bowling performance at a faculty-senior outing at Mt. Greylock Bowl organized in May, which left the humiliated Profs. Just, Brown, and Edwards wondering what had happened to them.



Rachel Winch (above) and Rachel Segretto

**Rachel Winch** and **Elizabeth Doran** were both awarded departmental honors for their senior theses. Rachel's is entitled *It Will Spoil Our Women": Debates over Nation and Sexuality in Contemporary India*. Elizabeth's is *Magis: Urban Planning in Boston . . .* On the subject of prizes, we are pleased to note that **Robin Kim** has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship that will take her to Korea this fall.

**News of ANSO grads.** **Abby Rosenthal '02** is continuing with her doctoral training in Anthropology at the University of Chicago. Her M.A. thesis, "Writing



about deafness: Transcription as analysis and politics" was available on the Web as a PDF file for awhile, although it seems to have been taken down just before this issue of *ANSO News* was uploaded . . . **Austin Duncan '02** will be starting the University of Michigan's doctoral program in September, thus joining an illustrious line of Eph-Wolverine hybrids that includes **Laura Ahearn '82, Melissa Johnson '84, Cat Bolten '98, and Jessica Robbins '01**. **Brian Burke '02** continues his doctoral work in Anthropology at the University of Arizona, where he is connected to the Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology. **Alvaro Jarrin** has published the essay "The Right to Beauty: Cosmetic Citizenship and Medical Modernity in Brazil" in the online journal of the University of Chicago's Department of Anthropology, *Exchange*.

Michael Brown recently heard from **Scott Moskowitz '04**, who is currently in Beijing teaching English at a Chinese university. Scott reports that he is trying "to learn and get to know more of the old city even as it changes so quickly. Most of my spare time has been eaten up by a project called "Hutong to Highrise." He continues: "We go around to many of the old hutongs, a sprawling network of self contained neighborhoods mostly created when the government partitioned the single family courtyard houses of the old elite and turned them into communities housing blocks of families. (They are kind of a hot topic in the news recently, as are most things China, so you are probably familiar) They lie in and around the city center, so of course many are now slated for demolition, and the families to be redistributed to highrise apartments on the outskirts of town. Needless to say the social networks that develop around communities of people living in small rooms clustered around alleys of shops and little restaurants will be lost to vertical living. (I think the most interesting change is that in the Hutongs everyone shares a single outdoor bathroom complex, a popular meeting spot and hub of daily life, where as in a highrise this ceases to be a communal function.) Anyway, our organisation goes around and gives cameras to interested hutong residents and asks them to record what they think are important about there neighborhood, and then we develop the images and discuss them, and interview them about their thoughts on living in the Hutong, whether or not they would like to move out, and how they think such a change would affect their lives negatively or positively."

**Obituary: Jennifer L. Dolloff, '01, a former major.** Some of you will have heard via other channels that Jen Dolloff died suddenly, apparently of yet unknown natural causes, on June 11. At the time of this writing, a short obituary has been published online. The Department extends its condolences to the Dolloff family.

**More random tidbits about alums, mostly Sociology majors.** **Meg Davis '00** has completed her law degree at the University of Virginia Law School, while **Steve Kerr '02** continues his law studies at Yale. **Cathryn Christensen '01** is in her second (or is it third?) year at Harvard Medical School. **Akiko Yamagata '97**, who studied aesthetics in food preparation (pastry) in Japan, will be entering graduate school in Anthropology in 2007. **Josh Wakeham '02** will begin his second year in Harvard's Sociology doctoral program in September. **Brianna O'Brien '05** is working as an assistant at the American Museum of Natural History, NYC. **Natalie Bump '04** spent a year at Cambridge University studying anthropology and is now doing fieldwork for a special University of Chicago project on teen gangs. She expects to enter an anthropology doctoral program in 2007. **Laurel Blatchford '94**, Kennedy School '97, is now Chief of Staff for the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development.

**Yuet "Adam" Chau '93** has joined the staff of the Faculty of Oriental Studies at Oxford as a Lecturer. His book, *Miraculous Response: Doing Popular Religion in China*, was published by Stanford University Press in 2005. You can see the cover and [read an excerpt](#) at Amazon.com.

**Road less traveled department.** Enough of grad school and professors of anthropology or sociology! For news of an ANSO alum who is exploring an entirely different career path, check out the [recent column](#) by **Liv Osthus '96** in the *New York Times*. (If the *Times* takes the column from its site, you can read an archived copy [here](#).) Liv, now based in Portland, Oregon, has made a living as an exotic dancer (stage name: Viva Las Vegas) and sex columnist in various online publications--to which you'll be able to Google your way without ANSO's help.

***News about the activities of ANSO alums--including those of you who pursuing non-academic careers--is always welcome!***



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**Lamas Indian women dancing during the  
Fiesta de Santa Rosa, 1977. Lamas,  
Dept. of San Martín, Peru.**

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