



colleges (see description and call for papers, below). Send her your paper abstracts ASAP!

- Megan McCullen (Alma C.) will be working with Amber Clifford (C. Missouri) during this rest of this transition year before taking over as our new webmaster. THANK YOU!
- Teresa Winstead (St. Martin's U) and Laurie Occhipinti (Clarion U) have agreed to share the position of our Secretary/Treasurer. THANK YOU!
- The AAA has resources available for small programs, according to Katie Vizenour, AAA's Academic, Professional and Research Services Manager (see minutes)
- NSF-funded methods-training workshops that are especially valuable to FOSAPers were discussed by Russ Bernard (see email of 11 Feb 16 and minutes).

I continue to think that FOSAP can help colleagues deal with **assessment and program evaluation**. I would like us to step up our discussion about whether and how best to serve our members by providing FOSAP assessment teams, and about related online resources. At Linfield, we benefited greatly from John Rhoades' help in relation to our program assessment a few years ago; we continue to leverage his recommendations as we deal with personnel issues.

Our **newsletter name** "Anthro-at-Large" seems ill-fitting. I'm as game for irony as anyone, but I think we should consider changing the name to "Anthro-Writ-Small" (or something similar) to better reflect our identity. I will move this at our next Business Meeting at the 2016 AAAs in Minneapolis (likely near the noon hour on Saturday, 19 November).

We're also exploring the possibility of a **workshop**, cosponsored with GAD/Teaching Interest Group/SACC, about teaching methods that could also serve as a brainstorming session. Your thoughts about this most welcome!!

Finally, I'd like to reiterate our thanks to Connie DeRoche who, though retired from teaching, continues to ably put together and digitally publish our annual newsletter.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or anyone else mentioned in the newsletter with your ideas about how to make FOSAP as useful as possible.

All best to you,  
Tom Love  
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[503-883-2504](tel:503-883-2504)

## MINUTES of the FOSAP BUSINESS MEETING

21 November 2015

Present: Jennifer Heung, [jheung@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:jheung@stmarys-ca.edu), St. Mary's College, CA  
Teresa Winstead [twinstead@smartin.edu](mailto:twinstead@smartin.edu) St. Martin's U, WA  
Jason Miller, [millerja@seattleu.edu](mailto:millerja@seattleu.edu), Seattle U, WA  
Megan McCullen, [mccullenmm@alma.edu](mailto:mccullenmm@alma.edu), Alma College, MI  
Brian Watkins, [bawatkins@austincollege.edu](mailto:bawatkins@austincollege.edu), Austin College, TX  
Laurie Occhipinti, [locchipinti@clarion.edu](mailto:locchipinti@clarion.edu), Clarion U, PA  
Tom Love, [tlove@linfield.edu](mailto:tlove@linfield.edu), Linfield College, OR

Guests: Russ Bernard, Professor of Anthropology, University of Florida  
Katie Vizenour, AAA Academic, Professional, and Research Services Manager

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Tom Love convened the meeting at 1:20pm. Introductions were made among the attendees.

Guest Russ Bernard offered the following discussion of **methods training**.

- We have experienced a 40-year hiatus in methods teaching in Anthropology graduate programs. This impacts current anthropologists and, through them, their students. We need to invest in training current teachers to use more diversified and rigorous methodological training.
- We need to help our graduates develop the skills they will need to handle the data they will be generating at home and abroad. We must help them to be better than we are at asking the right questions; at collecting and analyzing data, eschewing the (pernicious) qualitative-quantitative divide; and at developing the real powerful and practical skills they will need in the field. This is the objective of the Short Courses in Research Methods (SCRM) summer offerings.
- SCRM understands the need to offer training to the growing majority of anthropology students who will not be academically employed. Many Ph.D. students go on to secure work in government, NGOs, and private industry jobs; these nonacademic-track students certainly need a diversified methodological toolkit.
- SCRM offers an array of courses taught by experts in each methodological area. For details about the face-to-face and distance courses offered in summer 2016, go to: (<http://qualquant.org/methodsmall/>).

The AAA's Katie Vizenour spoke next, beginning by saying that she became an anthropologist because of her own experience in a small anthropology program. She highlighted the

Anthropology Information subsection of the **Learn and Teach** section of the website. (See: <http://www.americananthro.org/learnandteach/index.aspx?navItemNumber=503>)

Tom noted that it is difficult for many people from small departments to regularly attend AAA meetings, which is where FOSAP meets as a group. But there are other ways that members can **stay in touch**. (There will be more on our social media presence in the next newsletter.) These include continuing contact with the AAA's Department of Communications, reading the newsletter and using social media. Given sufficient interest, a Google hang out or a Webinar could be formed.

Drawing on our roundtable discussion at the 2014 AAA meetings, Tom also advocated the formation of **student Anthropology clubs**. The AAA website contains detailed guidelines on forming them and lists the benefits they bring. Find them at the following address: <http://www.americananthro.org/ParticipateAndAdvocate/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=2295&navItemNumber=656>

Jennifer Heung raised the possibility of holding a **workshop**, at the 2016 meetings about applying for and working in small liberal arts colleges. (See proposal, below.)

A discussion of the **newsletter** followed.

- Tom raised the possibility of changing its name to “Anthro Writ Small.”
- Matthew noted that our profit –sharing agreement precludes our putting the newsletter AnthroSource.
- Tom wondered: “What can we do with our newsletter? Is there any limit to what we can do with our newsletter? Why can't we publish the papers that come out of the FOSAP newsletter?” The group agreed that newsletter papers could be published.

Megan expressed frustration with the fact that other organizations have a **teaching section** but the AAA seems to neglect this aspect of ours. This led Tom: to suggest that we might put together a teaching workshop with GAD/Teaching Interest Group/SACC (separate from the Liberal Arts hiring workshop) that might offer FOSAP members a place to learn about teaching methods and brainstorm with one another. We need to talk further about this before April!

Megan and Tom are working to figure out why our FOSAP listserve is not allowing any and all members to post and receive messages without going through the moderator (T Love).

Teresa and Laurie agreed to share the position of Secretary/Treasurer of FOSAP.

Meeting adjourned.

Teresa Winstead

[twinstead@stmartin.edu](mailto:twinstead@stmartin.edu)

## **Webmaster Report**

Amber Clifford -Napoleone  
University of Central Missouri  
[Clifford@ucmo.edu](mailto:Clifford@ucmo.edu)

Meeting of 21 November 2015, Denver, CO

1. There have been continued technical issues with the website, ranging from failed outside editing to changes in AAA's website server and editing software. Thanks to Vernon Horn at AAA, the FOSAP website is back up and running. I am working on getting it updated now, including downloading the new software required to manage the website.
2. Our website is <http://fosap.americananthro.org>. Look for updates over the winter break.
3. We also have a Facebook page (search Federation of Small Anthropology Programs) as well as a Twitter feed (@SmallAnthro). We need to encourage more use of our social media, especially as a tool to encourage student and new faculty involvement, and to spread information more quickly to our membership.
4. Appointment of a co-webmaster from now until November 2016, at which point they will take over as Webmaster. [Megan McCullen (Alma C) has agreed to step into this role.] The Webmaster is responsible for maintenance of the website, including updated training and information from the AAA webmaster, maintenance of the FOSAP Twitter and Facebook pages, and posting FOSAP documents (including Anthro-At-Large) to our website and social media.

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

56th NEAA Annual Meeting  
Visualizing Humanity: Engaging Local, Regional, and Global Perspectives  
Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY  
April 22-23, 2016

The Northeastern Anthropological Association invites faculty, students, independent scholars, and practitioners to submit abstracts for papers, posters, organized sessions, workshops, and panels in all fields of anthropology. The conference theme focuses on contemporary visual approaches to representing the human condition – past and present. Participants need not specifically address the conference theme; however, all are encouraged to include relevant visual materials. Especially welcome are submissions that report anthropological research carried out in the Northeast; this may include student fieldwork projects from research courses.

All presenters must register in advance to secure their positions in the program. Other attendees are encouraged to register in advance.

**The deadline for submitting abstracts is March 18, 2016.**

For more information -- including abstract guidelines and on-line submissions, student travel aid and prizes, etc. – visit the conference website at <http://www.neaa.org/conference/>

Questions may be addressed to the program organizers:

Professor Michael C. Ennis-McMillan, Conference Chair ([mennis@skidmore.edu](mailto:mennis@skidmore.edu))

Professor Bernardo Rios ([brios@skidmore.edu](mailto:brios@skidmore.edu))

Professor Matthew V. Kroot ([mkroot@skidmore.edu](mailto:mkroot@skidmore.edu))

### **Wanted Newsletter News**

*Newsletters* are for communicating, and we should be doing more of it. From time to time, we hear bad news (such as departments under threat), which is, of course, important. But we can and should hear good news as well. Let us know, for example, about new anthropology courses or faculty changes (retirements, replacements, *growth*; tenures and promotions. Tell us about professional activities: community service, sabbaticals (plans or brief reports) or other leaves, conference papers given at venues other than the AAA, publication announcements, etc. Student news (such as club formation or post-graduate plans relevant to our discipline) would also be welcome.

Right now, we're publishing only one issue per year. But with a little input from the membership, this could change, offering a quicker turnaround of departmental news. Please send your news to the chair at [tlove@linfield.edu](mailto:tlove@linfield.edu). We look forward to hearing from you.

### **Useless Ethnographies A Call for Feedback**

Many of us will remember taking undergraduate courses that required us to read ethnographies as a proxy for actually planting our feet on strange terrain and growing familiar with soul of the discipline. Thus, majors with professional aspirations could peek into their own futures. Others could relish an imaginary they would otherwise miss.

But times have changed. Ethnographic ideals have changed. Students have changed. Pedagogical ideologies and teaching standards have changed. Publishers' priorities and practices have changed. In this context, we can ask: is there any point to assigning ethnographies to undergraduates? Are there more pedagogically and economically practical substitutes?

I would be delighted to receive colleagues' (positive or negative) reactions to any/all of the above observations. Please send comments to Connie deRoche at [cderoche@eastlink.ca](mailto:cderoche@eastlink.ca).

## FOSAP Reflections

Merrily Stover, Ph.D.

Professor Emerita

University of Maryland University College

Immediate Past Chair, Federation of Small Anthropology Programs

*Editor's note:* What could be more fitting than bookending this issue with an appreciation by promoter and past chair of our association. Let's say thanks, once again, to Merrily and wish her wonderful retirement years ahead.

I was delighted to see the latest FOSAP listserv with details of activities that support our anthropology programs and those of us working within those small programs. Looking back over many years with FOSAP, I see that this good work of FOSAP's current members is the basis for this reflective essay on "Why I love FOSAP!"

The first reason for "why I love FOSAP" is **professional enhancement**. By taking advantage of the opportunities to participate in FOSAP sessions at AAA meetings over the years, I have enhanced my own résumé and thus my own professional advancement. My department, strapped for faculty travel funds, only considers travel support when we are presenting papers. By participating in FOSAP sessions, I have been able to attend multiple AAA meetings, thus enriching my knowledge of my beloved field, and, accordingly, making me a better teacher and a stronger anthropology professional.

The second reason for "why I love FOSAP" is that through our sessions and interchanges, I have gained ideas and practices which have supported **program improvement**. Since we are all challenged by the fact that our anthropology programs are small, sharing strategies, curricula, materials, innovations, perspectives can make a difference in keeping our programs alive and strong. Through FOSAP, I have taken back ideas that have helped strengthen my program.

In addition to face-to-face sharing at our annual business meeting and at our AAA sessions, our listserv has been helpful as questions arise. FOSAP also has its informative newsletter focused on issues of concern to our programs. Our established social media (facebook, website, and twitter) have the potential to serve our programs further.

The third reason for "why I love FOSAP" is **personal enrichment**. Through FOSAP, I have made friends across the whole of North America. I treasure my contacts – even those colleagues whom I have not met in person. We are bound by our love of the four fields of anthropology, our commitment to teaching, and the challenges of successfully supporting small programs in a big world.

Our continuing challenge is to make FOSAP visible to those in small anthropology programs, as well as in the larger anthropology community. We are a sub-group within the General Anthropology Division. As such, people sometimes have to look hard to find us! I applaud the

continued work our current officers and the rich agenda put forth. May the Federation of Small Anthropology Programs, and the people and programs it supports, live long and prosper!