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Annual Meeting in St. Paul, MN

The 94th Anniversary Meeting of the Central States Anthropological Society was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in St. Paul, Minnesota, April 9 through April 12, 2015.

Dr. Leith Mullings, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology in the Graduate Center The City University of New York, and former President of the American Anthropological Association, was the distinguished lecturer. The title of Dr. Mullings' talk was "Doing Anthropology in a 'Post-Racial' World".

In addition to a great variety of sessions, there were workshops on Mentoring (Dissertation Writing and Things They Never Told Us About Graduate School), Teaching (Linguistics and Using Theatre Techniques), Conference Organizing, and Employment in Business and Industry.

Students participated in a Networking Reception and the Anthropology Bowl—meeting new people, sharing knowledge, and friendly competition...Priceless!

The cultural event was a Hmong fashion show and dance program by the Iny Asian Dance Theater. The highlight of this was having the opportunity to learn the traditional Hmong dance moves. We have some talented dancers in our group!



Iny Asian Dance Theater (<http://ww2.inyasiandancetheater.org>)



Dr. Leith Mullings

at

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Where in the
World is
Aminata?

Illinois

Ghana

Suriname

Netherlands

Where in the World is Aminata?

"I have built a youth center for my village (in Ghana) and I need some help." That is how a conversation started with a friend, a catholic priest in 2013. Well, you are at a university. You have a resource here of 14,000 students. What kind of help do you need?" And so, after an exploratory trip and much planning a team of six students embarked on a field school in Ghana with the goal to learn about culture, field work, and active service. What started as working with an after school program support quickly expanded to regional public school support, providing training and supervision for teachers, agricultural support for the village, literacy development for women, and so on. In addition, the trip extended to the United States through donations from churches, a boy scout troupe, and colleagues, who all became involved. I tell my students anthropology is about human stories and relations. It is through the relations that you build that you find out how things work, what the stories are, and how you can become part of that story. For two months this summer I spent time in northern Ghana working in a rural village setting. For the first 5 weeks I was accompanied by six SIUE students who learned about applied anthropology by doing and being part of a Ghanaian community. My recently obtained certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language came in very handy and served as a great teaching foundation

Two months later I am in Suriname, South America, another part of the world. Here I am working on my sabbatical project and am revisiting and reviving research I started 11 years ago, studying traditional Afro-Surinamese or *Kriyoro* dance. I have trained 12 locals to work with me as a team and have put together a local advisory committee who oversees the work. This is to make sure that the work has local approval and guidance, because ultimately this is about the Creole population representation. Even though this project is about Creole dance we have made sure to include representatives of the other ethnic groups in this project. Thus we have Javanese, Hindustani, Maroon, and Amerindian participants as either researchers or advisory members. Together we go to dance ceremonies, ceremonies that last easily 5 to 8 hours. I have been a judge in a *Drageman* dance contest, which has definitely been a highlight. Drageman are the coffin carriers who dance with the coffin on the way to one's last resting place. Unfortunately I am not able to take pictures or recordings of the dance ceremonies. However, given our interest in the execution of the dance as well as the stories, we as researchers are planning on coming together and practicing and documenting the dance movements we have seen. After I leave Suriname I will go to the Netherlands where I will also train community people and establish a community advisory committee. There we will do the same thing, visit dance activities of Afro-Surinamese people and will document our dances and stories. All this will eventually lead to a book about Kriyoro dance.

Both these projects have been embraced with a lot of community support, which has been humbling and a joy. Since I left Ghana the village women have continued with literacy lessons that I started and their numbers have grown. Teachers in Ghana have asked for more trainings. Community members in Suriname are looking forward to our presentation about traditional dance.

I love being an anthropologist, but it requires a lot of flexibility and adjustment of my family. Both my boys are with grandma [oma] in the Netherlands right now and are becoming quite fluent in Dutch as they attend Dutch public schools. Being without mom for months at a time is not always easy however, but thanks to skype, phones, and lots of support from aunties and uncles we are making it work.



Aminata teaching kindergarteners in Ghana, yes we were in the storage closet



Community day at our after school program in Kaluri Ghana



Drageman winners of the contest - Suriname
<https://youtu.be/E-6b3cZaflo>



Aminata preparing to go to ceremonial dance feast in Suriname (blue-white dress required)



Leslie A. White Award

James A. Whitaker, Tulane University, is the 2015 recipient of the Leslie A. White Award. Whitaker's research project, partially funded by this award, was undertaken in Surama Village in Guyana this summer concerning the Makushi eco-tourism industry. He argues that contemporary Makushi interactions with tourists are a reflection of historical interactions with outsiders (mostly missionaries) that is in contrast with most theories that claim Native American interactions with outsiders was based on power differentials and predation; the Makushi, he claims, seek increased interactions with outsiders in a desire to form greater alliances and to build cross-ethnic solidarity. This was the final phase of his ethnographic research, and will complete the data collection for this project. In Fall of 2015 he hopes to begin writing the first chapters of his dissertation using these materials.



Guyana Map - Guyana Satellite Image geology.com

Leslie A. White Award

The **Leslie A. White Award** was established in 1983 by the estate of Raymond L. Wilder, the father of then President Beth Wilder Dillingham, a former doctoral student of White. Dr. Wilder had wanted to establish a memorial fund for White but was unable to do so before his death. His wishes were made manifest through his daughter. The award was established in honor of White's contributions to the CSAS and to anthropology. The award is meant to assist young scholars (graduate or undergraduate) in any sub-field of anthropology with research expenses

The Immediate Past President of CSAS chairs the White and Dillingham Award Committees.

"Young scholar" does not refer to the chronological age but rather the "academic age" of the applicant; They cannot be an established scholar in the field of anthropology but be working toward their degree—thus "young" in the discipline.

Beth Wilder Dillingham Award

The **Beth Wilder Dillingham Award** was established in 1989 by Mrs. Una G. Wilder and Clay Dillingham to honor Dillingham's commitment to the CSAS and the discipline and the purpose of furthering anthropology by aiding young scholars (graduate or undergraduate) with dependent children. This award is meant to reflect one of Beth Dillingham's major concerns—the difficulty of building an academic career while raising children at the same time. Therefore it is the spirit of the award to assist graduate or undergraduate students in any subfield of anthropology who are responsible for the care of one or more children.

The Immediate Past President of CSAS chairs the White and Dillingham Award Committees.

"Young scholar" does not refer to the chronological age but rather the "academic age" of the applicant; They cannot be an established scholar in the field of anthropology but be working toward their degree—thus "young" in the discipline.



Beth Wilder Dillingham Award

Matilda Stubbs, Northwestern University, is the 2015 recipient of the Beth Wilder Dillingham Award. Stubbs research focuses on the foster care system in the United States. She asks the very personal question of how human lives intermingle with the myriad documents and boxes of files designed to aid and protect children; ironically these structures not only often allow children to "fall through the cracks" in varied and sundried ways and contexts, they also can be a hindrance to child welfare. She aims to examine the role that mandated recordkeeping practices—that is, both legal court records and foster care case files—play in the everyday practices of administering child welfare and case management. Her "ethnography of documents" approach is both innovative and very appropriate for the project she has undertaken. As she explains, "This constant back-and-forth context of documents shaping and structuring relations simultaneously determines not only the trajectory of the ongoing paper trail (in both the court and foster care systems), but also the case itself thus shaping the futures of social service participants." The selection committee felt that this is fine theoretical ethnography at its best.

There were two applicants for each award this time. This year's selection committee consisted of CSAS Executive Board Member Nobuko Adachi, CSAS member Gina Hunter, and CSAS Immediate Past President James Stanlaw

The 93rd Annual Meeting of the Central States Anthropological Society will be held in Kansas City, MO from **21-23 April 2016** at the Embassy Suites Kansas City – Plaza.

Online registration and abstract submission will be open shortly at the AAA web site. You can contact Kate Gillogly directly for queries (gillogly@uwp.edu).

Look for information on submitting paper, panel, and poster proposals on the CSAS webpage.*

For reservations: 816-756-1720 or 800-EMBASSY. Use Code CSAS Annual Meeting for the meeting rate of \$132. Reservations must be made by March 30, 2016.

Kate Gillogly is the Program Chair for the meeting. Our local host for these meetings is Amber Clifford, and she is planning an exciting set of activities for these meetings in conjunction with the papers, panels, and posters.

2016 Annual Meeting

Embassy Suites Kansas City-Plaza, in Kansas City, MO



The 95th Anniversary Meeting of the Central States Anthropological Society will be held at the Embassy Suites Kansas City-Plaza, in Kansas City, Missouri, April 21 through April 23, 2016.

Faculty, students, independent scholars, and practitioners are encouraged to submit abstracts for papers, posters, organized sessions, workshops, and roundtables in all four fields of anthropology, as well as applied.

The annual CSAS conference is student-friendly and features a paper competition for both undergraduate and graduate students (go to the Awards page for more information) .

It also offers an opportunity for anthropologists from throughout the central states area, from institutions large and small, to meet, talk, and network together in a welcoming and professional environment.



* http://www.aaanet.org/sections/csas/?page_id=22

2016 CSAS 95th Anniversary Meeting



Registration

Early online registration rates are:

CSAS regular member: \$70; CSAS student member: \$30; non-member: \$90; student non-member: \$40.

After March 21, on-site registration rates are:

CSAS regular member: \$90; CSAS student member: \$40; non-member: \$110; student non-member: \$50.

If you have any questions about the conference, don't hesitate to contact:

- Kate Gillogly, CSAS 2016 Annual Meeting Program Chair
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2801 West Bancroft, MS 956
Phone: 262-595-2147
Email: GILLOGLY@UWP.EDU

Kansas City, MO

Welcome to Kansas City.

It's a place where wide boulevards, bountiful parks, beautiful architecture and more than 200 fountains stand ready to welcome you with open arms – and an open mind.

It's impossible to imagine Kansas City without these three lifelong residents – jazz, barbecue and fountains. And for good reason. They're a testament to the city's culture, history and heart.



Student Board Members 2013-2015

**Heather
O'Leary and
Matthew
Buttacavoli**

To be considered for a position on the CSAS Board of Directors, contact CSAS President Willie McKether at willie.mckether@utoledo.edu

Student Reflections from the Board

Heather joined CSAS Executive Board as a student member in 2013 when she returned from her dissertation fieldwork in India. Heather says, "During my fieldwork I consulted with the U.S. Embassy in Delhi as a co-planner for a conference on Water which brought together delegates from India and America on equal ground. I saw serving the CSAS board as an opportunity to sharpen my skill set--drawing from a new commitment to fostering beneficial outcomes through mutual engagement to apply it to academic conference planning."



Heather O'Leary

Since her first year presenting at CSAS in 2009, Heather appreciated the importance of regional conferences like the CSAS; she says, "the CSAS has tremendous capacity for fostering young scholars. More than any other organization, it propels the future of anthropology by embracing new and future anthropologists, engaging the public at conferences and providing an atmosphere of equality. It has a strong, welcoming midwestern sense that welcomes everyone to the conversation and supports each voice with consideration in listening to, questioning and strengthening ideas."

In her two terms as a Student Board Member, Heather launched a student mentoring initiative which continues to grow. "I designed the student mentoring initiative to benefit students, recent graduates and new faculty. No matter where you are in your career you are given the opportunity to grow--be it through learning new skills, or reflecting on how much you've learned and can now pass along."

Heather has since earned her Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Minnesota and although she now holds a Post Doc position at McMaster University in Canada, she is still committed to serving the CSAS. Heather now serves as the Assistant Secretary/Treasurer on the CSAS Board. "My experience as a Student Board Member has translated into a number of new opportunities," she says. Heather drew from this experience as one of the founding members of the IUAES Commission for Anthropology and Environment, and translated her experience as a CSAS Student Board Member to her successful run for office as the CAE Chair.

Now, Heather has been elected to the Executive Committee of the IUAES and serves as the Head of the Council of Commissions. "I couldn't have done it without CSAS," she says.

When I first applied to become a Student Executive Board Member, I wasn't quite sure what I was going to be able to do. I had just attended my first CSAS meeting and saw things I liked and others that I thought I could make better. I just didn't know where to begin.



I'm not going to lie, it was rough starting out. Neither me nor Heather knew what to expect and were blindsided at the following Board Meeting when we were asked to make a report. After that meeting, we brainstormed over some Chicago deep-dish pizza and developed a plan. Over the next couple years, we took over the Anthropology Bowl, led sessions focused on student development, and worked with fellow students on becoming more involved with CSAS.

Becoming a board member has helped me develop personally and academically. Sometimes academia can give you a small-fish-in-a-big-pond feeling (especially at conferences) where you can feel a little lost and lonely. By becoming a board member, I feel that I have gained friends and allies among my fellow board members that I can rely on for help and advice. With their support, I have gain confidence in speaking up in board meetings and advocating for the students.

Over the past couple years, Heather and I have slowly taken on more responsibility within CSAS. The Student Executive Board Member position has been a foundation for us to build our academic careers on. As we leave our roles as Student Members, we are both staying on the board in new positions. CSAS has brought us this far, and I am excited to see how much further we can go.



Matthew at Mammoth Cave National Park for a Service Learning Trip

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