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ISSUE 12, SPRING-SUMMER 2009

## News about faculty, students, and alumni of Williams Anthropology & Sociology

It's been nearly a year since the Department moved into the new North Academic Building, and we're still struggling to make the shift from Stetson's dilapidation to the NAB's *sleek modernity*. But the building is beginning to acquire some of the character of its occupants, as can be seen in the image below, a *Día de los Muertos* installation created by Latino Studies faculty and staff.



This twelfth installation of *ANSO*News has links to some home-brewed videos, which reflects the drift of video technology from experts like our own Prof. David Edwards to the desktops of the less technically sophisticated. But we still welcome old-school letters and cards from ANSO alums--so please keep us up-to-date on what you're doing, and we'll try to reciprocate!

Michael F. Brown, Webmaster

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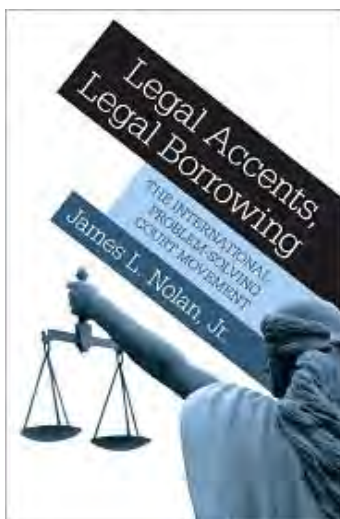
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## News about faculty

**Kudos.** Antonia Foias, who just stepped down as department chair, has been promoted to full professor. Arafaat Valiani, assistant professor of sociology, will be a **Kluge Fellow at the Library of Congress** during the fall semester, 2009. Valiani also received a Hellman grant from Williams College in support of his sabbatical research project.



**Publishing news.** Jim Nolan's latest book, *Legal Accents, Legal Borrowing: The International Problem-Solving Court Movement*, has just been published by Princeton University Press. The Williams press release for the book is [here](#). It has evoked a [comment](#) or [two](#) in the blogosphere, with reviews sure to follow in the coming months.

Michael F. Brown's chapter in *Whose Culture?*, a book edited by James Cuno, Director of the Art Institute of Chicago, received special mention in an [online review in Spiked-Online.com](#), a UK publication.

The [first review](#) of *Crisis and the Everyday in Postsocialist Moscow* (Indiana University Press), by the department's Olga Shevchenko, assistant professor of sociology, has just appeared online. Olga is working with Cameron Nutting on cleaning up a database of Soviet family photography and putting together a website of young Pioneers' letters home from summer camp. For alums who read Russian, another recent publication by Prof. Shevchenko can



be accessed [here](#).

**News from former Bolin Fellows.** The Department recently heard from Nicole Castor, who has just finished her dissertation, *Invoking the Spirit of Canboulay: Pathways of African Middle Class Cultural Citizenship in Trinidad*, at the University of Chicago. And J. Lorand "Randy" Matory, currently at Harvard, has accepted chairmanship African and African-American Studies at Duke, a department that, according to press reports, Matory aims to turn into a powerhouse of African-American scholarship.

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## News about students and alumni

ANSO is reeling from a huge spike in major declarations: 24 members of the Class of 2011 declared majors in Anthropology or Sociology. That brings our current total for the junior and senior classes to 42, the highest in memory and probably on record.

A short video of this year's end-of-year party at The Log can be viewed by clicking on the still below. (Needs Quicktime. Production thanks to Emily C. Brown, age 10, who loaned her Flip camera for the project.)



**Award winners, 2009.** This year's Friedrichs Prize in Sociology was awarded to Riki K. McDermott '09 (right, below), whose senior thesis, *Through mixed eyes: The biracial experience and the current state of race in America*, received honors. AnneMarie K. McLain '09 was awarded the Orton Prize in Anthropology.



**Catherine Bolten '98**, who has just accepted a job in the anthropology department at Notre Dame, won the University of California Press's 2009 Public Anthropology Book Competition for her book manuscript about post-civil war Sierra Leone, and we look forward to its prompt publication. The organization immediately put Cat to work on a short video promoting the competition, which you can see [here](#).



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Liz Hoover '01, who is working on her doctoral dissertation at Brown, [won a federal fellowship to support her research on the health impact of environmental contamination in Native American communities](#). On the web

page of Brown's office of Native American Student Services, [Liz talks about the work she put in to organize Williams College's first Native American Powwow](#). She's been hard at work doing the same at Brown, and you can see her in the [gallery of powwow images included in the site](#).

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Wendi Haugh '91, who has taught at Williams for the past two years as a visiting assistant professor, has started a tenure-track job in the [Anthropology Department at Saint Lawrence University](#), Canton, NY. We're delighted to know that she'll be working in the neighborhood.

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Just in from Freeden Oeur '03: "After four years in Berkeley, I'm returning to the east coast in a few weeks to begin my dissertation research. I'll be doing participant observation and interviews in Philadelphia's only two all-boys public high schools, where I'll study how school officials use single-sex education as a vehicle for addressing the needs of poor, African American boys. I'm excited about the topic, which has become controversial in recent years . . . [My first article, on religion on college campuses](#), and co-authored with a friend in the department, was published in the June issue of *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. I'm also presenting my first paper at ASA next weekend in San Francisco.

Adam Chau '93 has checked in from the [East Asian Studies Department at Cambridge](#), where has just landed after teaching at Oxford and SOAS for several years.

Liv Osthus '96--stage name: [Viva Las Vegas](#)--is back in the news: she's featured in a [recent story in \*The Daily Beast\*](#) that details her experience with breast cancer and her forthcoming memoir, *Magic Gardens*. You can read her magazine article, "The Last Days of My Left Breast," [here](#).

**Busy 2006 ANSO alums.** Robin Kim '06 is starting a Master's in City Planning program at UC-Berkeley. Katie Krause '06 is in her second year of an MSc in Public Health with a focus in reproductive and sexual health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Rachel Winch '06 is working in DC as the [International Hunger Fellow](#); she also works part-time as manager of a farmer's market. You can find Rachel's bio [on this page](#).

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**Other alumni news.** Emily Button '07 will enter the doctoral program in Anthropology at Brown this fall. Matt Beatus '09 and Ethan Cohen '09 will be studying law at New York Law School and the University of Maryland, respectively.

***News about the activities of ANSO alums--including those of you pursuing***

*non-academic careers--is always welcome!*

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### **The Human Moment**

Powwow, Williams College, Fall 1999

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