



NORTHEASTERN
ANTHROPOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

NEAA NEWS



<http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://blogs.dixcdn.com/leftofycybercenter/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/film->

Coming Soon to an Archaeological Site Near You

By Alan Leveille, RPA

Filmmaker and Smithsonian Institute associate Ted Timreck is making final edits to a documentary he presented at the 2009 NEAA meetings in Providence. Entitled *The Great Falls: Discovery, Destruction, and Preservation in a Massachusetts Town*, it's the latest addition to the Hidden Landscapes series, the overall subject of which is remnant enigmatic ancient human imprints on the northern hemisphere. Recent showings of the film include the 2009 New England Antiquities Research Association meetings and the 2010 Rhode Island Land and Water Conservation Summit in Rhode Island. The film is powerful and remarkable; noteworthy for what it has done, what it is doing, and how it will influence applied anthropology and archaeology in the Northeast.

The Great Falls documentary is approximately one hour in length, segmented in two parts. Part one concerns cultural conflict, past and present, and attempts at historical reconciliation on a municipal level. Then it details how that reconciliation set a stage for both disagreement and dialogue between Native Americans and archaeologists. That dialogue focused on origins and functions of stone constructs on and surrounding the local airport. The second part of the film widens the scale in time and place to include the culture history and peoples of the ancient circumpolar north, raising questions about the connections between Native American oral traditions, sacred places and archaeological sites, and their correlations to the celestial dome and the cosmos.

The Native voice is expressed compellingly and engagingly by the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, John Brown; by Sheryl Andrews-Maltais, the Chairwoman of the Wampanoag Gay Head Aquinnah Tribe; and by Doug Harris, Preservation Specialist for Sacred Sites and former Senior Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Narragansett Tribe.

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Message from the Editor

Hello All and Happy Spring!

I hope this June finds everyone well. I apologize for the late spring newsletter (now officially called the *NEAA News*). This does tend to happen this time of year — maybe it is the promise of warm weather to come, grading or hounding people for submissions ... but most likely a combination of it all. The pressure is different for the spring issue because we are not yet starting to publicize the winter conference and everyone seems a bit more crazy and relaxed (yes, both at the same time) during the spring semester.

We had a GREAT March meeting at SUNY/Buffalo, which you will hear more about from Don Pollack, the conference organizer, below. I know many faculty, staff, students and institutions are feeling pinched for funds but the NEAA is always worth the trip. Once again, I found the meetings a perfect conference to attend: there were excellent presentations, engaging conversations, and enjoyable social events. Our conference continues to be the most friendly environment for undergraduates and graduates, as well as a place where new ideas are always welcomed.

Look for the *NEAA News* summer edition. We once again will feature the NEAA paper prize winners (see the paper prize winner abstracts in this issue). We have two exceptional papers to share with you that I am sure you will enjoy.

Remember we are always looking for submissions. If you read a good ethnography this summer or you are part of a field school – write it up and share it with our membership.

Enjoy the summer!

Jess Skolnikoff

Roger Williams University

JSkolnikoff@rwu.edu

Summer Reading Side Note

I was recently asked to submit a “book” I thought might be important to first year students entering Roger Williams University. Of course my first thought is always to anthropology but giving the recent national trends and my research I actually want to plug another book that I thought I would include in the *NEAA News*: Michael Pollan’s 2008 *In Defense of Food* (New York: The Penguin Press). Michael Pollan’s review of the current agricultural and food industries provides everyone, in particular incoming freshmen making food choices for the first time, an insight into how and what we eat today and the ramifications for the health of the individual and the planet. As Michael Pollan states, your grandmother would not recognize the food we all eat today and a farmer of a couple generations ago would not recognize how it is produced on monoculture industrial farms. The food industry and its associated fast food culture involve damaging consequences for personal health, culture, and sustainability of a healthy environment. Incoming students would both benefit from and enjoy Pollan’s lively style.

Hot Off the Press

NEAA Launches New Website at 2010 Conference

At the conference in March the NEAA unveiled its new website, designed by Angela Labrador (UMass Amherst) with input from the membership. Be sure to check out the new site <http://www.neaa.org/> ... it looks great and we're all appreciative of Angela's efforts. It is still a work in progress so we are looking for comments and suggestions to make it more useful to the membership. You can email Angela at alabra@anthro.umass.edu. Thanks for your hard work, Angela, and we hope you're looking forward to your new role as NEAA website coordinator.

NEAA Newsletter changes its name to NEAA News

It's official, we are changing from the *NEAA Newsletter* to the *NEAA News*. At the business meeting it was decided that the "News" more accurately reflected the purpose of this publication. As always, we continue to look for submissions. We are looking for research articles but also reviews of books, films, classroom projects, comments on pedagogy, etc. In this edition, Alan Leveillee gives a strong endorsement of Filmmaker and Smithsonian Institute associate Ted Timreck's documentary *The Great Falls: Discovery, Destruction, and Preservation in a Massachusetts Town*.

Changing of the Guard

The executive board would like to take this opportunity to thank Barry Brenton for his service to the NEAA President. Under Barry's leadership we have seen several great new initiatives: the redesigned web site, student travel awards; securing of conferences sites for the next few years; the Newsletter going fully on line; the addition of a Membership Coordinator to the executive board; and additional graduate and undergraduate representation. But we will not let Barry disappear into the sunset: he will continue on as Past-President and, of course, Physical Anthropology Contributing Editor for the *NEAA News*. Thanks, Barry!

Treasurer's Notes

Thanks to enthusiastic fund-raising by the hosts of the 2010 meetings at SUNY Buffalo (continuing the trend of the past several years), the NEAA again was able to keep costs low and to put away some money toward future conferences, projects and programs. I'm particularly pleased with one new program that the NEAA began this year: the Student Travel Fund. We awarded one grant of \$200 to underwrite a student's travel to and participation in the 2010 meetings. We will continue this program for the 2011 meetings and we hope to increase the amount and number of awards given. If you would like more information on the Student Travel Fund, please contact me.

As always, I would be pleased to answer any questions members may have about the organization's finances.

Collegially,
Alan Hersker
SUNY/Potsdam
ahersker@potsdam.edu

The View from Buffalo

The 50th annual conference of the NEAA was hosted by SUNY/Buffalo over the weekend of March 5-7, 2010, at the Marriott Buffalo/Niagara Hotel, adjacent to the university campus. Roughly 125 attendees participated in a more than a dozen sessions, to hear 60+ papers, many of them relating directly to the conference theme “Borders, Margins, and Passages.” Informal feedback from participants was uniformly positive on the quality and interest of presentations.

The first day of the conference, Friday, was also marked by an evening reception at the UB Department of Anthropology, where conference participants had a chance to see a small portion of the department’s museum, which holds over one million items. Saturday’s banquet was highlighted by a keynote address by Michael F. Brown, Professor of Anthropology and Latin American Studies at Williams College, whose topic “In the Night Kitchen of Bureaucracy: Certifying Virtue in Global Society” drew upon his wide range of anthropological experience, from the Peruvian Amazon to building projects on his home campus. At the banquet it was also announced that Alicia Kristen Roberts of Rhode Island College and Peter Paul Greco of St. John’s University were the co-winners of the John Omohundro Undergraduate Paper Prize; each received a check for the full prize amount. Congratulations to Alicia and Peter for their outstanding work, which supports the mission of the NEAA.

SUNY/Buffalo hosted the first NEAA conference in 1961 and we look forward to hosting the 100th NEAA conference! In the meantime, we will turn our sights to New Hampshire, where Dr. Robert Welsch will be organizing the 2011 NEAA conference at Franklin Pierce University.

Donald Pollock

The NEAA Executive Board would like to extend our appreciation to Dr. Pollock and all the faculty and students from SUNY/BUFFALO who made the 2010 conference a great success!

2011 NEAA Conference to be held at Franklin Pierce University,
Rindge, New Hampshire

The 2011 Program Chair is long-time NEAA member Robert Welsch of Franklin Pierce University. Many of you may remember the fabulous meetings Professor Welsch hosted at Dartmouth College. In fact, it was one of my first meetings I attended after starting at Roger Williams University and one of the reasons I became so involved with the NEAA. We all looking forward to enjoying Robert's hospitality in 2011.

- Jessica Skolnikoff, Roger Williams University

Franklin Pierce University is a small, private regionally accredited university grounded in the liberal arts, with a focus on personal attention and high-quality instruction. The University consists of the College at Rindge and the College of Graduate & Professional Studies. Degrees are offered through the doctoral level. The institutional mission focuses on preparing citizens and leaders of conscience for a new century who make significant contributions to their professions and communities, whether their aspirations are local or global (<http://www.franklinpierce.edu/>).



Look for more information on the 2011 Annual Meetings in the Fall 2010 NEAA News

The first tidbit of information about the area: MT. MONADNOCK

Mount Monadnock, in southern New Hampshire between the towns of Jaffrey and Dublin,, is the second most-climbed mountain on earth, following only Japan's Mount Fuji. About 125,000 people climb Mt Monadnock annually <http://www.newenglandtravelplanner.com/go/nh/monadnock/index.html>.

Even the novice hiker can enjoy this mountain hiking experience to get a glimpse of the breathtaking 100 mile views of six New England states with little New England towns, ponds, rivers and forests covering the land. This is one of the many reasons Mt. Monadnock is considered the best hiking day-trip in the area, only 62 miles northwest, from Boston....Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Mark Twain and Abbott Thayer are a few names associated with the original Dublin Art Colony at the dawn of the Transcendental Movement. They hiked Mt. Monadnock and considered it a favorite spot for writing, painting and reflection.

<http://www.monadnocktravel.com/mountain-hiking-climbing-mt-monadnock.html>

Abstracts of John Omohundro Undergraduate Paper Prize Winners
~~Look for their full papers in the summer NEAA News~~

Achieving “New Sudan” in Syracuse, NY: Transnationalism Among Southern Sudanese Refugees
By Peter Greco (St. John’s University)

The concept of “New Sudan” serves as a symbol and rallying cry for the Southern Sudanese. It is a transnational idea in seeking to promote peace and harmony in a war-torn region as well as prosperity and education in an adopted homeland. Transnationalism, as a concept of cultural dynamism, takes on diverse forms that vary both between and within groups. The forces that cause a people’s migration to a new nation provide insight into the transnational behavior or practices of a particular group. Drawn from a summer spent conducting ethnographic research among refugee families in Syracuse, NY, this paper discusses conflicts in degrees of acculturation and transnationalism between generations of refugees and the influence that kinship and gender roles has on this process. Examples of effects of the geo-political struggles that caused the exodus and resettlement of Sudanese refugees in Syracuse are numerous and have had a deep impact on the culture of the refugees. Exhibited in various households among the community is a cultural conflict emerging across generational lines, one that incorporates transnational differences.

Tutors’ Tales: Rituals of Initiation in Rhode Island College’s Writing Center
By Alicia Kristen Roberts (Rhode Island College)

Rhode Island College’s Writing Center has a culture into which students must be initiated before becoming tutors. Drawing from their common academic background (*habitus*), new tutors adopt the Discourse patterns of the community from old tutors, perpetuating values and solidifying group identification. This paper examines the significance of three rituals to the process of initiation, forming the foundation of a larger study of narratives of transformation in this story-swapping culture.

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Dr. Nick Belantoni and Dr. Paul Robinson, the Connecticut and Rhode Island State Archaeologists, as well as several landowners and independent researchers provide commentary on contexts, prevailing perceptions, and the confluence of a consensus that despite differences of perspective, the time for collegial dialogue has come.

This film set precedent as it was taken into evidence and cited as documentation supporting the National Park Service’s determination of eligibility for the listing of the Turners Falls Sacred Site on the National Register of Historic Places. That determination of eligibility (and the film) is important today as a catalyst for meaningful collegial discussions between professional archaeologists, Native Americans, and other interested preservationists. *The Great Falls* reminds those of use who are archaeologists we may have allowed anthropological skills to atrophy, and insists that we broaden our sometimes myopic scales of investigation. And it leaves us with more questions than answers.

Not all of us will agree with some of the opinions, or even some of the information presented in the film as fact. I would count myself among you. But the value of this documentary is in the contemporary anthropological lens. Filmmaker Timreck uses his camera and editing skills to tell a well-crafted story (he does the voiceover narration) that connects time and culture to landscape and sky. He is to be commended for his dedication and commitment to his topic. His film covers so much time and ground that it's sometimes hard to keep your head around it. There is no pre-history here. It's replaced by thousands of years of sophisticated ideology written in stone and read across the galaxy.

What is most remarkable here is the excellence of non-scripted commentary of the participants. Listening to the articulate, sincere, and wise Native voice throughout *The Great Falls* reminds me how fortunate I am to be associated with our southern New England Native American colleagues, and how applied archaeology is changing for the better. You need to see this film.

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Editor - in- Chief: Jessica Skolnikoff (Roger Williams University) jskolnikoff@rwu.edu

Copy Editor: Alan Hersker (SUNY Potsdam) herskeal@potsteam.edu

Contributing Editors

Physical Anthropology: Barrett Brenton, (St. John's University) brentonb@stjohns.edu

Cultural Anthropology: Marc Boglioli (Drew University) mbogliol@drew.edu

Archaeology: Alan Leveillee (The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc) aleveillee@palinc.com

Linguistics: Denice Szanfran (SUNY Buffalo) dszafran@buffalo.edu

Applied Anthropology: Marybeth MacPhee (Roger Williams University) mmacphee@rwu.edu

President: Pierre Morenon, (Rhode Island College) pmorenon@ric.edu

President-Elect: Don Pollock (SUNY Buffalo) dpollock@buffalo.edu

Past President: Barrett Brenton, (St. John's University) brentonb@stjohns.edu

Secretary: Anne Galvin (St. John's University) galvina@stjohns.edu

Treasurer: Alan Hersker (SUNY Potsdam) herskeal@potsteam.edu

Membership Coordinator: Matthew Trevett-Smith (St. Lawrence) trevettsmith@gmail.com

Archivist: H. Martin Wobst (UMass-Amherst) wobst@anthro.umass.edu

Film and Video Consultant: Robert Gordon (University of Vermont) rgordon@zoo.uvm.edu

Grad Student Rep (2009-2011): Ammie Mitchell (SUNY Buffalo) afarra@buffalo.edu

Grad Student Rep (2010-2012): Jen Faux (SUNY Buffalo) jlfaux@buffalo.edu

Undergraduate Rep (2009-2011): Valerie Paige (SUNY Potsdam) paigevj190@potsteam.edu

Undergraduate Rep (2010-2012): Joseph Bernier, SUNY Potsdam berniejw191@potsteam.edu

Website Coordinator: Angela Labrador (UMass Amherst) alabra@anthro.umass.edu

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Alan Hersker, Treasurer, NEAA
Department of Anthropology, SUNY Potsdam
44 Pierrepont Avenue
Potsdam, NY 13676-2294

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