

The Informant

the weekly Newsletter of the

The Department of Anthropology • University of California, Santa Barbara



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KUDOS:

To John Johnson and colleagues. For their featured news release about DNA studies of ancient and modern people that has led researchers to infer that the Chumash are descended from an early human migration along the west coast of the Americas. See <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/newa/2007/02/0702-human-migration-html> for details.

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS:

Anthropology Brown Bag Series

Wednesday February 14th

12 pm - 1 pm

Carolyn Hodges

Perceptions of the human voice: Why there's more to what we say than the words we use

Across many birds and mammals, high frequency vocalizations are often used during friendly and appeasing interactions, whereas low frequency sounds are produced during hostile and unfriendly interactions. This trend extends to various aspects of human life and social interaction as well. The goal of this talk is to present background information and data from several experiments on how and why various paralinguistic features of speech (specifically: fundamental frequency/pitch, formant dispersion, and pitch variation) influence social perceptions of dominance and attractiveness.

Farming, Politics, and Catastrophe in the Olmec World

Friday, February 16, 4:00PM, HSSB 2001A

Dr. Amber M. VanDerwarker

Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Muhlenberg College

Amber VanDerwarker combines analyses of paleoethnobotanical, zooarchaeological, and stable carbon and nitrogen isotopic data to address issues of agricultural intensification and risk in the tropical lowlands of Mexico's Gulf Coast during a period of political formation (1400 BC—AD 300). Analyses focus on the site of La Joya, a large village in the Sierra de los Tuxtlas, situated approximately 60-100 km northwest of the lowland Olmec centers of San Lorenzo and La Venta. Collectively, the subsistence data suggest that maize was an important staple crop by the time people settled into permanent villages at the end of the Early Formative period (1400-1000 BC). The emergence of political complexity in the Tuxtlas followed the shift to sedentism by approximately 600 years and appears to correspond with the beginnings of maize intensification. This initial intensification of maize production coincided with the rise of regional leaders and may have been a product of tribute mobilization encouraged by these aspiring elites. After repeated volcanic activity in the region following the emergence of chiefdoms, the continued intensification of maize production appears to have been a product of increasing environmental circumscription related to eruption and ash fall.

EVENTS:

2nd Annual United Way Volunteer Day

This Saturday, February 10th volunteers composed of UCSB Students, Faculty and Staff will help out Isla Vista Youth Projects and Orfalea Family Children's Center from 9 am to 1 pm. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please call Volunteer Day Coordinator Joel Dinan at (805)965-8591 or Julie Rasmussen at (805)893-7382.

Darwin Day Film Screening

FLOCK OF DODOS: The Evolution-Intelligent Design Circus

The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History is hosting a special screening of the film "Flock of Dodos: The Evolution-Intelligent Design Circus" on Monday, February 12 at 7:00 PM in Fleischmann Auditorium.

The documentary provides an entertaining look at the evolution-intelligent design debate. The Museum is one of more than 30 museums throughout the United States showing the film on Darwin Day, the anniversary of Charles Darwin's birthday on February 12, 1809. Darwin provided the first coherent theory of evolution by means of natural selection and his name is used for events which seek to acquaint the public with the theory and its importance to biology.

Filmmaker and evolutionary biologist Randy Olson humorously examines the debate between proponents of the concept of intelligent design and the scientific establishment that supports evolution, including what Olson believes is poor communication with the public about evolutionary science.

Tickets are available at the door. Members and students \$5; non-members \$8.

For more information about the Museum visit www.sbnature.org. To see a snippet about the film visit www.flockofdodos.com.

Dr. Anabel Ford

**will be giving a presentation on the El Pilar Archaeological Site,
on Thursday, March 8, 2007 at 7:00 pm
at the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum, Farrand Hall**

The vision of El Pilar as a Living Museum, provides a model for archaeological and agricultural practices that are ecologically sustainable. Her study of the Maya Forest Gardeners reveals their cultivation of the natural landscape to provide food, medicine and building materials that supports, rather than destroys, their environment. Dr. Ford will present the advantages of developing the El Pilar Archaeological Reserve for Maya Flora and Fauna as a tourist destination - for the surrounding communities as well as for people who want to see biodiversity and sustainability in action.

"The Last Great Ape" will premiere Tuesday, February 13 at 8 pm on PBS.

NOVA will be presenting "The Last Great Ape," the story of the endangered bonobo ape, whose remarkable social behavior and genetics scientists are only beginning to understand.

Chimpanzees present scientists with a picture of humans at their most aggressive and warlike. But the gentle bonobo, one of our closest living relatives, represents a very different heritage: A matriarchal society bound by empathy, nonviolence, and sex. Yet scientists have been studying wild bonobos for only a few decades, and they may be running out of time, as the ravages of war and hunger threaten the bonobos' survival. Will humans be responsible for wiping bonobos off the earth--erasing a genetic trail that could lead us to the root of human social behavior?

FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS (details posted under “Fellowships/Grants” in Dept. Reading Room):

- CNS-UCSB ANNOUNCES 2007-2008 SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

The Center for Nanotechnology in Society at the University of California, Santa Barbara has several fellowships available for graduate students interested in studying societal issues associated with nanoscience and nanotechnologies.

For application materials and information about the fellowships, please look at:

<http://www.cns.ucsb.edu/education-public-engagement/>. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2007.

Applicants desiring additional information may contact Fiona Goodchild, the CNS-UCSB Associate Director of Education, at fiona@cnsi.ucsb.edu. Applicants are also advised to look at the CNS-UCSB website: www.cns.ucsb.edu.

- NEH \$50,400
National Endowment for the Humanities
Fellowships for Advanced Research on Japan Grant

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=12427>

The Fellowship Program for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan is a joint activity of the Japan-US Friendship Commission and the National Endowment for the Humanities. It supports research on the modern Japanese society and political economy, Japan's international relations, and US-Japan relations. The program also encourages innovative research that puts these subjects in wider regional and global contexts and is comparative and contemporary in nature. Research should contribute to scholarly knowledge or to the general public's understanding of issues of concern to Japan and the United States. Disciplines include: anthropology, economics, geography, history, international relations, linguistics, political science, psychology, public administration, and sociology. The fellowships are designed for researchers with advanced language skills whose research will require use of data, sources, and documents in their original languages or whose research requires interviews onsite in direct one-on-one contact. Fellows may undertake their projects in Japan, the United States, or both, and may include work in other countries for comparative purposes. Fellows usually produce scholarly articles, monographs on specialized subjects, books on broad topics, archaeological site reports, translations, editions, or other scholarly tools. Applicants may be faculty or staff members of colleges, universities, or primary or secondary schools, or they may be independent scholars or writers. **DUE 5/1/07**

- NEH \$75,400
National Endowment for the Humanities
Digital Humanities Fellowships Grant

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=12428>

NEH Digital Humanities Fellowships are intended to support individuals pursuing advanced research or other projects in the humanities that explore the relationship between technologies and the humanities; or produce digital products such as electronic publications, digital archives, databases, advanced digital representations of extant data using graphical displays such as GIS or other digital media, or digital analytical tools that further humanistic research. Fellowships support full-time work on humanities projects for periods of six to twelve months. Applicants may be faculty or staff members of colleges, universities, or they may be independent scholars or writers. Applicants for Digital Humanities Fellowships are not permitted to apply to the May 1, 2007, deadline for NEH Fellowships or Faculty Research Awards. Digital Humanities Fellowships may not be used for: ? studying teaching methods or

theories; ? surveying courses and programs; ? preparing institutional curricula; ? works in the creative and performing arts, i.e., painting, writing fiction or poetry, dance performance, etc.; ? projects that seek to promote a particular political, philosophical, religious, or ideological point of view; ? projects that advocate a particular program of social action; or ? doctoral dissertations or theses. **DUE 5/1/07**

- NEH \$50,400
National Endowment for the Humanities
Fellowships and Faculty Research Awards
Modification 1

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=12429>

Fellowships and Faculty Research Awards support individuals pursuing advanced research in the humanities that contributes to scholarly knowledge or to the general public's understanding of the humanities. Recipients usually produce scholarly articles, monographs on specialized subjects, books on broad topics, archaeological site reports, translations, editions, or other scholarly tools. Fellowships support full-time work on a humanities project for a period of six to twelve months. Applicants may be faculty or staff members of colleges, universities, or primary or secondary schools, or they may be independent scholars or writers. Faculty Research Awards support research in the humanities by faculty members at Historically Black and Tribal Colleges and Universities and Institutions with High Hispanic Enrollment. The awards support the equivalent of six to twelve months of full-time work. **DUE 5/1/07**

CONFERENCES AND CALL FOR PAPERS (details are posted under “Conference Papers and Symposia” in the Departmental Reading Room):

- *The Archaeology Channel* International Film and Video Festival will take place May 1-5, 2007, at the McDonald Theatre in Eugene, Oregon. Complete information about TAC Festival can be found at <http://www.archaeologychannel.org/content/TACfestival.shtml>.

We believe that this film competition will be of interest to your department, as this event brings together the best films in the world on archaeology and indigenous cultures. It also brings to our audience an outstanding keynote speaker, paleoanthropologist Dr. Louise Leakey, the third generation of the famous Leakey family, all the way from Kenya. Dr. Leakey directs the Koobi Fora Research Project on Lake Turkana and will speak to our audience on May 1. We have word that some anthropology professors are making a point of bringing their students to Eugene for TAC Festival and we encourage you to do the same.

This year we received 86 film entries from 23 countries all around the world. We selected 21 films for the competition on the big screen. We believe this is the strongest slate of films yet brought together in the four years we have held this event. The films and our speaker also bring to our audience an outstanding array of topics, ranging from paleoanthropology to traditional cultures of North and South America and Eurasia, as well as the prehistoric and historical archaeology of North America, the Caribbean, Europe and Asia.

Please contact us for further information.

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- The 78th Annual Southwestern Anthropological Association meetings are right around the corner, to be held April 12-15 at the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza in Sacramento. The theme, which can include a broad range of anthropological topics is "Mining Material Culture." We encourage professional and student anthropologists to submit abstracts and their registration material. The deadline is February 15, 2007. Please see our website for more information:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/depts/anthropology/swaa/pages/Pgmeet.htm>