



COMMUNITY STUDIES CENTER

Spring/Summer 2003

Director's Notes

As we head for the end of another semester, the Center finds itself continuing to work on old projects and new. Professors Borges (History) and Osborne (History) returned with students to Patagonia, doing more interviews and collecting many new documents that will become part of our Commodore Rividavia Virtual Community Studies Center. This project, one of two pilots, also brought Professor Susana Torres of the University of Patagonia to campus as a Community Studies Center Fellow. In cooperation with the Office of Global Education, we hope to establish on-going virtual centers in all of the communities where Dickinson has a presence. Also to that end, Grace Jarvis, a member of last year's faculty development workshop, trained students who developed interviewing projects in Malaga, Spain.

Prof. Rose's (Sociology) students in qualitative methods returned to the Carlisle African-American community to document multi-generational family, work and migration histories. Professors Rogers' and my students in oral history, developing a web site for the upcoming 25th anniversary of the Three Mile Island accident, interviewed officials and activists

about that accident and worked with the archives of the original 1979 project. Planning and research (not to mention digitizing!) for this web project are ongoing. A second Adams County Mosaic, lead by Professors Borges, Enge and Rose, will this time include an international component: in the Fall, students will work with the families of Adams County migrant laborers, among other activities traveling to Mexico to follow these migrants back to their roots. In January, Professor Sinan Koont (Economics), another summer training participant, and Assistant Director Madelyn Campbell took students to explore the economy of Cuba, which in turn led to the exploration of common interests in documentary film and oral history; Professors Koont and Rose along with Steve Brouwer hope to do fieldwork with students next year in Cuba.

Perhaps the most exciting project,

certainly in terms of material support for the Center and the College, as well as a resounding endorsement of our community studies programs, is our Healthcare Disparities project in cooperation with the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and Cheney University. This will be a 4-year study which seeks to find out what social and psychological factors play into the differences in hypertension treatment outcomes between majority and minority populations: a 4.8 million dollar grant from the state of Pennsylvania (funded by tobacco money) will support the study. Kjel Enge leads this project with Marie Helweg-Larson, Susan Rose and myself.

To hear more about these and other projects, and to see the new Center, please join us at our presentation on Alumnae weekend in June.

Lonna Malmsheimer



View of Three Mile Island taken from Goldsboro, PA

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Second Patagonia Mosaic Conducts Interviews, Scans Documents, and Records Public Memory to Create an Online Virtual Museum

By: Lauren Cencic '05

The Community Studies Center sponsored a second Patagonia Mosaic this past January. Ten students under the leadership of History Professors Marcelo Borges and John Osborne as well as Robert Reeves of the Dickinson Archives traveled to Comodoro Rivadavia, Argentina for two weeks of intensive research. The group was also aided by Susana Torres and Sonia Ivanoff of the Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia San Juan Bosco in Argentina.

Two of the students, Jasmin Sanchez and David Stein, had attended the previous mosaic. The talents of all the students, whether previous participants or not, were utilized. The students came from a variety of majors and contributed to the group through their various



Patagonia Mosaic Group in Buenos Aires

skills including language, technical, and research experience. The participants were Karen Berggren, Lauren Cencic, Cindy Mackey, Carlos Morales, Anne O'Connor, Joanna Popp, Jasmin Sanchez, David Stein, Jillian Tabuchi, and Ruth Van Acker.

The students stayed with host families, but much of their time was spent engaged in research and data collection. Team members also gained a rich experience complete with trips to Buenos Aires and Rio Mayo and exposure to family life through their host families. Students conducted oral interviews, scanned photographs from both personal collections and local archives, and photographed monuments and other forms of public memory. Over 30 interviews were conducted in Spanish, English, and German. Additionally, approximately 2,000 images were scanned and preserved and over 300 photographs were taken of the local monuments, statues, ethnic associations, and plaques. In many ways, this mosaic was a continuation of the first

Patagonia Mosaic in 2001 through the oral interviews. The scanning and photography work performed by the students will be used to create a virtual museum that will continue through future mosaics as a growing resource both for researchers and for the people of Patagonia who were extremely excited about and supportive of the work of this Dickinson group. The work is very significant because it serves the dual purpose of preservation and making this information more readily and widely available.

The research team studied Comodoro Rivadavia, the surrounding company towns and immigration to the region. Comodoro Rivadavia is a port town in Argentina that is rich in oil deposits. Located in Patagonia, the area is very dry and windy. Oil was discovered in 1907, attracting many immigrant workers to the area. Large numbers of these workers came from Europe as well as Chile and other parts of Argentina. Thus, the region is very ethnically diverse and ethnic heritages and

John Osborne, Robert Reeves and Marcelo Borges in Buenos Aires, La Boca



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Group in Buenos Aires, La Boca

associations play important roles in the area's social life.

Upon returning to Dickinson, the faculty and student group continued their efforts in the format of a research seminar as well as developing individual and group projects. The team was lucky enough to have Susana Torres return with them and stay into March. She attended the Patagonia class with

the students, advised students on their work, and served as source of information by providing background and contextual metadata for the research conducted during the two week trip. Her previous work, including her doctoral dissertation on the topic, also served as a major source of research and information to the students.

Professor Marcelo Borges said that he was very excited about the mosaic because it "provided a model for future student/faculty research teams while exploring new

teaching formats." The students presented their projects dealing with different aspects of life and immigration in Patagonia to the college on May 1, 2003. These topics included immigration, family life, work and gender, community, and public memory. Collectively, the students compiled their projects into a research website which includes background information, maps, scanned images, video clips from interviews, and analysis and archived the original images for preservation purposes. The website will be published through Dickinson and made available for all to use.

Students scan and preserve photographs and documents from local archive



Susana Torres Visits Dickinson College

By Lauren Cencic '05

The Community Studies Center sponsored Susana Torres, a history professor from the Universidad de la Patagonia San Juan Bosco in Argentina as a CSC Scholar In Residence. She stayed at Dickinson for much of the Spring 2003 semester. In addition to playing a vital role in the Patagonia Mosaic both as the coordinator in Patagonia and by helping students upon their return, Torres also worked on a

comparison of Patagonia and Steelton based on the findings of the Community Studies Center sponsored mosaics. She is using her research to write a paper in conjunction with Professor Borges which they will present in a



Susana Torres discusses her work with Dickinson student, Jasmin Sanchez

conference in Córdoba, Argentina in September. Susana's first visit to Dickinson was in 2001 for the first Patagonia Mosaic which was during the second Steelton Mosaic and she had an opportunity to be involved in some of the activities including a visit to Steelton with Professor Susan Rose. Included in her work was the role of the companies in daily life, the process of adaptation and assimilation, class identity and ethnicity, and labor-capital relations in both examples. She informally presented her preliminary findings to members of the Community Studies Center and the Patagonia Mosaic on March 12, 2003.

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Community Studies Provides Summer Residency for Cuban Scholar

Victor Casaus, an internationally known Cuban film director, writer, poet and Director of the Centro Cultural Pablo de la Torriente Brau, will travel from Havana to Dickinson this summer to participate in the CSC summer oral history institute. His son, Abel Casaus, will accompany him and they will spend two weeks subtitling several documentaries.

Dickinson is hopeful that Casaus will return in the fall, to join the Latin American Studies symposium panel, and deliver a series of poetry readings, lectures, documentary screenings, and a digital art exhibit. Visit the Centro Cultural website: www.centropablo.cult.cu/main_new.htm

Dickinson Students to be Part of \$4.8 million Grant in Health Research

by Sarah Hyslop '05

During the next four years, Dickinson, along with the University of Pennsylvania and Cheyney University, will be part of a health research project investigating racial and socio-economic health disparities in relation to hypertension thanks to a \$4.8 million grant from the Pennsylvania state government. The funding for this research

comes from Pennsylvania's share of the national tobacco settlement, which is awarded each year on a competitive basis.

The goal of this research is to develop and test innovative, sustainable, and cost-effective strategies to reduce the economic and non-economic barriers in blood pressure control between low income and African-American patient populations and their health care providers.

The University of Pennsylvania will conduct a clinical trial, while Dickinson and Cheyney will interview patients, health care providers, and neighborhood residents in both the West Philadelphia and Harrisburg populations.

This is the second consecutive year Dickinson has received funding from the tobacco settlement. Last year, Dickinson partnered with Carnegie-Mellon University in cancer research. Dickinson was selected because of its history of excellence in field work.

Dickinson students, selected through courses in research methods in psychology, anthropology, and sociology, will be involved in collecting the data for the project. Dickinson faculty advisors on the project include Kjell Enge, associate professor of anthropology, Marie Helweg-Larsen, associate professor of psychology, Susan Rose, professor of sociology, and Lonna Malmsheimer, professor of American Studies and the director

of the Community Studies Center.

Dickinson submitted its proposal for this research last fall, and was notified in January of its approval. The research "kick-off" will take place May 19 at the Community Studies Center where the details of the project will be discussed with representatives from all three institutions. A series of conferences and lectures will then be held in early June at the University of Pennsylvania.

Professor Enge discussed the importance of investigating the problem of hypertension, and why people do or do not continue taking medicine when diagnosed with high blood pressure. He stressed that hypertension is a big problem, particularly because it is asymptomatic, so people may not know they have it, and it can cause heart attacks and strokes.

He said, "This project will benefit the community in that it will help to better understand how people from low income and primarily African-American communities perceive of the disease so that treatment can be made more understandable and acceptable to them. It is important to know what health care providers need to do to connect with their patients."

Enge also commented on the specific benefits of the project for Dickinson students. "It is a rare opportunity for undergraduates to be able to learn how to do this type of applied research."

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Upcoming: American Mosaic, Fall 2003

By Sarah Koscinski '03

Next fall, the American Mosaic will focus on the migrant workers of Adams County, Pennsylvania. Twenty-five students and three faculty members, Professors Enge, Borges and Rose, will be working closely with the community in order to study patterns of Mexican migration to the area. These individuals will also be looking at community development; social

services; and family, work and migration narratives of those involved in migrant work. The upcoming study is a five-year follow-up to the first Adams County Mosaic in 1998. Professor Rose described the study as, "working with the community as opposed to just studying with the community; this is a great way to continue relationships, which were created in the previous study".

Through internships, ethnographic research, in-depth interviews, and oral histories with migrant workers and their employers, the students

will explore the movement of people, why they left their home country- how, when and why they came to Adams County; what they encountered once they arrived; the experience of work in the orchards; and the communities of which they are a part. With a focus on health, education, religion, and leisure each of the 25 students will be engaged at multiple levels in the community, and will travel to Michoacán, the Mexican village where many of the residents and migrant workers of Adams County are from, to continue their research.

Dickinson Students and Alumna Present at Eastern Sociology Society

By Lauren Cencic '05

Students from the Patagonia and Steelton Mosaics, as well as the Crossing Borders Program, attended the Eastern Sociology Society in Philadelphia and presented their work. Their panel, "Engaging Students in the Field: Community Studies and Ethnographic Research" focused on different areas. Stein and Sanchez focused on Puerto de Aguirre, Santa Rosa Jauregui in Mexico. Gschwindt de Gyor studied racism in education in Steelton, Pennsylvania. McGunnigle based her work on interviews of German youth as a Fulbright Scholar, and Owens examined the Crossing Borders Program and ethnicity. The students were encouraged by Professor Susan Rose who also

served as the Chair and Moderator for the panel. David Stein described the conference saying, "It was a gratifying experience to present our research to faculty and peers from other colleges, many of whom have had similar fieldwork experiences. The constructive process of

receiving feed back from colleagues will certainly help with our analysis and contribute to the making of our documentary video. The conference was also a great opportunity to learn what other student's views are on fieldwork and the topics they choose to investigate."



Top Row, L to R: Rosemary McGunnigle '01, Marie Gschwindt de Gyor '03, David Stein '03. Bottom Row, L to R: Aja Owens from Xavier University, Jasmin Sanchez '03, and Professor Susan Rose.

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Eric Epstein of Three Mile Island Alert with Workshop Participants

Workshop Discusses Oral History and the Disaster of Three Mile Island

By Eboni Brown '03

This year's Oral History Workshop, "Three Mile Island 25 Years Later," is taught by Professor Kim Lacy Rogers in conjunction with Professor Lonna Malmsheimer. According to Rogers, the main goal of this class is to engage in a community oral history project with historical importance. The TMI incident occurred in March of 1979, which means that the 25 year mark is quickly approaching. This will be the main focus for the class. The students' work will be included in the Community Studies Center's Archives along with over 400 interviews done by faculty and students in the months following the initial event.

Even though TMI is the main focus of the Oral History class, it is not the only matter discussed. There are issues concerning energy

conservation and consumption as well as what is considered safe and what is not. One student in the class, Carly Harkins, interviewed a woman whose home at the time overlooked the plant; therefore, a lot of media sought after her and her husband in order to assess their opinions. In terms of alternative energy sources, Carly's interviewee mentioned solar power and wind power briefly as options besides nuclear power. This stems from her beliefs that nuclear power is a highly dangerous power source and, in her opinion, should not be used.

In addition to interviews, the class was also able to go on field trips, including the EFMR Anniversary dinner. Eric Epstein, who came to speak to the class as well, invited the entire class out to Harrisburg to commemorate the anniversary of the group. "It was an honor to be invited and it gave those of us who want an insight into the people who worked with the community in conjunction with TMI and the diversity of people and occupations that Eric was in close touch with," said Carly.

As their final project, the students are required to complete a reflexive paper on an interview that they conducted on video. Michelle Stile, another student, affirmed that present issues (such as September 11th) came up during her interview. Certain similar security issues arose including how in the past, TMI was constantly reassuring the community that the walls were thick enough to withstand a terrorist attack via plane. However, Michelle's interviewee, an 80 year old environmental activist who served as a nurse in WWII and as a major player in the fight against reopening the Three Mile Island plant, "quickly point[ed] out the old age of the structure and the fact that prior to 9/11, many people said the same thing about the World Trade Center." Carly's interviewee also discussed connections between the two including security issues. She recalled an instance when a man broke into the plant

Carly believed that, "All the skills about interviewing that I had learned in class were put to good use in the field and I eventually felt really confident about how to phrase questions. I also know now that there are a lot of things that come with more practice." Michelle enjoyed the nature of this class due to its fieldwork study rather than the standard classroom setting. She hopes that "the Community Studies Center's work will make a difference in the way people perceive TMI." Obviously, students are taking more from this class than simply what happened at TMI almost 25 years ago; they took this class as an opportunity to hone their abilities and gain insight into issues concerning the community.

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9/11 and Oral History: Mary Marshall Clark Visits Dickinson

By Judith Rudge '05

On March 13, Mary Marshall Clark, Director of the Oral History Research Office at Columbia University, presented Dickinson College with some of her beginning analysis of the “oral history” of the September 11th World Trade Center attack. Over the past decade, Clark has interviewed notable individuals such as Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and the late Congresswoman Bella Abzug among many others. It was particularly surprising that a woman with such a vast resume of accomplishments was so soft spoken. Nevertheless she opened up her discussion by emphasizing that there is a constant debate about what constitutes history, and how people reconstruct histories. Large historical events that impact large communities do not happen readily, therefore in the case of the September 11th tragedy, oral historians were presented with an opportunity to document, analyze,

and determine the overall significance of the “first person” interview. It provided the opportunity to see how people close to the attack shaped their memories, and also provided the opportunity to analyze the means in which history is created on a personal level, and on a larger national level. The national level of awareness of the attacks was largely governed by media coverage and the government's response to the event. She noted that the media coverage of the event created a completely different consensus than that of those people that actually survived the attack. The national response to the attack was one of nationalistic fervor; the government was ready to find the culprits and retaliate, while those who survived the attack just wanted the violence to stop. They did not want anyone else to suffer in the way they had.

Clark expressed her amazement at how the project started. She didn't have the funding for recording equipment, she didn't have the man power, but with the help of Peter Bearman, a sociologist, and some initial funding, they created the “September 11, 2001 Oral History Narrative and Memory Project.” The project's main goal is to understand whether a traumatic episode and its aftermath cause a turning point in the lives of people who were directly and indirectly affected. The project has tried to include the stories of many people with many different experiences, especially those who were discriminated against during the aftermath, such as Muslims, or people that appeared to be of Middle Eastern descent. The interviewers started recording people's testimony within the first few weeks after the

tragedy, in places like Union Square on 14th St., restaurants, and public gatherings. The project also sought out local organizations, religious institutions, and the aims of the project were also broadcast on local networks to build awareness. In the first few weeks after the catastrophe, investigators interviewed over 200 people, all from very diverse backgrounds, and with diverse opinions on the tragedy. These people were mostly eyewitnesses; there were a few survivors, and some rescue workers. Researchers interviewed people of African-American, Latino, and Afghan decent, people who lost relatives, and people who lost their jobs, truly an immensely diverse interviewing pool. As they tried to understand how personal and communal memory is constructed, the series of questions that were the most interesting were those pertaining to the media and governmental response to 9/11, the impact the event had on social life and relationships, and the effects of 9/11 on a national and international level. The project seeks to understand whether 9/11 is a major turning point in American history and assess the future of terrorism.

