

World Dispatch

Seniors Complete Comps



Left to Right: Jennifer Gandy, Nadia Al Hashimi, Catherine Scott, Dr. Galaty, Dr. Tsui, Dr. Bey, Dr. Murchison

Six students graduating this May with a degree in Sociology/Anthropology –Nadia Al Hashimi, Matthew Chouest, Jane Fuller, Jennifer Gandy, Catherine Scott, and Katharine Veron – all successfully passed their comprehensive exams last week.

The SOAN Department is very proud of its graduating seniors and wishes them the best of luck.

Jennifer Gandy, when asked to describe her comps experience, says, "it really teaches you how to properly prepare and work on a deadline, and it teaches you how to

Spring 2010 In this issue:

- Seniors Complete Comps
- University of Tirana, Albania Representatives Visit Millsaps
- Students Attend Sociology and Anthropology Conferences
- To Be Published: Archaic State Interactions
- Dr. Murchison Publishes Book on Ethnography
- New Class Examines the South
- Students' Summer Adventures
- Recent Grads Head to Grad School

Please e-mail corrections to newsletter editor Erin Sanders at sandeet@millsaps.edu. World Dispatch Published bi-yearly by the Millsaps Sociology and Anthropology Department.

UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA REPRESENTATIVES VISIT MILLSAPS

On Thursday, March 4, 2011, representatives from the University of Tirana in Albania –Valentina Duka, Ilira Chaushi, Lorenc Bejko, and Iris Pojani – came to campus. Anthropology/Sociology Department Chair Dr. Mike Galaty established Millsaps' relationship with the University of Tirana through his work in Albania over the past ten years.

Though Lorenc Bejko has visited before, this

was the first time the three women representatives were able to visit campus. Dr. Galaty believes that the partnership between the two schools was made stronger by the representatives' visit because they were able to experience Millsaps campus and understand what a small liberal arts college is like compared to larger universities.

Tirana Reps continued, page 2

STUDENTS ATTEND SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY CONFERENCES

In February, five Sociology/Anthropology majors –Evan Parker, Nile Patterson, Beth Smith, Kailey Rocker, and Amanda Cloyd –presented papers at the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association Conference. All of the prizes for the Undergraduate Session were awarded to Millsaps students.

Evan Parker, a junior, was awarded first place for his paper, "The Legitimacy of Attainment in American Society." Evan is an anthropology major and is currently working on his honors project –which looks at developing models of abandonment at the Stairway to Heaven at Kiuc –under Dr. Bey.

Nile Patterson was presented with second place for his paper, "The Color-Coated Income Gap," which deals with the inequality of income between black and white Americans. He is a junior.

Beth Smith, a sophomore, was awarded third place for her paper, "Gender Gap in Pay, Education and Occupational Sex Segregation: A Sociological Analysis."

Kailey Rocker and Amanda Cloyd also presented their papers at the conference. The department is very proud of everyone who presented at the MS-AL Sociological Conference, as well as Nadia Al Hashimi, who presented at the Southern Anthropological Society Conference in Savannah, GA.

Nadia's paper "Keepers of the Pass: Women's Gender Roles in Northern Albania" examines how the rapid sociopolitical shift in Albania has affected women's spaces and places in strong patriarchal familial systems in the northern Albanian village of Theth. Nadia is a senior and majoring in Anthropology.

SENIOR COMPS CONT.

work with and rely on a group. *Senior Comps continued, 2 page* Working with the group was, in my opinion, the most rewarding part since we were really able to get to know one another better. We learned to recognize each other's strengths and weaknesses and how we could best compliment each other in these respects so that our group would be more balanced and more prepared to build on each other's

arguments during orals." Students take Senior Seminar in the fall semester of their senior year, which acts as a tool to help prepare students for Comps. In January, seniors majoring in the same department are placed into study groups, in which the students create a reading list as well as study questions for their selected readings. They then have the next two months to study and prepare

to take their comps in March. The comprehensive exams are composed of two parts, a written section and an oral section. The written section is completed individually based on each group's respective reading list, and the group takes the oral portion as a whole. Millsaps is one of the few colleges in the U.S. that requires their students to pass comprehensive exams to graduate, and the department's use of study groups is a unique

UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA REPS VISIT CONT.



Both schools hope to gain from this relationship; students from Tirana can look forward to getting experience in our new Keck lab, and Millsaps students will be able to participate in archaeological fieldwork in Albania.

Along with students, the two schools hope to exchange professors as well. Though the plans to swap professors is still a work in progress, the first student exchanges might occur as soon as the 2010 Fall semester.

TO BE PUBLISHED: ARCHAIC STATE INTERACTIONS

Archaic State Interaction: The Eastern Mediterranean in the Bronze Age was contributed to and co-edited by Dr. Michael Galaty –Professor of Anthropology and SOAN Department Chair at Millsaps – and Dr. William Parkinson of the Field Museum in Chicago. The book presents papers originally prepared for an Advanced Seminar chaired by Galaty and Parkinson at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 2007. It will be published in April by SAR Press.

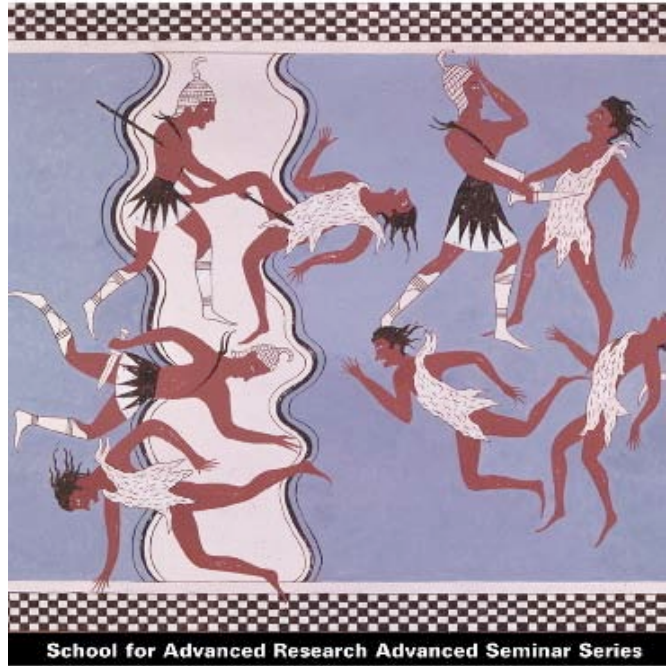
This book was written in response to the decline of theoretical development concerning the interactions between early state societies. By focusing more on the interactions between states rather than how they evolved, an anthropological model was formed to help us understand not only how ancient states interacted with one another but also how they interacted with other societies of differing political organization and economic systems.

By taking this different approach to the issue of theoretical development, the authors of *Archaic State Interaction* have created a new way to view the social interactions between ancient states that will be useful to anthropologists who are researching connections between social processes occurring on differing geographical scales and across different temporal durations.

Other contributors to the book include, John Cherry, Eric Cline, P. Nick Kardulias, Robert Schon, Susan Sherratt, Helena Tomas, and David Wengrow.

Archaic State Interaction

The Eastern Mediterranean in the Bronze Age



Edited by William A. Parkinson and Michael L. Galaty

Contributors John F. Cherry, Eric H. Cline, Michael L. Galaty, P. Nick Kardulias, William A. Parkinson, Robert Schon, Susan Sherratt, Helena Tomas, David Wengrow

DR. MURCHISON PUBLISHES BOOK ON ETHNOGRAPHY

Julian Murchison, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Sociology at Millsaps, recently published his book on ethnography, *Ethnography Essentials: Designing, Conducting, and Presenting Your Research*. Dr. Murchison has spent over ten years working as an anthropologist in southern Tanzania examining the relationships between health and religion in a small town. Through working with the healers of the town, Dr. Murchison became interested in analyzing the local perceptions of HIV/AIDS and the antiretroviral drugs that are administered.

Now, he has used his years of experience in the field to provide a step-by-step guide to writing ethnographies. In his student friendly book, Dr. Murchison outlines the processes and

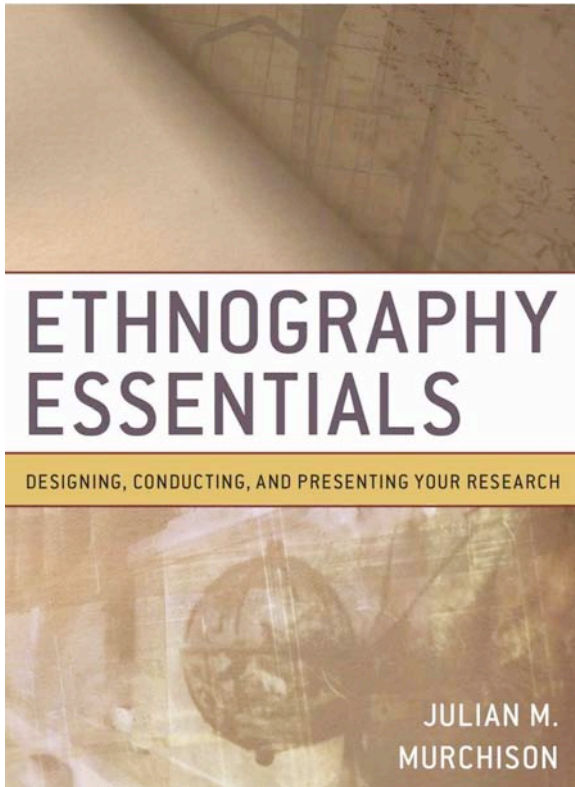
methods involved in writing ethnography from start to finish. *Ethnography Essentials* also gives practical advice for not only taking field notes, but also how to coherently include those notes in your ethnography.

When asked why he decided to write this book on ethnography, Dr. Murchison said, "Seeing students find the real joy in anthropology through their own ethnographic experiences is one of the most rewarding things about teaching anthropology. I undertook this project in order to facilitate those experiences for future students."

Book on Ethnography continued, page 4

In addition to publishing this book to aid students in their research, Dr. Murchison also

BOOK ON ETHNOGRAPHY CONT.



frequently teaches Ethnographic Research and Writing as well as Methods and Statistics –required classes for Sociology/Anthropology Majors at Millsaps –in addition to a few more specialized classes he is offering this semester such as Spirit

Possession and Cross-Cultural Human Sexuality.

He also teaches a class called “Intro to Anthropology” each semester. This class is designed to teach students the basics of anthropology and ethnography, and the students are required to conduct their own research and turn in their ethnography at the end of the semester. “That class made me realize that I want to be an anthropologist, and I am glad that I now have this resource to help guide me through writing future ethnographies,” says Erin Sanders –a freshman at Millsaps –about Dr. Murchinson’s Intro to Anthropology class and his recently published book.

Ethnography Essentials is available at Amazon.com and is sure to help aspiring anthropologists produce interesting, academic ethnographies.

NEW CLASS EXAMINES THE SOUTH

Sociology of the American South is a new class offered in the Spring 2010 semester at Millsaps College. This class, taught by Caroline Ellender, breaks down common assumptions and stereotypes associated with the American South and looks into how it became known as such a distinct region. The curriculum of the class focuses heavily on media and music as a way to engage such popular ideas associated with the South.

Sociology of the American South allows students to examine their own notions of the South and the historical factors that have influenced this region. Caroline and her students also explore how the connections between social factors –such as gender, class, and race –and health impact people’s lives. Because of Millsaps’ location in Jackson, MS (the South) students are also able to evaluate their own experiences and gain a hands-on understanding through exercises in the community.

When asked to describe her experience in the class, Katie Wilson said, “I think that Sociology of the American South has helped me get a better understanding of who I am as a southerner. It has

also given me confidence in representing myself and the South in my future career and life.” Ashley Martin, another student in the class, described her experience by saying: “This class allows students to challenge stereotypes and confront prejudices, delving into the heart of the common American belief that the American South is a problem for America. By exploring various aspects of Southern culture, I have been encouraged to ask myself *why* and *how* the South is conceived in this way.” Both students describe the class as largely discussion based and a good opportunity for everyone to recognize the complexities of the region and its relationship to the larger American society.

Caroline Ellender, an adjunct instructor of Sociology at Millsaps College, is currently working on her dissertation here in Jackson for her Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky. Her research focuses on how United States poverty policies and local perceptions of children’s needs influence the

Class Examines South continued, page 5

CLASS EXAMINES SOUTH CONT.

implementation of programs aimed at helping low-income children living in Jackson. She is also looking into how class, gender, and race work together with age to shape how children see themselves and their worlds.

As a researcher in the South, the stereotypes she is met with on a day-to-day basis inspired her to create the Sociology of the American South class so that she and others are able to gain a sense of not only why the South is seen as such a specific region but also why it came to be perceived in this way.



Sociology of American South class at Smith Robertson Museum in Jackson

STUDENTS' SUMMER ADVENTURES

I'm heading to Albania. I, along with Brandi Buckler, was invited by Dr. Galaty to help him with a new survey project that's being started this summer in Shkodra. We'll be teaming up with a few professors and students from the Univeristy of Tirana in Albania. The project will begin on May 15th and will last until June 15th. Afterwards, Bandi and I plan to travel throughout the Balkans for about two weeks. I've never been overseas; I've never really been to any other country. I've also never participated in any type of survey project before. This summer should be an unforgettable experience, and I look forward to finally exploring Albania and its surrounding areas as well as getting to participate in the field!

Evan Parker

Kailey Rocker



(Picture right)



This summer, I'm traveling to the Puuc region Yucatan with Dr. George Bey III. I will be serving as a fieldworker for the Bolonchen Regional Archaeological Project. I will also be gathering and analyzing data for my Honors Project on abandonment processes on a small residential hill in the site. During weekdays, I will live and work on the reserve owned by Millsaps College, Kaxil Kiuic. For the weekends, I'll have the opportunity to either stay in the nearby city of Oxcutzcab, or travel around the Yucatan peninsula to places such as Merida, Tulum, Valladolid. (Picture left)

RECENT GRADUATES GO TO GRAD SCHOOL

Both Christie Kokel and Michelle Buchanan, both of whom are Sociology/Anthropology Alumnae, will begin graduate school this fall.

Christie Kokel, who graduated in 2009, will be attending the University of Texas at San Antonio to obtain her Ph.D. in Ecological Anthropology. She currently works as the Laboratory Manager and Technician in the W.M. Keck Center for Instrumental Biochemical and Comparative Archaeology at Millsaps. She hopes to continue this type of research when she begins grad school.

Michelle Buchanan, who graduated in 2008, accepted an offer to attend the University of Kentucky. She will begin working towards her Ph.D. In the fall, specializing in Applied/ Public Anthropology with an emphasis in gender and development studies. Currently, she lives and works in New Orleans at Evans-Graves Engineers, which is a local civil engineering firm.

World Dispatch

Spring 2010

In this issue...

- Seniors Complete Comps
- University of Tirana, Albania Representatives Visit Millsaps
- Students Attend Sociology and Anthropology Conferences
- To Be Published: Archaic State Interactions
- Dr. Murchison Publishes Book on Ethnography
- New Class Examines the South
- Students' Summer Adventures
- Recent Grads Head to Grad School

We're building a **bigger, better alumni community**. E-mail your updates to sandeet@millsaps.edu.

Please include your name, graduation year, and everything you've been up to; and you'll be included in the next edition of the newsletter. Become a part of the alumni network (www.millsapssoan.ning.com) and connect directly with your former classmates.

For more news, check out www.millsaps.edu/socio