

The Informant

the monthly Newsletter of the

Department of Anthropology • University of California, Santa Barbara



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Mark your calendars!

ANTHROPOLOGY HOLIDAY PARTY

MONDAY, December 7, 2009

4:00-5:30pm

HSSB 2001A

Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, and cranberry sauce will be provided along with the usual table service of plates and utensils. Please bring something to share: appetizers, beverages, side dishes, vegetarian dishes, salads, and desserts are all welcome. YUM!

Kudos



Diana Dyste received the AAA Archaeology Division Student Membership award in recognition of a paper titled "*De Mi Barrio to Academia: The Influence of Under-represented Minority Scholars in Anthropology.*" The paper argues for the importance of a decolonial, feminist framework when engaging in archaeological research. It will be presented as part of the Feminist Intersectionalities panel.

In this month's issue of the Informant, we would like to focus on Professor Michael Gurven, whose research has been featured in a number of media stories recently.

Michael Gurven has been working in Bolivia since 1999. In 2002, he launched the Tsimane Health and Life History Project, which aims to understand the impacts of ecology and evolution on the shaping of the human life course. It focuses on the interrelationships between health, growth and development, aging, economics, and biodemography among





small-scale populations of hunter-gatherers and horticulturalists. It combines biomedical and anthropological research with providing medical assistance among Tsimane, an indigenous forager-farming group living in central lowland Bolivia. Funded by NIH and NSF, the project actively involves graduate students.

A recent paper published in PLoS ONE by Gurven and colleagues shows little evidence

of heart disease among Tsimane, and little evidence that inflammation - the hidden killer underlying heart disease in the West - plays an important role in the development of cardiovascular disease under an active foraging and farming lifestyle, where food is limited and infections are common. This study, and follow-up research currently underway, should help revise current biomedical understanding of the causes of atherosclerosis, plaque rupture, and heart disease - the #1 killer in the United States.

Recent media links:

LA Times: http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/booster_shots/2009/08/study-on-bolivian-tribe-shows-heart-attack-and-stroke-are-modern-illnesses.html

American Museum of Natural History: http://sciencebulletins.amnh.org/?sid=h.s.amazon_heart.20090824

UCSB Press Release: <http://www.ia.ucsb.edu/pa/display.aspx?pkey=2109>

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING 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.

AGSA ANNOUNCEMENTS:

On Friday, October 30th, AGSA, with the help of Professor Greg Wilson, sponsored a pumpkin carving event, using only stone tools. Here are some pictures:



Cook-Off Extravaganza

Our cook-off was a huge success gastronomically, socially, and financially. The food was delicious, so a big thank you to all our chefs! It was great to see so many students, staff, and faculty come out. Also, we made \$248 profit, which has been generously supplemented by additional faculty donations. New computers... yes plural... will be moving into the Comm Room within the next month.

Wonderful Wine Glasses!

The votes have been tallied and the designs finalized! All the entries were lovely, so thank you to those who sent in designs, but sadly only four could come out on top. The 9oz stemless wine glasses will be available Dec 7th. A set of four (one of each design) will cost \$20. You know you want one and think of the holiday gift potential! And the winners are....



AGSA Coastal Restoration Project

On Friday November 20th a group of AGSA students and friends braved the "harsh" (read: sunny, beautiful, meditative) Lagoon Island conditions to plant native species as part of the UCSB Campus Coastal Restoration Project.

A big, big thank you to all of our volunteers:

Mariam Dahdul
Molly Green
Kristen Hoppa and Ariel Schindewolf
Dana Heins-Gelder
Sara Kerchusky
Shelley LaMon
Melanie Martin
Lisa McAllister and Rob Levenson
Ann Pisor
Chris Von Rueden
John Wernake

This bout of charity helped raise an additional \$250 towards the new grad computers!

UCSB Anthro Grads and Undergrads Unite for Success

On November 5th a panel of AGSA students and Anthropology Society undergrads got together for a Q&A session about grad school and careers and research training in anthropology. A fun and informative time was had by all.

We have also paired upper division undergrads with volunteer grad student mentors. Mentors will help their mentees in the grad school application process and provide critical feedback on Senior Theses. Thanks so much to our volunteers and best of luck to our aspiring anthropologists!

Jessika Akmenkains and Tatiana Mansurova
Dana Bardolph and Jenner Monge
Diana Dyste and Jessica Delgado
Kristin Hoppa and Kelli Stewart
Franklin Horn and Audra E Kosh
Lisa MacAllister and Anna J Kellogg and Debra Hargett
Melanie Martin and Lauren Kass
Maritza Maksimow and Ruairi Wepking
Anne Pisor and Lindy Ramirez
Kate Sobraske and Rachel Hogue

There are still more grad students willing to serve as mentors, so if you are or know of an undergrad in need of mentoring, please contact Melanie Martin (melaniemartin@umail.ucsb) and she will get you set up.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

(most fliers are posted in the reading room)

University of Houston, Clear Lake, invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in **cultural anthropology**, with a geographic focus preferred in Africa or Asia. Review of applications begins immediately and continues until the position is filled. Information can be found at:
<https://jobs.uhcl.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1257273516507>

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 paleo-anthropology. 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.)

Smithsonian Institution Fellowship Program. The Smithsonian Institution encourages access to its collections, staff specialties, and reference resources by visiting scholars, scientists, and students. The Institution offers in-residence appointments for research and study using its facilities, and the advice and guidance of its staff members in fields that are actively pursued by the museums and research organizations of the Institution. Information at www.se.edu/research+Study. Deadline: January 15.

SRI Foundation Scholarships, in the amount of \$10,000, for PhD candidates in anthropology, history, architecture, or other fields of historic preservation. See

www.srifoundation.org/ed_opp.html. Applications accepted December 4, 2009 through March 5, 2010.

American Anthropological Association Minority Dissertation Fellowships.

Information at <http://www.aaanet.org>. Application deadline: February 15.

INTRAMURAL GRANTS

Up to \$75 reimbursement is available to MA/PhD students who have not advanced to candidacy and who are selected to present a paper or poster at a professional conference. See "Graduate Student Travel Grants" at <http://ucsbgsa.org/documents/funding/> for application materials.

Up to \$300 support is available for student-organized conferences, special events, or workshops. See "Organization/Event Sponsorship" at <http://ucsbgsa.org/documents/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.)

January 6-9: **Archaeological Institute of America Meeting** will take place in Orange County. Information can be found at www.archaeological.org/annualmeeting.

January 6-10: **Society for Historical Archaeology**, Amelia Island, FL.

March 17-20: **Society for California Archaeology**, Riverside, CA.

April 14-18: **Society of American Archaeology**, St. Louis, MO.

April 14-17: **American Association of Physical Anthropologists**, Albuquerque, NM.

April 29-May 2: **Southwestern Anthropological Association**, Reno, NV.
Theme: *Place, Space Environment, and Climate*. Abstracts due by January 30th, 2010.

May 5-8: **Society of Ethnobiology**, Victoria, B.C.

WORKSHOPS

June 7 – August 7, 2010. The SRI Foundation, in partnership with the University of New Mexico, will offer an eight-week Summer Institute in **Cultural Resource Management**. The Summer Institute includes a two-week classroom component and a six-week internship component. The purpose of Summer Institute is to prepare graduate and upper-division undergraduate students for careers in cultural resource management. The Summer Institute is unlike any program offered elsewhere in the United States. For more information, see <http://www.srifoundation.org/> .