



Culture Inscribed

The Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology
California State University - Fresno

January 20, 2005, Vol. II, Issue 1
WELCOME TO VOLUME II AND SPRING SEMESTER!



Anthropologist of the Fortnight

Fr. Joseph Mullooly (1812-1880)

One of the most famous Irishmen of his generation was Fr. Joseph Mullooly O.P. (of the Roman Catholic Order of the Dominicans) who was born in Leherly, County Longford, Ireland in 1812. Mullooly's claim to fame is as the archaeologist who excavated the artifacts beneath the basilica of San Clemente in Rome. Mullooly's book *San Clemente, Pope and Martyr and his Basilica in Rome* describes details of his excavations and is considered a classic in archaeology. Due to his initial work, archaeologists have been able to analyze a series of structures going down for more than twenty centuries. The oldest building Mullooly found was an ancient temple of Mithras (a Persian, Zoroastrian and Vedic deity who was the most widely venerated in the Roman Empire at the time of Christ) dating from the reign of the Emperor Nero (54-68). This site includes spectacular artifacts of Christian history and is still one of Rome's greatest attractions.

Mullooly's courage and desire to preserve ancient artifacts can be noted in his defense of the Basilica of San Clemente from destruction. When Garibaldi's revolutionary forces took over Rome in 1848, Mullooly defended his church even after the Pope fled the Vatican.

AnthroGeek

Student: Hey AnthroGeek, what do you think about newsletter editors who shamelessly popularize themselves and their supposed kin?

AnthroGeek: Reflexivity has long played a role in anthropological analysis. Take me for example - I am AnthroGeek but as a creation of the same editor to whom you are alluding, my comments are highly suspect, as are yours!

Anthros Closer to Home

Interview with Jim Mullooly

How long have you been at Fresno State?

I am in the middle of my second year. Before this, I was a visiting professor at Beloit College.

How did you get into anthropology?

My oldest brother majored in Anthropology as an undergraduate and set the example. I started as a History major then double majored.

What is your area of expertise?

I'm a cultural anthropologist with a great deal of interest in educational process in daily life, applied anthropology and culture theory.

What courses do you teach?

Thus far, I have taught Applied Anthropology, Ethnographic Methods, California Studies, Critical Thinking and Introduction to Cultural.

Describe your current research?

I'm currently investigating what has been characterized as "The Last Un-commercialized Town in the Sierra Foothills", a town near Yosemite that is undergoing commercialization at a relatively rapid rate.

Why are you interested in this topic?

Current literature on social change revolves around outlooks emphasizing instability over stability. My analysis investigates the possibility that not much has changed there.

Who is your favorite anthropologist/theory?

Aside from the first Mullooly in anthropology, Harold Garfinkel's Ethnomethodology is my choice. This is an approach to understanding 'sense making' that is founded on investigations of everyday practices.

What is your favorite novel?

The Razor's Edge by W. Somerset Maugham. It's a classic hero's quest with a spiritual twist.

Any advice for students?

Get to know your teachers. A great deal of learning occurs during office hours or after class and most students seem to be unaware of this.

AnthroAnnouncements

Two Upcoming Events:

A **Department Reception** to start off the semester in style will be held in the next few weeks. Date and time will be announced.

Job Opportunity

Member of a "Family Mentoring TEAM"

Employer: "Project TEAM" (Together Everyone Achieves More): Providing Support for Hmong Refugee Families.

Address: 2311 E. Shaw Ave. Fresno, CA 93710

Nature of Project: Providing resources and support for Hmong refugee families to help them make a successful transition into the community.

Contact: Don Romsa, **Telephone:** 224-9051

E-mail: dromsa@csufresno.edu

Job Description: Within the past year, the United States government announced that it would help resettle Hmong families living in a refugee camp in Thailand, with 3000 Hmong people targeted for resettlement in Fresno. Of these 3000 Hmong refugees, approximately 60% are children. The purpose of Project TEAM is to provide university students at California State University-Fresno with a unique opportunity to serve this refugee population. The project will operate using four Family Mentoring TEAMS who will work closely with specific Hmong families to help them access the resources that will lead to their successful transition into the community and culture. These four TEAMS will also recruit other university students to help provide special assistance in specific areas of need for the Hmong families. As a byproduct of this project, a "New Americans" Resource Manual will be developed and published for use by the Hmong families and the community agencies who serve this refugee population.

Hours/Days: 150 hours total, to be arranged

Pay Rate: \$1200 scholarship

Qualifications: TEAM members will need to have good oral and written communication skills, excellent time management skills, a commitment to community service, an interest in working with diverse populations, and problem solving skills. It is hoped that the TEAM members might also be available for an additional 150 hours and \$1200 scholarship in the fall semester, 2005.

Starting Date: Immediately

AnthroTerms of Interest

Eid al-Adha

On January 20-22nd, Muslims throughout the world will celebrate the Feast of Sacrifice (Eid al-Adha). This is one of the most important feasts of the Muslim calendar as it concludes the Pilgrimage to Mecca. Eid al-Adha lasts for three days and commemorates Ibrahim's (Abraham) willingness to obey God by sacrificing his son. Muslims believe the son to be Ishmael (the forefather of the Arabs) rather than Isaac as told in the Old Testament. According to the Koran, Ibrahim was about to sacrifice his son when a voice from heaven stopped him and allowed him to sacrifice a ram instead. The feast re-enacts Ibrahim's obedience by sacrificing a cow or ram. Families eat part of the meal and typically donate a portion to the poor. (Adapted from: www.kumc.edu).

The Darwin Awards

The Darwin's are awarded every year to the persons who died in the most stupid manner, thereby removing themselves from the gene pool. In the next few issues of Culture Inscribed, we will report on the nominees (adapted from www.darwinawards.com):

Nominee No. 1: [San Jose Mercury News]: An unidentified man, using a shotgun like a club to break a former girlfriend's windshield, accidentally shot himself to death when the gun discharged, blowing a hole in his gut.

Nominee No. 2: [Kalamazoo Gazette]: James Burns, 34, (a mechanic) of Alamo, MI, was killed in March as he was trying to repair what police describe as a "farm-type truck." Burns got a friend to drive the truck on a highway while Burns hung underneath so that he could ascertain the source of a troubling noise. Burns' clothes caught on something, however, and the other man found Burns "wrapped in the drive shaft."

Nominee No. 3: [Hickory Daily Record]: Ken Charles Barger, 47, accidentally shot himself to death in December in Newton, NC. Awakening to the sound of a ringing telephone beside his bed, he reached for the phone but grabbed instead a Smith & Wesson 38 Special, which discharged when he drew it to his ear.

Contributing Editorial Board

Crystal Alvarez Elizabeth Campos Tara Ders Gilberto Lopez Juanita Rivas Morghan Young
Faculty Advisor: James Mullooly, PhD **Website:** www.csufresno.edu/Anthropology/newsletter