



HSU ANTHROPOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Number 2 — January 2009

• Newsletter Schedule

This is the second of three issues of the Newsletter of Humboldt State University's Anthropology Department that will appear this academic year. The first issue was published in October and the third will appear in mid-April. In addition to news and announcements, longer articles (interviews, book reviews, letters from distant places, etc.) are welcome from students, faculty, and alumni. Submissions should be sent to the Editor, Victor Golla (golla@humboldt.edu).

NEWS & EVENTS

• HIV/AIDS class raises money for South African orphanage

To mark World AIDS Day (Monday, December 1), students from Rebecca Robertson's course on the Anthropology of HIV/AIDS took part in a panel discussion in Goodwin Forum on the impact of HIV/AIDS on communities. The class also organized a week-long fundraiser to benefit the Baphumelele Children's Home, an AIDS orphanage in Kayelitsha, South Africa. The students held a bake sale and sold World AIDS Day t-shirts at various locations on campus as well as at the Saturday night *Arts Alive!* in Eureka. Their goal was to raise enough money to sponsor the needs of three children for a year. They not only met this goal, they collected enough extra to sponsor a fourth child.

• Tourism class not offered this semester

ANTH 379: *Anthropology of Tourism* will not be offered this year. (Prof. Bunten invites interested students to come to an Anthropology club meeting in the spring where she will work with the club to create a tourism event.)

• Primate club

The HSU Chapter of the Northwest Primate Conservation Society (a.k.a. the HSU Primate club) now has its own e-mail address: nwpcs@humboldt.edu. The club also has a website on the HSU Clubs & Activities webpage:

humboldt.edu/clubs/club_sites/northwest_primate_conservation_s/

Activities this semester will include a regular monthly meeting (dates and topics to be confirmed: watch the website). In addition, club members are planning a benefit for the mountain gorillas, which will take place in April, and are collecting donated art. Contact the club through the above e-mail address to donate.

The club is continuing its Primate Conservation series with a talk on Climate Change and the Amazonian Rainforest by **Peter Bunyard**, Friday, February 6, at 4 p.m. in Siemens 117. Dr. Bunyard's talk will be the Keynote Address for Mary Glenn's one-unit weekend course on Activism & Conservation (ANTH 485), but will be open to everyone interested, whether or not they are enrolled in the course. Dr. Bunyard, one of the founding editors of the *Ecologist* magazine, has published seven books and several articles. (His most recent book, *Extreme Weather*, came out in November 2008.)

Later in the semester, Dr. Joanna Lambert will be the final speaker in the speakers series. Details of her talk will be posted closer to the event.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

• Applications due for Costa Rica Primate Field Program

January 30 is the deadline to apply for one of the 22 places in HSU's highly-regarded field primatology program (May 26-June 29), directed by Prof. Mary Glenn

The program focuses on a 19-day stay at La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica. Located about 1 1/2 hours north of the capital, San José, La Selva lies at the confluence of the Sara-piquí and Puerto Viejo rivers, where the foothills of the central volcanic mountain chain of Costa Rica give way to the Caribbean coastal plain. Bordering the station on the south is the Braulio Carrillo National Park and a 10,000-foot-high volcanic peak. With over half of its area in primary rain forest, La Selva is one of the world's most important sites for tropical ecosystem research. Biological diversity is spectacular: nearly 2,000 species of vascular plants, more than 4,000 species of moths, 500 species of butterflies, and more than 400 bird species. It is also home to four non-human primate species.

In preparation for their stay at La Selva, students will spend the first 11 days of the program taking intensive classes and workshops at HSU covering primate behavior, ecology and conservation. They will also learn field techniques in visits to Sequoia Park Zoo. At La Selva they will be responsible for carrying out individual research projects.



The program is rigorous, both physically and academically. Although the focus is on New World primates, students are also expected to learn about Costa Rican culture and about current issues affecting Costa Ricans and their flora and fauna. All lectures are mandatory, and students spend many hours in the rainforest and at the Sequoia Park Zoo conducting their own primate observation research projects. Students earn 12 units of credit in four courses: Anth 339, *Costa Rican Primate Behavior and Ecology I & II* (6 units); Anth 306, *Costa Rican Cultures* (3 units); and Anth 485, *International Studies Preparation* (3 units).

The instructors will be Prof. Mary Glenn and Marissa Ramsier, a research associate at the HSU Biological Anthropology laboratory and currently a doctoral candidate at UC Santa Cruz. Both are experienced primatologists who have worked previously at La Selva. They will supervise all aspects of the program, including lectures, field days, and travel to and from Costa Rica. The teaching assistant will be Kat Fountain, an HSU anthropology major with a focus in primatology and a participant in last summer's Costa Rica field school.

For further information and details of the application procedure visit the program website (www.humboldt.edu/~anthro/programs.html),

and feel free to contact Prof. Glenn (826-3126). It is possible that a few applications will be accepted after the January 30 deadline.



Participants in the 2008 Costa Rica Program

DEPARTMENT PEOPLE

• Meet Our New Faculty: *Jonathan Damp*

A couple of weeks before Christmas we caught up with Jonathan Damp, by appointment, in his faculty office on the fifth floor of BSS. Appointments are necessary if you want to spend much time with Jonathan, since he is a busy man, splitting his day between his academic job in Anthropology and his managerial role with the Center for Indian Community Development down on the first floor.

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Rhode Island, where my parents met. Shortly afterward we moved to New Hampshire, so I consider that home. When I was still quite young, my father — who flew airplanes for a living — got a job in India and took us all to Mumbai, or Bombay as it was still called then. We were there a few years, and then moved back to New Hampshire, where I graduated from high school. I've been moving all my life.

When did you become interested in archaeology?

I think I was always interested in history and anthropology. I got hooked on archaeology at the University of New Hampshire, where I took an introductory course when I was in my second year. Since UNH didn't offer much more in the subject, I looked around for a place that did. I ended up transferring to the University of Calgary, in Canada. I did the rest of my undergraduate work there, and that was where I eventually got my Ph.D.

What attracted you to Calgary?

My brother was doing graduate work at Simon Fraser, in Vancouver, so I knew a little about Canadian schools (including that they were more affordable than most American ones). But mainly I chose Calgary on the basis of the catalogue description of its large archaeology program. It was probably one of the best choices I could have made, given my interests at the time. I was able to take lots of archaeology courses, and graduated in 1973 with a major specifically in that.

You went directly on to graduate work?

Yes, but not at Calgary. I wanted to work in the Aleutian Islands, and I had heard there was a program focusing on the Aleutians at the

University of Connecticut. So that's where I started my graduate work. It was a big mistake. The department was very theory-oriented and there were few field opportunities. I stayed for a year and a half, took a Master's degree, and left — without ever getting to visit the Aleutians. I applied to Calgary again and re-started my graduate work there in the autumn of 1975. In the summer before re-enrolling at Calgary, I finally made it to the Arctic, although not to the Aleutians: I worked in a crew doing survey work on the Alaska Pipeline.

I also made my first trip to Ecuador at this time. During my senior year at Calgary I'd taken a course on South America from Don Lathrap, who was visiting that year from the University of Illinois. I was fascinated, both by the subject and by the professor. So when, towards the end of my time at Connecticut, the opportunity arose to join a project in Ecuador that Don was directing, I instantly applied, and fortunately was accepted. I was there from January through April, and worked closely with Don. We kept in touch after I returned to Calgary, and he was immensely supportive over the next few years. I think he did more for me than anybody else in archaeology. Looking back, I guess I really should have gone to Illinois to work with him, rather than return to Calgary, but the arrangements had already been made.



Jonathan Damp in the field.

But didn't you continue to work in the Andes?

Yes. Although I returned to Calgary thinking that I would resume work in Alaska, Don Lathrap exerted his influence from afar and I soon found myself committed to South American archaeology for the long term. I spent most of the next twelve years in the Andes. My dissertation research in Ecuador on the coastal Valdivia culture of the Early Formative period was followed by research in Peru on the Nasca Lines and work with Tom Lynch in Northern Chile. I went back to Ecuador in 1984, and for the next three years worked full time at the Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral (the Polytechnic in Guayaquil) helping direct a program to train Ecuadorian archaeologists.

I met my wife there, and we were married in 1985. By this time I was fully fluent in Spanish and well-integrated into Ecuadorian society. Shortly after the birth of our first child, however, we decided, largely for economic reasons, to relocate in the U.S.

Whereabouts?

We settled at first in northern New Hampshire, where my father lived — and where I had left my car! I was in construction work for a while, then got a job teaching skiing and leading nature tours at a nearby resort. Finally a job opened up at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu that seemed to match my qualifications. We packed our bags, got in our little car, drove to San Francisco, caught a flight....and, just like that, we were in Hawaii. We stayed there for four years, 1991 to 1995.

Why did you leave?

My wife loved Hawaii, but my job at the Bishop Museum was very demanding. I ran the CRM project for the “interstate” highway they were building on Oahu, and the hours were gruelling. We lived in a place called Makaha, about 30 miles from Honolulu, and I took the bus in. I’d get up at three in the morning and come home at ten at night.

So I was always keeping an eye out for another job. One day I saw an advertisement in the AAA Newsletter for an archaeologist at Zuni that sounded interesting. I had absolutely no experience in the Southwest, but I said “What the heck!” and applied. To my surprise I was offered the position.

Did you work directly for the Zuni Tribe?

Yes. The Zuni Archaeology Program was set up in the late 1970s to prepare tribal members for archaeological work, so that the Zuni Tribe could ultimately manage its own cultural resources. T. J. Ferguson was the first full-time director, followed in the early 1980s by Roger Anyon, both well-trained archaeologists. Like similar initiatives elsewhere, however, ZAP has received little if any support directly from the Zuni Tribe’s budget. It has had to support itself with external funding, mainly through providing archaeological services for CRM projects in and around the Zuni Reservation. What I was initially hired to do was manage this revenue-producing CRM operation, while Roger Anyon stayed on part-time as the Zuni historic preservation officer. It was a good set-up; Roger was a wonderful man and a supportive mentor. But after a year or so he retired, and by 1999-2000 the historic preservation office had all but shut down. The Governor of the Pueblo asked me to take it over in addition to my CRM responsibilities, and from then on, like Roger before me, I had sole responsibility for all aspects of archaeology at Zuni.

Management headaches aside, did you find Zuni interesting?

That’s for sure! One of the most exciting excavations I carried out was in an area bordering on the central plaza of the old Pueblo of Zuni. The existing structures often lie directly on top of older ones dating back to the late 1600s, and there is a lot more underneath. The cultural layer can be as much as 10 meters deep, showing probably 3000 years of occupation. At the one place where we were able to dig down to sterile soil, the cultural remains at the very bottom were carbon-dated to around 250 BC. We recovered similar early dates at two other sites in the Zuni area, including a 1200 BC date for some very impressive irrigation ditches.

Until recently, nobody believed that an Anasazi Pueblo would show signs of occupation that early, but evidence is now piling up from several parts of the Southwest that fairly intensive maize farming,

complete with irrigation systems, was under way in the Late Archaic (or what is now being called the “Early Agricultural Period”). In the Tucson area, Jonathan Mabry has evidence of farming as early as 4000 years ago. You’ll find a good discussion of all this in the November 2008 SAA *Archaeological Record*. You might also be interested in the book *Zuni Origins*, edited by David Gregory and David Wilcox (U of AZ Press, 2007).

We also carried out historical work at the site of the Pueblo of Hawi-kuh, where Coronado’s soldiers and the Zuni fought a pitched battle in July 1540.

Now you’re working in the Grand Canyon.

That’s right. The Park Service wants to survey approximately 160 sites in the Canyon, a massive undertaking. I’m working with Joel Pedersen, a geologist at Utah State, who is looking at the sites in terms of their geomorphological stability. My own work is technically a subcontract to Joel’s, although it’s the major part of the work — a five-year, renewable contract to map all of the sites and excavate some of the most important. It ought to keep me busy for at least ten years, and I’m hoping to involve HSU students on a regular basis. It’s not suitable for a field school, but individual students could help me with the work.

My next trip to the Canyon will be in April, when we’ll excavate the Lower Unkar site, which right across the river from a fairly well-known site that Doug Schwartz excavated a number of years ago. We think it may date back to the Early Agricultural Period. Evidence of early irrigation farming has started turning up in the eastern Canyon as well as further north above Glen Canyon Dam. The western Canyon, however, is another story. Piecing together the complex history of farming in this region of the Southwest is a large part of the work I will be doing in the years to come.

How are you acclimatizing to the rainy Northwest?

I’m having a devil of a time trying to get my Grand Canyon soil samples to dry out.

Do you have your whole family with you?

My wife and the three younger kids — the youngest is nine. I left my two older kids in the Southwest, where they’re attending the University of New Mexico. We’re renting a nice house in McKinleyville, west of the freeway near the ocean, that we found through Craig’s List.

—Interview conducted and edited by Victor Golla

(An interview with **Todd Braje** will appear in the Spring issue.)

• **A well-spent summer**

Last summer, Anthropology major **Giacobazzi Yañez**, who also minors in Film, had the opportunity to interview and film archaeologists excavating Mayan sites of the Pre-Classic and Classic periods at El Mirador, Guatemala, one of the most important field projects in Mayan archaeology.

It was not exactly planned that way. Giacobazzi went to Guatemala on a 6-week Sierra Institute field study program organized through HSU Extended Education. As part of an immersion-style learning experience that also involved living in Mayan villages and hiking in rainforest wilderness, the study group paid a visit to the El Mirador Project. To provide a sense of the kind of work that archaeology entails, Richard Hansen, the Project’s director, assigned the students to

various jobs. Most of these were fairly routine. However, when Hansen learned that Giacobazzi was a film student he asked him if he'd be willing to stand in for the National Geographic film crew scheduled to document the Project's work, but which had been forced to postpone its visit.

"What an amazing opportunity!" Giacobazzi says. "I got to meet all these talented archaeologists, who were so gracious in sharing their wealth of knowledge with me." The experience, he says, has given him a clearer perspective on the realities of visual anthropology and documentary filmmaking. He has also been able to get more out of his classes this semester.



Last year, when Giacobazzi sought advice from the HSU Career Center on how to break into documentary photography, he told them his dream was to work on a National Geographic crew. They encouraged him to get some field-work experience and to begin working on a portfolio. They also suggested that he get to know the people he wanted to work for and to make contacts that would help him get his foot in the door. Little did he know that he would be able to accomplish all these things during a few weeks in Guatemala!

For information on the Sierra Institute's summer 2009 field course on "The Maya in Guatemala: Culture, History, Activism" visit their website (<http://www.humboldt.edu/~sierra/programs>) or call 826-3731. The 6-week course, which carries 8 units of HSU credit, is taught by Bret Blosser, a Mesoamericanist with a specialty in ethnobotany. It will run from June 26 to August 6. Application deadline is April 13.

• **Profiling our Associates: Mariela Páz Cáceres**

In addition to its full- and part-time teaching faculty, the Anthropology Department is the academic home to one or more Associates. Usually appointed on a yearly basis, Associates are scholars who are working at jobs or on grants or projects that are primarily outside of the university but who wish to maintain ties to an academic institution. Some are Research Associates, working together with regular faculty in field and lab settings on a volunteer basis; others pursue independently funded activities of an anthropological nature.

Among these members of our wider departmental family is **Mariela Páz Cáceres** who has been an Associate in Anthropology since 2005. An HSU graduate, Mariela has worked extensively with indigenous organizations in the US and in Latin America. Last year she took time off to begin work on a master of law degree in public international law at the University of Kent, in Brussels. She is back at HSU this year, working on her dissertation. Her topic is legal pluralism with a focus on the indigenous movement in Ecuador.



Mariela has a storehouse of knowledge on social justice issues and indigenous struggles in Latin America, and although she doesn't regularly teach classes she is always ready to share her expertise, both in the department and across the campus. In 2007 she organized a visit to HSU by Dr. Luis Macas, President of the Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Ecuador, providing HSU students and faculty with a unique opportunity to meet one of the most prominent indigenous intellectuals of our times. Her long-term goal is to build a formal relationship between HSU and Amawtay Wasi, the first indigenous university in Ecuador, on the premise that intercultural education is the basis for social justice and change.

If you'd like to talk with Mariela about her work, she can be reached at mpp4@humboldt.edu.

ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

Faculty

Scoggin, Mary (Chair)	520-B	ext. 5286	ms34@humboldt.edu
Amoussou, Hermine	518-D	ext. 4445	hz4@humboldt.edu
Braje, Todd	538	ext. 4948	tjb50@humboldt.edu
Bunten, Alexis	526	ext. 4342	acb75@humboldt.edu
Damp, Jonathan	524	ext. 4450	jd95@humboldt.edu
Glenn, Mary	522	ext. 3126	meg12@humboldt.edu
Golla, Victor	456	ext. 4324	golla@humboldt.edu
Ramsier, Marissa	233	ext. 4330	mas70@humboldt.edu
Robertson, Rebecca	518-D	ext. 4445	rer3@humboldt.edu
Smith, Llyn	520-A	ext. 4441	lfs1@humboldt.edu
Wenger, Patrick	518-D	ext. 4445	pmw1@humboldt.edu

Office Staff

Cuevas, Alicia	518-B	ext. 3139	alicia@humboldt.edu
McMaster, Linda	518	ext. 4326	mcmaster@humboldt.edu

Labs

Archaeology	137	ext. 4327
Biological Anthropology	233	ext. 4330

Humboldt State University
ANTHROPOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Published three times a year by the Department of Anthropology, Humboldt State University, Arcata, California 95521 (tel 707-826-3139, fax 707-826-4418, golla@humboldt.edu).

Distributed free of charge to interested HSU faculty, staff and students, and available online at the HSU Anthropology website (<http://www.humboldt.edu/~anth>).

Editor: Victor Golla
Production: Linda McMaster
(c) 2009 Humboldt State University

Masthead photo: A Capuchin Monkey at La Selva Field Station, Costa Rica, courtesy of Kat Fountain.