ETHNOGRAPHIC MEDIA/REPRESENTING CULTURE THROUGH FILM AND VIDEO

Pete Lutze, Communications, and Robert McCarl, Anthropology, are teaching a new Interdisciplinary Humanities course this semester that will explore the development of ethnographic and documentary film, as well as provide students with an opportunity to use video as a research tool themselves. The course grew out of community workshops developed by Lutze and McCarl that were aimed at providing Native Americans, Hispanics, and inner city youth with an opportunity to use ethnographic skills and videography as a means for documenting and representing their cultures to outsiders. Through these workshops (funded through a university foundation grant), videos about three generations of Mexican women in Nampa, a documentary of teenage eating disorders among young women, a video about the urban landscape from a skateboarder’s perspective, and an oral history of a tribal elder on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation are all nearing completion.

The Ethnographic Media course will provide students with an opportunity to view classical ethnographic films like Robert Flaherty’s reconstruction of Inuit lifeways in the 1920’s, “Nanook of the North;” to the more contemporary ethnographic work of Robert Gardner and Karl Heider in “Dead Birds” in 1963; to more reflexive works by cultural insiders such as Hopi filmmaker Victor Masayesva’s “Imagining Indians” (1992). In addition to these ethnographic films, contemporary documentaries from the Raymond’s classic documentary “An American Family” to the more contemporary work of Frederick Wiseman and Les Blanc will be studied. The intention of this portion of the course is to provide students with both a historical and a contextual frame from which informed critiques about media as a research tool can be derived. Both Lutze and McCarl are actively involved in the production of ethnographic documentary representations of culture and students will be able to “look over their shoulder” as their ideas and critical approaches develop.

In addition to learning more about the history and critical discourse surrounding ethnographic media, students will be challenged to select, shoot and edit their own ethnographic work in progress. Using the cultural scene approach developed by James Spradley and David McCurdy in the 1970’s, students will select a cultural scene for documentation. Teams of three students will light, shoot and record these scenes and use them as the basis for an edited ethnographic product. McCarl and Lutze plan to develop additional courses in media and culture that will provide students with opportunities to explore culture and cultural issues through media.

MCCARL HIRED AS CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGIST

Robert McCarl has been hired as assistant professor in the department. McCarl has a Ph.D. in folklore from Memorial University of Newfoundland. His specialty is ethnography in occupational culture. In addition to his work in occupational ethnography, McCarl has done pre- and post-doctoral work at the Smithsonian Institution; developed a contract specialty in industrial ethnohistory and heritage and written extensively on public applications of anthropological concepts. McCarl has taught courses on ethnography, applied anthropology and cultural diversity on campus and he is currently developing an urban anthropology course for the Spring semester.
COX CONDUCTS RESEARCH IN JAPAN

Cultural Anthropology at BSU is expanding its ethnographic interest and expertise to Japan. T. Virginia Cox spent seven weeks in Japan this summer as part of a grant from the Department of Education received by Modern Languages and International Business. Dr. Cox's part of the grant included travel to Japan for the purpose of acquiring cultural background to facilitate developing a course on Japanese Culture and Society. Dr. Cox chose cultural immersion as a way to understand Japanese culture. After a year of language study she spent the seven weeks living with three Japanese families. One family lived in Takaoka, on the southern island of Kyushu, another in Sakaki, near Nagano on the central island of Honshu, and the third in Hanno, north of Tokyo. In addition to the general cultural immersion, Dr. Cox collected information on the integration of traditional Chinese medicine and Western medicine in a hospital near Ueda, Nagano, prefecture and Shinto religion as it related to the automobile in Takaoka.

STUDENT PORTFOLIO PROGRAM

The student portfolio program is designed to provide the student an opportunity to organize and present his or her ideas, accomplishments, creative and critical skills to the body of work achieved during his or her years in the program. In consultation with their advisors, students during their sophomore year will develop a concept for the portfolio and begin the process of maintaining the file. Examples of materials include papers, exams, reviews, special projects, results of independent studies, internships or research projects and documentation of student activities such as attendance at lectures, exhibits or professional meetings. A faculty committee will review the portfolio with the student during their senior year.

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

The 1994-95 colloquium series meets each Wednesday from 12:30-1:30 P.M. in October, November, February and March. Faculty and students are encouraged to bring lunch and attend the presentation. This year’s colloquia include:

October 19  Camille Sayer, University of New Mexico—Birds of Prey Archaeological Project
November 16 Katherine Sieboldt, Albertson’s College of Idaho—Let It Rain On My Parade: The Patron Saint Festival in Choquecancha, Peru
February 15  James Woods and Gene Tittus, College of Southern Idaho—Stone on Stone: Replication Studies at Nakbe, Guatemala
March 15  Leonard Klikunas—Cultural Awareness Training Program

SENIOR THESIS PROJECT

The department has developed a senior thesis project designed to provide the student an opportunity to write a formal paper drawing on primary sources and appropriate secondary materials. A research proposal will be submitted to a supervising faculty member and approved by the chair during the semester prior to initiation of the project. The research paper will be read by two faculty members. The thesis project is recommended for students planning graduate studies.

ANTHROPOLOGY RESEARCH FACILITY

The Archaeological Research Facility has been renamed the Anthropological Research Facility in anticipation of broadening the scope of research and contract activities which include expanded work in cultural heritage projects and in cultural anthropology. The department hired for the summer and fall terms, Camille Sayer, a doctoral student from the Department of Anthropology, University of New Mexico, to assist in the formulation of a more formal contract archaeology program.

BIRDS OF PREY COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

The department is concluding a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Land Management and the Idaho National Guard for monitoring cultural resources on the Orchard Training Area south of Boise. In conjunction with the program the BSU Archaeological Field School conducted test excavations at site 10AA-256 during the first two weeks of June. Additionally, the department and the Idaho State Office of Bureau of Land Management is developing a broadly based program of research and educational programs within the Birds of Prey Natural Conservational Area (SRBPNCA). The program will provide practical field experience for students, research opportunities for BSU faculty and affiliated scholars, enhanced public educational opportunities and an increased capability to BLM in archaeology to support the management of public lands in the SRBPNCA.

CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING—CAT

The Cultural Awareness Training (CAT) program was initiated in the summer 1994. The program, which has been developed in consultation with Mr. Leonard Klikunas, is designed to assist a variety of professionals in the business and professional communities to better understand and work with culturally different persons. CAT, which examines problems resulting from the failure to realize and acknowledge differences in intercultural exchanges, provides theoretical analyses, learning approaches, and fundamental participation in identifying the often transparent cultural
premises that are often associated with intercultural misunderstandings. Participants who complete two of several one credit workshops are awarded a Cultural Awareness Training Certificate.

**PEER REVIEW OF TEACHING**

Recognizing the value of improving teaching effectiveness and identifying ways in which we can enhance the learning environment for students, the department has approved a voluntary peer review of teaching. The program will be developed over the course of the fall 1994 semester and implemented during the next academic year. The department intends the program to assist faculty and provide a better means by which teaching can be evaluated.

**PAVESIC CONDUCTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH**

Max Pavesic conducted collections research at the Burke Museum, University of Washington and at the Maryhill Museum, Goldendale, Washington where he examined a collection of Shoshonean fishing spears from southwest Idaho and other portable art objects. He completed archival research of an ethnographic museum collection at the Southwest Museum, Los Angeles and the administrative archive collection of the Smithsonian Institution.

**PUBLICATIONS ADVISORY BOARDS**

The department has selected external editorial advisory boards of nationally and regionally recognized scholars for the Occasional Papers and Monographs in Cultural Anthropology and Linguistics and Cultural Resource Reports (CRR). The members of the monograph series board include Catherine Fowler, University of Nevada, Reno; Archie Green; Roberta Hall, Oregon State University; E. Richard Hart, Institute of the American West; Terrence Kaufman, University of Pittsburgh; Paul Kay, University of California, Berkeley; Martha Knack, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Christopher Loether, Idaho State University; Alan Marshall, Lewis and Clark State College; Mario Montano, Colorado College; and David Rood, University of Colorado, Boulder. The editorial advisory board for the CRR includes Steven R. Simms, Utah State University; Joanne Mack, Pomona College; Donald R. Touhy, Nevada State Museum; Virginia Butler, Portland State University; William Adams, Oregon State University and James Wilde, Brigham Young University.

**MCCARL CONDUCTS SUMMER RESEARCH PROJECTS**

Robert McCarl participated in a number of research projects this summer including a Western Folklife Center project on Native American ranching. He conducted fieldwork with ranching families and Shoshoni and Paiute buckaroos on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation; he acted as the scholar/humanist for the Rattlesnake Productions film project on women bronc riders called “Sweetheart of the Rodeo”; and he participated in a Library of Congress/National Park Service industrial heritage project in Paterson, New Jersey entitled, “Working in Paterson.” All of these projects will result in exhibitions, presentations, publications and archived material in the coming months. McCarl continues to plan and do preliminary research for a project on Hispanic work traditions in railroad and farm labor in Idaho.

**PLEW RECEIVES FACULTY RESEARCH GRANT**

Dr. Mark Plew was awarded a Faculty Research Grant to conduct a study of fishing strategies among the Wapishana of southern Guyana. He is scheduled to travel to Guyana during the spring semester 1995 during a sabbatical leave.

**NATIONAL INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER INTERNSHIP DEVELOPED**

This past semester Dirk Beasley has been working as an intern at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise. During this extremely busy fire season Dirk has been gathering statistics and information for the NIFC staff as well as developing a database for locating federal resources on cultural and historical information about forest fires. In addition, he has interviewed a number of active and retired fire personnel in an attempt to develop plans for more comprehensive studies and public presentations on the history and culture of forest fire suppression in the West. The department has been well served by Dirk’s efforts and we are currently seeking students who are interested in carrying on this work through either an internship or independent study.
RECENT GRADUATES

The following students were graduated during fall and spring terms:

Jason Brown, Juan Chavarria, James Cullum, Jeffrey Enrico, Joan Faber, Jill Gans, Laura Good, Sara Pedde, Dan Sheehan, Joyce Stroud, Kevin Woodall, Laura Ziemke

1994-95 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Robert Graff, Beau Hansen, Anita Larkin, Marc Munch, Jeni Rivero and Lorene Stark received departmental scholarships for the 1994-95 academic year. Ty Earling was the recipient of the John and Florence Schaeftl Scholarship in Archaeology. Robin Dick was the recipient of the Native American Student Scholarship.

OTHER NEWS


Robert McCary and T. Virginia Cox presented a workshop on Cultural Diversity to a group of administrators from the Department of Corrections in May 1994. The subject was the application of cultural diversity awareness and sensitivity in correctional settings.

Mark Plew was asked to contribute an article on "Experimental Archaeology" for the Oxford Companion in Archaeology, Oxford University Press, and is completing a book on the history of anthropological theory.


Janette Forte published The Material Culture of the Wapishana People in Occupubara No. 2.

Michael Riley published "Constituting the Southwest—Contesting the Southwest—Reinventing the Southwest" in the Journal of the Southwest.

Sara Pedde and Kathy Robinson joined students from modern languages in travel and homestay in central Japan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Twenty-Fourth Great Basin Archaeological Conference is scheduled for October 6-8, 1994, at the Elko Convention Center in Elko, Nevada.