

# THE PARTICIPANT OBSERVER

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Department of Anthropology  
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## Former Anthropology Professors Donate Books

Alfred and Grace Gredys Harris, both professor emeriti of anthropology at the University of Rochester, donated 3,400 titles of their extensive book collection to the National and University Library of Iceland. A former doctoral student of the Harrises, Sigríður Dúna Kristmundsdóttir, and now a professor of anthropology at the University of Iceland, organized the donation.

The Harrises met while in a graduate program in anthropology at the University of Chicago in the 1940s. They married in 1948 and went on to study together at Oxford University and completed field work on the Taita of Kenya. They both completed their Ph.D's at Cambridge University, continuing on to teach at Smith College, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Brandeis University, and finally the University of Rochester, beginning in 1961.

While at the University of Rochester, the anthropologists helped launch the doctoral program in anthropology in 1963. Alfred Harris served as chair of the department from 1964 – 1971 and Grace Harris served as chair in 1977-1983. Alfred Harris died in 2001.



The Harrises' collection is rich in social anthropology and African anthropology. It also contains over 40 journals, as well as history texts and other social science texts. The University of Iceland is deeply appreciative of the gift, as many titles in the collection are now difficult to obtain and other texts have not been held by Icelandic Universities before.

"We knew that in Iceland people have a great respect for books and we could be sure that our books could be well taken care of and well used," Grace Harris noted, reflecting on the donation.

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# ANTHRO STUDENT NEWS

## Sustainability Initiative

Over the past two years, students of the U of R have been extensively investigating sustainability efforts in both our University and universities nationwide. This summer, a team of interns, including two anthropology majors, took initiative in moving these efforts forward. Sustainability, for them, is a broad discipline and rather a lens for viewing the world.

Rebecca Neville, a French major and former president of Grassroots began research last summer to identify where the U of R stood on sustainability issues. She specifically looked at the connection to academics and the community. From this work, a sustainability campus group developed through Grassroots. Efforts were also made by Audrey Steward, a 2005 take-five student, to greater assess sustainability on campus.

Their collective findings showed that a greater task force was needed to make realistic and thoughtful suggestions to the University. As a result, the University funded six interns to work this summer to complete research on sustainability, including: junior anthropology major, Madeline Cutrona; take-five anthropology major David Ladon; senior religion major Katelin Erikson; junior Julia Voronov; and Rebecca Neville. Each intern has been specifically working on research, community engagement, curriculum development, residential life, and strategic planning.

To begin with, the interns examined the history of the sustainability movement, as well as benchmarking schools that are comparable to the U of R such as, Brandeis, Emory, Tufts, Ithaca, Cornell, and Harvard. From this, a proposal for an Institute of Sustainability and a position for a sustainability coordinator was created. The goal is to bridge the research and teaching of sustainability with actual institutional endeavors.

As their internships draw to a close, a final proposal will be submitted to the University with suggestions on what can be specifically done on campus. Madeline Cutrona, research chair, is encouraged by the positive faculty response and creation of a faculty roundtable.

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## World on the Edge

This spring, two anthropology students attended the annual conference “World on the Edge” in Vancouver, BC for the Society for Applied Anthropology (SFAA). Senior anthropology majors Vivek Shah and Katherine Fox-Boyd were in attendance. The conference ran from March 28 to April 2 and papers explored how culture and identity are maintained in diverse areas that exhibit ethnic or cultural pluralism.

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## Career Spotlight: Community Development

As anthropology majors, something we’ve all agonized over is what we’re going to do with out major after graduation. Anthropology is a broad discipline, and there are a number of career choices one could make, but how do you know which is right for you? As an anthropology student wondering about these very questions right now, it seems it is hard to get a clear idea of just what is out there besides the traditional route of continuing on to graduate school and becoming a professor (continued on page 6).

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2006!!



## *Bachelor of Arts*

**SARA ELIZABETH BELKIN**

*High Distinction*

*Double Major in Religion and Classics*

**NORA KATHLEEN BURTON**

*Distinction*

**LINDSEY NAPIER CLARK**

*Highest Distinction*

*HONORS in Anthropology*

**KATHERINE ELIZABETH FOX-BOYD**

*High Distinction*

*HONORS in Anthropology*

**BRADLEY RYAN GRATTAN**

**ASHA VASANT KHACHANE**

*Distinction*

*Minor in Biology*

**LAUREN SHANA MIZUS**

*Minor in History*

**SONIA ELIZABETH PINZON**

**VIVEK BELLUR SHAH**

*Double Major in Religion & Classics*

**JESSICA ACKERMAN SOMMER**

*Highest Distinction*

*Double Major in Statistics*

*Management Certificates in Marketing & Human*

*Resource Management*

*(Simon School of Business)*

**JESSICA KAYE C. WILLIAM**

*Distinction*

*Minor in Health and Society*

*Management Certificate in Marketing*

*(Simon School of Business)*

## *Special Awards*

**2006 Alumni Award**

***Promoting Anthropology and the Public Good***

*Presenter:*

*Ayala Emmett*

*Associate Professor*

*Recipient:*

***Katherine Elizabeth Fox-Boyd***

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# ANTHROPOLOGY COURSE SCHEDULE

## FALL 2006

ANT 101 Cultural Anthropology	Robert Foster
ANT 1010Q Cultural Anthropology	Anthony Carter
ANT 102 Introduction to Medical Anthro	Lois Metcalf
ANT 110 Introduction to Linguistic Analysis	Christine Gunlogson
ANT 202 Modern Social Theory	Thomas Gibson
ANT 210 Anthropology & Education	Signithia Fordham
ANT 214 Love, Friendship & Community	Thomas Smith
ANT 227 Local & Global Market Research	Maryann McCabe
ANT 248 Colonial & Contemporary Africa	Elias Mandala
ANT 260 Islam In and Out of Africa	Beth Buggenhagen
ANT 265 Religion and Culture	Ernestine McHugh
ANT 266 Global Culture	Robert Foster
ANT 270 Urban Schools: Race & Gender	Signithia Fordham
ANT 276 Gender & Rep: Native American Art	Janet Berlo
ANT 279 ART of the Colonial Encounter	Janet Berlo
ANT 291 Research Practicum	Beth Buggenhagen
ANT 312K Business Beyond Books	Thomas Smith
ANT 390 Supervised Teaching	
ANT 391 Independent Study	
ANT 392 Practicum in Anthropology	
ANT 393 Honors Research in Anthropology	



## ALUMNI NEWS

Melissa Kucinski (BA '91) married Dan Berlin on June 3rd at the University of Rochester Interfaith Chapel. Melissa received a Masters in International Peace & Conflict Resolution from the American University in 2004 with a focus on cross-cultural mediation. She received her J.D. from the Pace Law School in Westchester County, NY with a focus on family law. Melissa and Dan currently live in North Bethesda, Maryland.

Kristin Dowell (BA '99) will be defending her Ph.D. at New York University at the end of April 2006. Kristin has accepted a tenure-track position in Cultural Anthropology and Native North America at Western Kentucky University. Western Kentucky University is interested in Kristin developing a visual anthropology program with a video production component.

Sarah Tarka (BA '05) has just finished her first year of graduate study at the University of Montana. She's focusing on public archaeology and historic sites for her thesis. She'll be working on a Montana ghost town, Coloma, which was occupied during the Montana gold rush. She'll be researching representations of ghost towns and conducting an ethnographic survey to examine the target public for interpreting the site. She hopes to finish her thesis with an interactive website. Sarah would be happy to answer any questions about graduate anthropology programs or other questions.

Tessa Farmer (BA '01) is now in an anthropology program at University of Texas at Austin working with Kamran Ali. She is enjoying the program and finds it very warm and welcoming. She recently married her long time love in Egypt and they are now both living in Austin.

Sunny Chung (BA '97) recently returned from an extensive backpacking trip to Thailand and had exciting underwater adventures. She is now back in Atlanta for the next three years while attending school.

Richard J. Senghas (Ph.D. '97) has been promoted to full professor at Sonoma State University in California. Dr. Senghas will be in Sweden for a year-long sabbatical with his wife, Tina Poles, and daughter Ursula.

Ellen Ray (BA '04) recently obtained her master's this spring from the University of Chicago's Social Service Administration Program. Her specialization was in community organizing, development, and planning. She spent the majority of her time working on organizing against the changes in public housing policies and practices in Chicago, and on refining the Illinois criminal justice system. Next, she plans on getting her social work license.

Heidi Durbeck (MA '96) graduated from the University of Michigan's School of Public Health with a MPH in Health Behavior and Health Education. She recently won the national Linkages Student Award for Excellence in Public Health Practice. She also worked with migrant farm workers and is now looking for a job in community based public health.

### *Something new to report?*

*Department of Anthropology  
University of Rochester  
Rochester, NY 14627  
[www.rochester.edu/College/ANT](http://www.rochester.edu/College/ANT) or  
[anthro@mail.rochester.edu](mailto:anthro@mail.rochester.edu)*

***Spotlight Cont.-***

Community organizer, non-profit developer, or even museum studies specialist are not typical careers you might find listed after taking a career test. So fellow anthro majors, while you are aching (or haven't yet begun) over what to do after graduation, here is a spotlight on the field of community development.

This month, I interviewed Spring Worth, a community organizer working in the Marketview Heights neighborhood in the Northeast side of Rochester for the non-profit organization Rural Opportunities, Inc. ROI develops affordable housing units for low to modest income level people. Over the years, ROI has developed a relationship with the Marketview Heights neighborhood. After graduating from the U of R as an anthropology major in 2004, Worth was hired to coordinate a community project to engage residents in the process of revitalizing their neighborhood.

During her senior year Worth decided that she wanted to focus her senior thesis on Marketview Heights, the neighborhood she grew up in. After working for a block club in sector 10, she found people with energy and hope who wanted to change their neighborhood. She continued her project during her second semester and began to research the neighborhood on a historical basis to determine why things were the way they were. She was hired immediately after graduation, after writing a newspaper article highlighting the historical implications that gave rise to some of the problems of Marketview Heights. Since, her job has been to organize community residents to create change in the neighborhood.

***What is community development?***

By definition, community development is a field that aims to build communities on a local level through building people power and non-profit strength to bring social and economic change. Worth notes that it is a very broad field, but the underlying goal should be in revitalizing a community, but as she has learned, this is not always the case.

While there are graduate programs centered on Community development, historically the field has been based upon on the job training. Building bridges between groups of people often relies on people and organizing skills that can often only be learned through experience.

***Why might anthropology students like it?***

The attraction of the job to Worth, one that holds from her education as an anthropology major, is that she is able to give a "holistic approach to people and people's lives." She is able to tell the story of disenfranchised people and represent their voices while questioning how images of people begin and who perpetuates them. She is able to take the skills she has learned in an academic setting and apply them to her work to discover what works and what doesn't in the community. The best thing about her job, Worth adds, is when she can "see empowerment and people making changes."

***What kind of skills are necessary?***

Among many things, Worth notes that being a community organizer requires "people skills, a strong sense of community organizing and development, and math skills for calculating tax credits and accounting." However, most importantly community organizers and community developers in general should talk to those they are trying to help. Community development work is about "thinking about sustainability in a community and encouraging investment into a neighborhood where there is historically disinvestment."

One of the most important things Worth has learned is how to mediate conflict and difference while putting into practice critical thinking skills. As an organizer for Marketview Heights, Worth has had to mediate a variety of input from people living in the community. She has learned how to mediate these differences on a micro level, while questioning what these changes will mean on a macro level.

-Colette Carmouche  
mcarouc@mail.rochester.edu