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anthropology at berkeley  
is 100 years old

November 2000

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

We hope that life is treating you well and that you have found that your Anthropology experience at Berkeley has been helpful in your career as well as in your everyday activities. We are writing you to bring you up to date on the state of Anthropology at Berkeley.

The Department of Anthropology's national and international reputation as a world-famous locus of anthropological teaching and research has continued; in the annual ranking of departments, we are consistently among the top two or three. We attract many outstanding undergraduate majors and for the past several years our graduation ceremonies have been held in Zellerbach Auditorium to accommodate the large numbers of students and their families in attendance. About one hundred fifty anthropology majors earn their B.A. degrees each year.

The graduate program also flourishes. Approximately three hundred or more students apply each year for some thirty slots. Applications come from all over the world and it is always difficult to choose from among so many qualified individuals.

More and more the University of California, Berkeley depends upon private as opposed to public resources in order to maintain its eminence as one of the nation's best universities—either public or private. Years ago, the State of California provided as much as two-thirds of the university's operating budget. Now the figure is closer to one-third. We are still by no means a private university, but we rely more than ever on private resources in order to flourish.

Several examples may illustrate the situation. Over the past decade it has been a challenge to maintain our Anthropology Library. A few years ago a generous donation by Professor Emeritus George Foster and his wife Mary (also an anthropologist) literally saved the Anthropology Library from closure.

Letter continued from page 1

Without that crucial private support, we might no longer enjoy the tremendous resources of our beloved Anthropology Library.

Perhaps one of the most critical challenges the Department now faces is to find a way to provide adequate financial support for its students. Many of the students we accept get better offers elsewhere, at competing institutions, usually private, who can offer them four- or five-year fellowships. Student fees continue to rise and this makes it especially difficult for out-of-state and foreign students to come to Berkeley.

Many of the foreign students come from Third World countries and it is virtually impossible for them to come to Berkeley without some kind of financial support. Part of Berkeley's long-standing leadership in the field of anthropology has been the result of our training of key anthropologists all over the world. But to continue this important tradition we will need help.

We are asking for your help. Any contribution, no matter how small, is welcome. Our plan is to provide a flexible anthropology fund to support anthropology students at Berkeley. Checks should be made out to the UC Berkeley Foundation with a notation that they are specifically designated for the Anthropology Fund. (See the back of this newsletter for details on how to contribute.) If this effort is successful, we will be able to offer much needed financial support to: the Anthropology Undergraduate Association, the Kroeber Anthropological Society, and to assist both undergraduate Anthropology majors and Anthropology graduate students.

If you have any questions about our plans, please call Anthropology's Development Assistant at 510.642.3509. We are proud of our Anthropology program and of all the students who have studied here. We will do our best to see it continue at the same high level it has enjoyed for a century. Thank you in advance for any help you can give us.

Sincerely yours,

Alan Dundes and Junko Habu  
For the Department of Anthropology

## Donor Establishes Chair for Anthropology Library

On the occasion of the Emeritus Lecture honoring John Rowe, a gift from an anonymous donor establishing an endowment for the library was



announced: the John H. Rowe Librarian. The first Rowe Librarian is Suzanne Calpestri, Head of the George & Mary Foster Anthropology Library.

The endowment recognizes the importance of the librarian in a scholarly community by providing the recipient discretionary money for resources and professional development, thereby ensuring that the librarian will be able to provide the kind of support to faculty and students necessary to continue Berkeley's top-ranked position in anthropology.

John Rowe, a leading scholar in Inca culture and history, joined the Anthropology faculty in 1948 and soon after established an independent Anthropology library for the Department. Today the collection numbers more than 70,000 volumes.

Suzanne Calpestri has been the Anthropology Librarian since 1994. She plans to use some of the endowment income for professional development. Income from the endowment will also support exhibitions and lectures.

Berkeley is one of only three universities in the U.S. with an Anthropology library. The other two are Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania. All three also have Anthropology museums.

The Department is fortunate to have all three of these individuals, Suzanne Calpestri, John Rowe, and the anonymous donor, working toward enriching anthropology at Berkeley.

## Dundes Receives Gift from Former Student



*Alan Dundes in the Folklore Archive*

It started with a mysterious phone call to the Anthropology Department. The caller, a former student, wanted to confirm that Alan Dundes was still teaching folklore at Berkeley, and make a gift to the university in his honor.

Anthropology's front office staff took the call. "I was told I might be receiving a letter with a check enclosed," said Dundes. "But as a folklorist, I don't believe much of what I hear, especially something like 'the check's in the mail.'"

Yet, a letter and check did arrive a few weeks later.. A check for \$1 million.

Dundes called the donor and thanked him. After a few minutes of conversation, he remembered the former student, one of the first Dundes taught upon his arrival at Berkeley in the early sixties. He also recalled writing a letter of recommendation for the student.

It's not every day that a professor receives such a sizable gift for teaching. But it's also unusual for an instructor to have such an impact on a student's life.

"I was influenced by you in ways I didn't expect," the donor said in his letter to Dundes. "I use what I learned in your anthropology classes almost every day of my life."

"I feel proud and honored that this fellow would remember me," said Dundes. "I've taught thousands of students, but you never really know if you're getting through."

The windfall couldn't have come at a better time, according to Dundes.

As he nears retirement, Dundes was concerned about the future of folklore studies on campus. He is the only full-time folklore professor at Berkeley and worried that the discipline might disappear once he leaves.

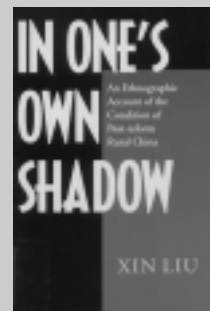
"Thanks to this generous donation, the future of the field is safe," said Dundes. "To know that folklore will be taught at Berkeley for generations to come makes me very happy."

The money will be used to fund an endowment for a Distinguished Professorship of Folkloristics, believed to be the first of its kind in the country.

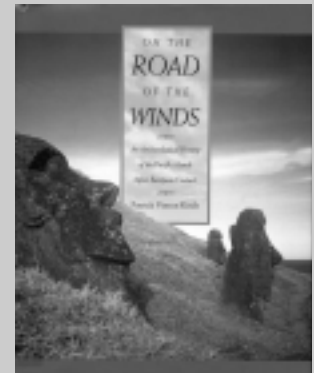
The professorship will help support an endowed chair, graduate student fellowships, and the folklore archive, which houses several hundred thousand folklore items collected by students over the years.

"This is a stunning tribute to an extraordinary professor and the program he has created," said George Breslauer, Dean of Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Science. "It is precisely the kind of support that helps us renew the foundations of excellence at Cal."

"Folklore is not considered to be a very prestigious area of research," comments Dundes. "This gift is a validation for all of us who study folklore; we are all basking in the collective light this gift has shone on us." *Courtesy of The Berkeleyan, 4/00*



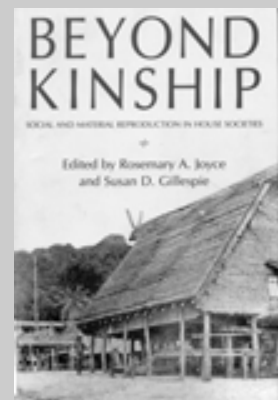
*In One's Own Shadow—*  
Xin Liu



*On the Road of the Winds—*  
Patrick V. Kirch



*Why Don't Sheep Shrink  
When It Rains?—*  
Alan Dundes, Carl Pagter



*Beyond Kinship—*  
Rosemary A. Joyce, Susan Gillespie

## William F. Hanks Appointed as Berkeley Distinguished Chair in Linguistic Anthropology



William F. Hanks

William Hanks, Professor of Anthropology and holder of a distinguished chair of the humanities at Northwestern University, has been appointed the Berkeley 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.

This is the first faculty position at a UC campus to be fully supported by gift funds.

Professor **Ruth Tringham** and graduate student **Amy Ramsay** are the recipients of a \$105,000 grant from the Interactive University Project to create a learning partnership between UC Berkeley and schools in the Oakland Unified School District. Project participants will use archaeology and multimedia to help sixth-grade students meet district and state standards in the "Ancient Civilizations" History/Social Sciences curriculum.



Professors **Nancy Scheper-Hughes** and **Lawrence Cohen** have launched a small human rights project at UCB entitled "Medicine, Markets, and Bodies." This project will explore the social and economic context of organ transplantation, focusing on the human rights implications. The project will also establish and promote a human rights agenda for dealing with violations of the bodily integrity of vulnerable populations.



Professor **Paul Rabinow** is continuing his research in the realm of molecular biology and biotechnology and has active research sites in the United States, Iceland, and France. Rabinow is currently coordinating a French-American group on "post-genomics." What is post-genomics? What comes after the initial mapping of the human and other genomes has taken place? The answer: more complexity and a different discourse.



Emeritus Professor **Burton Benedict** has mounted an exhibit of early hominids in a replicated Kikuyu hut at the Oakland Zoo. He obtained casts of the 3.7 million year-old Laotoli footprints found in 1978 by Mary Leakey and exhibited these next to prints of a chimpanzee and an eight year-old girl. Benedict set up the exhibit so that children can walk in the prints.

In spring 2000 Professor **Stanley Brandes** travelled 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. Brandes fell into the project unexpectedly, through conversations with his Mazahua Indian shoe shiner.



Professors **Aihwa Ong**, **Donald Moore**, **Paul Rabinow**, **Alexei Yurchak**, and **Lawrence Cohen** have organized an interdisciplinary initiative on campus called "Critical Ethnographies of Globalization and Governmentality." The initiative's goal is to understand globalization through critical ethnography. The initiative offers linked core courses and a series of seminars.



Professor **Margaret Conkey** recently joined the lucky few dozen who have seen the cave paintings in the Grotte Chauvet in Pont D'Arc, France, since the cave's discovery in 1994. The Grotte Chauvet contains the oldest cave paintings ever discovered. The early radiocarbon tests sent shock waves through the archaeological community because the paintings were as sophisticated as those in caves half as old.



Professor **Laura Nader** has been invited to give the Distinguished Lecture "Anthropology!" at the American Anthropological Association meetings this November. She will consider how the transformation of anthropology in the 21st century can be seen in new mixes between anthropology's subfields and between anthropology and its various publics interested in theory, research and the practical.

Professor **Nancy Scheper-Hughes** is the winner of the 2000 J. I. Staley Prize of the School of American Research for her book *Death Without Weeping. The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil*. The J. I. Staley Prize is bestowed annually by the School to a living author for a book that transcends the traditional frontiers to increase understanding of the human species.



Professor **John Ogbu** received the honor of being listed as one of the four most influential intellectual figures in American Education in the 20th century in the book *Eminent Educators: Studies in Intellectual Influence*. The four intellectual giants of the 20th century are listed as being John Dewey, Howard Gardner, Carol Gilligan, and John Ogbu.



Professor **Junko Habu** has been conducting an archaeological project on the Sannai Maruyama site (circa 3900-2300 B.C.), a prehistoric Jomon period site in northern Japan. Her recent publications include “Jomon Pottery Production in Central Japan” (*Asian Perspectives*, 38, 1999) and “Jomon Archaeology and the Representation of Japanese Origins” (*Antiquity*, 73, 1999).



With support provided by a \$10,000 grant from the France-Berkeley Fund, Professor **Patrick Kirch** and Professor Eric Conte of the Universite de Polynesie Francaise and the Sorbonne are co-organizing an international conference on Polynesian archaeology. The conference will bring together francophone and anglophone archaeologists from France, New Zealand, Chile, and the U.S. for discussions on the current state and future of Polynesian archaeology. Also invited are a number of Tahitian and Polynesian students studying archaeology in Tahiti and France. The conference will be held on the island of Mo’orea in December.

Professor **Kent Lightfoot** is finishing a book that looks at two different colonial institutions in California—the Russian trade outpost of Fort Ross and the Franciscan missions, examining how the diverse policies of the each influenced the interactions between native peoples and colonists. He hopes to demonstrate the importance of employing archaeological information (along with historical sources and native oral traditions) to understand better native and colonist encounters.



Professor **Gerald Berreman** will be spending his sabbatical leave this fall as a Fulbright Scholar, in the South Asia Regional Program on the project, “Comparison of Indian and Nepalese Responses to Himalayan Research.” Berreman’s aim is to ascertain why and how responses among academics, administrators, politicians, media, publishers, and publics in the two nations differ so conspicuously, despite affinities of culture, language and agrarian economy.

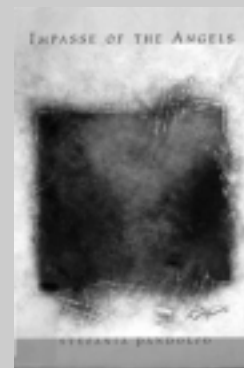


Professor **Christine Hastorf** is currently involved in directing the Taraco Archaeological Project, which includes work on Formative settlements near Lake Titicaca in Bolivia. This project began in 1992, but recently the fieldwork results have been illustrating elaborate early ritual architecture. Hastorf is also heading up the archaeobotanical team for the Neolithic site of Catal Höyük in west central Turkey.



Professor **Alexei Yurchak** is contributing to the *Encyclopedia of World Music* on Soviet non-official rock and jazz scenes and their relationship to official state power under socialism. He also recently concluded the first part of a film project on the “last Soviet generation.”

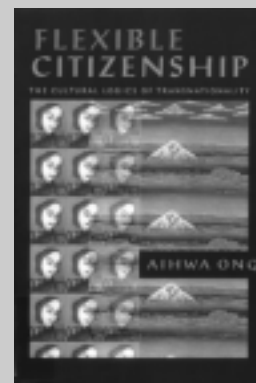
new books  
by faculty



*Impasse of the Angels*—  
Stefania Pandolfo



*No Aging in India*—  
Lawrence Cohen



*Flexible Citizenship*—  
Aihwa Ong



*French DNA*—  
Paul Rabinow

Anthropology lost two eminent emeriti professors this spring.



**William A. Shack**, prominent scholar of African cultures, died on March 31. Shack was known internationally for his pioneering fieldwork on the Gurage people of Ethiopia, for a

series of books on African society, and for being one of the first American anthropologists to undertake ethnographic studies focused on the problems of urban America. He was best known on campus for his even-handed, creative stewardship of several administrative posts, including six years as dean of UC Berkeley's Graduate Division.

*Contributions to the Shack memorial may be sent to the William A. Shack Memorial Fund at the UC Berkeley Foundation, 2440 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94720.*



**Sherwood L. Washburn**, known for virtually establishing the field of primatology in the 1950s, died on April 16. From the 1950s through

the 1970s, Washburn's theories dominated interpretations of human social evolution and his teachings inspired several generations of students. Washburn was the first to propose that tool use, hunting, and a gender division in labor had been critical in human evolution. He also saw 40 years ago that humans had evolved from an ancestor that walked on its knuckles—an idea that only this year gripped the anthropological world anew. Washburn was one of a tiny number of faculty members appointed "University Professor" for the nine-campus UC system.

*Contributions to the Washburn memorial may be sent to the Sherwood L. Washburn Memorial Fund at the UC Berkeley Foundation, 2440 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94720.*

Archaeology graduate students **Robert Schmidt** and **Barbara Voss** have edited a volume entitled *Archaeologies of Sexuality* soon to be published by Routledge/U.K. & U.S. This volume will be the first book-length examination of sexuality as an object of knowledge within anthropological archaeology. Other contributors to the volume associated with the Department are faculty members **Margaret Conkey**, **Rosemary Joyce**, and **Laurie Wilkie**, as well as recent Ph.D. recipients **Eleanor Casella** and **Elizabeth Prine**.



**Donna Lanclos**, folklore graduate student, had two articles published in Spring 2000, "Pigs and Cows in Northern Ireland: Anthropology, Folklore and Contributing to Child-Centered Studies of Culture and Identity" in *Social Analysis* and "Bare Bums and Wee Chimneys: Rudeness and Defining the Line Between Child and Adult," which was chosen as the 1999 Newell Prize Paper and appears in the American Folklore Society journal, *Children's Folklore*.



**Caitlin Zaloom**, social cultural graduate student, was featured in a *New York Times* article on what today's thinkers are thinking about. Caitlin's thoughts have centered around why bond and securities traders trade the way they do. She compared the intensely personal interaction between traders at the Chicago Board of Trade to the thoroughly computerized tools at a private investment bank in London. The former relies on reading other players and the feel of the market, while the latter relies on computers to omit the personalized relationships, thereby making the market a more rational, efficient institution.

**Maria Agozzino**, folklore graduate student, compiled and donated two Welsh oral histories to UCB's Bancroft Library to help with its collection goal of documenting immigration to California from pre-Gold Rush to the present in order to provide historical background for the state's multi-ethnic populations. Maria's interviews included examples of language and culture that survived the assimilation process into American society.

Providing a strong academic and social foundation for undergraduate anthropology students on the UC Berkeley campus, the Anthropology Undergraduate Association (A.U.A.) has grown into a vibrant and active student organization since its revival a couple of years ago.

Last year's officers succeeded in increasing A.U.A.'s membership by organizing a series of events and opportunities. Among them were a comprehensive undergraduate research symposium, reflecting the quality and range of undergraduate research at Cal, and an enormously successful Student-Faculty party in conjunction with A.G.O.R.A. (Anthropology Graduate Organization for Research and Action).

This year's A.U.A. promises to be at least as exciting. In its continuing efforts to provide academic and social opportunities for Berkeley anthropology students, A.U.A. has planned a variety of events for the year.

A.U.A. kicked the fall semester off with a week's worth of activities ranging from the semester's first weekly social night, where students can get to know each other outside of class, to guided introductions to the George and Mary Foster Anthropology Library and the Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology. The A.U.A. is currently organizing a seminar on applying to graduate school for Berkeley students who want to continue their studies after Berkeley. And November promises to be its busiest month yet. With the American Anthropological Association's annual meeting across the Bay, A.U.A. is organizing volunteer opportunities and other chances for its members to get involved in the meetings.

But, that's just this fall! The spring semester promises just as much.

All in all, it's a great time to be an Anthro undergrad at Cal.

*submitted by David Leitner, A.U.A. President*

## Archaeology graduate students turn up three centuries of artifacts



Graduate students Barbara Voss and Amy Ramsay have just completed their second summer of field excavations at the Presidio of San Francisco. As co-coordinators of the Funston Avenue Archaeological Research Project, the two hope to uncover new information that will enable them to create a more detailed understanding of what life was like for the families who lived at the Presidio for over 200 years of its military history.

More than 155,000 artifacts were catalogued from the first field season alone. Voss and Ramsay estimate that perhaps three times that amount was recovered during the Summer 2000 season. Among the materials were the butchered remains of animal bones, table and household ceramics from around the world, cutlery and kitchen utensils, smoking pipes, costume jewelry pieces, shoes, gaming pieces and dice, bottle fragments, insignia, ammunition, and other minutia of daily life.

The Funston Avenue Archaeological Research Project maintained a strong commitment to public participation and interpretation. A public day brought more than 800 visitors as well as extensive media coverage, but people were encouraged to visit the site and talk to the excavators on any project working day.

Perhaps most important to Voss and Ramsay was the opportunity to provide interested members of the public a chance to do archaeology. To this end, the Project was staffed by a volunteer crew of students and community members. About a third were UC Berkeley undergraduates. "As an archaeologist, I remember how important my first field experiences were," said Voss. "This has been a fantastic opportunity for students interested in archaeology to get their hands in the dirt and participate in the archaeological process."

This commitment continues during the academic year, when Voss and Ramsay offer volunteer and internship opportunities to undergraduates to work in the laboratory and learn the processing component of archaeological research.

*submitted by Amy Ramsay*

Anthropology graduate student Scott Turner, along with two other students, published an article in the February 16, 1999 issue of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, refuting a claim by a team of Duke University researchers saying Neanderthals could use language.

In an April 1998 *Proceedings*, the Duke researchers asserted that there is a correlation between speech and the size of the hypoglossal canal (the hole on either side of the base of the skull that accommodates the nerves of the tongue which control its movement).

The Duke team asserted that the larger the hole, the larger the nerves and the more complex the tongue function. They argued that the canal in Neanderthals is close in size to modern humans, suggesting that they used language as early as 400,000 years ago.

The UC Berkeley students refuted this claim by studying 15 non-human primate

species whose hypoglossal canal size is larger than the modern human average. More than half of the monkeys had canals in the modern human size range, so the question became would the Neanderthal with the canal in the modern human size range have human-like vocal abilities or monkey-like vocal abilities? Based on hypoglossal canal size, you could not tell.

Emeritus Professor F. Clark Howell said, "The original group had not done adequate anatomical controls and checks, while these young researchers have conducted an expanded study of the relevant anatomy, with an enlarged sample and a larger number of controls, not to mention their study of the anatomy of living human beings.

They have convincingly shown that this line of inference just doesn't pan out—there's too much overlap with apes, and apes don't speak."

In 2001 the Department of Anthropology celebrates its 100th anniversary—a tribute to the loyal alumni, friends, faculty, students, and staff whose dedicated service have produced 100 years of leadership in the field of anthropology.

The Department was established by the Regents on September 10, 1901. The Department grew out of Phoebe Apperson Hearst's interest in establishing a program in anthropological research at the University in 1899. Hearst supported archaeological expeditions and research on archaeology, ethnology, and native languages in California. She provided all funding until 1906, when the Regents took over support for Anthropology.

Check the Anthropology web site <http://anthropology.berkeley.edu> for news of centennial celebrations to be held in upcoming months.

## Anthropology Fund

The Department of Anthropology has long been recognized as a vital contributor to Berkeley's tradition of excellence. Your contribution will enable us to continue this tradition. Detailed information regarding gift-giving opportunities is available by calling Anthropology's Development Assistant at 510.642.3509.

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

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will match my gift. The company matching gift form \_\_\_\_ is enclosed \_\_\_\_ will be mailed.

Please make checks payable to **UC Berkeley Foundation / Anthropology Fund** and send them to:  
UC Berkeley Foundation, 2440 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94720.  
Please include this form.

\* \* \*

It is the policy of the University of California, Berkeley that a portion of gifts  
is used to defray the costs of administering the funds.

All gifts are tax-deductible as prescribed by law.

## Contact us

Stay in touch. We hope to feature an *Alumni News* column in future newsletters. Please send us news about yourself; keep your classmates up to date and learn what they are doing in turn.

Either mail this information to:

Editor  
Anthropology Alumni Newsletter  
232 Kroeber Hall  
Berkeley, CA 94720-3710

or email:  
hollyh@uclink.berkeley.edu

Include your class, degree, and contact information so that your fellow alumni can find you in our future newsletters.

*For more information on  
Anthropology Department  
programs and events,  
visit our web site at:  
<http://anthropology.berkeley.edu>*

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