

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

The Interdisciplinary Anthropology Program

The Anthropology Clan

Vol. 2 No. 1

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Anthropology: Education for the 21st Century

Anthropology as a Major

The exploration of what it means to be human ranges from the study of culture and social relations, to human biology and evolution, to languages, music, art and architecture. Anthropology is usually recognized as containing four broad fields -- cultural anthropology, linguistics, physical anthropology and archaeology.

Anthropologists conduct scientific and humanistic studies of culture and the evolution of humans. Each of the four fields of American anthropology has its own skills, theories and databases representing their respective knowledge. Most, Anthropologists, therefore, pursue careers in only one of the four subdisciplines.

Given the holistic, integrated nature of anthropology, an undergraduate major or concentration can be part of a broad liberal arts background for men and women interested in medicine, government, education, business, law and more.

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The Anthropology Club Welcomes:

Dr. Melvyn Goldstein

"Tibetan Nomads: Future of the Grasslands"

For centuries Tibet's nomads have pursued a traditional pastoral system which maintained a crucial ecological balance in a harsh and fragile environment. This traditional adaptation was seriously challenged during the "Cultural Revolution," which destroyed their religion, modes of production and world view.

Miraculously, early economic reforms in China accommodated the reestablishment of much of the old culture and allowed the nomads to return to their traditional lifestyle. However, recent policy decisions directed toward economic development once again threatens, both directly and indirectly, Tibet's pastoral nomads. The source and nature of this threat will be the subject of Dr. Goldstein's talk which will also include a slide presentation from his Tibetan travels.

The University of Akron's Anthropology Club encourages everyone to join with them in welcoming Mel Goldstein, the world's leading scholar of the Tibetan language, history and society, on February 20, at 5:00 in the Elm Room of Gardner Student Center. Refreshments will be provided.



IAP Archaeology Field School

Intersession '97, 3 credit hours.

This summer discover where mother's oatmeal really began in this historic archaeology adventure. Join Dr. Paul Pacheco on an excavation of the Schumacher's Cascade Mill at the Cascade Locks Park. Be a part of a Heritage Corridor Happening!

COME "DIG" WITH US!

For more information contact:
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THE CLAN

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Anthropology as a Major (cont.)

What Does Anthropology Teach That Is Useful Outside the College Setting?

Careful record-keeping, attention to details, analytical reading, and clear thinking are all skills one will acquire with a major in anthropology. Social ease in strange situations, critical thinking, and strong skills in oral and written expression are cultivated by anthropological training. Using a range of social, behavioral, biological, and other scientific research methods, anthropology majors learn to supplement statistical findings with descriptive data gathered through participant observation, interviewing, and ethnographic study.

An anthropologist is a trained observer who knows the importance of collecting data, in listening and watching what others are doing, in reflecting on what has actually as well as apparently occurred, in researching the context, and in adapting a broad perspective for framing an understanding.

Whatever the topic of research, anthropologists share a particular holistic vision that requires familiarity with a repertoire of methods in order to forge a deeper understanding of situations. This holism characterizes the best anthropology and imparts the perspective for which the profession is valued.

There are many career and educational options for anthropology majors. Further anthropological study leads to both traditional anthropological careers of teaching and research as well as in applied anthropology. Academic anthropologists find careers in anthropology departments, social science departments, and a variety of

other departments and programs, such as medicine, epidemiology, public health, ethnic, community, or area studies, linguistics, cognitive psychology, and neural science.

While the job market for academic anthropologists is rather steady, demand for anthropologist is increasing in other areas, stimulated by a growing need for analysts and researchers with sharp thinking skills who can manage, evaluate, and interpret the large volume of data on human behavior. The extent of occupational flexibility reflects the emphasis on breadth, diversity, and independence of thought. What we know about the future marketplace indicates the type of global, holistic knowledge which an anthropological perspective brings.

Anthropological study provides training particularly well suited to the 21st century. The economy will be increasingly international; workforce and markets, increasingly diverse; participatory management and decision making, increasingly important; communication skills, increasingly in demand. Anthropology is the only contemporary discipline that approaches human questions from historical, biological, linguistic, and cultural perspectives. The intellectual excitement and relevance of the wide range of information presented in anthropology assures that students are engaged and challenged.

Moreover, it compliments other scientific and liberal arts courses by helping students understand the interconnectivity of knowledge about people and their cultures. Increasingly, undergraduates and master's students are coming to understand that the issues affecting their futures and the information they will need to prosper cannot be found in narrow programs of study.

From *Careers in Anthropology: American Anthropological Association*
<http://www.ameranthassn.org/careers.html>, 1/13/97

Look for the next "Notes from the Field" March 17

DATES TO REMEMBER

February

- 14 - 3:00, Olin 271
A Preparatory Discussion of Dr. Golstein's Work
- 20 - Mel Golstein 5:00p.m.
Elm Room GSC
- 25 - Dr. Lynn Metzger
Women's Studies Lecture Series
Ayer Hall, 1:45
- 28 - Club Meeting: Olin, 271

March

- 5 - OPEN LAB, Dr. Elizabeth Mancz on Osteology. Olin 271
- 7 - Club Meeting: Olin 271
- 21 - Club Meeting: Olin 271
- 27 - Dr. Jim Ross "International Health"

April

- 11 - Club Meeting: Olin 271
Election of Officers
- 16 - OPEN LAB: Olin 271
A Multi-Media Adventure:
"Cultural Anthropology"



Questions, comments, submissions, complaints, please e-mail Melissa Hays at mh6@uakron.edu.