

# berkeley anthropology matters – *BAM!*

anthropology department † kroeber hall † university of california † berkeley

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<http://anthropology.berkeley.edu/>

## What Do You Do With an Anthropology Major?

*(Sandy Jones contributed this email she received from a recent anthropology graduate.)*

Hey Sandy,  
I just wanted to send you a quick email telling you what I'm up to. I hope you're doing well!

I graduated in May of 1999. Just before graduating, you lent me your book, *Alternatives to the Peace Corps*, and I found a listing for an organization called Witness for Peace. I applied that May, was accepted, and joined the International Team that August. I've been stationed in Chiapas, Mexico ever since. I'll finish my two year contract in early September of this year. It has been quite an experience so far, and I wanted to thank you for your time, dedication, and for taking the time to recommend and lend me that book. I like it here a lot. And the job is pretty cool. I get to travel quite a bit. I'm going out to the jungle here in Chiapas in two weeks, and right after that I'll be going to Colombia for two weeks. It's pretty messed up there right now, so we're going to try to put some U.S. media attention on U.S. funding of the war in order to stop some of the violence. I'm going to be sort of one of the group leaders for a 100 person delegation of U.S. citizens. Wish me luck. We are going to a very heavily conflictive area where most of the U.S. military funding will be focused. I hope we don't have any run-ins with the guerrillas, drug traffickers or paramilitaries. It's unlikely, but wish me lots of luck anyway. Right after that delegation, I'll be speeding back to Mexico for another delegation here.

I just got back today from a rural Tzotzil indigenous community here in Chiapas called Los Chorros, which is the birthplace of paramilitary groups in Chiapas. In Chiapas, paramilitary groups are government-supported armed indigenous gangs who kill other indigenous people who are members of opposition groups like the Zapatistas. After visiting the community, I can say that it was not as intense as I thought it would be . . . the paramilitaries seem to be calming down and not killing and threatening as many people since the change in government late last year, which is good. But the conflict still seems far from being resolved and reconciliation in communities like Los Chorros will be long and difficult.

I went with an indigenous man we know, Juan, who has been displaced from Los Chorros . . . he and his wife and children left three years ago when they tried to kill him and burned his house down. He received a bunch of death threats a few months ago, but wanted to go back to harvest his coffee so he can feed his kids. So my co-worker and I went with him to maybe help him feel a little safer. Who knows if he is really in any danger, but I think he was glad we went anyway.

So, that's all for now. I just wanted to let you know what I'm doing with my Anthropology degree and thank you for all of your support while I was a student. Not sure what lies ahead in September, maybe it'll be back to school

*undergraduate email continued . . .*

again or I'll try some teaching. I'll keep you posted. Speaking of staying posted, sorry I never sent you that postcard I promised. I guess I still have some more time here, eh? I have your address, but what's the zip code there in Kroeber?

Take care,  
Andy Schwiebert  
Cal Class of '99

### Eleventh Emeritus Lecture

*in honor of Emeritus Professor*

**GEORGE DE VOS**

Speaker: Robert A. LeVine  
Harvard University

“Culture and Personality: What Happened?”

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

## Meet Lisa Hua, Anthropology's New Accounting Assistant

You may have noticed a new face in the corner of the Anthropology front office. That is Lisa Hua who joined the staff in February, coming from Berkeley's payroll department.

Lisa is busy. While working towards her B.A. in Chinese Languages at Berkeley, Lisa worked as a workstudy student in payroll, and as a waitress, bartender (*BAM!* said, “I didn't know you knew how to bartend.” Lisa, “I didn't! We had

notes.”) and caterer in a restaurant on Fisherman's Wharf. She also worked in the Break the Cycle program, tutoring Malcolm X elementary school children. After graduation she continued working in the payroll department, first as a casual and then as a career employee. Payroll was like an extended family to Lisa, offering flexibility during her



Lisa and Nathan

pregnancy, support and mentoring. She still goes back and visits the department, now taking Nathan, her two-year old son, who knows everyone there by name. Nathan quickly learned which person plays with him, which has candy, which has toys, and which will take him for a drink of water. And in Nathan's mind, those are the priorities when visiting: 1. play “hop a hop a ride,” 2. candy, 3. toys, 4. that glass of water.

Outside of work, Lisa likes to eat and appreciates good food. She also has learned to knit although she claims to be awful and to have knitted the world's ugliest sweater. Her goals right now are to do well so that her family is proud of her, and enjoy every day.

Please come by and introduce yourself to Lisa. We are very fortunate to have her on staff here.

## Agozzino Exhibit in Kroeber Gallery

Perhaps quite aptly, starting on March 1st—St. David's Day (the patron saint of Wales)—Maria Teresa Agozzino (Mabel), MA candidate in Folklore and Head Folklore Archivist, will be exhibiting "Transplanted Traditions: An Assessment and Analysis of Welsh Folklore in Patagonia," photos taken during a folklore collecting trip in the summer of 1999 for her BA Honors thesis in Celtic Studies, "Transplanted Traditions: An Assessment and Analysis of Welsh Folklore in Patagonia," in the Second Floor Gallery of Kroeber Hall.

Mabel says, "I remember well the winter spent in my parents' loft in the big house on Ynys y Barri (Barry Island), listening to the endless rain pounding the roof, and straining in the dim light as I systematically ploughed my way through my mother's entire paperback-book collection. Among the classics I found a set of novels that particularly piqued my interest and inadvertently prompted a life goal. Richard Llewellyn, in his sentimental sequels to *How Green Was My Valley*, introduced me to the Welsh settlements of Patagonia, Argentina, instilling a passion and determination to see this enigmatic place for myself. For twenty years I fostered a romanticized notion of a Welsh culture in stasis; a notion dashed by the reality of cultural synthesis and the diminished social functions of transplanted Welsh traditions therein. I soon realized that my idealized image of stereotypical Welsh culture, based on my own life and experiences in the Vale of Glamorgan, South Wales, had little in common with the culture in which I found myself immersed."

## Monica Pons, Anthro Undergrad, Wins Prize for Paper

Monica Pons, a student in Dr. Ogbu's *Research Theory and Methods in Social Cultural Anthropology* class last fall, was selected as the winner in the Western Social Science Association's Student Paper Competition. Monica won the competition among undergraduate students for her paper: "The 'Working It and Owning It' Cooperative: An Island of Socialism Within a Sea of Capitalism." The paper was an ethnographic study of worker-owned cooperatives from the member's point of view. To gather her data, Monica took on the role of participant-observer by volunteering at the main office of a cooperative in San Francisco.

Monica wins \$500, a year's membership in WSSA, a year's subscription to the Social Science journal, free conference registration at the 2001 conference and the opportunity to present her paper at the conference and receive her award.

Congratulations, Monica!

### Commencement 2001!

May 18, 2001, 2 pm

Zellerbach Auditorium

Reception following

## AUA Annual Party—March 3

The Anthropology Undergraduate Association will hold its annual party this Saturday, March 3, at the ARF. The party, complete with DJ and refreshments, will start at 8 pm and go until midnight and is open to all Anthropology Department faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students and their friends. Last year the AUA party was one of the main parties of the year and this year's party promises to be just as big of a hit.

## Tarek Elhaik Curates Film Series—March 12

*Algeria, The Child's View* (Kamel Dehane, Algeria/Belgium, 2000, 54 min) will be shown on March 12, 8 pm, at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 340 Stephens Hall.

## Folklore Roundtable Lecture—March 15

The Folklore Roundtable will be featuring Robin Gwyndaf, Curator of Folklore, Museum of Welsh Life, St. Fagans, Cardiff, Wales, lecturing on, "Personality and Folklore in Action: The Folk Speech of a Welsh Joke-teller and Brother-in-law" on Thursday, March 15, at 5 pm, 221 Kroeber (Gifford Room).

## Anthropology Centennial Trivia Contest

Congratulations to Kathleen Hull, Anthropology graduate student, for providing the correct answer in the third round of the Anthropology Centennial Trivia Contest. The question was: *What does the "W" stand for in Edward W. Gifford?*

The answer: Winslow.

Kathleen has already collected her fabulous merchandise from **BAM!** Please everyone say a "Way to go, Kathleen!" when you see her.

March's question is:

*Who was the first woman hired as a full-time faculty member in the Anthropology Department?*

Email your answer to: [hollyh@uclink.berkeley.edu](mailto:hollyh@uclink.berkeley.edu)

## The Ear

**Kathleen Erwin** was invited to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, to give a paper on her research. The title of the paper was, "Upward and Outward Bound: Gender, Marriage and Mobility in Postsocialist Shanghai." . . . **Bill Whitehead** has mounted a photographic exhibit, "Secrets of the Seed," at Cafe Strada. This exhibit will be up for the month of March, so do check out this second showing of the Whitehead *oeuvre*. Bill said he is following in the **Jelani Mahiri** tradition of exhibiting first in the Kroeber Second Floor Gallery, then a local establishment, then of course, New York. We predict the trajectory of the Agozzino exhibit will be: Kroeber--->La Val's--->the Guggenheim. . . . **Tok Thompson** and **Maria Teresa Agozzino** will be presenting at the 23rd Annual California Celtic Studies Conference, March 16-18, in Dwinelle Hall, Rooms 370-371. Tok's talk is titled: "Tory Island, Ireland, and the Past," and Maria Teresa is speaking on, "First Come, First Served: Investigating Sir John Rhys' 'Essential Connection' between Celtic New Year Customs." . . . When **Sharon Lilly** was asked how she could be so insightful into the ways and minds of those in the Anthropology department, she answered, "I think it was all those Nancy Drew mysteries I read as a child."