U of R Anthropology Professor Presents Paper at the AAA Conference in Chicago

Assistant Professor Beth Benzaken of University of Rochester's Anthropology Department gave a paper at the AAA meetings in Chicago this November. Her paper was part of a panel organized by Charles Paul from Duke's Anthropology Department entitled, "Citizenship in Exile." Below is an abstract of the panel she participated in followed by an abstract of her paper which she is currently working on provisionally titled "Killer Bongos: Tariga Murid, the Money Trail and National Sovereignty."

African Citizenship in Exile

The "Citizenship in Exile" panel explores configurations of citizenship and sovereignty in (and beyond) West Africa during the post-Cold War period. The crisis of the past decade has accelerated the flight of West African political and economic refugees to metropolitan countries and spawned new communities of exile. These expatriates often remain intimately tied to their countries and communities of origin, however, not only returning continually (that fund both daily survival and civil war) but also remaining deeply involved in national and local politics. Today, for example, expatriate Nigerian, Sierra Leonean, and Congolese web sites abound on the Internet, filled with often-critical commentary on politics "back home," drawing on international and human rights discourses as well as locally derivied orontological practices. West African governments are necessarily more than attentive to these overseas communities - lobbying, visiting, sometimes bribing them, and recognizing the importance of not ceding narrative monopoly to those who oppose them - establishing their own, national web sites where they tell other stories about the politics of the nation. As signs of these times, the contemporary West African urban and rural landscape is filled with Internet cafes, Western Union offices, and people communicating with relatives in Europe and the U.S. via fax machines and cell phones.

The panels included in the panel explore African and Diaspora technologies and imaginaries of exile - and the new nationalisms and senses of belonging - that are emerging in these nations beyond their borders. Among the questions the panelists ask: What does "Negritude," "cyborgs," "Afro" or "Mande" identity come to mean in Boston, Washington, London, and Paris? How do these de-territorialized identities and communities come to have a say in, and even transform, politics - and the nation state - at home? What new languages of human identity and socialization, of Christian and Muslim universalism - are called citizenship in the de-territorialized and virtualized? Is national identity transcended ("post-nationalism"), fractured ("sub-nationalism"), further consolidated ("nationalism with a vengeance"), or left behind for identities that are at once "post-political" and global (e.g., Islamic, pentecostal)?

Continued on page 2
“Killer Bargain: Tariqa Murid, the Money Trail and National Sovereignty.”

An Abstract by Asst. Professor Buggenhagen

The paper argues that disciples and traders of the Senegalese Murid tariqa (a Sufi order) reconfigure national belonging through their practices in diasporic locations such as New York City. The forms of nationalism promulgated by Murid adepts cannot be constructed locally, but only through participation in diasporic circuits of wage labor and capital organized by the spiritual hierarchy. In these diasporic locales, Muridiyya experience multiple bureaucracies of discrimination, which they articulate through an ideology of exile thus participating in the spiritual quest of their “man of God” (wali), Amadou Bamba, who was exiled by French colonialism in the early twentieth century. To understand how Senegalese diasporics translate their transnational activities into a form of Wolof and Muslim nationalism at home, in the larger project, I focus on the forms of value, such as infrastructure in the sacred city of Tibu, built by overseas remittances, and on elucidating the structures of circulation binding Tibu and New York City. Murid mosques, clinics, schools and homes, and the materials garnered for their construction, reveal a vast array of international networks of exchange of merchant goods imported through this sacred center. Moreover, Murid homes bring into relief versions between filial obligations and spiritual duties and reveal the kinds of financial and social linkages through which merchants transact commercial arrangements. The fact that the builders of these homes live elsewhere in diasporic and urban locales tells us of the centrality of Tibu as a spiritual center for these networks of globalized exchange.

This paper poses three questions: what is the relationship between this transnational religious trade network and the politics of the neoliberal state in Senegal; how are the forms of nationalism and civic participation reconfigured from outside, that is in urban communities of Senegalese in New York; and what is the nature of the Murid community in New York’s engagement with the politics of the state in which they reside, the United States. The portion of the paper that I am currently writing will focus on this notion of citizenship in exile because I want to ask whether we can even raise the question of new kinds of nationalism and civic identity being forged in diasporic communities such as the Muridiyya in the US because so much attention has been given to dismantling the infrastructure of Muslim communities in the US post 9/11. I have two related objectives: to question the impact that the dismantling of informal financial networks, namely, money transfer and Islamic banking may have on the Senegalese national economic and political stability; and how the linking of counterfeiter goods to terrorism and lowering the threshold for search and seizure of those goods has led to increasing harassment of Senegalese Muslims, among them street vendors, who are being racially and religiously profiled.

Professor Beth Buggenhagen can be reached at bbuggenh@mail.rochester.edu.

More information on her previous research and publications can be found at www.rochester.edu/College/ANT/faculty/buggen.html.
ALUMNI UPDATES:

Liz Hochberg (B.A., 1993) and her husband are proud to announce that their son, Noah, has a little sister! Gabriella Fay Schoff (ol, as Noah calls her, “Baby Gabby”) was born January 21, 2004 at 12:25 a.m. She is 6 pounds 6 ounces, 18.5 inches.

Sunny Chung (B.A., 1997) completed her Peace Corps service in Guinea in 2002 and proceeded directly to South Korea to teach English in August of 2002. She is currently still in South Korea. She should be finishing up in the summer of 2004 and heading back to the US to attend law school. She reflects that traveling around the world has been fun, but very tiring.

Sara Speiert (B.A., 1998) has used her anthropological skills to open Capture the Moment with Photographic Storytelling in Atlanta, Georgia. She offers gift certificates for beautiful black & white portraits that are the “perfect gift for those who have everything!” You can visit her website or contact her by phone or mail for samples of unique, casual, fun and creative black & white portraits.

PO Box 8763, Atlanta, GA 31106
(404) 965-7272
www.saraphotography.com

Melissa Kacinski (B.A., 2001) is in her final year of studies as an M.A. candidate in International Peace and Conflict Resolution at the American University School of International Service. Spurred by her love of cultural anthropology, Melissa is concentrating her studies on cross-cultural conflict resolution, particularly third-party intervention in international conflicts. She is studying international law, crisis negotiation, and cross-cultural negotiations and mediation. Melissa is working on her thesis by designing and performing an evaluation of the alternative dispute resolution programs in the District Court of Maryland. Melissa lives in Rockville, Maryland and can be reached at mkacinski@berlin.org.

Jessica French (B.A., 2002) lives in Albany now and works at the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. It is not a state entity, but rather is the representing organization of all 119 licensed domestic violence programs across New York State. She has been working with NYSCAN since May of 2003 under a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), called the DELTA Project. Our organization is distributing this money to five counties across NYS, to build programs and initiatives focused on Primary Prevention of domestic violence, or stopping it before it starts through challenging and changing the social constructs of gender and gender roles. This is a pilot project - only 13 other states are doing this work. The DELTA staff (there are only two) are developing curricula, and will provide technical assistance, training, support and any needed assistance to these five communities.

NYSCAN also does extensive lobbying work, and spends a lot of time with state lawmakers, trying to create or improve legislation regarding domestic violence. They also operate the 24-hour State domestic violence hotline, as well as many other activities.

Jessica hopes that she will eventually be able to do this kind of work on the national level. She is still planning on attending law school, most likely at the conclusion of the grant she is working under in 3 years.

Got an announcement or an update? Want to share it with us? E-mail us at anthro@mail.rochester.edu and we'll be sure to get you into the next edition!
THE ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

THE SENIOR EXPO 2004:

ANTHRO EYE FOR THE MAINSTREAM GUY:
NEGOTIATING BOUNDARIES OF IDENTITY

Ten sections participated this semester in a seminar (ANT 292) intended to provide anthropology majors with an opportunity to reflect upon their past and present studies and to plan for a life after graduation. Each student was required to conceive, develop, and carry out a project—either individually or collaboratively—that uses anthropological ideas and methods. Seminar members provided each other with constructive criticism, helpful suggestions, and moral support in completing their projects.

The overall goal of the senior seminar is for each student to complete a project that caps his or her major in anthropology and looks forward to his or her short term goals. The seminar is thus an opportunity to refine particular skills, to acquire desired experience, and to produce evidence of one's achievements and aspirations to date. Senior projects ideally assist each student in achieving objectives such as applying to graduate school, finding a job, or preparing for work and travel overseas.

This year, most senior projects focused on the relationship between the values and attitudes of "mainstream" American culture and those who either find themselves on, or who deliberately place themselves on the "periphery." Several students studied the relationship between dominant social institutions like the Bureau of Indian Affairs, psychiatry, hospitals and schools, on the one hand, and disenfranchised groups like Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, and the mentally ill, on the other hand. Others investigated the deliberate creation and transformations of new identities through the use of changing cultural markers such as kosher food, folk music and extreme metal music. In teh course of the semester, a systematic comparison of the way all these different groups continually draw and redraw the boundaries between the "mainstream" and the "periphery," a deeper understanding of the full complexity of American culture and society emerged. It is this complexity we would like to share with the College community today.

This year's research projects included:

- Anna Barnes* Reclaiming What's Ours: Inner-city Gardens
- Julia Elder Half-Breed in the Mainstream
- Jessica Gale* Having a Good Time at the Pub
- Heather King "Read?!? Why Read?!?"
- Natasha Kresfeld America's Romance with Kosher Food
- Hillary Overberg The Spread of Mad Culture
- Kristoffer Piper Immorality in Black and Death Metal
- Cecilia Ponce Dying In Style
- Ellen Ray* TLT: Tender Loving Technology?
- Spring Worth Rejecting the "Ghetto"

* Denotes this student completed the requirements for an honors degree, including the completion of an honors thesis.
This year’s program included a welcome by the Department of Anthropology’s Chair, Associate Professor Robert J. Foster. His welcome was followed by a showcase of student research entitled, “Community Research: The Rochester Public Market,” which included Maryann McCabe, a lecturer from the Anthropology Department, Spring Worth and Cecilia Ponce, both senior anthropology majors, and James Purt, the assistant manager for Rochester Parks and Recreation Operations. The student research was followed by a panel on “Feeding Rochester.” It featured Anna Barnes, an anthropology major and senior as the moderator and included Laura Giasto, class of 2007, Jaime Saunders, vice president of operations for FOODLINK, Moshe Kornfield, an anthropology senior, Jan McDonald, the program coordinator from Politics of Food, and Katie Lavin, farm manager for the Greater Rochester Urban Bounty.

These student and community member panels were followed by the keynote address, which was given by Professor Susan Andreatta. Professor Andreatta is the director of Project Green Leaf and an Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. The title of her address was “Urban Connections to Locally Grown Produce: Examples from North Carolina.”

The Undergraduate Anthropology Council was pleased to invite all students, staff, and faculty to the ANNUAL ANTHROPOLOGY PICNIC. All anthropology minors, majors, and clusters were invited to join faculty and staff for a picnic lunch that featured Pelagruine’s kubs and side dishes provided by seniors and faculty. The picnic took place in Genesee Valley Park on April 29th, 2004 starting at 11 a.m.

ANTHROPOLOGY ALUMNI SHARES RESEARCH, EXPERIENCES WITH SENIORS, FACULTY

John Karam (B.A. University of Rochester, Ph.D. Syracuse University) shared with the Anthropology Department at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25, 2004. His presentation, entitled, “A Taste of Ethnic Self Appropriation: Ambivalent Cultural Capital and Connections in Contemporary Hawai’i,” was preceded by an L & L Luncheon where John talked candidly with undergraduates about graduate school.

STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT A NEW SURVEY THAT HAS CAUSED DEBATE. FOOD, HUNGER AND NUTRITION IN THE U.S.

On March 19, 2004, at 7:00 P.M. Rachel H. Reynolds, Ph.D. from Cornell University’s Department of Culture and Communication joined us for a discussion of the Philadelphia Nutritional Access and Affordability Survey. She encouraged students to come learn about "Student Research and Social Policy: A Story about Nutrition and Hunger Fieldwork in Philadelphia Corner Stores." The talk focused on how teams of student researchers participated in the Philadelphia Food Access and Affordability Survey. Over Summer 2004, four teams of students and their professors fanned out across the city surveying grocery and corner stores, talking to owners and local customers. The survey was designed to find out how urban poor obtain their food, how much they spend. Data analysis yielded an unexpected discovery that has led to an important policy debate about feeding the hungry and encouraging urban poor to eat nutritious foods.

Come see how the survey is shaking up the status quo.
### FACING FACTS: Re-examining the Founding of Rochester And Its Impact On History

Ron Nettsch, Chairman of the Art Department at Nazareth College and Journalist for the City Newspaper, and Dr. Walter Cooper, Scientist and Regents Emeritus at the University of the State of New York, presented a seminar on Rochester’s history on April 12, 2004. The seminar was held at 5:00 PM in the Frederick Douglass Institute in Morey Hall. The event was co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and History, the Frederick Douglass Institute for African American Studies, Rush Rhees Library and the Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender 
Women’s Studies.

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The Undergraduate Anthropology Council Corner

Here are some possibilities for summer ethnographic field schools:

1. **FEMALE FIELD SCHOOL IN TONGA**
   - **PROGRAM**: Ethnography of Tonga in the Tonga Islands.
   - **DESCRIPTION**: The program offers students the opportunity to conduct field research in Tonga, focusing on various aspects of Tongan culture and society.
   - **DURATION**: 6 weeks.
   - **STUDENTS**: 15.
   - **FACULTY**: Dr. Sarah Smith, University of Hawaii.
   - **APPLICATION DEADLINE**: February 15th.

2. **SUMMER PROGRAMS IN COLOMBIA**
   - **DURATION**: 8 weeks.
   - **STUDENTS**: 10.
   - **FACULTY**: Dr. David Johnson, University of California, Los Angeles.
   - **APPLICATION DEADLINE**: April 1st.

**ESTIMATED PROGRAM COST**: $5,000

This information is based on previous programs and may vary. Students are encouraged to apply early to secure a spot in these programs.

**TO CHECK FOR MORE DETAILS**:
- Visit the Anthropology Department's website at http://www.rochester.edu/ANT
- Contact the Anthropology Department at 585-475-3211.
From the Editor’s Desk

I am happy to announce that we have found a new editor for the Participant Observer! Anna Lesperance, an anthropology major class of 2005, will be taking over after I graduate and depart Rochester. We are very happy that Anna has accepted this challenge.

Spring semester has again flown by. Our time was filled with guest speakers, honors presentations (the first since 2001), the Senior Expo, the spring conference, and the anthropology picnic. All the seniors produced interesting, ethnographic projects and publicly presented them with professionalism at the Senior Expo. The amount of work that each student expended on those projects and the professionalism with which they were presented is an indicator of the caliber of student that the Anthropology Department produces.

I confidently speak for the seniors when I say that we have all been blessed to have had the opportunity to work with the faculty and staff of the Anthropology Department. Their guidance and expertise is invaluable and without their unyielding support our college experiences would have been drastically different, and most assuredly less rich.

I am leaving the University of Rochester and pursuing a master’s degree at the University of Chicago in Social Service Administration. I know I owe a number of people thank yous. Without the support specifically of Professor Ayala Emnett, Professor Robert Foster and Rose Marie Ferren, I would not be the student I am today with the opportunities that I have had during my college career. Thank you all for your confidence and support. Finally, I have to thank the P.O. editor that came before me, Kate Navarra, for encouraging me to be more involved in the department. It has certainly been a wonderful experience. Saying good-bye is bitter-sweet, but there is always the P.O. to keep us connected!

*Mark Your Calendar*

* April 26th, 2004
  Last Day of Classes

* April 26th, 2004
  Anthropology Department Picnic
  Genesee Valley Park, 11 a.m.

* April 26th - May 2nd, 2004
  Reading Period

* May 16th, 2004
  Commencement
  The College 9:00 a.m.
  Anthropology College 11:15 a.m.

* May 16- May 19, 2004
  Exam Week

* May 18th - May 19th, 2004
  Senior Week