

demarc year starts in Sept. Graduate programs instead tend to have three terms in the academic year, which starts either in Sept or Jan. Facultades with both undergraduate and graduate programs often have two different term structures.

Not all university professors do research. Some of them specialize in teaching and are expected to produce teaching materials only. Those specializing in research have relatively light teaching loads. In research centers, conversely, teaching is not compulsory. Full-time researchers might not teach for long periods of time. Universities have established curricula that can be modified only through complicated procedures. At research centers, graduate courses are directly related to researchers' interests. The content of the courses thus varies greatly from one year to the next.

The colegios de postgraduados are a hybrid mix between universities and research centers. They offer highly structured graduate programs, but professors also are expected to conduct research. The result is a high-quality graduate education, since teaching and research are compulsory for their academic staff.

As a result of this complicated academic structure, full-time teaching specialists at universities do little or no research. Professor-researchers do both research and teaching, but are not expected to take on full teaching loads. They have more flexibility to join inter-institutional research projects and teach courses outside their facultad or research center. University structure now is under full revision, and it is headed toward more teaching duties for researchers, research obligations for teaching specialists and the possibility of students taking courses at different facultades or even at different universities and research centers.

*Applied anthropology:* The Mexican government is an important source of employment for anthropologists. The *Instituto Nacional Indigenista* (Institute of Indigenous Affairs, INI) relies on research conducted by fieldwork specialists, including anthropologists, in indigenous communities. The INI has a system of research and administration units dispersed throughout different regions of several Mexican states. Anthropologists usually chaired different units of INI in the past. Today, indigenous politicians often chair INI units. Anthropologists also work at federal agencies other than the INI when these require fieldwork specialists. Also, a growing number of Mexican anthropologists are founding or joining development NGOs.

#### Statement on Education for All

Before the Apr 2000 World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal, three Latin American scholars drafted and circulated what they called *The Latin American Statement on Education for All*. The statement called for an education based on its relevance to Latin American societies, greater equity in the access to schools, and a long-term vision of education as a tool to satisfy personal, cultural and social needs. Over 3,000 people have signed the statement so far. For more information, visit [www.fronesis.org/prolat.htm](http://www.fronesis.org/prolat.htm).

*I welcome short articles and comments that could be of interest to our readers. Please contact me at Facultad de Antropología, U Autónoma de Yucatán, Calle 76 #455-LI, Mérida, Yucatán, México; tel and fax [52]999/925-4523; gvargas@webtelmex.net.mx or gabriela\_vargas\_cetina@hotmail.com.*

## Society of Lesbian and Gay Anthropologists

BARB WEST, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

I am writing this column having just returned from the 2001 AAA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Very few SOLGA members were able to make it to the business meeting, so I thought I should provide a brief outline of what happened.

Before the meeting even began, there was much to look at, thanks to an interesting display of LGBTQ history and cultural sites in Washington, DC. Prior to this, I knew that Dupont Circle was the place to visit when in the capital, but I hadn't known that Washington's Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance was the oldest continuously active gay and lesbian civil rights organization in the US, having been formed in 1971. Nor was I familiar with the *Washington Blade*, a weekly newspaper with all the news, events, listings and important information for the large LGBTQ community in the capital.

Once the meeting began, 2001-02 Program Chairs David Valentine and Heather Levi spoke about the panel and individual paper submissions they had put together into the fine program for 2001. One interesting trend they noticed is that SOLGA seems to have become the section to turn to when submitting papers on sexuality generally. They also encouraged SOLGA members to think about themes, topics and panels for the 2002 AAA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, keeping this new trend in mind. One suggestion that emerged from the meeting was for a panel on nudity, so if anybody is working on a project related to nudity, don't hesitate to submit it to SOLGA for review.

Following this report, I urged people to send me news and information I can include in our column, and short news items or technology or fieldwork tips to be used as "filler" in the AN in place of the cartoons that have graced the AN in the past. We also voted to voluntarily give up our column in September in favor of printing the preliminary meeting program.

Following these reports, the meeting opened up for a discussion of several issues that have been raised during the past year on the SOLGA listserv. One of these issues is whether SOLGA can or should serve as a co-sponsor of meetings or conferences other than our participation in AAA meetings. This issue came up last year with regard to the Canadian Anthropological Society meetings in Ontario. This time it was decided that SOLGA would not co-sponsor the meetings because nothing in the constitution states that it is possible to do so. Furthermore, there also was no mechanism to allow SOLGA members or officers to review any of the panels or papers that

were being presented at these meetings. So some officers felt that there was a potential for sponsoring something with which we don't agree if we had not accepted or even reviewed it. While this debate began and a decision was made over email in the fall, the discussion continued at the meeting. If you have feelings about this topic, please join the listserv and make your opinion known!

Another topic that emerged during the discussion was the AAA policy on meeting in so-called sodomy states—those states, such as Louisiana, that have anti-sodomy laws on the books. The current policy is that we will not meet in those states, unless it is in a municipality that has local laws that do protect individual rights based on sex or gender. This is how we are able to meet in New Orleans this year. Based on the case of a woman who was arrested in New Orleans in Aug 2001 under the sodomy statute, some SOLGA members feel that this policy is not strong enough. However, other members want to continue to reward municipalities that are doing the right thing by our community. Several individuals currently are working on position papers on this issue and by the 2002 AAA Annual Meeting, we should be able to have a very healthy debate on the topic. If you feel strongly one way or the other, please use the listserv to make those feelings known and perhaps begin to work with the individuals writing those papers.

Finally, the meeting closed with a handing over of one of our co-chair positions to Deborah Elliston from Sandi Faiman-Silva.

*Please send your comments, new column ideas or other information to Barb West at [bwest@uop.edu](mailto:bwest@uop.edu). To sign up for the SOLGA listserv, send a message to [listserv@american.edu](mailto:listserv@american.edu) with "subscribe solga-1" in the body of the message.*

## Society for Linguistic Anthropology

JAMES STANLAW AND MARK PETERSON,  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

This is the first SLA column after the 2001 AAA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, so this month's column will be devoted exclusively to announcements. The first interview of the year will appear next month.

#### New AN Contributing Editor

I must begin by sadly reporting that my colleague and friend Richard Senghas has finished his term as co-contributing editor for the SLA Section News column for AN. For the past two years, he has done an excellent job overseeing this column, and has taught me much of what I know—and still don't know!—about how to make this an informative and interesting feature of the AN. I know I speak for others in thanking him for his help, and I am certain his timely news, reviews and wit will be missed by all our readers.

That said, however, I am also happy to report that soon Mark Peterson will be joining me as new co-contributing editor. Mark brings not only an anthropology background to the column, but also extensive past experience in political journalism as well. He currently is assistant professor at American U in Cairo, and his research interests include the ethnography of communication, globalization, nationalism and semiotics. His new book *Anthropology and Mass Communication* will soon be published by Berghahn.

#### SLA Member Accomplishments

As always, SLA members are active in a wide variety of areas. This month, for example, Laura Miller (Loyola U) was voted president-elect of the East Asia Section of the AAA. As a former program chair and Board member of the SLA, her leadership skills will no doubt be an important asset to this new subsection. Keith Basso (U of New Mexico) won the Staley Prize for his new book *Wisdom Sits in Places*. Sarah Meacham (UCLA) won the SLA Student Paper Prize presented at the 2001 AAA Annual Meeting.

#### SLA Panels

It is time to start preparing papers for the 2002 AAA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. At the 2001 Annual Meeting, outgoing SLA Program Chair Laura Miller reported that we were well-represented with three invited sessions, 16 organized sessions and three sessions of volunteered papers. Incoming Program Chair Jack Sidnell (Northwestern U) again is encouraging submissions for sponsored SLA sessions. The standards he and Laura used in evaluating papers and sessions included the following: 1) connections to the AAA Annual Meeting theme; 2) relevance for linguistic anthropology; 3) clear and focused abstracts; and 4) for panels, coherence among individual papers and how they relate to the session abstract. Also, there was a concerted effort to get a good mix of junior and senior scholars and a variety of institutions represented. These criteria will again be followed this year. The program chairs also have asked that people submitting panels related to language in any way inform them ahead of time, even though they are not requesting SLA sponsorship or review. This is to avoid scheduling conflicts for panels that might draw similar audiences (a problem sometimes seen in the past).

#### SALSA Call for Papers

The 10th Annual Meetings of the Symposium About Language and Society—Austin (more commonly known by the acronym SALSA) will be held Apr 12-14 at the U of Texas-Austin. This year SALSA is explicitly seeking sessions on linguistic anthropology, sociolinguistics, the ethnography of communication, and language and identity. The keynote speakers will be SLA members Bambi Schieffelin (NYU), Nora England (U of Texas-Austin), Anita Pomerantz (SUNY-Albany) and John Baugh (Stanford). The deadline for abstracts is Jan 23. More details can be found at [www.utexas.edu/students/salsa](http://www.utexas.edu/students/salsa).

Please send your comments, contributions, news and announcements to SLA Contributing Editors Jim Stanlaw ([stanlaw@ilstu.edu](mailto:stanlaw@ilstu.edu)) or (starting in March) Mark Peterson ([peterston@aucegypt.edu](mailto:peterston@aucegypt.edu)). SLA President Elinor Ochs can be reached at [echos@anthro.ucla.edu](mailto:echos@anthro.ucla.edu). Mary Bucholtz and Elizabeth Keating, the new editors of the *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, can be reached at [bucholtz@tamu.edu](mailto:bucholtz@tamu.edu) and [ekeating@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:ekeating@mail.utexas.edu), respectively. SLA 2002 Program Chair Jack Sidnell can be reached at [jsidnell@northwestern.edu](mailto:jsidnell@northwestern.edu).

## Society for Medical Anthropology

ANN MILES, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The SMA had much to be proud of during the 2001 AAA Annual Meeting. In addition to the very active participation of our members throughout the program, two medical anthropologists, Arthur Kleinman and Gay Becker, were honored by the AAA with very prestigious awards. We devote this column to honoring their contributions to medical anthropology through the words of two of their students.

#### Arthur Kleinman

By Paul Farmer (PIH/Harvard Medical School)

The scene is Washington, DC, home to another frantic AAA Annual Meeting. About a dozen medical anthropologists are cloistered in a room, charting the future of the SMA. Some of us are a bit distracted, though, because we're missing something momentous. It is not the thump of very loud disco, dead overhead, that causes our hearts to wander. It is rather that Arthur Kleinman is receiving the Franz Boas Award for Distinguished Service to Anthropology.

Looking around the room, it was easy to see the SMA leadership was rather young (from early twenties well into the fifth decade, I'd guess—anthropologists, it is clear, just say no to R-gaine), still excited about medical anthropology and indebted to Arthur. No wonder, about half of us have been his students or trainees.

Arthur made it his job to create structures so that others—hundreds, really—could become medical anthropologists. The fact that he did this while creating a truly massive amount of original scholarship is astounding. He stands alone in his dual contributions—program-building and scholarly—to the growth of this field.

Arthur's scholarship is of a breathtakingly broad range. From the minutiae of a Taiwanese healing ceremony to the less ethnographically visible forces of structural violence, it's all there in Arthur's work. For more than 25 years, he has been on a path not yet blazed, but the part behind him is well-lit and smooth, so that others may follow, or break off on new trails. Never afraid of the pragmatic—from his articles in biomedical literature to collaborative projects, such as the World Mental Health Report, aimed at changing policies—Arthur continues to climb a narrow and stony way. But he always has held that lantern high above him. To call Arthur

Kleinman a "beacon intellectual" is merely to say that he is a teacher who truly enlightens.

Other personal traits make Arthur a great, if at times forbidding, teacher. He hates sloppiness and gratuitousness; he doesn't hold with tardiness or incivility, either. But if, as his student, you are willing to listen with humility, there is much to be learned. To my profit, I still read his work as if I were his graduate student.

Arthur Kleinman is, above all, a believer. I'm sure such a claim would make him blush, or even scowl (uncompellingly, as a rule: those close to him know his heart is solid gold and are unfazed by his scowls). But he is a believer all right, one of the last great Enlightenment intellectuals to turn his attention to that borderland, as he called it, between medicine and anthropology. As a scholar, Arthur Kleinman could have done whatever he wanted. We are certainly lucky to have him in medical anthropology.

#### Gay Becker

By Abigail Kohn (U of Sydney)

I am just delighted that Gay Becker has won the Robert B Textor and Family Award for Excellence in Anticipatory Anthropology for her book. Gay's students have always known that she is an outstanding anthropologist and teacher, and it's deeply gratifying to have the AAA also acknowledge her achievements. Her work exemplifies that rare combination of theoretical sophistication, profound insight and lucid, accessible writing style: she is a model who inspires and motivates us. For years, Gay has been one of the most sought-after advisers at the Joint Program in Medical Anthropology at UC-Berkeley and UC-San Francisco. Those of us fortunate enough to have studied with her recognize that the deep respect for human dignity and agency that she exhibits in her work also carries over into her warm, supportive work with students. She treats us like colleagues, encouraging us to pursue our own interests and reach our own conclusions. She never expected us to adopt her particular theoretical or methodological approaches; she only asked that we remain true to the basic principles and tenets of the anthropological endeavor.

More personally, Gay's genuine care for her students makes the lonely and often challenging experience of graduate school a distinctly more humane experience. For these and her many other outstanding qualities, we are enormously grateful.

To submit to this column, contact Ann Miles at [miles@wmich.edu](mailto:miles@wmich.edu).

