

A Planning Meeting for a Spring Seminar titled

***“Cross-Disciplinary Culture Shock, Adaptation,
and the Evolution of an Applied Ethnographer.”***

Organizer and Primary Presenter: Tony Whitehead, PhD, MsHyg; Professor Emeritus, Anthropology, University of Maryland.

Date: Monday, November 14, 2022. **Time:** 3:30-5pm.

Location: University of North Carolina, Alumni Hall, 3rd Floor, Room 313A.

(*Please note that there are 2 buildings on campus with "Alumni" in the name; this one is next to Morehead Planetarium. The front entrance of Alumni Hall is blocked off, but both side entrances will be open.)

An Overview by T.L. Whitehead

This proposed seminar was first conceived last week (November 3rd) after I was asked to make some comments at the planned November 13 retirement party for Dr. Geni Eng, Professor Emeritus of UNC's Department of Health Behavior (HB). I was asked to gear these comments towards any contributions that Dr. Eng might have made toward my intellectual and professional development during my time as a faculty member (1976-87) and her time as a graduate student. I came up with at least five items on how Geni contributed to my development as an applied ethnographer, not only while she was a graduate student, but also later, as professional colleagues. These reflections, however, brought me back to similar contributions from other HEED [Health Education, now HB, Health Behavior] graduate students and colleagues, who helped me overcome my cross disciplinary culture shock. So, a few days ago, I explored with Geni, whether she thought HB might be interested in me giving a talk on the day after her party, Monday, where I could explore these ideas as well as well as share some reflections on the early history of that department.

Geni immediately contacted the HB chair, and other UNC health professionals with whom she was affiliated. One of those people is the anthropologist Dr. Angela Stuesse, who secured the room in Alumni Hall. However, I agreed with Dr. Stuesse's "concern regarding turnout because of limited advance notice and at this point in the semester." So, I suggest using the time on Monday to plan one or more spring events, possibly virtual only, or hybrid (onsite and virtual) that focuses on potential careers for anthropologists in public health, cross-disciplinary culture shock and support for graduate students who might be interested in cross-disciplinary work.

I hope you can join me on Monday, November 14 at 3:30 at Alumni Hall.

11/11/2022