

# The Informant

*The monthly Newsletter of the*

Department of Anthropology • University of California, Santa Barbara

Volume 5 ~ Number 1 ♦ October 2012



**Welcome back everyone to an exciting new year! I hope everyone had a great summer and is ready to jump back into the academic year. Please join me in welcoming our new Faculty, Graduate Students, Staff and Lecturers.**

## *In Memoriam:*

First, a bit of sad news: Professor Emeritus Charles J. Erasmus passed away on September 5, 2012, at the age of 90. He came to UCSB in 1962 as the first Chair of our Department, fostering our emergence as a strong program within the discipline. More information will follow about where to send condolences, etc.

## New Faculty



From the Biological Anthropologist search, Assistant Professor Aaron Blackwell.



Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies Associate Professor Gerardo Aldana has been appointed to the Department of Anthropology for a three-year 50% Joint Appointment effective 7/1/12. He will be teaching two courses for Anthropology in Winter Quarter 2013.



From the Sociocultural Ecological Anthropologist search, Assistant Professor Jeffrey Hoelle.

Photo Credit: Ron Rolle



# New Staff



Robin Roe begins her first Year as Department Business Officer.

**Danny Meza** joined the staff in June as the new Graduate Program Assistant. Danny is new to graduate affairs but not to UCSB as he had been working in the Payroll Department for about 8 months. Prior to coming to UCSB and Santa Barbara, Danny taught high school English in New York.

**Graciela Barajas** is our new Undergraduate Program Assistant. She recently completed her MS in Counseling and Guidance: Pupil Personnel Services from Cal Lutheran University. She has experience with students of all ages, as well as a number of years working for the Oxnard Library and the City Clerk's Office.





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# New Graduate Students

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Let's welcome our incoming graduate students:

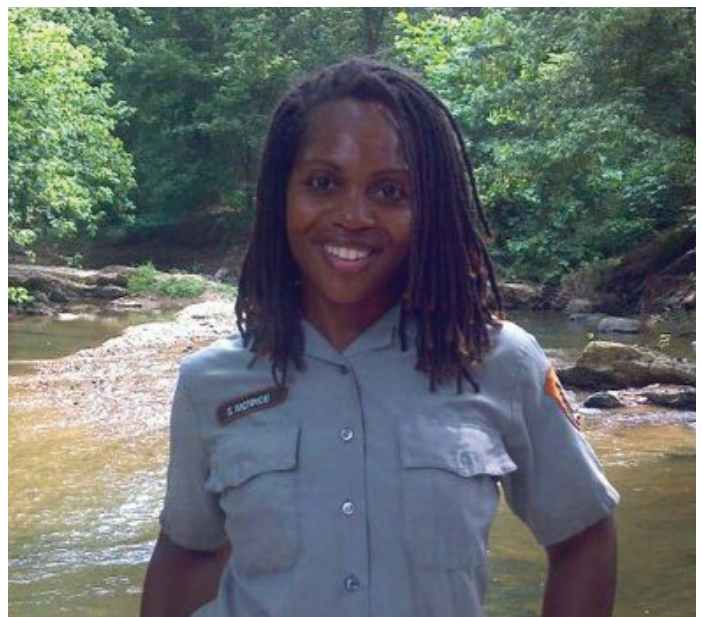
**Jonathan Malindine** joined the 2012-13 Graduate cohort as a student in Sociocultural Anthropology. He will focus on the Northwest Coast, Native Americans, cultural heritage, political ecology, and memory construction while pursuing his PhD. Jonathan earned his B.A. at UCSB and is living in Carpinteria with his wife and new-born daughter.



**Brian Geiger** arrived at UCSB after earning his B.A. in Anthropology at Tulane. His research will center upon household archaeology, abandonment archaeology, early European contact, and Mississippian societies. Brian hails from North Carolina and will work under the advising of Professor Gregory Wilson.



**Alicia Gorman** landed in Santa Barbara after earning a degree at sister school, UC-Davis. She enters the Graduate program as an Archaeologist under the guidance of Professor Katharina Schreiber. Alicia will explore middle-range societies, household archaeology, Peruvian archaeology, material goods such as ceramics, and ideology and power.



**Shayla Monroe** came to the UCSB campus from Memphis, Tennessee. She will work with Professor Stuart Smith after studying at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Shayla will pursue research in Ethnogenesis, Egypto-Nubian relations, Nilotic societies, ethnic identity and ethnic duality, and zooarchaeology.



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# Lecturers, Teaching Associates and Researchers

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Congratulations to **Professor Juan-Vicente Palerm**, who retired in June 2012, but he's not quite done with teaching yet, since he will be recalled to teach in Winter and Spring 2013. The recall will continue through the 2014-15 school year.

Welcome back to **Dr. Sabrina Curran** and **Dr. Emiko Saldivar Tanaka** for 2012-2013.

**Dr. Montserrat Soler** has been appointed as a Lecturer and Assistant Researcher for the 2012-2013 school year.

Two UCSB PhDs, **Dr. Teresa Figueroa Sanchez** & **Dr. Chistopher von Rueden** will serve as Lecturers. Teresa will be teaching ANTH 2 in the Fall, and Chris will be teaching in the Fall & Winter quarters.

A welcome to Professor Gaulin's Fall 2012 visitor from Brazil, **Felipe Nalon Castro**.

And to Professor Michael Gurven's 2012-2013 ISBER Postdoctoral Scholar **Dr. Benjamin Trumble**. He will be in HSSB this year along with returning Sage Center Junior Fellow **Dr. Adrian Jaeggi**.

**Aldo Cimino** and **Jaime Matera** will be Graduate Student Associate instructors for Fall 2012.

**Dr. James Brooks**, President and CEO of the School for Advanced Research, has been appointed as Visiting Professor of History and Anthropology, teaching a special three quarter Borderlands Seminar that will culminate in a visit to SAR's campus. This relationship is planned to continue for the next three years and is hopefully the beginning of a beautiful friendship...



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## Department Faculty Governance

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- Professor Stuart Tyson Smith, Chair
- Professor Mike Gurven returning as IAS Associate Chair.
- Professor Susan Stonich is the new SAAB Associate Chair.
- Associate Professor Greg Wilson is the new Graduate Advisor
- Associate Professor Amber VanDerwarker returning as Faculty Undergraduate Advisor.



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### *Kudos:*

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Congratulations to new Spring 2012 Phd **Megan Carney!**

**Dana Bardolph** won the Illinois Archaeological Survey (IAS) **Jeanette E. Stephens Student Paper Award** for the best graduate student paper related to Illinois archaeology.

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## Broom Human Biodemography Lab

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Under the direction of Broom Center Biodemography Theme Director Michael Gurven and Broom Research Associate Aaron Blackwell, the Human Biodemography Laboratory integrates evolutionary biology and demography to better understand the range of variation in human health, physiology, and the life course from infancy to old age. This fully functional BSL-2 wet lab utilizes enzyme immunoassays to measure biomarkers of stress, immune function, nutritional status, infection, and reproductive hormones to explore the individual and population-level determinants of human health, and to test functional hypotheses from an evolutionary perspective. Specializing in high-throughput biomarker quantification in blood, urine, and saliva, this facility serves UCSB researchers and others interested in biological aspects of human health and development in clinical, field, and experimental settings.



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## Ethnography and Cultural Studies RFG

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(Co-convenors, Mary Hancock [Anthropology and History], David Novak [Music])

The RFG's goal is to create a forum for exploring new, cross-disciplinary methods and approaches in ethnographic work. Part of this endeavor is simply to generate community and open new dialogues in a context where ethnographers are spread out among different programs across campus; but we are also eager to reconsider the research questions of ethnography and cultural studies for new worlds, and new contexts of fieldwork and pedagogy.

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## Critical Issues in America: Figuring Sea Level Rise

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<http://carseywolf.ucsb.edu/emi/criticalissues/events>

(Co-PI's, Mary Hancock [Anthropology and History], Janet Walker, Film and Media Studies, ann-elise lewallen, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, Josh Schimel, Environmental Studies and EEMB, John Foran, Sociology and Stephanie Lemenager, English) on the 2012-13 Critical Issues in America series, "Figuring Sea Level Rise," sponsored by the College of Letters and Sciences.)

Focusing on the projected effects of sea level rise on human and natural systems, the UC Santa Barbara 2012-13 Critical Issues in America series, "Figuring Sea Level Rise," will cultivate an ongoing interdisciplinary conversation among scholars, students, policymakers, activists, and broader publics from around the country. Our unifying "environmental media" approach under the Carsey-Wolf Center Environmental Media Initiative will consider how research on the rising oceans and coastal environments is conducted through sophisticated techniques of measuring and modeling, and represented or "figured" through various types of media including geo-web based visualization tools, computer-generated animations, and documentary film.



"Figuring Sea Level Rise," is a widely collaborative project, drawing on faculty from a range of disciplines including Anthropology, Art, Communication, Earth Science, Environmental Studies, English, Engineering, Film and Media Studies, Geography, Marine Science, and Sociology. Open to the public, the project will include participants from UC Santa Barbara and other major universities, as well as representatives from the arts, strategic think tanks, government, industry, and people from nations affected by sea level rise.

Through workshops, seminars, lectures, and film screenings we will explore different ways of understanding and portraying the rising oceans. A yearlong series of events will build on three major themes:

**FALL 2012:** Vulnerable Communities

**WINTER 2013:** Interactive Visioning

**SPRING 2013:** Rupe Conference - Risk and Uncertainty and the Communication of Sea Level Rise

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## Spaces for the Future: Religion in Urban Place-Making

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**UCHRI Working Group, 2012-13**

PI: Mary Hancock (Anthropology and History, UCSB)

Co-PI: Smriti Srinivas (Anthropology, UCD)

**The Working Group** will focus on the ways that religious ideas, practices, and sites (i.e. various forms of religiosity) associated with different traditions are implicated in what has often been treated as either the preeminent space of the secular or the site of religion's violent return. We ask, instead: how are forms of religiosity yoked to urban spaces and civic futures? By bringing together scholars whose theoretical and ethnographic concerns lie at the intersection of the study of urban formations and religion (broadly defined), we aim to develop inter-campus research and curricular initiatives that are comparative and cross-disciplinary and address the relationship between religion and urban place-making.

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## Conferences

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**Southeastern Archaeology (SEAC)**

**69th Annual Meeting**

November 7-10th, 2012

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

<http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annualmeeting.html>

**American Anthropological Association (AAA)**

**111th Annual Meeting, "Borders and Crossings"**

November 14-18th, 2012

San Francisco, CA

<http://www.aaanet.org/meetings/>

**California Islands Symposium**

October 23-26th, 2012

Ventura, CA

<http://californiaislands.net/>

