

The Informant

the monthly Newsletter of the

Department of Anthropology • University of California, Santa Barbara

Volume 2, Number 2



Kudos to Amy Gusick. She received an NSF dissertation improvement grant. Way to go, Amy!

In this month's issue of the Informant, we would like to introduce some of the Instructors and Researchers who are members of our department community. ~KS

Sabrina Curran



My current research is concerned with elucidating the ecological context in which hominins evolved. Understanding the selection pressures that acted on our hominin ancestors is imperative to building and testing hypotheses relating to important questions in studies of human evolution, such as what influenced the evolution of bipedality, large brains, and the initiation of stone tool use. In order to reconstruct past habitats, I analyze the bones of artiodactyls, such as deer and antelope, from fossil sites. I quantify variation in joint surfaces and features across the appendicular (limb) skeleton with three-dimensional scans and geometric morphometrics. Variations in appendicular morphology are often associated with adaptations to locomotion in specific habitats and thus by understanding how artiodactyls moved in life, I can reconstruct the type of habitat in which they (and hominins) lived.

My research interests are more broadly defined. Questions regarding how and why skeletal morphology varies interests me in general. I am currently involved with the analysis of the artiodactyl fauna from Rusinga Island, an important Miocene primate site in Kenya. I am also continuing to expand my paleoecological analyses of Plio-Pleistocene hominin (and non-hominin) sites from across the range of *Homo erectus* in order to understand what role the environment may have played in the first dispersal of hominins out of Africa. My future research goals include collaborations with other paleoecological researchers in order to provide even more precision in habitat reconstructions, expanding my research to include more skeletal elements and non-human taxa, and further exploring the application of three-dimensional analyses to questions regarding skeletal variation.

At UCSB, I am teaching Anthropology (Anth) 105- Human Variation (Fall 2009), which is an exploration of how a modern understanding of human biology deconstructs traditional race concepts; Anth 180A- Osteology I (Winter 2010), which is a laboratory-based class surveying the details of modern human skeletal anatomy; Anth 180B Osteology II (Spring 2010), in which students learn different ways in which osteology is important in anthropology (such as in forensic identification, bioarchaeological analysis, and functional morphology); Anth 210- Basic Issues in Physical Anthropology- Paleoecology (Winter 2010), a graduate seminar in which students will learn different methods and proxies used to reconstruct past environments and investigate recent applications of those methods; and Anth 121- Human Evolution (Spring 2010), which will provide students with an understanding of where we came from, starting from the Miocene apes, through (the recent headline-splashing) *Ardipithecus* and *Australopithecus*, and into *Homo*.

Travis Du Bry

My research centers on farm laborers and rural communities in California. I'm interested in topics of socioeconomic mobility, social change and community-building. My dissertation research was a community study of Mecca, a small town in the Coachella Valley that has become a place of settlement for farm laborers and their families. The research was published in my book *Immigrants, Settlers, and Laborers: The Socioeconomic Transformation of a Farming Community* (2007, New York: LFB Scholarly, Inc.). Currently, I'm working with Juan-Vicente Palerm and several Anthropology graduate students on another project to build a comprehensive ArcGIS database on select rural California communities using demographic, agricultural, employment, and ethnographic data, all in relation to agriculture and farm laborers. We're going to make the database public with a website to provide historical and contemporary information about these communities. We hope end users will be public officials, policy makers, NGOs, and the residents themselves. Since I've been at UCSB, I've taught ANTH 135: Modern Mexican Culture, ANTH 141: Agriculture and Society in Mexico: Past and Present, ANTH 154 as Anthropology of the U.S.-Mexican Borderlands, and as Transnational and Global Communities, and ANTH 168: Ethnology of California Agribusiness, Farm Laborers, and Rural Communities.



Emiko Saldívar



I am a trained Sociologist (New School for Social Research), interested in race and ethnicity and the relationship of the state with Indigenous people. My main focus is Mexico but I teach on the same issues in all the Americas. Currently I am working on a collaborative research: Project on Ethnicity and Race in Latin America (PERLA), this project is led by Prof. Edward Telles, Princeton Univ. and includes scholars from Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. Currently I am writing a book based on my last research on Indigenous Children in Urban Schools in Mexico. My most recent publication was the book: "Prácticas Cotidianas del Estado: Una Etnografía del Indigenismo." Mexico: UIA/Plaza y Valdez, 2008.

Matthea Cremers

Matthea (Thea) Cremers is a native of The Netherlands, where she studied and taught at an interdisciplinary social sciences program (University of Amsterdam) before pursuing graduate studies in California. In 1999, she received a PhD in Cultural Anthropology at UCSB with a dissertation titled "Women in Paradise? Gender, Tourism and Modernity in Bali, Indonesia."

At UCSB, she taught courses in the Women's Studies Program, the Environmental Studies Program, and starting Winter Quarter, at the Sociology Department.

In Anthropology she taught Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Third World Environments, Human Environmental Rights, Technology & Culture, History of Anthropological Thought, and Colonialism & Culture.

Her research is on the effects of two terrorist bombings and other recent developments in the tourism industry in Bali, Indonesia, especially with respect to gender-specific costs and benefits.





Patricia Taber grew up in Oregon where she received her BS in Business Administration from Oregon State University. She then embarked on a variety of activities, including a stint as a professional dancer, work in administrative jobs at UCSF, and extensive travel and residence abroad, including a year in Thailand where she worked as director of handicraft projects in Laotian refugee camps. It was these experiences, and particularly her year in India that prompted Patricia's reentry into academia. Upon her return to the U.S. she began taking courses as a post-baccalaureate in anthropology at San Francisco State University, and subsequently earned her Ph.D. in 2005 at UCSB, where she has continued on as a lecturer. Her research has included work with Hmong and Mien refugees, and more recently with middle-class women in urban South India that examines issues of gender, subjectivity, and agency in social transformation. Using life-story narratives and intergenerational interviews with women who have started small-scale and micro enterprises during the rapid social and economic changes taking place in a post-colonial and globalizing context, Patricia focuses on what it means to be a middle-class woman in India at this critical historical juncture. Courses taught at UCSB have included Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Social Organization, Introduction to Contemporary Social Theory, Anthropology of Gender, The Family, and People and Cultures of India.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2. SB County Archaeological Society lecture by Matthew Des Lauriers at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History on Monday evening, November 2, at 7:30. His talk is titled, "Rediscovering Huamalgua, The Island of the Frogs: Archaeological, Ethnohistoric, and Ethnographic Investigations on Isla Cedros, Baja California, Mexico."

November 4. Exhibit Opening: Northwest Coast Collections from the Anthropology Department, with Jan Timbrook. SB Museum of Natural History, Fleischmann Auditorium, 7:30. Members \$8, Non-members \$10.

November 6. Archaeology Research Focus Group lecture. HSSB 2001A, 3:30-5:00. Sarah P. Morris and John K. Papadopoulos (Department of Classics and Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA), Mound and Memory: Excavating the Prehistoric Burial Tumulus of Lofkënd in Albania.

November 6, The "Southern Comfort Food" Anthropology Department Cook-off and Blind Wine Tasting, 5 pm, HSSB 2001A and the kitchen.

For \$5 admission fee, come and have your taste buds titillated as you judge your friends', colleagues', and fellow cooks' best efforts. All proceeds go towards buying the graduate students a new computer for the Comm Room! Anyone can enter! Dishes can be anything with a Southern twist; think south of the Mason-Dixon Line and the Border. Best of each category gets a prize!

Contestants enter food in one or more of 3 main categories:

Sides - think salads, casseroles, breads, potato yummys, etc?

Entrees - if it is served hot and gives you the warm fuzzies after a hard day at UCSB share it with us!

Desserts - anything sweet with a southern twist!

Additional categories (any dish will be automatically entered in one of these categories if it fits the criteria):

Best Vegetarian Dish - if a dish is a meatless masterpiece you could win this category too!

Most Creative Name - if your dish has a name to beat all names you could take home this prize!

Economic Delight - if your ingredients list comes in under \$10 and the dish has that wow factor you may win the "Chef on a Shoestring" award!

There will also be a **Blind Wine Tasting** (for \$2). **Donate** a bottle of wine and enjoy one tasting for free. Otherwise \$2 will get you a tasting. Vote for your favorite. The donator of the best wine will get bragging rights and a prize!

November 6-7-8. Parents' Weekend. Faculty and instructors are encouraged to make classes available for family visits on Friday, November 6.

November 18. Film: 6 Generations: A Chumash Family's History. SB Museum of Natural History, Fleischmann Auditorium, 7:30. Members \$3, Non-members \$5.

November BROWN BAG talks (alt. Mondays, 11:00, HSSB 2001A):

November 2: Dana Bardolph and Greg Wilson

November 16: Amy Gusick and Kristin Hoppa

November 30: Elizabeth Sutton and Melanie Martin

Ongoing events:

Every Tuesday morning, 9:00-9:15. AGSA is sponsoring **YOGA SUN SALUTATIONS** on the 2nd floor patio. All are welcome.

Every Thursday evening, 6:00-9:00. AGSA has organized **SPANISH NIGHT** (alternating hosts). Email with host details sent out weekly to anthgrad.

Every Tuesday afternoon, 4:00-6:00. Graduate student **WRITING GROUP**, in HSSB 2024 (the reading room/kitchen). Free coffee!

Every other Monday, 11-12, BROWN BAG series, HSSB 2001A. Organized by Lindsay Vogt and Melanie Martin.



The 2009 Anthropology BBQ picnic



AGSA ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The **new officers** are:

Co-chair: Melanie Martin

Co-chair: Lisa McAllister

Co-chair: Franklin Horn

Secretary: Dana Bardolph

Outreach: Elizabeth Sutton

Treasurer: Carolyn Hodges

Event Coordinator: Lisa McAllister/Franklin Horn

GSA Rep: Matt Biwer; Alternate: Zacariah Hubbell

GSA Rep: Dana Heins-Gelder; Alternate: Megan Carney

And a **message** from the new co-chairs:

"The Anthropology Graduate Student Association 2009-2010 Co-Chairs, Lisa McAllister, Melanie Martin, and Franklin Horn are excited about year of coordinating fundraisers and social events, furthering professional and academic development, and increasing our visibility on campus. They are already in the midst of organizing numerous events and would like to encourage everyone to submit ideas for additional events that they would like to occur over this next academic year. Their doors (and ears) are always open, so please share your ideas and let's work together to make this next year fun and rewarding!"

AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION:

Professors and graduate students of the Anthropology Department,

We are pleased to announce the launching of the new anthropology club (Society of Anthropology at UCSB). It is the goal of this club to bring a richer experience to the undergraduates and to create opportunities to work with, and to gain knowledge from the graduate students and professors here.

Some of the ideas we have on the table are conference attendance, a student academic journal, guest speakers (grad students, professors, others) to talk to us about their work or other topics, and working with grad students and professors on their research.

If you have any ideas or suggestions that you think would help to move this club forward we would greatly appreciate hearing from you. We will keep you all posted of our progress and activities. We think there is a lot of opportunity for all and look forward to your involvement.

Regards, Jonathan Weber,
President
(forestfloormushrooms@yahoo.com)

Allison Jaqua
Vice President
(ajaqua@uemail.ucsb.edu)
Society of Anthropology at UCSB



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DEADLINES FOR STUDENTS:

Winter Quarter Registration Passes (appointments are on GOLD, no mail notification will be sent):

Pass 1: 10/24/09 - 11/05/09

Pass 2: 11/09/09 - 12/03/09

Pass 3: 12/19/09 - 03/12/10

Deadline to register without \$50 late fee: December 3

Deadline to pay fees without \$50 late fee: January 4

Deadline for Fall degree filing: December 11

Deadline for In Absentia and Leave of Absence filing: December 14

Deadline to advance to candidacy for Winter quarter: December 30.

NOTE: In Absentia and Leave of Absence both require signatures and GradDiv approval. Please allow adequate time before the deadline to gather signatures and submit the form. If you are not approved for In Absentia or Leave and must fully register, the deadline to avoid the late fee is December 3.

Thank you to everyone who turned in a Work Study Program Referral form! We had a record number of students submitting these this fall towards their Department TAships, which really helps us financially.

The **Graduate Division is closing** every other Friday due to the furlough program. If you have business there, please verify well in advance that they will be open.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

(most fliers are posted in the reading room)

Dartmouth College, Department of Anthropology, seeks a **biological anthropologist** specializing in paleoanthropology and/or human biology for a tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant Professor. Application deadline: November 15.

University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Department of Anthropology invites applications for a tenure-track position in **sociocultural anthropology** at the level of Assistant Professor. Geographic specialization is open, but Africa or Asia are desirable. Applications received by November 16, 2009, will be considered for preliminary interviews at the AAA meeting.

Cornell College, Post-Doctoral Teacher-Scholar Fellowship. Fellow will reside in Department of Sociology and Anthropology and teach introductory anthropology and area studies courses in **Latin America**. Application deadline: November 18.

University of Nevada, Reno, Department of Anthropology is seeking candidates for Assistant or Associate Professor, **prehistoric archaeology**, and Executive Director of the Sundance Archaeological Research Fund. Application deadline: December 1.

Hunter College, CUNY, Department of Anthropology invites applications for a tenure-track position in **physical anthropology** emphasizing hominid/hominin paleoanthropology. Application deadline: December 1, 2009.

University of Cincinnati, Department of Anthropology seeks to fill a tenure-track position in **cultural anthropology**, hoping to attract historically under-represented ethnic minority faculty. Geographic area is open, but particularly interested in candidates who work in the Western Hemisphere. Application deadline December 1, 2009.

University of Wisconsin- Madison, Department of Anthropology invites applications for a tenure track position at the Assistant Professor level, anthropological **archaeologist** who focuses on the New World (North, Central, or South America). First consideration will be given to applications received by December 11, 2009.

University of Wisconsin-Madison, College of Letters & Science invites applications for a tenure track position at the Assistant Professor level in the area of **East and Southeast Asian Archaeology and Early History**. Applications should reach the Committee by December 11, 2009 for consideration.

Hunter College, CUNY, Department of Anthropology invites applications for a tenure-track position (any level) in **cultural anthropology** emphasizing religion, nationalism, health and medicine, language, environment, gender, and/or science and technology. Application deadline: December 15, 2009.

Tulane University, Department of Communication, invites applications for a visiting position in **critical race or postcolonial theory**. No deadline specified.

Arizona State University, School of Human Evolution and Social Change seeks a recent PhD for a **postdoctoral research position** to take a leadership role in the project on comparative urbanism, to begin early in 2010. No deadline was specified. Information about the project can be found at <http://latelessons.asu.edu/urban>.



FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS

(most fliers are posted in the reading room)

(Please note that the AAA maintains a list of fellowship opportunities on their website at www.aaanet.org/profdev/fellowships.)

Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships. Information at <http://national-academies.org/fellowships>. Application deadlines: Predoctoral: November 2, Dissertation: November 9, Postdoctoral: November 9.

International Dissertation Research Fellowship. Support for international research. Information at www.ssrc.org/fellowships/idrf-fellowship. Application deadline: November 3.

National Gallery of Art, Predoctoral Fellowship Program. Information at www.nga.gov/resources/casva.htm (see especially the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship). Application deadline : November 15.

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships, for the study of religious or ethical values. Information at www.woodrow.org/newcombe. Application deadline: November 15.

American Anthropological Association Minority Dissertation Fellowships. Information at <http://www.aaanet.org>. Application deadline: February 15.



INTRAMURAL GRANTS

Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Faculty Awards (Deadline: November 13):

Release Time Awards. Up to six awards will be given to ladder-rank faculty to release them from teaching one quarter to concentrate on research projects. Award recipients will be designated IHC Fellows and are required to deliver a public lecture or hold a seminar on a topic related to their research during their tenure as fellows. Faculty may receive this award once every five years, and must not teach during the award quarter.

Individual Research Grants. Up to six awards will be made to support individual research. Eligible expenses include research assistance, travel expenses, and miscellaneous research expenses. Award amounts up to \$1000.

Collaborative Research Grants. Up to eight awards will be made to support collaborative projects. Eligible projects include conferences at UCSB or in the Santa Barbara area; collaborative research or instructional projects by faculty in one or more departments/programs; and initiatives to bring visiting scholars and arts practitioners to campus for collaborative research or teaching. Award amounts up to \$3000.

For more information, visit <http://www.ihc.ucsb.edu/funding>.



CONFERENCES

(most fliers are posted in the reading room)

(Please note that the AAA also maintains a list of conferences on its website, at http://www.aaanet.org/meetings/meetings_cal.cfm.)

November 1: UCSB/UCLA Evolutionary Anthropology Meeting will take place at UCLA. Information can be found at <http://sites.google.com/site/uclauscb/home>.

