On behalf of the Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges (SACC), I have been a contributing editor for Anthropology News (newsletter of the American Anthropological Association) and editor of SACC’s biannual publication, Teaching Anthropology: SACC Notes since 1991.

I taught anthropology and Spanish at Des Moines Area Community College in Iowa (1970-74; 1982-2000) and was Director of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences (1974-82). I also conducted ethnographic research in Mexico and guided educational tours there. I invite anyone interested in knowing more about my professional life to read my anthropological autobiography, “An Accidental Anthropologist,” in a collection of such essays titled The Tao of Anthropology, Jack Kelso, Editor. Gainesville, the University Press of Florida, 2008.

Following are some photos from my anthropological experiences.

As a graduate student at the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, I spent the summer of 1963 studying the Otomi of Central Mexico. This is one of two rooms my wife and I rented from a family in Huixquilucan, state of Mexico.

This hill above the town of Huixquilucan was my favorite place to go and be alone to relax and reflect. At 9,000 feet above sea level, as a thunderstorm would roll in, you could share the awe that some locals felt in the presence of nature's forces.
Summer 1963. Pedro Rete, in his mid-50s, had arthritis and could no longer work in the fields, which made him available to me during the days.

Summer 1963. Bonefacio Calvario is flanked by two of his children as he makes a slingshot as a gift for me.

Summer 1963
El Cerrito, Otomi settlement
near Huixquilucan, state of Mexico

After my efforts over some weeks to establish rapport, Bonefacio and his wife allowed me to take their picture. This was the first time they had ever been photographed with their permission. His wife's smile is her response to being nervous.

When their portrait was completed, they fetched their children and asked me to photograph the family. After arriving home at the end of the summer, I sent them prints of these and others I had taken.

When I visited them again ten years later, I saw that they had kept the photos on their adobe brick walls along side a calendar with the Pope's picture.
Here my wife, Toby, and 9 year-old Armando are playing with a pet squirrel named Perri after the squirrel in a Disney movie. Armando is the younger son of Uriel Gutiérrez and his wife, Maria, our hosts and land lords in Huixquilucan.

When I returned for a visit a decade later, I was fortunate to attend Armando’s wedding. His father, Uriel, is on the left, following the couple out of the church.

With a bottle of his best brandy, Uriel and I toast the bride and groom.

Summer 1963
The Otomi settlement, El Cerrito (meaning literally “little hill”), appears in the center of the photo, viewed from Huixquilucan.
In the summer of 1989, with the aid of a Fulbright-Hays Group Studies Abroad grant, I led a group of K-12 and college teachers on a six-week study tour of Mexico. The following photos are from that trip.

Tzotzil Mayan women from Zinicantán, Chiapas

Children from Zinicantán looking at Polaroid photos of themselves.

Tzotzil vendor of bracelets and woven goods from the village of San Juan Chamula, Chiapas

A Yucatec Mayan woman displays the hammocks she makes in her home. These hammocks and huipiles, the hand-embroidered dresses like the one she’s wearing, are often consigned to be sold by vendors in tourist areas.

This woman is a staff member and resident of the Hacienda Yaxcopoil, a 19th century plantation in the Yucatán converted into a museum.
A friend from the Yucatec town of Tinum, Don Chivo (a nickname his friends dub him) enjoys foreign tourists and by arrangement with the Central College (Pella, Iowa) study abroad program in Mérida, runs an overnight “bed and breakfast” for students.

Don Chivo's gracious wife, Doña María.

A Yucatec Mayan girl from Chan Kom

A Lacandón man and his son who are selling hand-made bows and arrows at the archaeological site of Palenque, Chiapas.
With me are Manuel Jesús and José Bertoldo, both bilingual teachers at the Albergue Escolar, an elementary school for Mayan children from the settlements belonging to the municipality of Chan Kom. Manuel Jesús became a key informant and good friend during my stay there.

Olga Liria is the wife of Manuel Jesús.

A comfortable way to relax in a hammock.

The children of Manuel Jesús and Olga Liria. She was pregnant with a fifth child at the time. On a subsequent visit, he asked me to be padrino (a godfather) to the child. I declined because distance and costs would preclude me from fulfilling the expected responsibilities of that role.

The following photos are from the summer of 1990 when I conducted ethnographic fieldwork in the Yucatec village of Chan Kom.
Rosie, a 12 year-old relative of Don Talo, dressed up for a special occasion.

Don José Matilde, a bee keeper and herbalist. He was not related to the ruling family but served on the town council. He owned and operated a kind of pharmacy of both commercial and home-grown medicines. A key informant of mine, he was considered a healer and people from other villages as well as from Chan Kom sought him out. Don José was also a Protestant evangelical, though he did not proselytize me. Rather, we had good, intellectually oriented conversations about many things. I considered him a good friend.
Don Humberto Cime ("Don Beto"), another son of Don Eustaquio by a second wife, was a former municipal president and important political leader in Chan Kom.

Don Beto initially invited me to stay and work in the village, arranged for my living quarters and for me to take meals with his family. He became my number one key informant. He was also an alcoholic. When I last visited in 1995, I learned that he had died from the disease the preceding year.

Don Beto, (right) and Roberto (center) guided me on a “road trip” to visit relatives in Cancún.