

Recent accomplishments

Paper published recently:

- My article entitled “Power of Culture in Selecting Health Care Providers in Rural Bangladesh- An Ethnoscience Analysis” has been published in the Review of Economic Anthropology vol. 26 *The Economics of Health and Wellness: An Anthropological Perspective* as a chapter.

Paper presented at the 2007 AAA Meeting:

- Molla, Azizur R., Dec. 02, 2007, “Effects of Pond Water Contamination on Incidence of Diarrhea in Bangladesh – An Ethnoscience Analysis,” at **2007 American Anthropological Association (AAA) Meeting** in Washington D.C.

Presentation of redesigned Anthropology program at the Council of Trustees meeting:

- As per the desire of the department, I took the lead to redesign the anthropology program at Mansfield University with a focus on applied and medical anthropology. I worked closely with my colleagues in sociology, social work, biology, and health program during the redesign.
- Recently, I presented the redesigned anthropology program to the Council of Trustees as requested by the Provost. Following are some of the comments that I received from the provost and our president after my presentation. Also attached is a local newspaper report covering my presentation.

From: Renner, Michael J

Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2007 1:50 PM

To: Molla, Azizur R

Cc: Sidell, Nancy L; Keller, Peter A; Loeschke, Maravene S

Subject: Thank you

Azizur:

Thank you for making a presentation to the Council of Trustees today. It was thoughtful, informative, and well-prepared. I believe that the Trustees learned from you in ways that will help them serve the University more effectively. You did a great job, and I'm grateful for your work on this.

I know that this is a busy time of the semester, and I am especially grateful to you for taking time to do this at such a busy time. You brought credit to us all, and I appreciate it.

Best,
Michael"

Dr. Michael J. Renner
Provost, Mansfield University

From: Loeschke, Maravene S
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2007 1:32 PM
To: Molla, Azizur R
Cc: Renner, Michael J; Keller, Peter A
Subject: great job

Azizur,

You gave a wonderful presentation at the Council of Trustees. I learned a great deal and am respectful and appreciative of the fine work you are doing. I am especially pleased with how you link your work with our institutional mission. Your perspective of anthropology as service to a global society is inspiring. Thank you very much for representing all of us at the institution with such clarity and professionalism. Maravene Loeschke"

Dr. Maravene S. Loeschke
President, Mansfield University

CC:

- **Dr. Nancy L Sidell**
Chairperson, Dept of Social Work, Anthropology and Sociology
- **Dr. Peter A Keller**
Interim Dean of Faculty, Mansfield University

The Mansfield GAZETTE

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The Gazette, Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Anthropology & sociology majors are on the rise at MU

by Diane Eaton

Assistant Professor of Anthropology Azizur R. Molla, M.P.H., Ph.D. with MU's Department of Social Work, Anthropology and Sociology gave a presentation, "Anthropology at Mansfield University...An Update" during the Nov. 28 Council of Trustees meeting.

Molla discussed how anthropology is meeting the needs of the current time, student-faculty joint work, planned applied anthropology and its role at a glance.

"Mansfield University is like a living organism," Molla said. "Anthropology is a cell of that organism. It brings the world right into your palm."

"Mansfield University is dedicated to providing an environment that promotes academic and personal growth as well as intellectual, ethical, and aesthetic values. The university serves the region and the national and international communities by developing human and material resources. The university is committed to stimulating the continuous pursuit of knowledge and understanding by students, staff, and faculty.

To accomplish this mission, Mansfield University pledges to:

- Maintain a faculty dedicated to teaching and scholarship.

- Provide educational and cultural programs to the general community.

- Offer expertise in public service activities."

Molla noted that the main characteristics of anthropology at MU were qualitative and quantitative research skills, applied focus, anthropology-sociology joint major and regular assessment and a yearly action plan.

He pointed out that currently in the anthropology field, all are employed with Q&Q skills and there is a demand for applied anthropologists and that MU Anthropology focuses on both.

Prior to 2006, anthropology at MU offered limited options to students, had low enrollment, an archaeology focus and was not offered regularly. Post 2006, students have more options. There is increased enrollment. Anthropology courses, including medical and applied anthropology, are being offered as planned.

Molla brought Richard Berg into his Cultural Anthropology class while he was covering the chapter on "religion." The idea was to give the students real world exposure in addition to textbook knowledge. Molla pointed out that the number of Sociology and Anthropology majors had almost doubled by this fall in comparison to the



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fall of 2005. He concluded that anthropology is a resource for Mansfield University based on the distribution of students by major.

Currently, the students and faculty are doing a joint study to assess the status of campus recycling efforts and design a suitable intervention. An applied anthropology project being done is to study the public health risks associated with indoor radon gas in Mansfield involving the students of the Applied Anthropology class.