

# SAR NOW

SPRING/  
SUMMER  
2019

issue 04

SCHOOL FOR ADVANCED RESEARCH NEWS

## Taking Creative Thought to the Public

*The School for Advanced Research continues to advance our understanding of humanity through public education, Native American arts and culture programming, and scholarly research in the social sciences and humanities.*

The work of SAR scholars regularly bears fruit in books of national note. In March, we featured a talk by former Lamont fellow David Treuer (Ojibwe), whose book *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee* (2019) landed on the *New York Times* best-seller list for several weeks. Weatherhead fellow Jason De León's book *The Land of Open Graves* (2015) has won five national book awards and earned him a MacArthur Foundation "genius" fellowship. David B. Edwards, an NEH fellow at SAR in 1998, was recently awarded the biennial Senior Book Prize of the American Ethnological Society for *Caravan of Martyrs* (2017), a work that built on his earlier research among Afghan jihadists. And Kelli Jo Ford (Cherokee), our Indigenous writer in residence in 2016, won the *Paris Review's* 2019 Plimpton Prize for a short story drawn from *Crooked Hallelujah*, the book that she developed while at SAR.



2015–2016 LAMON FELLOW DAVID TREUER AND SAR PRESIDENT MICHAEL F. BROWN

This is just the latest crop of prize-winning works that SAR has helped to foster over the decades. Whenever possible, we try to make the insights of these talented scholars and writers available to the public in our colloquia, classes, salon discussions, and lectures.

I hope you'll join us at El Delirio in the coming months as we continue this tradition of supporting the best in creative thought.

*Michael F. Brown*

Michael F. Brown, President

## SAR Travels to the Brazilian Amazon

*In January of this year, fifteen SAR members accompanied by President Michael F. Brown and archaeologist Anna Curtenius Roosevelt traveled to the Brazilian cities of Manaus, Santarém, and Belém to explore the history and culture of the region. A particular focus of the trip was the region's history prior to European contact. Also on the itinerary was exposure to the everyday life of contemporary Amazonia and to the river system that shapes the region's economy and lifeways.*

As on past SAR field trips led by distinguished scholars, the group benefitted from the expertise of Dr. Anna Curtenius Roosevelt. Since her time at SAR as a resident scholar in 1989–1990, Roosevelt's archaeological and ethnohistorical work has transformed scientific understandings of precontact Amazonia, once thought to be a region characterized by simple societies and sparse populations.

Roosevelt has established that the reports of early Spanish explorers of the Amazon—such as the Dominican missionary Gaspar de Carvajal (1500–1584), whose detailed descriptions of complex and densely populated communities on the shores of the Amazon River were long dismissed as exaggerations—were in fact credible. Her work has also proven that early Amazonian peoples modified their landscapes in ways that enabled agricultural productivity capable of supporting large, socially stratified societies.

One highlight of the trip was a visit to the Monte Alegre Paleoindian site, of particular interest due to the fact that the work of Roosevelt and her colleagues dates the pictographs of Monte Alegre's Caverna da Pedra Pintada to at least 10,000 BP (before present), which places them among the earliest dated rock art in the New World. There is also intriguing evidence that some of the images had a calendrical function correlating with solar cycles. Braving the tropical heat, the SAR group scrambled up several steep mountain passes to see the pictographs, which represent owls, assorted mammals, comets, handprints, and human figures.



ABOVE: SAR MEMBER WILLIAM P. HECKEL JR. EXPLORING THE MONTE ALEGRE ROCK CLIFFS, BRAZIL

RIGHT: SAR MEMBERS TOUR THE ENCHANTED FOREST, A FLOODED JUNGLE NEAR PINDOBA, BRAZIL



DR. ANNA ROOSEVELT CLIMBING THE STEEP PATH TO ONE OF MONTE ALEGRE'S PICTOGRAPH SITES, BRAZIL

The itinerary also included visits to colorful public markets, where the travelers saw an unexpected variety of Amazonian fish, fruits, and herbal remedies offered for sale. Excursions on the region's major rivers—the Rio Negro, Solimões, and Tapajós, which merge to become the Amazon proper—introduced the group to the remarkable scale of the world's largest river system. The trip concluded with a visit to the botanical garden and exhibits of Belém's Goeldi Museum, where their curator of ethnology, Dr. Glenn Shepard, brought the group up to date on the status of Brazil's Indigenous peoples and their efforts to protect their lands from encroachment by settlers.

In a post on SAR's blog after the trip, board member Diane Stanley Vennema said that she had received a valuable introduction to the "art and history of Paleoindians, the ecology of a region with an unrivaled diversity of plant and animal species, and the unique culture of modern Brazilians still living on the shores of the world's longest river."



## MINDS IN THE NET: THE JOURNEY FROM PAGE TO SCREEN

*2019 Creative Thought Forum  
President's Lecture with New York Times  
best-selling author Nicholas Carr*

Does Nicholas Carr want you to smash your smartphone? Maybe not, but he does want us all to question how our use of Internet technologies shapes the ways we work, live, and think.



When Carr speaks publicly, he often describes a change in writing that greatly affected the way people read: the addition of spaces between words. Starting in late seventh- and early eighth-century Europe, scribes introduced small breaks between the letters in written text, which helped move reading from a mostly oral, highly social act to a more

// continued on page 3



## Rocking the Boat: Innovation as Tradition

*“While I’m a stickler for the [traditional] materials and the techniques, the form has changed, and pictorially, what I feel like it is OK for me to illustrate is probably not what you would consider traditional.” —Teri Greeves, PBS Craft in America series*



TERI GREEVES, MY FAMILY’S TENNIS SHOES, 2003, BEADS, CONVERSE ALL STAR SHOES, OSHKOSH B’GOSH SHOES. CAT. NO. SAR.2003-16-1

Teri Greeves (Kiowa/Comanche) crawled behind cases of beaded moccasins as a child in the trading post run by her mother on Wyoming’s Wind River Reservation. Fascinated by the colors and materials, Greeves began beading before she was eight. Now the award-winning artist is known for her distinctive work that blends contemporary narratives with traditional methods.

Greeves was one of several artists who participated in April’s Indian Arts Research Center (IARC) speaker series; each spring talks bring SAR members and the public into the world of contemporary Native American art. This year’s series, *Rocking the Boat: Innovation as Tradition*, asked how Native artists blend an honoring of traditions and heritage with the development of new approaches and perspectives in their work.

As IARC acting director Elysia Poon notes, “Traditions evolve out of an unbreakable spirit of innovation. Artists pull the past into the present and drive the present into the future.” This year’s discussions highlighted SAR’s commitment to furthering Native American arts and creativity and included **Creating New Futures from the Past** with metalsmith Nanibaa Beck (2018 Dubin Native artist fellow) and potter Jared Tso **Power Couple** with multimedia artists Cannupa Hanska Luger and Ginger Awapuhi Dunnill **Kiowa-Proud, Sisters in Action** with beadwork artist Teri Greeves (2003 Dobkin Native artist fellow) and jeweler Keri Ataumbi **Returning Home: Tradition and Innovation in Tewa Country** with potter Lonnie Vigil (1994 Dubin Native artist fellow) and clay/printmaking artist Jason Garcia (2007 Dubin Native artist fellow)

View the series on SAR’s YouTube channel.

## Aging in Place: Challenges and Prospects

SAR hosts three salons this summer to round out the 2018–2019 Creative Thought Forum. Funded in part by the Ethel-Jane Westfeldt Bunting Foundation, the first salon addresses aging in place.

**Defined** by a desire to live independently in a home or community, aging in place has roots across cultures, but changing practices and economic circumstances—both in the United States and abroad—have created a new experience of aging in the twenty-first century. In this salon, four experts and innovators in gerontology, medicine, anthropology, and social services share insights and provide tangible examples of aging in place. Their work asks what influence social differences—race, ethnicity, class, and gender—have on aging populations and communities that support them.

Discussants include **Dr. Jessica Robbins**, assistant professor, Department of Anthropology and Institute of Gerontology, Wayne State University; **Dr. Annette**

**Leibing**, professor of medical anthropology, Université de Montréal; **Dr. Aaron Seaman**, associate of internal medicine, Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa; and **Agnes Vallejos**, Social Services Division manager, Department of Senior Affairs, City of Albuquerque.



Those attending the Aging in Place salon can look forward to learning about the effects of the water contamination crisis in Flint, Michigan, on the underserved senior population, the experiences of New Mexicans dealing with the challenges of aging and disease in the Southwest, the lives of caregivers and sufferers of dementia in Brazil, and more.

Thursday, June 6, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Eric S. Dobkin Boardroom, SAR

For more than two decades, the Ethel-Jane Westfeldt Bunting Foundation has supported SAR. Mrs. Bunting believed in funding initiatives that furthered academic and creative thought. She felt strongly about giving scholars time to share ideas and findings with each other and with the public.

“ UNDERSTANDING THE PRACTICES AND PROCESSES AROUND AGING IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CURRENT GLOBAL DIALOGUE. TO THAT END, THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAR OVER THE YEARS HAVE BEEN AMAZING, AND WE ARE CONTINUALLY GRATEFUL TO BE FUNDING SUCH AN IMPORTANT PARTNER IN EDUCATION, CREATIVE THOUGHT, AND ANTHROPOLOGY. ”

—Emily Darnell-Nuñez, trustee, Ethel-Jane Westfeldt Bunting Foundation

## Looking Back, Looking Forward: A Conversation with SAR’s Librarian and VP of Finance and Administration

*After more than four decades between them serving the SAR community, Laura Holt, librarian at the Catherine McElvain Library, and Sharon Tison, vice president of finance and administration, are retiring. Each has been integral to the institution, although much of their work has been done behind the scenes.*



LAURA HOLT IN THE STACKS OF THE CATHERINE McELVAIN LIBRARY

Since 2003, Laura Holt has ensured that the library and archives at SAR are accessible to SAR members and researchers of all kinds. The scope of these archives might seem

surprising. Elizabeth White, John Gaw Meem, and Douglas Schwartz left extensive materials, but lesser-known individuals are represented as well. Holt says, “We have the White sisters’ correspondence with Francis Wilson,” a prominent Santa Fe lawyer, Native American rights advocate, and partner in the White sisters’ DeVargas Development Company. “His name isn’t at the top of the list of figures you might think of as part of the Santa Fe scene in the early twentieth century, but he was there,” and was influencing everything, including how much it would take to buy a piece of property or take a windmill down. “The White sisters did not like windmills,” Holt adds.

Holt’s support of Scholar Programs has been integral to its ongoing success. She notes, “The thing that all the scholars have in common when they come to write, regardless of their subject area, is their developed focus. So we need a good strong collection that supports cutting-edge and theoretical work in their particular discipline.” When scholars go on to publish, she says, “knowing that we’ve been a part of that and have supported that work is satisfying. It is about facilitating other people’s access to information. The job is

really to develop the collection, to organize it . . . and then to make it available. I think it is the best job in the world.”

Sharon Tison started at SAR in 1994 and since then has supported the staff, scholars, artists, and community by overseeing the funds that come in, directing them throughout the organization, and watching their sources expand and evolve. According to Tison, “Today, grantors want metrics. This can be difficult because what we do is so hard to measure. Sometimes it is twenty



SHARON TISON IN HER OFFICE AT SAR

years before whatever a scholar was studying here becomes influential in the field. But I do think the funding curve is changing; there are foundations and grantors that see how you have to experiment to see if something works, and they are willing to gamble on that.”

Tison’s tracking of the institution’s complex finances has given her a unique view of the individuals and organizations that make SAR function. “One of the biggest changes has been how we think of our Indian Arts Research Center collection. We are now thinking about what the collection means and what our responsibility is to the communities it represents. That is exciting to see.” She credits the Anne Ray Foundation for supporting this change. “The foundation changed many things about what we do. Having that support, not just financial support, has been so important.”

After working for six SAR presidents and witnessing changes in the staff, board, and world of funding, Tison believes the future is bright for SAR. In 2012 she was instrumental in the purchase of an adjoining undeveloped property that expanded SAR’s footprint from eight acres to fifteen. “I hope SAR goes on to make creative use of the new property. I was really involved in the purchase. I believe it was a good move for SAR. . . . I would like to think that if I’m around twenty years from now, I could come here and see . . . this old campus in a new way.”



# The Art of the Handmade: Reimagining the World of Chilkat Weaving

Meghann O’Brien, this year’s Eric and Barbara Dobkin Native artist fellow at SAR’s Indian Arts Research Center (IARC), grew up near Alert Bay on the northwest coast of Vancouver Island and is of Haida, Kwakwaka’wakw, and Irish descent.



LEFT: MEGHANN O'BRIEN IN THE KING RESIDENCE AT SAR WEAVING FIBERS BROUGHT FROM HOME FOR HER PROJECT. RIGHT: O'BRIEN IN WORKS OF HER OWN DESIGN FEATURING CHILKAT WEAVING STYLES IN WHAT SHE IDENTIFIES AS WEARABLE ART INSPIRED BY HIGH FASHION.

Making textiles and basketry has its challenges, says O’Brien. These art forms, she notes, are often dismissed as “women’s work” by the Western art world. Weaving, as an artistic medium, struggles for recognition and is not seen by many as equal to male-dominated traditions of totem-pole and mask carving.

O’Brien hopes that her IARC project will “make quantum leaps toward an appropriately reworked form, so that those born outside these distinctive cultures can connect with the transformative power carried in weaving.”

O’Brien celebrates the art of the handmade and aims to reconcile the divide between the Western art world and Native traditions that honor work in textiles.

Thursday, May 16, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Eric S. Dobkin Boardroom, SAR

# Saints of Migration William Calvo-Quirós, 2018–2019 Mellon Fellow

What can a bandito/saint among narcotraffickers (Jesús Malverde) or a personalization of death associated with drugs and human trafficking who is popular among LGBTQ immigrants (La Santa Muerte) tell us about the connections between faith, migration, the Catholic Church, and contemporary politics?

Dr. Calvo-Quirós, assistant professor, Departments of American Culture and Latina/o Studies, University of Michigan, suggests that the emergence and evolution of these two folk saints, along with three others, can address these questions and illustrate the struggles of Latinx communities over the last one hundred years. “Issues of faith are not about reason,” he notes, “but really about what motivates a person to move and to understand the world around them.” During his time at SAR Calvo-Quirós has further developed his Saints of Migration project, which, he says, “investigates the



EPHEMERA HONORING JESÚS MALVERDE

US-Mexico border not only as a physical frontier of socioeconomic and political conflict, but also as an epistemic battleground over spiritual and imaginary geographies.”

SAR offers two resident scholar positions supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. With time and space to write, scholars like Calvo-Quirós are challenging our understanding of the world around us and providing new perspectives in areas where anthropology and Latinx studies meet.

## Minds in the Net // continued from page 1

internal, personal activity. Carr uses this example and others to illustrate how individuals and communities seek and utilize knowledge over time. The last several decades, he suggests, have ushered in a new phase of this technological evolution. “The Internet is almost precisely the opposite of the book; it has the opposite effect as an intellectual technology. If the great thing about the book is that it shields you from distraction . . . the Internet, by contrast, inundates us with stimulation, inundates us with distractions.”

Carr argues that these constant distractions and calls for our attention are short-circuiting a brain function that transforms short-term working memory into long-term memory, leading to impaired creative and critical thinking. And when the smartphone or other technology is a mailbox, photo album, shopping mall, television, radio, newspaper, and “a party where everyone we know is attending and talking about things all the time,” our desire to engage with it is almost irresistible. “We need to



NICHOLAS CARR

become better stewards of our own technological future,” says Carr, “because technology itself is not going to make us better human beings. That’s something that only we can do as individuals and as a society.”

Thursday, May 23, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. James A. Little Theater

## SAR Upcoming Events

For event registration visit [sarweb.org](http://sarweb.org), or contact [archuleta@sarsf.org](mailto:archuleta@sarsf.org) / 505-954-7231

**Artist Talk, Reception, and Open Studio with Dobkin Native Artist Fellow Meghann O’Brien**  
Date: May 16, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Eric S. Dobkin Boardroom, SAR  
Cost: Free

**Anne Ray Intern Presentations with Samantha Tracy and Felicia Garcia**  
Date: May 22, Noon – 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Eric S. Dobkin Boardroom, SAR  
Cost: Free

**Creative Thought Forum Annual President’s Lecture / Minds in the Net: The Journey from Page to Screen with Author Nicholas Carr**  
Date: May 23, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Location: James A. Little Theater  
Cost: \$10 SAR members;  
\$20 not-yet-members

**Speaker Salon with Author Nicholas Carr**  
Date: May 24, 10:00 a.m. – Noon  
Location: Eric S. Dobkin Boardroom, SAR  
Cost: SAR members: Free; space limited

**President’s Circle Field Trip / Hearts of Our People, Native Arts of Minnesota**  
Dates: May 30 – June 2  
Location: Minneapolis  
Cost: \$2,150 per person double accommodation; \$2,445 single accommodation

**Summer Salon / Aging in Place: Challenges and Prospects**  
Date: June 6, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Lunch provided)  
Location: Eric S. Dobkin Boardroom, SAR  
Cost: SAR members: Free; space limited, priority registration given to Chaco members and above

**Special Event / “The Hounds of El Delirio,” Celebrating 80 Years of the Santa Fe Animal Shelter (SFAS) at SAR**  
Date: June 14, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Private reception for SFAS donors, SAR Board and Legacy members  
Date: June 15, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Open house and self-guided walking tours  
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. “The Hounds of El Delirio and Dogs for Defense: Recruiting Pets during WWII” with Nancy Owen Lewis  
Location: SAR Campus  
Cost: Reception: By invitation  
Open House: Free / Lecture: \$20

**President’s Circle Event / Summer Solstice at Forked Lightning Ranch**  
Date: June 23, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Location: Forked Lightning Ranch  
Cost: Free for SAR President’s Circle members, limit 100

**Summer Salon / Historic Churches as Symbols and the Meanings of Restoration with Author Frank Graziano**  
Date: June 26, 10:00 a.m. – Noon  
Location: Eric S. Dobkin Boardroom, SAR  
Cost: SAR members: Free; space limited, priority registration given to Chaco members and above

**Field Trip / Historic Churches as Symbols and the Meanings of Restoration with Author Frank Graziano and Curator Robin Gavin**  
Date: June 27  
Location: Northern New Mexico  
Cost: \$240

**Summer Salon / Where Wind Works: The US and European Rise of Wind Turbines with Photographer Bryan Steiff**  
Date: July 10, 10:00 a.m. – Noon  
Location: Eric S. Dobkin Boardroom, SAR  
Cost: SAR members: Free; space limited, priority registration given to Chaco members and above

**Colloquium / Pablita Velarde: Making a Living as a Native Artist with Adams Fund Fellow Marilyn Norcini**  
Date: July 18, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Location: Eric S. Dobkin Boardroom, SAR  
Cost: Free

**President’s Circle Event / Collections of Distinction**  
Date: July 23, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Location: The Historic Roque Lobato House, home of Susan and Karl L. Horn  
Cost: \$75; special price for President’s Circle members \$25

**Artist Talk, Reception, and Open Studio with Dubin Native Artist Fellow Ian Kualii**  
Date: August 8, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Eric S. Dobkin Boardroom, SAR  
Cost: Free

**Extended Indian Market Week Indian Arts Research Center Collection Tours**  
Dates: Wednesday, August 14; Thursday, August 15; Friday, August 16  
10:00 a.m. – Noon  
Location: Indian Arts Research Center, SAR  
Cost: Free for SAR members;  
\$15 not-yet-members



## Crooked Hallelujah Receives National Book Awards

*In the summer of 2016, Kelli Jo Ford (Cherokee) arrived in Santa Fe with a three-year-old daughter and a husband in tow. The family settled into the King Residence on SAR's historic campus, and Ford began work as the summer's Indigenous writer in residence. Over the three-month fellowship, Ford crafted and revised a series of short stories that became Crooked Hallelujah. "If you are a writer and a parent," Ford says, "it can be a real challenge to find the time and space to write. Having the office, the library, and the other resources, I felt like we had everything we needed and that our time was respected and honored. I felt like the space and time were sacred."*

**Ford** grew up near the Red River, a natural barrier that separates Oklahoma from Texas and the region central to *Crooked Hallelujah*. Set during the oil bust of the 1980s, it follows Justine and her daughter, Reney, as they move from eastern Oklahoma to Texas.



KELLI JO FORD  
2016 INDIGENOUS WRITER IN RESIDENCE

The narrative describes four generations of Cherokee women and the course of their relationships as they negotiate relocation, economic hardships, and questions of faith.

The first person in her family to graduate from college, Ford sees the support provided by the women in her family as crucial to her personal success and influential in her current writing. "As a girl in a family of matriarchs, I spent a lot of time at the feet of strong women, listening past my bedtime. As I find my own voice, I think of the stories as a kind of homage to the women who have shaped me and lifted me up. The mothers, grandmothers, factory workers, waitresses, and artists who drive my work probably border on some kind of obsession for me. . . . Perhaps it's just that I can't stop singing the song of my own mothers and grandmothers until I feel I've done the melody justice."

This melody is now reaching the right ears. Ford's book will be published by Grove Atlantic in 2020, and one of its stories just won the 2019 Plimpton Prize for Fiction from the *Paris Review*. The book also recently earned the University of Oklahoma's 2019 Everett Family Southwest Literary Award.

From 2011 to 2018, SAR's Indigenous writer in residence program was funded by Lannan Foundation. In addition to Ford, the fellowship supported seven other emerging Native American writers. When asked about the



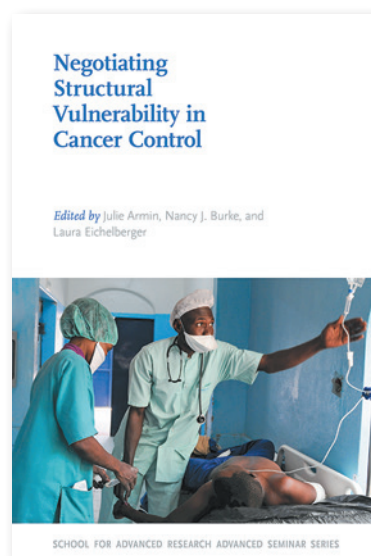
KELLI JO FORD (TOP RIGHT) WITH HER MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER, AND DAUGHTER.

importance of supporting Native artists and authors, Ford adds, "I think it's an important time. In some ways, the past few years might have been viewed as a vacuum for Native writing. But there are, and have been, so many great Native writers who are worthy of more attention—writers like Susan Power, Ernestine Sannkalaxt' Hayes, and David Treuer. And there are so many up-and-coming writers

doing amazing work, like Tommy Orange, Brandon Hobson, Erika T. Wurth, and Casandra Lopez. Who knows how many gifted writers there are out there who just haven't had the right opportunity or access to something like a writer's fellowship? That role of cultivating new Native voices is so valuable. I wouldn't have been able to get the work finished without the time at SAR." ■

**Contributors:** Lindsay Archuleta, Michael F. Brown, Meredith Davidson, Jennifer Day, Laura Holt, Elysia Poon, Sarah Soliz, Maria Spray, Laura Sullivan, Sharon Tison. PHOTOS: page 1, from left to right, Garret P. Vreeland; Brazil photos courtesy of Michael F. Brown; Pixabay; page 2, top left, Addison Doty; top right, Pxhere; bottom left & right, Garret P. Vreeland; page 3, top left, Garret P. Vreeland; top right, David Koppe, courtesy of Douglas Reynolds Gallery; far right, Scott Keneally; bottom left, courtesy of William Calvo-Quirós; page 4, top left, Garret P. Vreeland; top right, courtesy of Kelli Jo Ford; book covers provided by respective publishers.

## New from SAR Press



The newest Advanced Seminar titles from SAR Press may not appear to have much in common, but *Negotiating Structural Vulnerability in Cancer Control* (Armin, Burke, and Eichelberger) and *Governing Gifts* (James) both use cross-cultural case studies to delve into networks made up of family members, neighbors, churchgoers, caregivers, and bureaucrats. *Negotiating Structural Vulnerability in Cancer*



*Control* asks what vulnerable people's access to cancer care tells us about social inequalities and anthropologists' ability to address these inequalities. *Governing Gifts* describes how faith, charity, and security interact to shape flows of money and people around the world. Each volume attends to the details of lived experiences and the cumulative effects of these experiences on us within an evolving world. ■

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The Foundation's grant honors the late Leonora Paloheimo and her mother, Leonora Curtin, who served on the board of managers of the School from 1933 to 1972.

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