DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2013

Chair's Greeting

Dear Friends of SOAN,

The end of the academic year always comes with its transitions. In May, we celebrated with our graduating seniors, welcoming friends and family to campus for our departmental brunch, the honors convocation, and commencement. We wish the class of 2013 the best of luck and look forward to keeping in touch. Continuing students moved on to summer activities, ranging from courses at LC and elsewhere, research with faculty, international travel, and a wide assortment of seasonal jobs on and off campus. We hope you enjoy the weeks ahead and look forward to seeing you in the fall. Incoming students have already begun contacting the department about majoring in SOAN and enrolling in our classes. Prospective students are beginning to scope the department with campus visits, e-mail messages, and phone calls. Across all these transitions, one thing remains constant. It's clear that Lewis & Clark College and the SOAN department continue to attract and graduate smart, engaged, and socially committed students.

Every year also comes with certain faculty changes. As many of you know, Assistant Professor Tim Mechliniski has decided to explore opportunities beyond academia. His contributions to the department over these past several years have been innumerable. It goes without saying that Tim was an excellent teacher, caring advisor, and dedicated community member during his time at the college. We thank him for this work and wish him the best of luck.

We are happy to include among our faculty several new and continuing instructors for 2013-14. Kim Cameron-Dominguez, who has been teaching in Exploration and Discovery and in the SOAN department, will be teaching methods and topics courses. Kabir Heimsath, a graduate of the doctoral program in social and cultural anthropology at Oxford University, will be teaching Introduction to Cultural Anthropology and topics courses in religion and visual anthropology. David Keyes, coming to us from the University of California San Diego, will be teach introductory, methods, and topics courses, including the sociology of sports. We all have much to learn from these experienced teachers, whose areas of interest and research extend department offerings in exciting directions.

The SOAN major requirements will see some modest changes in 2013-14. Highlights include: more choices and flexibility in fulfilling the methods requirement; the integration of the topics and culture area courses into a single category; the formal designation of GEN 231 and GEN 440 as courses meeting SOAN major requirements.

Current majors will have the option of completing their degree following the previous requirements or switching to the new ones. A full description of the new requirements will appear in the 2013-14 college catalog. SOAN faculty will also be available and eager to help their advisees understand and manage the new requirements. To keep track of department policies, procedures and opportunities, please consult the "Student Resources" page on the departmental website.

The role of department chair is also in transition, since I will be on sabbatical during the upcoming year. We are fortunate to have Professor Robert Goldman serving as interim chair of the SOAN department beginning in September. Much as I am looking forward to the opportunity to give my full attention to research and writing, I will miss working with everyone – students, faculty, and staff - at this exciting time.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and best wishes for the year ahead.

All best,

Oren Kosansky Associate Professor of Anthropology and Chair Department of Anthropology and Sociology

Faculty and Staff Updates

Oren Kosansky is currently working to launch the website for The Rabat Genizah Project, a digital humanities initiative funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. This project focuses on the textual cultures of Jewish Morocco, creating a digital platform for critical research on documentary materials housed at the Moroccan Jewish Museum in Casablanca, Morocco. He is also completing an article manuscript on the relationship between linguist research on Judeo-Arabic and colonial power in 20th century Morocco.

Sarah Warren is conducting research in Chile and Argentina this summer with the help of two student research assistants. The research looks at representations of national identity during Chile and Argentina's Bicentennials, particularly the ways in which different ethnic and racial groups are included or excluded. After finishing her research, Sarah is planning on spending time outside with her family.

Jennifer Hubbert spent three weeks in May at a Confucius Institute where she is studying the Chinese government funding of Chinese language programs in the United States. Confucius Institutes also fund American students to travel and study in China over the summer and in July, Jennifer will be accompanying a group of 26 high school students on one of these trips to Beijing and Tianjin.

Deborah Heath is continuing her work on terroir, the taste of place, and on artisanal food and drink, with summer funding for research on biodynamic and 'natural' wine. SOAN/French major Andrew Reetz has been working with Prof. Heath with support from SAAB, the Dean's Office, and the Dinah Dodds Fellowship. Prof. Heath also conducted fieldwork at vineyards in Sicily and France in May and June.

Bruce Podobnik is working on a long-term project that examines global patterns in climate change protests. His data-collection phase is almost complete, thank goodness. By the end of the summer he expects to have an article that reveals patterns in this growing social movement being forged by people around the world who are demanding more be done to avert catastrophic global warming. And he is also taking part in week-long Zen meditation retreats in the mountains surrounding Portland.

Sepideh Bajracharya spent the first month following classes in Kathmandu, where she spent her time following up on old and new research and writing. She is now back in Portland, taking intermittent trips out of the city to visit friends and family, but otherwise writing, reading novels, taking long walks in the woods, and enjoying the sun.

Robert Goldman will be returning from a yearlong sabbatical.

David Keyes is joining the department this fall as a visiting professor. David is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) currently completing his dissertation on the integration of Latinos into elite youth soccer in Southern California. He is also currently a co-instructor for the Mexican Migration Field Research Program (MMFRP) at the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies (CCIS). In his role with MMFRP, David has worked with students to design, conduct and publish original research about the lives of Mexican immigrants in the United States and their family members in Mexico on topics such as civic engagement, education, and health. David looks forward to working with Lewis and Clark students, teaching classes on quantitative methods, immigration, and sports.

Kabir Mansingh Heimsath is joining the department as an adjunct professor. He is a cultural anthropologist who has been teaching for study-abroad programs based in India, Nepal and China for the last fifteen years. Kabir has a background in Religious Studies (University of California Berkeley, BA 1992; University of Washington, Seattle, MA 1996) and continues to study the intersection of religion, identity and politics in contemporary society. Kabir's primary research concentrates on the urban spaces of Lhasa, Tibet (China), with particular interests in visual representation, contemporary art, tourism and photography. He has an MSc in Visual Anthropology (2005) and a DPhil in Cultural Anthropology (2011), both from the University of Oxford, UK.

Kim Cameron-Dominguez is joining the department as an adjunct professor this fall.

Terry Moore, the department administrator, is busy working on web site updates and improvements, finding office space for new faculty, and taking time to enjoy the great summer in Oregon. Terry is planning a river cruise in Europe later this fall.

Kate Rubick, the department's library liaison, is gearing up for your fall arrival. Most of you will have an instruction session with Kate (as part of Qualitative Methods or Senior Thesis). She is the go-to-person for discipline-specific research. Kate is also available to meet individually to discuss research for any SOAN course. Find her at the reference desk or by email at Rubick@lclark.edu to make an appointment.

SOAN Highlights: Recent Graduates

Sam Kellogg: You could say I've been pretty busy since graduating Lewis and Clark in December. It's some kind of habit I picked up on Palatine Hill, this need to move and shake things. I credit the SOAN department for getting me hooked on not just seeing where things could get better, but wanting to do something about it.

Almost every waking second has been consumed by an entrepreneurial itch called Kokonect. Part tech startup, part idealistic dream, Kokonect is a company founded with two other LC SOAN alumni (Margaret Adams and Ella Nimmo). We're developing an online platform to help members of college communities share rides, skills, and stuff on the fly with trusted strangers within their own communities. On the one hand it's an interesting new way to connect practically. On the other, I hope we can spur people to think more carefully about this idea of private property.

But Kokonect is just getting going and bills have to be paid. By day I've been working as a bilingual support specialist at SurveyMonkey in downtown Portland, sinking my teeth into survey methodology while keeping my Spanish chops up.

I'm also working with fellow alumni of the 2012 LC study abroad program in Cuba to bring several Cuban art students to Portland in September. They'll be exhibiting their work and getting a taste of Portland life, closing the loop on our shared experiences in Havana. Isn't it time we, as an institution, invited our friends back home to the Pacific Northwest?

With all of this, though, I've still found time for that cherished American tradition of overconsuming processed animal products that have been heated up on a charcoal grill. The locals refer to this curious seasonal ritual as a "BBQ", though I've yet to discover the origin of this term, or the reason for its ubiquity. Better get back to my research.

Upcoming Events and Student Resources

September 6 Annual Pio Fair

October TBA SOAN Student Gathering
November 1 Gender and Politics in the

New Middle East

December TBA Senior Thesis Presentations

SAAB

The SOAN department is looking for a SAAB representative. We are also always looking for students to tutor for all the core courses: 100, 100, 200, 201, 300. Please contact the department administrator, Terry Moore, for more information (terry@lclark.edu).

Enjoy the rest of your summer!