

berkeley anthropology matters — *BAM!*

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

march 2000

William Hanks is New Distinguished Chair in Linguistic Anthropology

William Hanks, Professor of Anthropology and holder of a distinguished chair of the humanities at Northwestern University, has been appointed the Distinguished Chair in Linguistic Anthropology. William Hanks received a joint Ph.D. in Anthropology and Linguistics in 1983 from the University of Chicago, where he has also taught. He has also been invited to teach and lecture in Spain, France, Denmark and Italy.

Dr. Hanks teaches courses that cover a wide range—language in culture, discourse, cognition and communication, shamanism, proposal preparation, the logic of anthropological inquiry and the anthropology of literature. He began his long-term field interest in the Yucatecan Maya when in 1979-81 he spent 17 months in the field in Yucatan, Mexico carrying out fieldwork in both linguistic and ethnographic research. Since that time he has returned to Yucatan ten times for continued periods of ethnographic research on shamanism and filming, and more recently to carry out archival research.

William Hanks's scholarly work is considered complex and synthetic, indicative of a masterful command of Maya. His work has been fundamental in dealing with how speakers construe self and other and location in time and space. His work has also contributed to a wider understanding of Maya culture in areas of kinship, religious practice, and agriculture. We look forward to having him at Berkeley!

Mabel Agozzino Donates an Oral History to the Bancroft Library

Mabel Agozzino, folklore graduate student and assistant to Ned Garrett, has recently donated two oral histories to the Regional Oral History Office in the Bancroft Library. One of the Bancroft Library's prime collection goals is to document immigration to California from pre-Gold Rush days to the present in order to provide historical background for California's multi-ethnic population. One such group is the Welsh.

Mabel conducted the oral histories for a class in Celtic Studies with Professor Kathryn Klar. The histories are: Mary E. Wilson, "Tawch a Dead: Growing Up Welsh in the Bay Area," and Megan Davidson, "From Kidwelly to California." In order to record the experience of Welsh immigrants coming to California, Mabel's interviews needed to include examples of both language and culture that survive the process of assimilation into American society. The Welsh-American Society of Northern California contributed to this project with an annual scholarship of \$1,000.

Nancy Scheper-Hughes's Book Selected For Top 100 List

CounterPunch, a national political newsletter, recently named *Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil*, by Nancy Scheper-Hughes (1992) as one of the top 100 non-fiction books of the century. The editors of *CounterPunch*, Alexander Cockburn and Jeffrey St. Clair, read all the lists of the hundred best books of the century that were being published for the millennium observation and didn't like what they read. So they came up with their own list. The editors said their criteria were "what shaped us, informed us, what was innovative, path-breaking." *Death Without Weeping* fit those criteria and is the only book by an anthropologist on their list.

Commencement 2000

May 19, 2000, 2 p.m.

Zellerbach Auditorium

Reception following

Everyone come! Commencement is *the* social event of the Anthropology spring season.
Any anthropologist who is anyone will be there.
And don't forget! Excellent cookies.

Stanley Brandes Inaugurates Foster Distinguished Lecture Series

In early April, Stanley Brandes will travel to Southern Methodist University in Dallas to inaugurate the "George and Mary Foster Distinguished Lecture Series in Cultural Anthropology." His subject is "Staying Sober in Mexico City." Based on fieldwork carried out in the late 1990s, Brandes has been writing about Alcoholics Anonymous in Mexico City. Now, when friends and colleagues hear about this project, they automatically get suspicious. Brandes must be an alcoholic, they say to themselves. Brandes's response: NOT TRUE! The whole story appears in a book-in-progress, which narrates how Brandes fell into the project unexpectedly, through conversations with his Mazahua Indian shoe shiner. Brandes used his sabbatical semester, Fall 1999, to complete a draft of the book, which he is slowly revising. What people most want to know, when learning of the study, is whether AA in Mexico City is the same as AA in the USA. The enormous diversity among groups in both countries makes the question hard to answer. However, there is one certain difference: the identity of AA members in Mexico is much more open than in the U.S. In many ways, the Mexican groups deserve to be called Alcoholics Non-Anonymous. Keep posted for more.

"My Mentor Looks Like Britney Spears!" The First Year of the ARF/Oakland Project—by Amy Ramsay

We've now reached the end of the first year of the ARF/Oakland Project with UCB's Interactive University program. It's been an incredible experience. The members of our Teacher Advisory Board joined us at the MACTIA for an intensive one-week training session in archaeology and computer technologies, complete with a chance to work at a real archaeological dig. This past fall, graduate students worked in consultation with topical experts on campus to develop curriculum modules for each of the Ancient Civilizations under study in the Oakland schools during the fall semester. They then had the opportunity to "beta-test" the modules in the classrooms of our partner teachers. This made for 8-10 weeks of adventures in learning for grad students, teachers, and sixth-graders alike!

We also unveiled a new undergraduate class this past fall, with participating students facilitating an after-school program at Roosevelt Middle School in Oakland. Undergraduates mentored sixth-graders, guiding them through historically- and archaeologically-based computer games and hands-on activities. They developed friendships along the way and broadened educational horizons for the Oakland students. The course and the after-school program are happening again this semester.

So far, our project has impacted the educational development of over 250 Oakland students, sometimes in surprising ways. When one of the sixth-graders was asked what she enjoyed about the program, she made the usual comments about liking the computers and the hands-on activities, then said she really liked the undergraduate mentors because "one of them looks like Nick from 98 Degrees, and the other one looks like Britney Spears!"

We look forward to continuing success over the next two years.

A brown bag lecture overviewing the ARF/Oakland Project's first year will be held on Wednesday, April 12, from 12-1pm, Room 101 ARF (2251 College Bldg.).

Ned's Trivia Challenge

This feature is new in **BAM!** Here's how the challenge works. Every month Ned Garrett, graduate advisor, will come up with a trivia question. If you think you know the answer, email it to Ned at f1ashman@uclink.berkeley.edu. Ned will track the answers and the first person to submit a correct answer will win a prize, and more importantly, be mentioned as being really smart in the next issue of **BAM!** The first question:

Who was the role of Rick Blaine in *Casablanca* originally intended for?

*This newsletter is an example of thrown-together journalism and is produced by the Department of Anthropology, UC Berkeley. The next issue of **BAM!** will be published April 1, 2000. Please submit all story suggestions and announcements to Holly Halligan at 642.3509 or hollyh@uclink.berkeley.edu by Friday, March 24.*

John Ogbu Awarded Two Grants

The Spencer Foundation has awarded John Ogbu a grant of \$50,000 to mentor graduate students in research. Spencer grants are based on nominations from deans and department chairs as well as on the nominees' own research records and evidence of successful mentoring. The grants are used to provide financial support to doctoral students planning research careers related to the study of education. Professor Ogbu will be attending the Spencer Mentors' annual meeting in Chicago on March 22 and 23.

Professor Ogbu has also received a \$10,000 grant from Shaker Heights School District (Ohio) to complete his study of academic disengagement of black students in that district.

Related research news: Professor Ogbu received the prestigious Distinguished Research Contribution to Education award from the American Educational Research Association in 1998. Earlier this month he gave the keynote address at the interdisciplinary conference on research. The title of his paper was, "Different Ways of Knowing: The Ethnographic Way." He will give the same paper on April 7 at UCB's Institute of Human Development Spring 2000 series.

Tenth Emeritus Lecture

honoring Emeritus Professor William Shack
Speaker: J. Lorand Matory, Harvard University
"How I Became White: A Cross-Cultural Look at 'Race'."
4:00 p.m., Alumni House
Reception following

Other News

Pat Kirch delivered the 2000 Distinguished Lecture to the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania, at the annual meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia in mid-February. The title of his lecture was, "Historical Realities and Anthropological Models: Searching for History in the Islands of History."

Juliet Vogt asks all faculty teaching in the summer session to get their book orders in to her by April 3. Remember that faculty who get their book orders in on time will have their books when summer session begins. And you will get a gold star by your name. So far Donald Moore has the most stars.

The Kroeber Anthropological Society will soon be going to press with its next issue of the KAS papers. If you'd like to get involved with future issues or special events, please contact Lisa Bourgeault at 650.357.7448 or lisabour@uclink.berkeley.edu for information about the next meeting.

Have you noticed that they are digging a moat around Kroeber Hall? Was it something we said? Will we get a bridge though? Campus administration says that will depend on how well we play with others.