4-21-2009

13th Annual Petersheim Academic Exposition

Seton Hall University

ANTHROPOLOGY
in the Real World
(Year IV)

Please join us at the 13th Annual

Petersheim Academic Expo

for another showcase of Anthropology student work
this year featuring DIGITAL STORIES!
Tuesday April 21, 2009
Jubilee Hall: room 220
1-2:15 pm

Check it out!

Ethnography and digital storytelling:
anthropological research online and from the field

Rachel Veclotch, "Survival of Sweetgrass Basketry &
South Carolina Gullah Women"

Amanda Meehan, "Weaving and Women's Cloth among the
Karen of Northern Thailand"

Gillian Bath, "Women, Islam, and Identity: The Misconceptions of the Veil"

Alumni Discussant: Stephen Daly, MA Anthropology Student, Columbia University

Contact Prof Quizon quizonch@shu.edu for additional information
Poster design based on original layout by D. Durant, Anthropology Class of 2007

Survival of Sweetgrass Basketry & South Carolina Gullah Women

By Rachel Veclotch, BA Anthropology, Class of '09

This past summer, I was involved in the university's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) and this presentation examines how my project that initially set out to study the ecological factors influencing sweetgrass basketry in South Carolina's Low Country evolved to include a consideration of gender and craft practices. I set out to conduct ethnographic fieldwork in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina and in the process, picked up on many connections between the women I worked with, their distant ancestors across the ocean in West Africa, and modern sweetgrass basketry, especially as a tourist based commodity. This presentation focuses not only on my research findings, but also on the methods I used to achieve them through the use of two preliminary short films shared publicly on Youtube.

An Example of Using Digital Stories to Present Student Research: Weaving and Women's Cloth among the Karen of Northern Thailand

By Amanda Meehan, BS Biology, Class of '09

The creation of a digital story is a unique way of compiling research using a variety of resources including images, narrative, and music. Students can benefit from creating a digital story because the use of multimedia enhances the presentation of their research beyond what can be presented in a traditional research paper. I will discuss the process of creating a digital story based on my experience, and the audience will view the digital story that I produced. My digital story focuses on weaving and women's cloth among the Karen of Northern Thailand. Weaving is an art form that is very important in Karen culture, and while many of the Karen reserve the wearing of traditional clothing for special occasions today, the clothing is still an integral part of their cultural identity. I will detail how I chose this topic, how I conducted my research utilizing internet resources, and how I used software to compile the finished product.

Women, Islam, and Identity: The Misconceptions of the Veil

By Gillian Bath, BA Anthropology & BA Diplomacy/International Relations, Class of '09

Regarding gender, the West tends to stereotype Islam as a patriarchal, domineering, anti-modern religion that restricts women's rights and closely associates this with the Islamic "dress code", specifically the veil. Despite the negative associations with violence and oppression, however, the veil is a central tool for women to define and express their religiosity and identity. In this paper, the case of Java, Indonesia is explored as a place where the practice of veiling has developed and spread among young women as a symbol of their empowerment, piety, and self-expression in the cultural, social, and religious contexts. Through the use of images and digital story, the context and manifestation of the veil in Javanese culture is visually represented to illustrate its dynamics and significance for women.

Past participants in the **ANTHROPOLOGY in the Real World**
series held during the Petersheim Academic Expo include
Year I (2003): Reimi Takeuchi (Class '03), Leandra Alejandro (Class '03)
Year II (2005): Megan Quinn (Class '05), Paul Bryant (Class '07)
Year III (2007): Deborah Durant (Class '07), Stephen Daly (Class '08), Nicole Lebron (Class '08)
along with Sociology students Sandra Spino (Class '07),
Jeffrey Cruz (Class '07) and John Tomaselli (Economics, Class '08)

Past discussants include *Seton Hall University Anthropology professor Peter Savastano (Years I & III) along with former SHU faculty members Alyshia Galvez (Year II) & Kristen Weis-Bourgerie (Year III)*

The Anthropology in the Real World Series is organized every two years by the Anthropology Program of the Department of Sociology & Anthropology as part of the annual Seton Hall University Petersheim Academic Exposition. The series showcases original student research that relates to various modes of ethnographic practice, presented to an audience of peers, and with the formal participation of a faculty member or, as in this year's panel, an alumnus as discussant.

Students need not be Anthropology majors or minors but the papers themselves must actively incorporate ethnographic methods or engage in related research issues of anthropological import. If you have a paper that you wish to be considered for the series, or have questions about how to present your research in similar venues, please contact Prof Cherubim Quizon (quizonch@shu.edu), Prof Peter Savastano (savastpe@shu.edu) or any of your professors from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.