

# the jawbone

anthropology department † university of california † berkeley



## A WELCOMING WORD FROM THE CHAIR

With the beginning of the fall semester barely a week away, I would like to welcome all of you back from “summer” break. I put the word summer in quotation marks to highlight UC Berkeley’s unusual academic calendar. Where else does summer begin in mid-May and end in mid-August? The month of May generally brings a sense of relief and eager expectation. The coming of August perhaps evokes more ambivalence. And yet, like the grammar schoolchildren we once were, all of us are primed for the start of an exciting new semester.

I use the expression summer break rather than summer vacation because I know that our students, staff and faculty have been hard at work during the past three months, hardly engaged in what most people would consider a holiday.



Graduate students have been teaching, studying for exams, composing dissertations and field statements, excavating archaeological remains every where from Turkey to Bolivia to California, carrying out interviews in rural Mexico and Puerto Rico, searching through archives from one end of the country to another,

scratching their heads for a new idea, for the turn of phrase that will block the emergence of yet another cliché. (Oops! Did I say “turn of phrase”?) Staff, as always, have been hard at work getting the department ready to begin the new school year.

As chair, I can attest that my colleagues have been hard at work writing pathbreaking books and articles, correcting proofs, redesigning computer laboratories, collecting archaeological and ethnographic evidence that will lead to astounding theoretical revelations and push the boundaries of the discipline to previously unimagined frontiers. (Acting Chair Gerald Berreman, on duty during my short break this past June, can confirm the veracity of my observations, I am sure.) To all of you—students and faculty alike—I extend a hearty greeting. I also congratulate you for having exercised the good sense these long “summer” months to stay out of the sun, away from beaches, mountains, woods, and wetlands, all cruel and punishing elements which can never match the satisfactions that come from anthropological pursuits.

Seriously, though, anthropology is endlessly engaging. Over the years, I have witnessed people from all over the world react with a mixture of envy and wonder at the discovery that I am an anthropologist. “How interesting!” “How lucky you are!” Those are a few of the responses I have heard repeatedly, including this summer, during my wanderings through India, Italy, Spain, and Mexico. See? Doesn’t that itinerary make you want to be an anthropologist, if you are not yet a member of the profession? or affirm your choice of profession, if you already are? Anthropology is certainly the profession of choice. “Summer,” when we consolidate and advance the

projects begun during the regular academic year, is the season that reinforces the wisdom of that career choice to us all.

As a means of sharing our ongoing activities, ideas, accomplishments, we are inaugurating this monthly newsletter. New staff member, Holly Halligan, has kindly agreed to produce and edit the publication. (By the way, please stop by the main Anthropology office, 232 Kroeber Hall, to introduce yourselves to Holly as well as to Casey Gordon, yet another staff member who came to us at the beginning of the summer break.) The newsletter, christened *The Jawbone*, will be issued on the first of each month. Please submit to Holly news items, announcements of upcoming events, feature articles, requests for research assistance, or whatever other material you wish to communicate. We want to hear about your current and future research, your awards and honors, your anthropological readings of Berkeley, the university community, the wider society. If you provide this information by the 15th of each month, you can be assured of its publication in the subsequent issue.

We want *The Jawbone* to provide a predictable means through which we can learn about one another and about grant and other opportunities. We also plan to distribute our newsletter to departmental alumni, to former graduate and undergraduate students alike, to keep them in touch with the Berkeley Department of Anthropology. Please inform Holly of the names and addresses of any alumni you might know of, so that we can put them on our list. The alumni, too, will eventually have their own column in *The Jawbone*, a place where they can keep all of us informed of their current activities and impressions.

Until the October 1 issue, then, I wish you a happy, productive start to the new academic year.

Stanley Brandes

## PROFESSORS HABU, LIU AND WILKIE WIN HELLMAN FAMILY FACULTY FUND AWARDS FOR RESEARCH

Professor Junko Habu, Professor Xin Liu and Professor Laurie Wilkie recently received awards from the Hellman Family Faculty Fund in support of their respective research proposals. Professor Habu’s research proposal is entitled: *Development of Sedentism Among Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers in Japan*; Professor Liu’s is: *Moral Mathematics: Luck, Fortune, and Authority in Late Socialist China* and Professor Wilkie’s is: *1998 Archaeological Excavations at Clifton Plantation, Bahamas*.

Awards from the Hellman Family Faculty Fund are given to assistant professors who have shown evidence of their promise for distinction in research. Selection as a recipient of a Hellman Family Faculty Fund award is a very great honor.

Congratulations to Professors Habu, Liu and Wilkie!

August 15, 1998

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 15-31 & September 1-30, 1998

- Thursday  
August 20** AGORA Orientation for Grad. Students  
9:30 a.m., Gifford Room  
and  
Anthro. Dept. Reception for Grad. Students  
2:30 p.m., Gifford Room
- Monday  
August 24** Organizational mtg. for the  
Brown Bag Lunch Series  
for Archaeology students  
Noon, Rm. 101, 2251 Bldg.
- Monday  
August 24** Faculty meeting  
3:00 p.m., Gifford Room
- Monday  
August 31** Orientation for new and/or  
potential anthro majors  
2:00-3:30 p.m., Rm. 221, Kroeber  
(Gifford Room)
- Monday  
August 31** 290 Seminar  
Dr. George Marcus,  
Rice University  
"Sticking With Ethnography  
Through Thick and Thin"  
4:00-5:30 p.m., Rm. 160, Kroeber
- Monday  
Sept. 14** Faculty meeting  
3:00 p.m., Gifford Room
- Monday  
Sept. 21** 290 Seminar  
Dr. Sylvia Yanagisako,  
Stanford University  
4:00-5:30 p.m., Rm. 160, Kroeber

## PROFESSOR ONG GETS COR GRANT

Professor Aihwa Ong has been awarded a 1998-1999 COR grant to conduct research on the Chinese assimilation of corporate forms and structures in Shanghai. Congratulations to Professor Ong!



## IN MEMORIAM:

### MARY JEAN AERNIE

Mary Jean Aernie, a doctoral graduate from Berkeley's Anthropology Department, died in Ukiah, California, on April 5, 1998 after a short illness.

Mary Jean received her doctorate in 1955, after doing her field work in Pakistan where she studied the position of women in Islamic culture (published in the Yale University Press) and did research among the Burra Sahibs of the Punjab.

During the late 1950's, Mary Jean served as a lecturer in Anthropology at Stanford University and Executive Secretary of the Committee on International Anthropology for the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences. After doing field work and making collections from the Karamoja peoples, courtesy of a Rockefeller Brothers Fund grant, and living for a time in Switzerland, Ms. Aernie returned to Berkeley and was a Research Associate at the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, until moving to Ukiah to be nearer to family.

## OVERHEARD AT KROEBER...

**Jonathan Marks** was elected president of the General Anthropology Division of the American Anthropology Association. He will serve a two-year term as president-elect, followed by a two-year term as president. When asked what this job would entail, Prof. Marks answered, "I get to hold a gavel." **David McDermott Hughes** and his wife Melanie Hughes McDermott announce the arrival of Jesse Stuart McDermott-Hughes on July 12, weighing in at 6 lbs. 11 oz. **Nancy Scheper-Hughes** spent the month of July doing field research on commerce in organs for transplant surgery in Brazil where she visited private and public hospitals and transplant units in several cities. While in Brazil, Prof. Scheper-Hughes gave lectures at the University of Campinas, the Medical School of the University of Salvador, and the Federal University of Pernambuco in Recife. Also, while in the city of Campinas, Brazil, she was interviewed live by BBC along with the Executive Director of the World Medical Association (Geneva) in a trans-national exchange about the problem of human organ trafficking. This was followed by a live TV interview in Sao Paulo on the organs research in Brazil and South Africa. **Laura Nader's** name and picture was in the July 28 *New York Times*, in an article on the planned opening of Museum of American Tort Law by her brother, Ralph Nader. **Gerald Berreman**, when told he looked spiffy in his blue blazer at Professor Simmons' farewell reception, replied, "Well, you know, this *is* the real me. Spiffy." And of course the big news of the summer is that **William Simmons** is leaving Berkeley to be an Executive Vice-President and Provost at Brown University. Over the summer, many people, at many events, tried in many ways, to say how much Prof. Simmons will be missed. It was a hard thing to say *enough*, as he will be greatly missed.

This newsletter is produced by the Department of Anthropology, UC Berkeley. Please submit all story suggestions, announcements, and calendar items for the next issue to Holly Halligan at 642.3391 or hollyh@uclink4.berkeley.edu by Tuesday, September 15.