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# FACULTY/STAFF NOTES

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**Peter K. Richardson** has been named director of admissions, replacing Conrad J. Sharrow, who became dean of admissions at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute last summer. Richardson, currently director of admissions at Bennington College, will begin his duties early in the summer.

Assistant Professor of Chemistry **Paul H. Connett** has been appointed to an advisory panel to the Office of Technology Assessment, which provides advice on technical issues to the U.S. Congress, for its study of solid waste management in the United States. An outspoken critic of mass-burn incineration, Connett said, "Of all the bodies in Washington, this is the one most likely to listen carefully to all sides on this controversial issue."

**Laura N. O'Shaughnessy**, associate dean and associate professor of government, was one of twelve guests of the Ford Foundation for a week in January, as she monitored and reported on the status of the Central American peace accord.

Professor of English **Joe David Bellamy** has been named the winner of the Editors' Book Award for 1987 for his novel, *Suzi Sinzinnati*. The novel is scheduled for publication in late fall, 1988.

**Steven F. White**, assistant professor of modern languages, has been awarded a 1988 Translators Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The grant will aid White in projects including an edition of the correspondence between Thomas Merton and Nicaraguan poet Pablo Antonio Cuadra and a bilingual anthology of the poems of Gioconda Belli, winner of the Casa de las Americas Prize in 1977.

Lee Professor of History **Robert B. Carlisle** is the author of *The Profaned Crown: Saint-Simonianism and the Doctrine of Hope*, published during the winter by the Johns Hopkins University Press. The book is a study

of the thought of a group of nineteenth-century Utopian socialists who were responsible for the economic regeneration of France after the Revolution of 1848.

**David J. Shields**, visiting assistant professor of English, has had his second novel, *Dead Languages*, accepted for publication by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. His first novel, *Heroes*, was published in 1984 by Simon and Schuster and will be reissued in paperback by Dell in October of 1988.

Professor of Modern Languages **Henry A. Garrity** has received a grant from the Canadian government's faculty enrichment program to develop a course in Canadian film, to be offered in conjunction with St. Lawrence's Canadian studies program. The course will cover both English and French films made in Canada. Garrity is the author of *Film in the French Classroom*, published in June, 1987.

**Susan Cypert**, director of residence life, is the recipient of a 1988 American Express Fellowship on Women and Public Policy from the Center for Women in Government, and is cur-

rently on a one-year leave of absence studying at SUNY at Albany's Graduate School of Public Affairs and working with the state legislature. **Ann C. Lowery '81** has been named acting director of residence life.

Professor of Geography **William D. Romey** is the author of "Baltic Crafts: Three Republics Reflect Vastly Different Cultural Influences in Their Art Traditions" in the fall, 1987, issue of *Focus* magazine, a publication of the American Geographical Society. In the article, Romey discusses his research on the arts and crafts of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Three members of the geology department participated in the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in Phoenix last November. Professor **J. Mark Erickson** and Assistant Professor **Michael R. Owen** presented papers, and Professor **James S. Street** attended a short course on writing histories of geology.

University Librarian **Richard J. Kuhta** delivered a paper at the Oberlin Library Directors' conference in Grinnell, Iowa, in October. The Oberlin Group is made up of library directors from the sixty leading liberal arts colleges in the country.

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## FACULTY PROFILE

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### John W. Barthelme Associate Professor of Anthropology

By Sharon M. Brown '88

"Collecting bones and stones, hunting dinosaurs and playing outside were some of my favorite hobbies when I was a young boy," John Barthelme recalls with a smile. It should not be surprising that these activities evolved into his interest in anthropology, which he studied at the University of California at Berkeley and later pursued

as a profession.

"Anthropology gave me a chance not only to be outdoors but also to challenge myself intellectually," he says. According to Barthelme, Berkeley exposed him to "one of the best faculties in the world" in the field of human evolution and to many exciting research opportunities.

"In terms of research, you have to



be in the right place at the right time," Barthelme says. As a graduate assistant in 1970, he was chosen by a team of professionals to study the prehistoric people of East Turkana, Kenya. He tried to imagine how these people had lived and adapted to their environment by examining the stone tools and weapons, bones and animal fossils that were found during "the dig."

After seven years of excavation, study and research at Lake Turkana, Barthelme presented his research findings in his doctoral dissertation at Berkeley and later in his book, *Fisher-Hunters and Neolithic Pastoralists in East Turkana, Kenya*. In both he specifically addressed the history of the region from 10,000 years ago to the present, in particular how the people used their cultural traditions and the environmental resources available to them to survive.

"Although my dissertation and my book focus mainly on more recent history, I am much more interested in the older times," Barthelme admits. This interest is obvious in the work he undertook during his two field trips to Lake Magadi, Kenya. Working there in 1981 and 1982 while he was director of the St. Lawrence program in Kenya, Barthelme found stone tools and bits of animal bone that dated from about 100,000 to 40,000 years old. He realized that the area had great potential because it contained well-preserved fossils of animals and tools.

"This was an area which was archaeologically unknown," Barthelme says. "I wanted to use it to study the origin of modern human beings — where they came from and what they looked like." Barthelme applied for grants for further research, which he received from St. Lawrence University faculty research funds in 1986 and from the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation in 1987. He used these grants to finance a four-month archaeological dig in the spring of 1987 near Lake Magadi.

During the dig Barthelme confronted both failure and success. He found a number of Middle Stone Age sites; however, they could not be excavated because they were cemented in limestone. "Although this was a disappointment, we accepted it, kept exploring and eventually came across a real gem — a well-preserved site from the Acheulian age," he explained. "The site probably dates from between 700,000 - 400,000 years



ago." At this site Barthelme and his team of Kenyan workmen discovered thousands of stone tools and a rich collection of well-mineralized fossils of animals such as antelope, hippopotami, zebras and an extinct baboon. Barthelme is currently writing an article on his recent findings in Kenya, and is hoping to return to his "gem" of a site near Lake Magadi this summer to continue his research.

One of Barthelme's biggest challenges is keeping up with developments in his field while he is at St. Lawrence. "The ideal professional career for me would be one with a healthy balance between active teaching and active researching," he says. Barthelme believes that if he keeps up with his research and the latest developments in the field, he will have more to offer as a teacher. "I have learned a lot through my education and research, and I feel that I should share this knowledge with my students," he says.

Barthelme believes that his students have much to offer to the learning process too. "Sometimes I learn just as much from them as they do from me," he says. "They ask me questions that make me think in ways I've never thought before."

As acting chairman of the anthropology department, Barthelme is asking for a lot of input from the students. He is challenging anthropology majors to come up with courses they might be interested in taking or pro-

jects they could develop one on one with a professor. "I see this challenge as planting seeds of concord and discord," he says. "It will, I hope, create a healthy tension that will motivate both students and faculty."

Barthelme says he was originally drawn to St. Lawrence in 1978 because of the Kenya program and the size and location of the University. "I wanted to interact with students on an intimate level in a challenging environment," Barthelme says. "So far St. Lawrence has met my expectations."

He especially believes that the new freshman program will help to develop intelligent and motivated students who will "respect ideas and the people who teach them." In addition, he hopes it will stimulate intellectual discussions both inside and outside the classroom. "We need to let the incoming students know immediately that college is fun, but hard work too," Barthelme says. "It is a place where you learn and grow up at the same time."

Although he is constantly busy balancing his time between teaching and researching, Barthelme does find moments for some other interests. One of his favorite hobbies is replicating stone tools and trying to use them as people did thousands of years ago. He also enjoys collecting and observing spiders, cooking, and bird watching. He has compiled a species list of 520 birds that he has spotted in Kenya alone.

Barthelme also spends much of his time exploring the world. He has traveled extensively in Africa, Israel, Europe and the Greek Islands. Sometimes Barthelme can even be found hitting balls on the tennis courts or trying out new recipes in the kitchen. He also enjoys experimenting with new tunes on his blue harp, which he first started playing around Kenyan campfires years ago.

Barthelme would like to continue to devote his time to both active teaching and research. In effect, he will be participating in and challenging the learning process which he believes in so strongly. Kenya will certainly occupy his time, energy and thoughts in the years to come. Who knows? Perhaps there are more "gems" out there than he ever expected to find.

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Sharon Brown, a senior from New Hartford, New York, wrote this article during her fall, 1987, internship in the University Relations office.