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Kay Warren Lectures on Human Trafficking

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By Adam Machson-Carter and David Ladon

On Wednesday, November 9th, 2006, Kay Warren presented the annual Lewis Henry Morgan Lecture on the people and places of human trafficking. Young Americans are often inundated with information from many sources, but often it is as if each piece of information passes through a polarized light filter, sifting out complexities and limiting events to a black and white reality. In presenting the experiences and politics of sex trafficking, Warren exposed students, professors, and community members to the complex reality of sex trafficking and the transnational "entertainment" industry.



Lecturing to a packed auditorium, Warren explained that international debate is pushing for a set of global norms on human trafficking akin to global standards about nuclear proliferation. The debate tends to be divided between two groups. Abolitionists tend to argue for the total eradication of human trafficking. They generally push for the criminalization of sex work, the strengthening of borders, and the rescue of trapped women. Those pushing a worker's rights agenda tend to seek the legalization and regulation of prostitution. They are pushing for open borders, improved working conditions, and a freedom from economic debt bondage.

In the most moving portion of the lecture, Warren presented to the audience testimonials which she collected from women in Japan who had been victims of the network of trafficking between Japan and Colombia. The testimonials told stories of women's desperation, complex and nefarious networks of deception, and economic and physical exploitation. Seduced into traveling across the globe with promises of lucrative employment, these women were trapped without the funds to flee in a country where they knew no one. Women were subsequently forced into sex work until they could find a means to escape. Often imprisonment and exploitation were enforced through threats to family back in Colombia.

Reality is always more complex than policy makers or journalists would have us believe. For this reason our job as anthropologists is to bring complexity to apparently straightforward debates. By presenting the lived experience of trafficking, the politics of global debates, and the flows of people, money, and values, Kay Warren effectively and impressively contributes multiple perspectives of a multi-faceted issue to the global debate on human trafficking.

ANTHRO STUDENT WORK

El Progreso
Colette Carmouche

El Progreso wakes an aging nun tucked under three thick alpaca blankets
A rap on the door before daylight brings a small brown woman
Looking for pills, braiding all of her fear into the long tassels of hair
That trail down her back and curl at the bottom around bright ribbons

The morning air is thick with garua mist chocked up tight in a bottle
Erupting into an endless grey sky that hovers over quickly made homes
With thatched roofs and dirt floors that stretch into the mountains
All packed together and bidding for space as more people pile in
El Progreso, the other Lima

Continuous reggaeton vibrations begin at midnight and last till morning
But soon the market floods with vendors unloading cartloads of merchandise
And the monotonous beats are settled with smooth Spanish palabras
The scent of hot rice and chicken begins to rise and enter noses
As steady strong arms whip food in pots

Discarded items color the sides of grassless roads as comeve's rattle by
An aged platano peel lies flat, black, and crusting into the dirt
Resting lonely on its side unaware of the dog pile a cm away
It is where children brush against strangers with extended hands
Selling chicle por solamente un sol with their deep eyes

The trash will keep piling, there is no garbage man to clean it
El Progreso will receive more money and run out two months later
Madre will continue to brush her white shiny hair and put on the same
Red sweat shirt and walk to the clinic on sunless mornings

It is the other Lima that is home to many, home to los pobres
That pick at your brain when nightly vibrations leave you restless
Leaving it frothy like a pisco sour and calling you out of bed
El Progreso, with all its romance, with all its horror

The author is a sophomore anthropology major. She spent the summer of 2005 studying with Professor Cadorette of the Religion Department and ten other students in Peru.



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“Promisedland, South Carolina”

By Pamela Reese-Smith

I first learned of a place called Promisedland, South Carolina at a morning ritual at the funeral of my mother's oldest brother James Samuel Bulow. Unbeknownst to me Promisedland is where my mother, Mary Louise Bulow Smith and most of her siblings were born.

I wondered why I had no knowledge of a place so central to my African American political and cultural history. On the drive home from South Carolina to Rochester I questioned my elder sister, Linda Karim, extensively. When I returned home I could not stop talking/thinking about Promisedland. (Cont'd on page 4)

Investing in Kids' Future

Professor's summer workshop plants seeds of college dreams

The children were reluctant at first. It was August, after all, and the weeklong creative writing workshop that University of Rochester professor Ayala Emmett was offering at North Street Community Center had all the appeal of summer school. By week's end, though, the children were arriving before Emmett. They were chanting, "We have a voice!"; composing poems and letters to the editor; and taking photographs to accompany their work. And yet Emmett yearned to give them more. "I wanted to give them what I call their birthright — the birthright of every child in America — and that is to be prepared throughout their educational experience to go on to higher education and find a place in society."

So, using her own money, she established a trust fund for them. "It's a deal in which I do my part, and you do your part," she told the seven participants, who range in age from 10 to 14, when she announced the trust fund on the last day of the workshop. "I will put the money in every year, and you will do well in school." She calls it "Seeds for College," and pledges to dedicate \$100 to each child every year they earn reasonably good grades. The money will accumulate until they graduate from high school, at which time it will become available for their higher education needs, such as books.

North Street Community Center Director Preston Sanders said he "fell out of the chair" when Emmett announced the trust fund. Emmett figures it was the least she could do. "When I drove home every day, all I could think of is how beautiful and wonderful these children (were). But we don't see them as these sponges, ready to learn. We see them when there is a tragedy," she said. After establishing the fund, she said, "I felt better."

An Associate Professor of anthropology, Emmett had never worked with urban youths before; her volunteering experience was limited to soup kitchens. But when one of her students, Spring Worth (UR '04) — who grew up in Marketview Heights and is now Housing Opportunities Inc.'s community planning project manager — approached her about creating a forum for city children, Emmett agreed to partner with her. Worth later wrote: "After a week of a lot of laughing, joking, crying, flaunting, disruption, frustration and eagerness, each of (the children) found their voice through writing about something that was important to them." Workshop participant Leosha Lorraine Clinkscales credits Emmett with encouraging her to "write from your heart." She, like the other participants, wrote a letter to the editor, as well as a poem titled, "My Reflection." The letters, which were written with help from local journalist Jennifer Loviglio, touch on topics ranging from the high speed ferry to vandalism.

"When (Emmett) used to tell us what to write about, that made my hands just work," said Leosha, 12. She added that she hadn't seriously thought about going to college before attending the workshop but now wants to study photography.

Emmett believes the children simply needed "for someone to tell them: You can do it. Just try." And some of them, she discovered, already were succeeding. When Emmett told the children about the trust fund, one mother proudly pulled her son's report card from her purse and instructed the boy to show it to Emmett. Devin Young had struck her as "a tough guy," Emmett said, but his report card, "had all A's and B-pluses on it." As he handed it to her, "He said, 'Here. I am on the road to doing it.'"

Professor Emmett received her B.A. from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem Israel, in English Literature, Sociology, and Anthropology and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Rochester.

Alumni News

Edward M. Luby ('82) is currently teaching in the Museum Studies Program at San Francisco State University. After working nearly 10 years in museums, he has moved back into university teaching on issues related to repatriation, cultural property, American Indian groups, museum law and other areas. He received his PhD in Anthropological Sciences in 1990 from SUNY Stony Brook. He would be happy to communicate with students interested in museum related careers. Dr. Luby can be contacted at emluby@sfsu.edu or <http://www.sfsu.edu/~museumst/faculty.html>.

Anna Lessenger ('05) - I am very much enjoying my time here at the Sainsbury Research Unit. They treat us very well at the SRU and in the University. The program is exactly what I hoped for and I am learning a great deal about art, material culture and the anthropology of art (I've discovered Howard Morphy and I love his work). My training in anthropology has come in handy more than I realized it would and I am grateful that I have a background in the subject, as many of my fellow students do not. Also I find myself drawn to the Pacific arts more and more. The lecturer for our class on Art of the Pacific (Josh Bell) recently received his Ph.D. from Oxford, where Michael O'Hanlon was his advisor!

Kate Navarra Thibodeau ('01) - On May 10, 2005, I finished my MA in American History with a concentration in Public History (speciality Museum Studies). After that, we launched our first fundraiser at the Wistariahurst Museum with a Gatsby Gala. I was offered a full time position as Curator at Wistariahurst Museum, which of course I took. I just love it here! I am also writing two books, one for the Springfield Armory and one for Wistariahurst.



Matt Kaminsky and Emily (Sanders) Kaminsky ('96) send their greetings to all Anthro's from Barre, Vermont. We've been here since 2000 and love it! Matt works for a community mental health agency as a case manager and continues to play bass in a variety of local bands and groups. Emily works for Community Capital, a nonprofit small business loan fund (www.cvcapital.org). Matt and Emily recently coordinated the parade for Barre's signature summer festival - Barre Homecoming Days. We have the requisite of two dogs (beagles) and house and car...but no little humans yet! Write to us at barrerocks@verizon.net.

Elizabeth C. Dunn is Assistant Professor of Geography and International Affairs at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She is coeditor of *Civil Society: Challenging Western Models*. Her new publication "Privatizing Poland: Baby Food, Big Business, and the Remaking of Labor", is the Winner of the 2005 AAASS/Orbis Book Prize and the 2005 Ed A. Hewett price given by AAASS.

Faculty News

Professor SIGNITHIA FORDHAM offered both a summation and a critique of papers presented at the Institute of African American Research's 2nd Annual Youth and Race Conference on "ACTING WHITE": REVISITING OGBU AND FORDHAM'S [sic] HYPOTHESIS, held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University on October 28-29, 2005. The conference considered the stigma of 'acting white,' its influence on racial identity formation and academic achievement, and the policy implications of Fordham's thesis for equal education in the U.S. Professor Fordham received her MA from St. John's College in Santa Fe and her Ph.D. from the American University. Before coming to Rochester Professor Fordham taught at Rutgers, UMBC and UCONN.

Professor ROBERT J. FOSTER has been named the Mercer Brugler Distinguished Teaching Professor. The professorship, established in 1979 to honor Chair Emeritus of the Board of Trustees Mercer Brugler '25, recognizes excellence in teaching and encourages development of cross-disciplinary instructional programs. Foster's appointment continues for three years. Professor Foster focuses his research and writing on issues of nationalism, globalization, mass media, and mass consumption. Professor Foster received his Bachelor's degree from University of Chicago, his Master's degree in anthropology from Columbia University, a diploma in social anthropology from Oxford University, and his Doctoral degree in anthropology from the University of Chicago, where he taught as a William Rainey Harper Postdoctoral Instructor before coming to Rochester.

Professor THOMAS P. GIBSON was promoted to Full Professor in July 2005. Professor Gibson received his B.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in social anthropology from the London School of Economics. Before coming to Rochester, he taught at Manchester and Cambridge Universities. He has carried out fieldwork in the Philippines (1979-1981, 1985) and Indonesia (1988, 1989, 2000), and library research in the Netherlands (1994). Support for his research was provided by a grant from the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation for work in Indonesia, and by a Fulbright Fellowship for work in the Netherlands. He has published a monograph "Sacrifice and Sharing in the Philippine Highlands" and a series of articles in journals and edited volumes. His most recent publication "And the Sun Pursued the Moon: Symbolic Knowledge and Traditional Authority Among the Makassar" was published in 2005 by University of Hawaii Press.

Something new to report?

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Send us alumni updates!