



# Muhlenberg College

## Sociology and Anthropology

### Spring 2012 Newsletter

## The Department Welcomes Two New Faculty Members and Bids a Fond Farewell to Bill Abruzzi



Amy Cooper

**Amy Cooper,  
Assistant  
Professor of  
Anthropology**

In the Fall 2012 semester, Amy Cooper will join the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology.

Cooper is a cultural and medical anthropologist, broadly focused on the social and political aspects of health care in urban Latin America and the Caribbean. She comes to the department from the Department of Comparative Human Development at University of Chicago, where she will be defending her dissertation this spring. Her dissertation entitled "*Vital Politics: Health and Citizenship in Venezuela*" examines recent transformations in the Venezuelan public health system, showing ethnographically how the body and medicine have become the grounds for reworking ideas of national citizenship and community belonging. She will teach Cultural Anthropology, as well as electives in her areas of topical and regional specialization. Her courses will contribute to the Public Health program and Latin American Studies, as well as to the Anthropology curriculum.

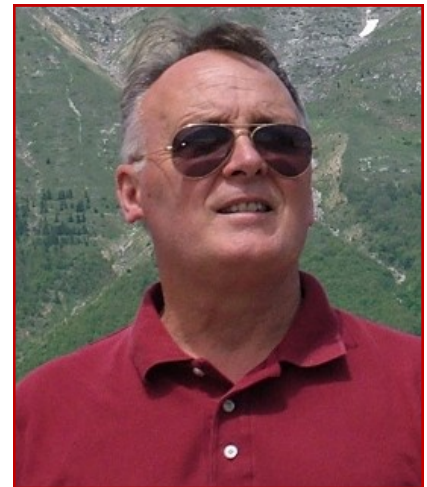
**Neda Maghbouleh,  
Consortium for Faculty Diversity  
Postdoctoral Fellow**

Neda Maghbouleh will join the Sociology and Anthropology Department for the 2012-2013 academic year as a Consortium for Faculty Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow. Maghbouleh is a doctoral candidate and Emil Steck Fellow in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She comes to the department from a visiting lecturer position at Smith College. She will defend her dissertation, "*To Seek and Find All Barriers: Iranian American Youth Challenging Neo-Assimilation at Home, School, & Summer Camp*", this spring.

Maghbouleh's academic interests span the domains of race, ethnicity, culture, gender, and social inequality. She has written on racialization and Middle Eastern Americans, the evolution of theories of assimilation, pop music in the Iranian diaspora, and "inherited nostalgia" as an analytic and interpretive mode among second generation youth. In recent years, she has been an NSF-funded Teaching Fellow at the California Nanosystems Institute and an ASA Teaching Innovations & Professional Development Award winner. Maghbouleh will teach Introduction to Sociology and Quantitative Research Methods.



Neda Maghbouleh



Bill Abruzzi. See page 2

### Upcoming Events

*Wetlands as Domesticated Landscapes: Pre-Columbian Water Management in the Bolivian Amazon*

Clark Erickson, University of Pennsylvania, Recital Hall, Baker Center for the Arts  
7:30 pm, April 25, 2012

*Senior Symposium*

**Sociology & Anthropology  
Department**  
**Refreshments will be served**  
**5:00 - 6:30, May 1, 2012**

## A Heartfelt Farewell to Bill Abruzzi

At the end of the Spring 2012 semester Dr. William Abruzzi, Associate Professor of Anthropology, will retire, thus ending a career in teaching and research that has spanned over thirty years, nearly half of which was spent at Muhlenberg College. Bill received his B.S. in Economics from Widener University in 1966, his M.A. in Anthropology from Temple University in 1970, and his Ph.D. in Anthropology from SUNY-Binghamton in 1981. His research interests have included human ecology, arid lands studies, ethnic relations, social science theory and methodology, and the anthropology of religion; and while most of his present research has been focused in the American Southwest, he has also conducted fieldwork in Africa and Sardinia.

Bill taught at a number of institutions before his arrival at Muhlenberg in 1996. At the time Bill was the sole full-time faculty member in the department, overseeing a host of adjuncts and somehow and incredibly, given the impermanence and inconsistency of these instructors, managed to maintain a viable major in Sociology and likewise viable minors in both Sociology and Anthropology. Over his tenure, Bill has been instrumental in creating the Anthropology major and growing the department from one full-time faculty member to six. It is largely due to Bill's unwavering view that both anthropology and sociology are true *social sciences*, that our current curriculum reflects an approach to these disciplines from a distinctly empirical model, grounded in rigorous theory and social scientific methodology.

In the midst of this rapid growth, Bill was awarded the Class of '32 Research Professorship in 2005 in recognition of his exemplary record of research. Bill continues to devote time to his scholarship (when he's not enjoying his farmhouse, motorcycling through the Southwest or tireless searching for ever-campier examples of the cult-film genre); his current work examines the impact of population growth and historical ethnic relations in New Mexico and on Native American ecology.

Bill will be sorely missed as he leaves for his retirement. Not only has he been the longest-serving member of our department, but throughout his time here, he has been a reliable source of guidance, mentorship, stability, and indeed good humor.

## Please join us as we raise a glass to Bill on Monday May 7th, 3:30pm @ Stooges

### New Class Offerings

#### Health and Healing in Latin America

(Dr. Amy Cooper, Anthropology): This seminar explores the social and cultural aspects of health, illness, and healing in modern Latin America. We will study anthropological texts and films that focus on ethnomedical belief systems, ritual and religious healing, botanical and other forms of popular medicine, local adaptations of biomedical knowledge, and state-provided public health care. Students will learn about and analyze meanings and experiences of illness and health as they play out in Latin American settings. We will also reflect on the relationship between medical knowledge and practice, social inequalities (like those of gender, class, and race), state power, and international health politics.

#### Globalization, Domination & Resistance

(Dr. Krista Bywater, Sociology): Globalization is the buzzword of the twenty-first century. Our personal biographies are linked to increasingly global networks, as the integration of societies, economies, and cultures fundamentally transforms human life on the planet. This course employs a sociological lens to examine: the global economy and inequality; globalization of culture; global media; transnational social movements, immigration, local-global linkages, and resistance to globalization. We will question and analyze global processes, enabling us to become informed participants in social reproduction and change.



Bill Abruzzi

## Recent Faculty Activities

Krista Bywater (Sociology) presented three papers at national and regional sociological association meetings on her research examining water struggles in India. She also published a book chapter: *Anti-privatization Struggles and the Right to Water in India: Engendering Cultures of Opposition*. This summer, Dr. Bywater will expand upon her dissertation research and write two journal articles, with support from a Faculty Summer Research Grant.

Ben Carter (Anthropology) presented a paper at the 45th Conference on Underwater and Historical Archaeology in Baltimore on the use of iDevices and QR (quick response) codes in archaeology. He is currently working on a journal article about his research on sourcing prehistoric specimens of the bivalve, *Spondylus* sp., that he carried out in 2010-11 in conjunction with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama.

Janine Chi (Sociology) served on two national review boards this year: the Dissertation Completion Fellowship of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/ American Council of Learned Societies Early Career Fellowship Program and the Fulbright U.S. Student Program National Screening Committee for Southeast Asia (Indonesia and Malaysia) in New York.

Anne Esacove (Sociology) has two forthcoming publications based on her U.S. global HIV prevention policy research. She also received a Faculty Summer Research Grant to work in her book, *Sexuality, Social Processes, and Global HIV Prevention*, which is under contact with Oxford University Press

Chris Kovats-Bernat (Anthropology) presented a paper on gun violence in Haiti as an invited scholar at Kutztown University, as well as published on related topics in a number of edited volumes. With the support from a Faculty Summer Research Grant, Kovats-Bernat will spend 8-weeks in Haiti conduct ethnographic field research of sociocultural adaptations to gang ascendance and gun violence in Cité Soleil, a slum neighborhood in Port-au-Prince.

## Congratulations to the Following Students

**Thomas Bertorelli** (Sociology-ish, '10) received an Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, Poland (2012-2013).

**Brianna Brown** (Sociology, '13) was awarded a Dean's Summer Research Grant for her senior research project on Environmental Racism in the City of Chester, PA.

**Lucy James** (Anthropology '14) has accepted an internship in the office of U.S. Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ).

**Matt Marini** (Sociology, '11) begins a position this fall with Teach for America in Las Vegas, NV.

**James McMaster** (Sociology, '12) has been accepted into the Performance and Public Practice MA program at the University of Texas, Austin.

**Nicole McVinoa** (Sociology, '13) was accepted into the American Sociological Association Honors Program.

**Megan Postemski** (Anthropology '13) was accepted into Phi Beta Kappa as a junior and has been awarded a Summer Collaborative Research Grant with Dr. Carter.

**Yonah Ringlestein** (Anthropology '10) has been accepted into the Religious Studies MA program at New York University.

## Position Announcement: Archaeology Laboratory Assistant.

The department has begun a new initiative designed to provide students with experience running an archaeology lab. Each semester, the department will select a student to act as the Archaeology Laboratory Assistant. The position is described as follows: "The role of the Archaeology Laboratory Assistant is two-fold. The internship provides the student with activities and roles that are similar to those in the professional world of archaeology. In that role the student actively maintains the lab and assists in research projects." Simmi Patel has served as our first Archaeology Laboratory Assistant for Spring 2012.

If you are interested in participating Fall 2012 or Spring 2013, please contact Dr. Carter.



More than 120 students attended the screening of *The Neo-African-Americans: Black Immigrant Identities* and talked with the film's director, Kobina Aidoo.

## Department Majors Prepare for Annual Senior Symposium

Seniors majoring in sociology will present their capstone research projects at the department's Annual Senior Research Symposium. While thematically distinct, both of the projects has practical and policy implications which will be addressed in the presentations. Family and friends are invited to join faculty and students at this end-of-the-year event.

### **Karissa McCarthy (Candidate for Honors)**

Among a multitude of responses to our nation's unsustainable food system is the Farm to School (FTS) movement – an effort to reorganize food distribution systems and improve food literacy in the K-12 school setting. Since inception, the movement has grown dramatically from individual, local grassroots projects to a national initiative. This research considers the movement's unique organizational dynamic by looking at participants' reasons for involvement and the implications these motivations have on the future of the movement's agenda.

### **Rebecca Glassman**

This year, Muhlenberg's sexual assault policy has been placed under scrutiny, undergoing a number of revisions in accordance with Title IX. Additionally, a recent change to the policy sparked controversy among students, illuminating the policy's contribution to understandings of sexual assault on campus. My research investigates this relationship between the policy and students' perceptions of sexual assault, looking at how students conceptualize sexual assault after participating in educational programming and how these perceptions might shape experiences with sexual assault at Muhlenberg.

### **Archaeology in Maine Summer 2011**

From July 24th to August 13th, Dr. Carter took six students from Muhlenberg and one from Brandeis University to Surry, Maine, where they excavated at the Joy/Flood site.

The site was occupied from the 1760s until 1811, first, by Nathaniel Joy and, subsequently, by Dominicus Flood and his family. Both were part of the first wave of pioneer families to settle Downeast Maine. Although we hear much about the pioneers heading west, we know little about those who headed east. The project is designed to better understand the balance among farming, fishing, lumbering, and trade in the lives of these individuals and how geopolitics forced them to adapt. During this time period, there were two major 'boom' times: 1760s– 1779 and 1784-1807. These were interrupted by the occupation of the Maine coast by the British Navy during the American Revolution (1779-1784) and the imposition of Thomas Jefferson's Embargo Acts (1807). How did residents adapt to these changing conditions? Did they suffer economically? Did they develop relationships with the British? These questions and more were on the minds of students as they labored in the trenches.

Students learned many aspects of archaeology, including clearing a site, setting up a grid, excavating with trowel and brush, screening sediment, washing and labeling artifacts, taking exhaustive notes, and writing a field report. Students also went sea kayaking and traveled to Acadia National Park on weekends.

Dr. Carter plans to take students to Maine during Summer 2013. Please contact him if you are interested.



Students take a break while working at the Joy/Flood site.  
From left: Simmi Patel, Alex Shaen (Brandeis), Krista Gabarro, Megan Postemski, Amy Osika, Hannah Watson and Brittany Kosiak