



HPSfAA Newsletter

High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology

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Benjamin Jewell, Editor

Annual Spring Conference: New Approaches to Familiar Issues

The annual HPSFAA Spring conference, held once again at Metro State College's Auraria Campus in Denver, was the first under the direction of incoming president Kathleen Pickering and signaled not only a changing of the guards, but a turning point in the history of our organization. As we approach the 30th anniversary of the beginnings of the HPSFAA, we witness not so much a shift in issues that are important to us as social scientists or applied anthropologists, but perhaps the cementing of our recognition of the importance of incorporating the voices of those with whom we have spent our careers trying to make more audible. By including local people from the communities in which we work, we have taken an important step towards our stated objectives of disseminating the body of knowledge accumulated through the application of principles that explain and improve human relations. Since 2007, the annual Spring Conference has included presentations from members of the Pine Ridge and Wounded Knee communities; activists fighting land rights issues in Native American communities; and this year, Ernest House Jr., executive secretary for the Colorado commission on Indian affairs and member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe of Colorado. For those in attendance at the 2007 conference, the presentation by Walter Little Moon and Jane Ridgway about the issues facing residents of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation was a moving reminder that often the most articulate statements heard in anthropology are

those that come from the people themselves. This year was no different. Many of the most memorable ideas and discussions came from people who are not anthropologists, but have similarly dedicated themselves to understanding the complexities of the political, social and economic conditions under which their people live.

Not only did we have the opportunity to hear new voices, but we were also treated to new methods of delivering those voices. Friday evening was capped by the presentation of two films about issues facing Native American communities. Bradley Morse's film, *A Film Dedicated to the Memory of Nicholas Blacksmith*, traces the tragic death of a young Oglala Lakota teenager who was killed in a collision with an automobile while riding his bike on the highway near his home. The film details the dangerous conditions under which Lakota children must navigate their way to and from school programs, forcing them to utilize a busy two-lane highway with no shoulder or bike path. In the process of making the film, Morse talked to the Blacksmith and other families and questioned teenagers about their perceptions of bike safety. The awareness raised by the film and the efforts of local residents eventually led to the creation of a paved bike path and Morse has continued to provide voice to local Pine Ridge residents by assisting them with producing their own films about issues they feel are important. The second film of the evening, *The Sacred Site of Bear*

Butte and Development Conflicts, by Mark St. Pierre and Tilda Long Soldier focused on the ongoing battle over preservation of the sacred site of Bear Butte. A site of spiritual and cultural importance for numerous tribal groups in the Northern Great Plains, Bear Butte is also a popular tourist destination for attendees of the annual Sturgis biker rally in South Dakota, which in turn makes the area a site for potential economic development.



Mark St. Pierre and Tilda Long Soldier discuss their cultural revitalization work with the Cloud Horse Art Institute. Photo by Benjamin Jewell

In other news, the board decided to move forward on finding a replacement for the secretary position after Amanda Israel's departure to the West Coast. I want to take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to Amanda for her years of service to the Society as secretary and conference organizer, and to wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Jack Olmstead, currently Kathy Pickering's assistant, has been nominated to replace Amanda as secretary. Jack graduated Summa Cum Laude from Metropolitan State College of Denver with a BA in anthropology and history and has recently been accepted to a teach for America position beginning this fall at Manual High School where he will teach 10th graders.

Dr. Jack Schultz has been nominated as president-elect. A professor of anthropology at Metro State College since 1991, Dr. Schultz has had

a long career as a member of the Society and an applied anthropologist. Dr. Schultz's research has taken him to Chad and Cameroon while working for USAID, to West Africa, the Philippines and with nine different reservations in the United States and Canada.

Finally, Mark St. Pierre has been nominated as Member-at-Large. Mark has had a long career as a community development expert and a college teacher and has lived and worked in Indian Country for 38 years. A founding member of the Pine Ridge Area Chamber of Commerce, Mark has successfully implemented numerous economic development projects at Pine Ridge and elsewhere, and is currently developing the Cloud Horse Arts Institute with his wife Tilda Long Soldier. The Cloud Horse Institute teaches Lakota youth traditional life skills and seeks to preserve traditional and contemporary Lakota arts, from painting and beadwork to film and theater.

Best wishes to all of the incoming board members and a sincere 'thank-you' to all who have served as a board member. We look forward to an exciting year ahead as we mark our 30th year as an organization, and plot a course for the next 30!



CSU Students (from l to r) Michael Brydge, Kathryn Converse, Bridget Roth, Krystal Crees Langholz and Raquel Batista answer questions following their panel. Photo by Benjamin Jewell

2009 HPSfAA Ghost Ranch Retreat, October 2-October 4, Abiquiu, NM

It's that time of year again, when we prepare for the annual retreat to Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, NM. A time for relaxation, reflection and surely stimulating conversations across a range of issues, the Ghost Ranch retreat is an opportunity for us to come together to plot a course for the following year and beyond.

The spectacular natural beauty of the area, and the storied history of the Ghost Ranch (learn more here: <http://www.ghost ranch.org/about-us/history.html>) make the annual retreat a special event. Last year's retreat brought the best attendance on record and included a suite of excellent presentations from NAU students and others. The general schedule for the event is as follows: arrival and registration will take place

on Friday, with an evening session of presentations by students as well as ample time for socializing and reconnecting with other members. A morning session of presentations is scheduled for Saturday, with a closed board meeting on Saturday afternoon. Saturday afternoon is an open time for non-board members to take in the sights of the area, while Saturday evening will be capped with another session of presentations. Sunday will include a short session of presentations followed by an open membership discussion with the board from 10:00-11:30. The weekend activities end by noon on Sunday (though lunch is an option for those interested) as we depart refreshed and reinvigorated for another year of growth for the Society.

Proposals for presentations should be sent to Rich Stoffle <rstoffle@email.arizona.edu> as soon as possible. Registration intentions and funding should be sent to Merun Nasser <merun@worldnet.att.net>, please use the form provided on the following page. As a reminder, accommodations at Ghost Ranch are simple, yet comfortable. You have the option of camping, renting a space in a dorm-style room (detached bath), or having your own room with bath attached. **Please fill out the form on the back** and mail it in by **September 7th** to give you the best chance of getting the housing of your choice.

See you at Ghost Ranch!

If you have questions, contact Rich Stoffle at <rstoffle@email.arizona.edu>



The Mesa Housing complex at the Ghost Ranch. Photo:
http://www.ghost ranch.org/component/option,com_gallery2/Itemid,8/?g2_itemId=515

REGISTRATION FORM
HPSfAA Ghost Ranch Retreat, Oct 2-Oct 4, 2009

Name of registrant: _____

Mailing address: _____

Preferred phone: _____ *Preferred email:* _____

Registration fees:

_____ member(s)/professional(s) at \$40 each _____

If both members of a couple are members, two member registration fees must be paid.

_____ non-member guest(s) at \$35 each _____

_____ student(s) at \$30 each _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES _____

Standard weekend packages per person (all meals included):

Children 12 and under are half-price.

_____ Single private room(s), attached bath, at \$250 _____

_____ dorm-style room(s) [can hold up to 5], detached bath, at \$160 _____

_____ Casita room(s) (must provide own bedding), detached bath, at \$110 _____

Please list and enumerate the names of people rooming with you:

Camping (no meals; can be purchased separately):

_____ site(s) \$19 per day (no hookups), per site _____

_____ site(s) \$22 per day (with hookups), per site _____

TOTAL LODGING COSTS _____

GRAND TOTAL _____

Make checks out to **HPSfAA**; please return completed registration forms and payment to **Merun Nasser, 2636 Grapewood Lane, Boulder, CO 80304. Deadline to send payment to Merun is September, 7th.** There is only a limited number of each type of accommodation, so register soon! **If you miss the September 7th deadline,** send Merun the registration fee(s) ONLY, and contact Ghost Ranch directly (Gary Salazar, 505-685-4333, <garys@ghostranch.org>) about lodging.

Questions? Write to Rich Stoffle at <rsoffle@email.arizona.edu>.

High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology (HPSfAA)

Renew or rejoin today!

New Member _____ or Renewing Member _____

Name (First, Last) _____ **Date** _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Company/Institutional Affiliation _____

Telephone: *office* _____ *home* _____

E-mail: *office* _____ *home* _____

Fax: *office* _____ *home* _____

Professional Interests

Please tick one of the following membership categories:

Student **\$25** _____ **Dual (for couples)** **\$50** _____

Professional **\$40** _____ **Corporate/Department** **\$75** _____

(optional) **In addition to my membership fee, I wish to contribute \$ _____ to the High Plains Endowment.**

If you are submitting a dual membership, please fill out the following information on your partner:

Name (First, Last) _____

Company/Affiliation _____

Telephone: *office* _____ *home* _____

E-mail: *office* _____ *home* _____

Fax: *office* _____ *home* _____

Professional Interests of Partner:

Tick below if :

- _____ **you do NOT want to receive our journal.**
- _____ **you do NOT want your information posted in our website membership directory.**
- _____ **you do NOT want to join our discussion listserv (unmoderated).**
- _____ **you do NOT want to receive announcements via our High Plains Hotline list (moderated).**

Please send the completed form and a check, made out to HPSfAA, to: Merun Nasser, 2636 Grapewood Lane, Boulder, CO 80304. THANK YOU

