

berkeley anthropology matters – *BAM!*

anthropology department † kroeber hall † university of california † berkeley
<http://anthropology.berkeley.edu/>

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Alan Dundes Wins The Lottery

Well, Alan Dundes didn't *exactly* win the lottery. But he has recently come into some unexpected good fortune. A former student, who wishes to remain anonymous, has just given one million dollars to the University, to be used at the discretion of Professor Dundes.

A couple of months ago the graduate called Judith Grant, Anthropology's Development Coordinator, and said that he had taken undergraduate courses from Professor Dundes that he really enjoyed. Now that he is able to, he wants to give something back to the teacher who gave him so much.

Congratulations, Alan Dundes!

In Memoriam: Berta Bascom

Berta Montero Bascom, vibrant and irreverent widow of deceased Emeritus Professor and former Lowie (Hearst) Museum Director Bill Bascom, died last week of cancer. Bill and Berta met in Havana where he, a student of Herskovits, was investigating "Africanisms" in Cuban culture. It was in Havana that Berta Bascom was awarded her Ph.D. in 1940. The Bascoms worked together in the African field for many years, and made one of the major collections of West African (mainly Yoruba) arts in the world. Over the years, the Bascoms have donated most of their collection to the Hearst Museum.

There will be a memorial service for Berta Bascom on Thursday, April 6 at 11 am at St. Jerome's Catholic Church at 308 Carmel Avenue, El Cerrito (510.525.1876), just north of Berkeley. This will be followed by a get together at 1 pm in the Faculty Club on the Berkeley Campus.

Tenth Emeritus Lecture

in memory of Emeritus Professor William Shack

Speaker: J. Lorand Matory, Harvard University

"How I Became 'White': A Cross-Cultural Look at Race."

April 24, 4 pm, Alumni House, *Reception following*

Professor Matory researches the diversity of African, African-American and Latin American cultures, with an emphasis on how *differently* various peoples understand gender, sexuality, class, race, and national identity. He is the author of *Sex and the Empire That Is No More* about gender and politics of metaphor in the Yoruba civilization of West Africa. His latest and most controversial project concerns tension-fraught ethnic diversity of black North America.

In Memoriam: William A. Shack

William Alfred Shack, professor emeritus of Anthropology and dean emeritus of the graduate division, died on March 31 after a courageous battle with cancer.

A prominent scholar of African cultures, Shack was known internationally for his pioneering fieldwork on the Gurage people of Ethiopia and for a series of books on African society. But he was best known on campus for his even-handed, creative stewardship of several administrative posts, including six years (1979-85) as dean of UC Berkeley's Graduate Division.

Shack also was one of the first American anthropologists to undertake ethnographic studies focused on the problems of urban America. In the last years of his life, he returned to that interest, completing a manuscript just before his death on the role of African-American soldiers in the development of the jazz scene in Paris between 1918 and 1939. That work is now in press.

Shack's public service achievements extended far beyond the campus. As dean of the Graduate Division, he established a student exchange program with several French universities that won him a high honor, the Chevalier L'Ordre National Du Merite, from France in 1987. Earlier in his career, Shack established a department of sociology and anthropology at Haile Sellassie 1 University in Ethiopia.

Also, as chair for 10 years of the International African Institute based in London, Shack played an important role in promoting the study of Africa.

In 1991, UC Berkeley conferred its highest honor, the Berkeley Citation, on Shack, in recognition of his multiple contributions. In addition to his top-ranking position as graduate dean, Shack chaired the anthropology department and was faculty assistant to the vice chancellor on affirmative action.

Shack retired that year after 21 years on the faculty.

Born in Chicago, Shack served in the South Pacific during World War II and later completed a bachelor's degree at the Art Institute of Chicago, followed by a master's degree in anthropology at the University of Chicago.

Following pre-doctoral work in Ethiopia, where he became interested in the never-before-studied Gurage culture, Shack entered the London School of Economics, where he completed a Ph.D. in 1961. He held academic positions at the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois before coming to UC Berkeley as professor in 1970.

Shack is survived by his wife, Dorothy Nash Shack; a son, Hailu Araya Shack; a nephew, Charles Vessels; and a niece, Frances Mode.

Memorial services will be held Thursday, April 6, at 5 pm in the Great Hall of the Faculty Club on campus. Contributions can be sent to the William A. Shack Memorial Fund at the UC Berkeley Foundation, 2440 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 94720.

Aihwa Ong Gives Keynote Lectures

Recently Professor Aihwa Ong was the keynote speaker at the Canadian Ethnic Studies Association on the subject of "Multiple Publics and Human Rights in Diaspora Politics." While in Toronto, she also spoke at York University on the anthropology of globalization. Later this month, she will speak on "The New Regionalism" at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill's Mellon Seminar.

In early May, Professor Ong will give the keynote lecture at the Workshop on Governance Beyond the State, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. The title of her talk is, "Re-scaling Economy, Devolving Power: The Dynamics of Governance, Risk, and Citizenship." In June, Professor Ong will participate in a Social Science Research Council (SSRC) workshop on "Rethinking Sovereignty," at Yonsei University, Seoul. She will then go on to do research in Asia.

Professor Ong is also the co-editor of the latest issue of the journal, *positions*, called Asian Transnationalities. Along with Professors Meg Conkey and Pat Kirch, she was asked to contribute an article for the next installment of the *International Encyclopedia of Behavioural and Social Studies*. Her piece is called "Modernity, Anthropological Aspects."

Nelson Graburn Sponsors Two Haas Scholars

Professor Nelson Graburn was the faculty sponsor of two undergraduates who received funds from the Haas Scholars Program. The money will be used by the students to fund their honors thesis summer research projects.

Mark Wolf will study the mechanisms by which the government of Israel (in concert with commercial and religious organizations) has constructed campaigns to encourage tourists of different religious and cultural backgrounds to come to Israel during the "millennial year" 2000. Krisa Fredericksen will study the effects of demand for the incense Aloeswood, used in aesthetic and religious rituals in Kyoto, on the treatment of forests in Viet Nam where this increasingly rare product is found only in wounded and felled trees.

As sponsor, Professor Graburn is thereby awarded \$3000 to support the collections of the George and Mary Foster Anthropology Library.

Ned's Trivia Challenge

No one got last month's trivia question: **Who was the role of Rick Blaine in *Casablanca* originally intended for? (Answer: Ronald Reagan.)**

Try this. **Alfred Kroeber founded a learned society. What is the society and what year did he found it?**

The prize for the first correct answer sent to Ned at flashman@uclink.berkeley.edu is a Jamba Juice gift certificate.

*This newsletter is produced by the Department of Anthropology, UC Berkeley. The next issue of **BAM!** will be published May 1, 2000. Please submit all story suggestions and announcements to Holly Halligan at 642.3509 or hollyh@uclink.berkeley.edu by Friday, April 21.*

The Ear

We're short on news items lately for The Ear. **BAM!** may have to fix this situation by hiring some paparazzi. . . . **Tok Thompson** was interviewed on public television station KQED as part of the program *Digital West's* episode on cyber legends. The show aired on March 10, at 9:00 pm, and consisted of man-on-the-street interviews, a six-minute discussion with Tok on the nature of cyber legends, and then a roundtable discussion with three journalists involved with the topic. Says Tok, "It was a lot of waiting around, and a very short time being interviewed. The taping was at 9:30 in the morning, so I had to really fake being alert." . . . **Liu Xin** recently inaugurated the faculty-to-staff lecture series with a wonderful account of his research interests on China and how through studying what is happening in the last half of 20th century China one can grasp more general themes like modernity, globalization and capitalism. Other faculty lectures will follow, but this first one will be hard to beat. (**Lawrence Cohen** says, "See. I knew I wanted to go first.") . . . Sign on **Vicky Garcia's** closed door, "I'm in the copier." . . . Recently **Ruth Tringham** led a very spirited Ruthian class on Powerpoint for interested staff, faculty and students. **Stanley Brandes** was present and instantly rose to the top of the class—although **Kathleen Erwin**—she's probably an artist—showed serious signs of competing for the number one spot. Remedial Powerpoint users were alternately chastened and encouraged by Ruth swooping by. It was an informative class that everyone should try to take. You won't be as good at Powerpoint as Stanley though. He says he's going to practice constantly. . . . **Margaret Henderson** dislikes the department's fax machine, routinely claiming it is the slowest machine she's ever encountered. One day she stood at the fax machine calling out the time she was spending sending a fax. "I've been here 25 minutes now." "I've been here 27 minutes." "It's coming up on 30 minutes that I've been standing here." The Ear's reply to her is that is not nearly as bad as having to lick the mailing labels, Anthropology being the only department on campus that doesn't have self-adhesive labels. (You read it here first.) We agreed to advocate tirelessly for each other's cause.