

The Participant Observer

Department of Anthropology
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY 14627

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FROM THE NEW CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT

The summer of 2001 saw a flurry of comings and goings in the Department of Anthropology. I want to acknowledge these transitions here, and take the opportunity to offer sincere thanks, best wishes, and warm welcomes.

After six years of service, Professor Tom Gibson stepped down as Chair of the Department. On behalf of the Department, I would like to thank Professor Gibson for his leadership and wish him all the best as he enjoys a year of leave. As his successor, I look forward to sustaining the momentum gathered over the last few years in developing new opportunities for undergraduate learning and research.

Professor Mark Rogers, who was a member of the Department for four years, took a position with Kodak in August. The Department owes many thanks to Professor Rogers for his efforts and initiatives in building the Rochester Center for Ethnographic Research, which Professor Rogers directed. (Professor Ayala Emmett has agreed to direct the Center for the academic year 2001-2002.) On behalf of the entire Department, I wish Professor Rogers good luck in his new projects.

Professor Kamran Ali has taken a leave of absence to visit the University of Texas at Austin. We all hope that the year passes well for him and his family (and that he sends us some Texas weather in March). Professor Anthony Carter is also taking a leave from teaching this fall—which we hope is productive and restorative—but he will return to the classroom in the spring.

Three new faculty members—profiled in this issue—joined the Department over the summer. Professor Signithia Fordham joined the Department from the faculty of the University of Connecticut at Storrs. Professor Nancy Forand came to the University of Rochester from the State University of New York at Albany, where she just completed her Ph.D. Professor Richard Freeman came from Knox College in Illinois, where he had been teaching after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. The Department welcomes all these new faculty members and looks forward with enthusiasm and excitement to their contributions to the undergraduate research and teaching programs.

Finally, I would like to thank Ellen Ray for agreeing to take on the challenge of editing *The Participant Observer*. Faculty, students, staff and friends of the Department—past and present—are grateful to her and her predecessors, Kate Navarra ('01) and Tessa Farmer ('01), for their ingenuity and skill in linking us all together as a solidary imagined community.

Robert Foster
Associate Professor & Chair



The Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacán, Mexico.

ANTHROPOLOGY PROFESSOR SELECTED FOR NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

René Millon, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, was recently chosen to join the National Academy of Sciences, the nation's most select group of thinkers. Millon, along with two other University of Rochester professors, was named at the academy's national meeting in Washington, D.C., in late April. The three faculty members were among 72 new members and 15 foreign associates from 10 countries elected in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. Election to membership in the academy is considered one of the highest honors given a U.S. scientist or engineer.

Millon came to the University of Rochester in 1961. His life work has been spent mapping and excavating at Teotihuacán, Mexico. From 1964 to 1970, he led a team of Mexican, American, and Canadian researchers who produced the first complete building-by-building map of the 2,000-year-old city northeast of Mexico City. Known for its Pyramids of the Moon and the Sun, Teotihuacán was the largest and most influential city of the pre-Columbian New World, and now the most visited archeological site in Mexico.

"I started going there in 1950 and I haven't finished yet," said Millon, who has been Professor Emeritus since 1986. Funding from the National Science Foundation supported the fieldwork for the mapping and subsequent excavations, and then the analysis of the ancient urban center. Since 1986, Millon has worked as a consultant at Teotihuacán to the excavations of colleagues. In September, he plans to return to the Pyramid of the Moon with the support of the Japanese equivalent to the National Science Foundation.

More information on the National Academy of Sciences can be found at
<http://www.nationalacademies.org/>

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Mug in Lattimore 440 for only \$5.00!
Show your department spirit and drink
something warm at the same time!**

MEET THE ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT'S NEW ADDITIONS!

Professor Richard Freeman attended Southern Illinois University - Carbondale and graduated with a Bachelor's of the Arts in Cinema and Photography. After taking a backpacking trip through Central and South America, during which he took photos, studied Spanish, and interacted with the diverse people and cultures of this area, Professor Freeman had an "implicit feeling" that the United States, in some way, was involved and had some responsibility for the poverty affecting the area he was visiting.

He knew he needed more than photography to really make sense of everything that he was seeing and learning in South and Central America. So, upon his return to the U.S., Professor Freeman, who had no background in anthropology, applied and was accepted to Temple University in Philadelphia in their Visual Anthropology Program. Professor Freeman is of the opinion that starting a graduate level program in one's late twenties has its advantages. He believes that people are better prepared in a humanistic sense; he knew his culture better, as well as the struggles going on around him. This awareness made it easier to understand struggles of people in other areas of the world; he had attained what some might call a broader world perspective.

After graduating with a Master's Degree from Temple, Professor Freeman went to University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he earned his Ph.D. in cultural anthropology. As his research interests began to focus on culture and politics, he recalled the time he had spent in Buenos Aires, which he said was extremely "politically charged." Because of the dynamic political climate there, it was an ideal location to study "how people form their political identities," which became the topic for Professor Freeman's dissertation, titled "Learning to Rebel: Socialist Youth Activism in Buenos Aires." He specifically studied how youth members of a Socialist Party formed their views and political identities.

Apart from traditional ethnographic research, working for eighteen months with the members of the party, Professor Freeman also experimented with the use of photography in ethnography. There are 115 black and white images in his dissertation. In one chapter the images are the data, which support the theoretical claim he addresses. Another way he used photographs in his ethnography was as a visual backdrop, giving his readers a more immediate sense of the ethnographic location, in this case the city of Buenos Aires and its people.

If you are interested in his work Professor Freeman has some of his photos on display at www.knox.edu/Knox/Knoxweb/news_events/2001/freeman_photo_exhibit.html.

For **Professor Nancy Forand** anthropology is a second career. After earning her undergraduate degree in mathematics from Tufts University, she pursued a career in computer applications in positions such as programmer, database specialist and technical manager at Harvard University. However, her interests shifted, and after twenty years she realized it was time for something new.

One summer, she decided to spend her vacation working on an Earthwatch project at the archaeological site of Copán, Honduras, an experience that marked a turning point in her professional development. Afterwards, she began to take anthropology courses and, later, entered the graduate program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she earned her Master's Degree with a focus on Mesoamerican archaeology. During fieldwork, however, she had found herself more interested in talking to native workers than in digging. Consequently, she turned to cultural anthropology, began to study the Yucatec Mayan language, and entered a Ph.D. program specializing in Mesoamerican ethnography at the University at Albany, State University of New York.

Professor Forand's research focused on the diversification of religion in a Mayan community in Quintana Roo, Mexico, where she investigated how Evangelical practices and ideas have been absorbed into Mayan culture. She also studied how a community, once united in its practice of "folk Catholicism," has searched for ways to overcome the tensions that have emerged as different religions have taken hold. Professor Forand's research in the area has shown that Mayan values centered on the ideals of harmony and cooperation tend to mitigate conflict between religious communities.

Professor Forand plans on continuing her research in Quintana Roo and would like to start a field school there. In the domestic arena, she would also like to investigate the ways that modes of communication are changing as new technologies develop, such as e-mail and websites.

NEW ADDITIONS CONTINUED...

Professor Signithia Fordham comes to the University of Rochester from the University of Connecticut at Storrs, where she was Associate Professor of Anthropology. Professor Fordham is a well know figure in the fields of anthropology, education, African-American studies, and gender studies. Her dissertation research on black students' academic success, which earned her a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from The American University, provoked widespread debate and discussion inside and outside the academy, and was publicized in media outlets as diverse as The New York Times and the Morton Downey Jr. Radio Show. The research was published in 1996 by The University of Chicago Press as a book titled Blacked Out: Dilemmas of Race, Identity and Success at Capital High. Professor Fordham is currently engaged in two research projects, the first on black racial identity and the second on the relationship between high self esteem and the academic achievement of black girls. The National Science Foundation and the Spencer Foundation have funded her work, among other agencies. Beginning in July of next year, Professor Fordham will assume the position of Susan B. Anthony Professor of Gender and Women's Studies. A more in depth interview with Professor Fordham will be featured in the next issue of The Participant Observer.

NEW SPRING 2002 COURSES

ANT 210 Anthropology and Education: This course explores the nature and function of education in complex state systems. What does it mean to be educated? Is education and schooling synonymous? Is education transformative or is it implicated in the reproduction of existing inequities? What is the role of race, class, gender and ethnicity in the kind of education America's children receive? Professor Fordham teaches the course and her permission is required for freshman.

ANT 230 Ethnography and Film: The 1980s was a time of much critical reflection and debate in anthropology over the nature of its main texts: written ethnographies. Much of this criticism questioned the nature and authority of representation and the relativity of "truth." Since the 1960s, documentary filmmakers had been discussing very similar issues as it related to their films. Whose stories were they actually telling? Whose voice(s) were being heard? This course begins with a brief look at ethnographies—examining the type of knowledge they produce, and how they do it. We will then look at how the visual media communicate—beginning with still photography before moving on to cinema. These themes, however, are just background for the main theme of the course—what is a "filmic ethnography"? How does it communicate? How does it compare (does it) to a written ethnography? Finally, how does it differ from documentary film? These questions will be investigated through class readings, film screenings, as well as a photographic assignment (possession of a camera is not necessary). This course is cross-listed as a film studies course and is taught by Professor Freeman, whose permission is required for freshman and sophomores.

ANT 263 Religion and Society: This course, cross-listed as a religion course, is an introduction to the way that anthropologists study a variety of religious beliefs and practices. The course will examine 'tribal' religions in terms of the meanings attributed to rituals and symbols, linkages between religious beliefs and social structure, and spirituality as expressed by believers. We will also explore conversion to world religions as a dimension of globalization and "modernization," considering how new interpretations of reality has been grafted onto native worldviews. Professor Forand teaches this course.

ANT 270 Urban Schools: Race and Gender: America's public system of schooling is assumed to be a critical frontier in the eradication of social inequality. The one remaining obligatory institution in urban America, schools are officially constructed as sites specifically designed to eliminate race, class, gender and other culturally constructed inequities. Using ethnographic texts, this course will explore the dynamic relationship between schools and socially constructed notions of race, class and gender in postmodern America. This course, taught by Professor Fordham is not open to freshman and sophomores. It is cross-listed as African American Studies and Women's Studies.

Other Courses Offered this Spring

ANT 101	Cultural Anthropology	TR	1105-1220	Freeman
ANT 110	Intro to Linguistic Analysis	TR	1400-1515	Toivonen
ANT 203	Language & Culture	TR	1400-1515	Forand
ANT 205	Theories & Debates in ANT	TR	0940-1055	Carter
(Permission of Instructor required for Freshmen)				
ANT 210	Anthropology & Education	TR	1400-1515	Fordham
(Permission of Instructor required for Freshmen)				
ANT 218	Birth & Death	TR	1230-1345	Carter
(Permission of Instructor required for Freshmen)				
ANT 227	Anthro & Market Research	TR	0940-1055	McCabe
ANT 230	Ethnography & Film	TR	1525-1640	Freeman
(Permission of Instructor for Freshmen & Sophomores)				
ANT 253	Imagining India	M	1055-1325	McHugh
ANT 263	Religion & Society	TR	1105-1220	Forand
ANT 266	Global Culture	TR	1230-1345	Foster
ANT 270	Urban Schools:Race&Gender	TR	1630-1805	Fordham
(Not open to Freshmen and Sophomores)				
ANT 292 Senior Seminar		W	1400-1640	Emmett
(Not Open to Freshmen and Sophomores; Permission of Department required)				

ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT HOLDS RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTATION

On Friday, September 14, 2001, the University of Rochester's Anthropology Department sponsored a presentation on different research opportunities in the Rochester area for undergraduate students. The goal of the event was to learn how to develop field research projects, explore ways to combine research opportunities and community service, and imagine ways to get off campus and learn about the Rochester community.

The program featured representatives from the Center for the study of Rochester's Health, the Common Good Planning Center, and Cultural Connections. Each speaker outlined the ways in which anthropology students could tackle current issues in the Rochester area, through their organizations, from an ethnographic point of view. The speakers noted that students could develop undergraduate research projects and become more involved in the community.

Each organization presenting their research opportunities greatly emphasized community. Noelle Andrus from the U of R Medical Center's Center for the study of Rochester's Health stated that her organization is probing how health care providers, students and communities can work together for more efficient prevention of health problems. Students, who either volunteer or enroll in independent study at the Center, would work with other researchers from different disciplines and academic backgrounds. The projects that students would most likely be working on are the Cardiovascular and Stroke Prevention Project, the Adolescent Youth Violence Prevention Project, and the Teen Smoking Cessation Web-based Project.

Mary Jeanette Ebenhack, from the Common Good Planning Center, spoke about limiting the negative effects of suburban sprawl on urban communities. The goals of the Common Good Planning Center are to reach out to the business and faith communities in Rochester and empower them to become active supports in the area's initiative for social equity. Gay-Lynne Levi, who is working with the Common Good, is concentrating on focus groups with low-income people to gather information on how sprawl affects children, community, and health. One of our own anthropology majors, Lisa Garrigan, worked with the Common Good on "*Keeping the University of Rochester Student in Rochester.*" Her research project was an ethnographic look at the culture of U of R students and the culture of the twenty and thirty year olds in the Rochester area to assess why "brain drain," or the out-flux of students from Rochester after receiving their degrees, occurs. In analyzing the data, Lisa was able to make some suggestions on how the Rochester community can become a place where graduates choose to stay after completing their education at the U of R.

The final speaker was our very own Professor Maryann McCabe, who teaches Anthropology and Market Research. Professor McCabe's class will be offered in the Spring of 2002. Within this class her students are required to perform a research project, which teams them up with one of the many businesses that make up one of Rochester's business coalitions. One of the research projects focused on how to get more U of R students to utilize the businesses on Mt. Hope by coordinating student efforts with efforts of the Mt. Hope Business Association.

It is evident that the city of Rochester has abundant research opportunities for undergraduates that will benefit the city as well as the individual student. For more information on any of these organizations or other research opportunities, stop into the Anthropology Department and speak with the Director of the Rochester Center for Ethnographic Research, Professor Ayala Emmett, who can be contacted at AEMI@mail.rochester.edu.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Kate Navarra (BA '01 and the previous editor of The P.O.) is currently attending her first year of graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Anthropology Department. She is studying Archaeology with her incoming class of ten students from around the country. This past summer, she worked for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska doing archaeological survey where it had never been done before.

Ruth (Brown) Walkup (Ph.D. '98) currently lives in Washington, DC and works in the Office of International and Refugee Health in the US Department of Health and Human Services where she has been for three years. While she started as Special Assistant to the Director, Ruth now is part of a two member team that serves as health advisors to state departments of health and non-governmental organizations resettling refugees around the country. (This requires a great deal of domestic travel, but none to Rochester yet!).

Ruth is into her third year of teaching a course titled "Theories of Social Organization" at the Johns Hopkins Graduate School of Advanced International Studies in Washington. While this particular academic engagement is strictly anthropological, two other academic connections pull on her knowledge and skills of being in the global health field and working with refugees and displaced persons. At George Washington School of Public Health, Ruth taught "Humanitarian Assistance, Complex Emergencies, and Refugee/IDP Health" and at Columbia University School of Public Health she offered a one week workshop called "Qualitative Investigative Methods in Health in Complex Emergencies", a course that will be combined this coming spring with a quantitative methods course for a full semester offering.

Lastly, Ruth looks forward to seeing any of you who are in Washington for the AAA meetings!

'TIS THE SEASON FOR THE MORGAN LECTURES ONCE AGAIN

The Lewis Henry Morgan Lectures were established in 1963 by the Department of Anthropology at the University of Rochester to honor a founder of American anthropology and a major benefactor of the University. A distinguished Rochester attorney, Lewis Henry Morgan (1818-81) also was the author of The League of the Iroquois, (1850), Systems of Consanguinity and Affinity of the Human Family (1870), and Ancient Society (1877). Supportive of the University of Rochester from its beginning in 1850, he bequeathed to it funds for a women's college as well as his manuscripts and library.

It is again the season in which the Anthropology Department will host The Morgan Lectures. This year the lecture will be held on **Wednesday, October 24, 2001**, at 7:00 p.m. in Morey 321. The title of this year's lecture is "Media and the Ethnography of Nations" and is being presented by Professor Lila Abu-Lughod of Columbia University. The department looks forward to welcoming Professor Abu-Lughod to the campus and hopes that you will be able to join us for what we promise will be an evocative presentation.

Check out the Anthropology Department at
<http://www.rochester.edu/College/ANT>
 or let us know what you are up to at
anthro@mail.rochester.edu

**DISSOLVING
MISCONCEPTIONS**

Religion, though an unchallenged contributor to culture, is an easily misunderstood aspect as well. In order to dissolve some of the misconceptions surrounding Islam in the wake of the World Trade Center tragedy, which occurred on September 11th, The College sponsored a talk by Prof. Homerin titled "Dissolving Misconceptions, Islam in the World Today." The presentation took place in the Welles-Brown room in Rush Rhees Library on Tuesday September 25, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. Professor Homerin is a Professor of Religion and Classics specializing in Islam, Arabic Literature and Mysticism. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session and a desert reception.

**ANTHROPOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OPEN
HOUSE**

The Anthropology Department will be opening its doors to the public for Meliora Weekend. If you are in the Rochester area on October 12th between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m., please feel free to stop in Lattimore 441 to meet with faculty members and students.

**RAISING LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL
AWARENESS IN GUATEMALA**

On October 18th, 2001, the Anthropology Department is proud to welcome Rufino Zapeta to speak about efforts to raise environmental awareness among local populations in Guatemala. Zapeta is affiliated with a grassroots organization, Trópico Verde, in Guatemala. In a country with intense poverty, human rights violations, and governmental corruption, Trópico Verde's work has played an important role in educating the Guatemalan people on their rights with the often-overlooked issues with their environment. Zapeta has been a leading voice in this struggle. He will be sharing information about his work with Trópico Verde, which has helped raise the bar for environmental standards. The presentation, titled "Working to Save Guatemala's Environment," will be held in the Welles-Brown room of the Rush Rhees Library from Noon to 2 p.m.

THE UAC HAS BEEN REVIVED!

Though the **Undergraduate Anthropology Council (UAC)** has been revived and is eager to kick off this semester's activities, it is not too late to join in! The UAC is a group of students who meet to discuss issues relevant to the field of anthropology, watch films on different anthropological topics, listen to anthropologists give presentations about their specific field, find out new research opportunities, and get to know other people interested in anthropology. The president of the UAC is Ellen Ray, who can be contacted at er003j@mail.rochester.edu with any questions, and the business manager is Allison Dorsey. The next meeting will be held in Lattimore 441 at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 17th. If you are interested, please e-mail Ellen or stop in at the next meeting. All are welcome!

**THE WHY'S? WHEN'S? AND HOW'S?
OF APPLYING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL**

Come to the Anthropology Department's presentation on Friday, October 19th, from Noon to 1:30 p.m. on the application process for graduate school. Let our speakers confirm (we mean allay) all your fears about graduate school. Hear what the important issues are from the perspectives of both a judge and an applicant. Professor Freeman will be speaking from the applicant's perspective, though he was also a judge, and Professor Foster, who was also an applicant, will be speaking from a judge's perspective. If you don't think that you could benefit from this presentation because you are not applying for graduate school presently, think again! Both Professors Freeman and Foster will be speaking on fellowship and scholarship possibilities, which can require planning long before one even applies for graduate school. Interested students are invited to come to Lattimore 441 to feed their minds *and* stomachs. Lunch will also be served!

From the Editor's Desk

Greetings! Another academic year has begun along with another volume of the Participant Observer. It has been an intense challenge taking on the P. O., but I have welcomed the new experiences, challenges and knowledge that I have encountered during this, sometimes tremulous, first edition.

I was planning on introducing myself in more depth, but I find myself feeling as though the events of September 11, 2001, need to be addressed. They have, at least temporarily, changed American cultural notions of security, individualism, and optimism and, therefore, become profoundly important.

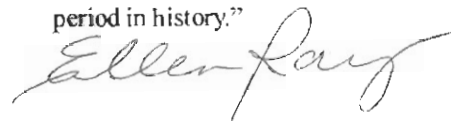
When contemplating the tragic events that took place in New York last month there are so many questions I have heard the American people asking. Most of them are along the lines of "How did this happen?", "What really happened?" and "Who did this?" But very rarely do I hear someone ask "Why did someone feel like they needed to or were justified in doing this?"

My personal struggle, as an

Questions or comments on any articles or upcoming events? Please feel free to contact us!

Ellen Ray:
er003j@mail.rochester.edu

anthropologist-in-the-making and an American, has been identifying the questions I should be asking. Many people have not even begun to contemplate the perpetrators' motivation or critically examine American government involvement in the Middle East. Why is, presumably, Osama Bin Laden so angry at and resentful of America? What is it about the conflict between his opinions and perceptions and U.S. foreign policy that has made him feel so threatened and angry? As anthropologists, we cannot ignore our emotions and the personal effects of the September 11 event. However, it is important that we examine our culture to begin to piece together whatever truths we can, using the tools we have employed cross-culturally for decades. As Margaret Mead stated in *And Keep Your Powder Dry*, "And now, with such increased knowledge as the study of other cultures has given us, we [have] to tackle the enormous problem of a world on the verge of social self-consciousness, a world on the verge of a new period in history."



Mark Your Calendar

- ◆ **October 12, 2001: 3:30-5:30 p.m.**
Anthropology Open House for Meliora Weekend, Lattimore 441.
- ◆ **October 17, 2001: 7:30 p.m.**
The Undergraduate Anthropology Council meeting, Lattimore 441.
- ◆ **October 18, 2001: Noon to 2:00 p.m.**
Rufino Zapeta's presentation "Working to Save Guatemala's Environment," Welles-Brown, Rush Rhees Library.
- ◆ **October 19, 2001: Noon to 1:30 p.m.**
Professor Foster and Professor Freeman's presentation on Graduate School, Lattimore 441.
- ◆ **October 24, 2001: 7:00 p.m.**
The Lewis Henry Morgan Lectures feature Professor Lila Abu-Lughod's public lecture, "Media and the Ethnography of Nations," Morey 321.
- ◆ **November 5-9th**
Registration for spring courses.