

PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT *compiled by the Information Services Staff of the Executive Office*

A substantial portion of staff time in Information Services is spent dealing with the employment problems of anthropology students and recent graduates. One of their major questions deals with the availability of jobs outside academia. This month we illustrate non-academic career paths open to anthropologists with a profile provided by Irving Wallach, an anthropologist whose career spans both government and industry.

Twenty-five years ago as a hungry PhD candidate with a young and growing family to support, I departed Columbia University for the Washington job market. This led to a five year specialization in crosscultural communications and cultural diffusion via motion pictures. My first position was with the International Motion Picture Service at the State Department, which was involved in worldwide distribution of documentary films. As a member of the staff, I reviewed field reports and research proposals, and provided evaluation guidance to field officers in 78 foreign posts.

Upon leaving the State Department, I became a consultant for the Society for Applied Anthropology on a contract relating to multi-national documentaries. Recognizing the tremendous influence of Hollywood feature films in cross-cultural communication and diffusion, I accepted a position on the research staff of a major feature company. My assignment was to determine the types of films preferred by audiences in major foreign markets. I later undertook two years of research, including fieldwork in Japan, as a Foreign Area Training Fellow of the Ford Foundation. The purpose of my research was to delineate the process by which American films communicate with foreign audiences.

At American University, I worked on government contracts involving the planning of overseas studies. Gradually, I became involved in the growing EDP field. For the next six years with the Systems Development Corporation, I dealt with systems analysis and design, primarily in an experiment to determine which social science training best suited an individual to analyze and design systems. The results showed that while all social science training seemed appropriate, anthropologists learned and performed best initially, with sociologists and psychologists following in that order.

From 1965 to the present, my work has included both research and administrative activities with both nonprofit and government agencies relating to the criminal justice system. At Stanford Research Institute, I directed research which developed profiles of convicted adult felons and active juvenile offenders in Washington, DC. At another nonprofit agency, I directed and performed research on the role and function of the police in the Black community from both a police and community perspective. My training in social control and ethnic differences was directly applicable to this research which was expanded into a comparative study of the police function in tribal, pre-industrial and industrial societies.

Subsequently, I accepted administrative assignments for the State of New York and the District of Columbia involving Criminal Justice Grant Programs. I am presently Executive Director of the Office of Criminal Justice Plans and Analysis in Washington, DC.

My experience has convinced me that anthropologists can engage in a wide variety of interesting work which utilizes the insights provided by their training. All types of social science research are available to the adequately trained student. However, adequate training involves many skills which were not included in my graduate training; for example, methodologies other than participant observation and fieldwork techniques; quantitative skills, particularly statistics; and research and program administration.

While I recommend pursuit of a non-academic career, I

must point out that the successful practitioner quickly prices himself out of the academic market. For those who cannot forego it, I suggest part-time teaching. This permits a transfer of applied research techniques and experience to the graduate student. From the perspective of my present position, I see a growing need for evaluators of social programs. Anthropological training is well suited to evaluation of community based programs, and graduate students may find this field worthy of their attention.

We plan to frequently publish profiles of anthropologists employed in government and business, and invite those willing to share their experiences to contact us.

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In August, the Information Services staff identified 54 non-academic positions. Of 100 applicants registered with the Placement Service, only 48 were available for positions outside academia. No applicants qualified for 17 of the 54 non-academic positions.

The Association is seeking members interested in participating in its 1976-77 speaking programs which this year will focus on high school Career Days and small four year colleges. If you wish to participate, please contact Information Services.

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AID is now accepting applications for its next class of International Development Interns, scheduled to begin in September 1977. Appointments will be in the Foreign Service Reserve at a salary not to exceed \$15,479. The program is an individually tailored two-year program which leads to positions of responsibility in developing countries. The deadline for receipt of inquiries is November 26, 1976. Selections will be made in March and April 1977. Interested parties should write James J Redfern, Chief, Recruitment Staff, Dept of State, AID, Washington, DC 20523.

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

Due to the Republican National Convention and the Labor Day recess, there is little legislative action to report. The following bills were introduced in August. All bills listed in the September calendar remain pending with no action taken. We will include a complete calendar in the November Anthropology Newsletter.

HOUSE

HR 14361, La Falce (D-NY): National Neighborhood Policy Act.
 HR 14756, Ashley (D-NH): National Neighborhood Policy Act.
 HR 15089, La Falce (D-NY): National Neighborhood Policy Act.
 HR 15389, Burke (D-CA): National Neighborhood Policy Act.
 HR 15448, Moorhead (D-PA): National Neighborhood Policy Act.
 HR 15454, AuCoin (D-OR): National Neighborhood Policy Act.
 HR 15457, Burke (D-CA): National Neighborhood Policy Act.
 HR 15458, Collins (D-TX): National Neighborhood Policy Act.

All of the above bills are similar and aim at establishing a commission to review federal, state and local activities, their effect on urban neighborhoods and suggest modifications necessary for neighborhood survival and revitalization. The Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development (William Barrett, D-PA, Chairman) held hearings September 9 on these bills and S 3554.

SENATE

S 3554, Proxmire (D-WI): National Neighborhood Policy Act established a commission to study the decline of urban neighborhoods and suggest actions needed for their survival and revitalization—passed Senate; House hearings, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development, Sept 9 (William Barrett, D-PA, Chairman).