In a year of highlights for the department, I think my favorite came on Cal Day in Spring 2015. A panel of Berkeley Anthropology undergraduate majors spoke in the Gifford Room to a full house of prospective students, transfer students, and their friends and families. Explaining why they had chosen Anthropology as their intellectual homes, our students reminded me, again, of what ties so many of us to this work that we love. Anthropology offers something no other major, and no other department does, they said. Other majors might give you one way into a complex problem, but anthropology “doesn’t box you in.” It’s like catching smoke, Trent Trombley said, memorably. “It is never easy, and you can never say you have completely captured something.” It pushes you to keep asking questions, in a rigorous, empirically based way. In this newsletter -- a new highlight in itself! -- you’ll see some of the vibrant ways that our undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty have been contributing to the field, and the public good, over the last year.
The Department is thrilled to announce that Professor Karen Nakamura, the Haas Distinguished Chair in Disability Studies, will be joining the Department of Anthropology in January 2016. Professor Nakamura is an award-winning, interdisciplinary scholar and filmmaker whose work has made major contributions to understandings of deafness, mental illness, sexuality, and social movements in Japan. Her 2006 book *Deaf in Japan: Signing and the Politics of Identity*, winner of the John Whitney Hall Book Award from the Association of Asian Studies, explores the dynamic agency of members of the deaf movement who have worked to shape their own identities in relation to the politics of language, work, and state recognition in Japan. Her 2013 book, *A Disability of the Soul: An Ethnography of Schizophrenia and Mental Illness in Contemporary Japan* traces a unique approach to normalize, embrace, celebrate, and live with -- rather than attempt to cure -- severe psychoses. Her ethnographic work at the Bethel Center is also at the heart of two compelling films, “Bethel: Community and Schizophrenia in Northern Japan,” a companion piece to the book, *A Disability of the Soul*, and the award-winning “A Japanese Funeral.”

Professor Nakamura received her B.A. at Yale University, and her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Yale University (2001). After teaching elsewhere, she returned to Yale, where she has been a member of the faculty in Anthropology and Asian Studies since 2005. We are delighted that she has decided to join the Berkeley Anthropology and Disability Studies communities, and that she will bring such dynamism to our programs, to the Berkeley community, and to a larger initiative funded by the Haas Institute for a Fair and an Inclusive Society. Professor Nakamura has noted, “Both my partner … and I feel a very strong commitment to issues of social justice and inclusion,” Nakamura wrote. “We are thrilled at the opportunity to become members of a public institution where that is a fundamental part of its DNA.” Here at Berkeley, she’ll be working on new projects using robotics and prosthetics to address questions of aging and disability in Japan and the US.

Welcome to UC Berkeley, Karen!

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**Celebration of the Opening of the Dundes Archives Folklore Program**

The collected papers of Alan Dundes (1934-2005), celebrated folklorist and professor of anthropology and folklore at the University of California, Berkeley, have just been made available to students and the public in an archive housed in the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley, following a formal opening ceremony held by the Department of Anthropology & the Berkeley Folklore Program at the UC Berkeley Doe Library. The papers and correspondence amount to some 45 boxes, and will be available for access on application.
Anthropology Undergraduate Research Symposium 2015: Nurturing the Critical Mind

A Note from the Anthropology Undergraduate Association:

The Anthropology Undergraduate Research Symposium (AURS) was established in 2013 by a determined group of undergraduate researchers from the Anthropology Undergraduate Association. Today we aim to provide a constructive, creative, multidisciplinary and multi-institutional academic platform through which undergraduates can gain critical professional skills and share their contributions with the anthropological communities of UC Berkeley and beyond.

This is a rare opportunity for anthropology undergraduates and other social scientists alike to share their research endeavors as undergraduates, as well as practice vital presentation and networking skills in a friendly, constructive environment. We hope that it will also serve as an inspiration for those undergraduates still considering research by gaining exposure to their peers’ work. Finally, the symposium functions as a healthy venue where undergraduate colleagues can discuss how they accessed various research opportunities, laboratories, faculty advisors, and more. Visit http://www.aursatucberkeley.org/ to learn more, and we hope to see you at the 3rd annual AURS in May 2016!
Faculty Staley Prize Winners

With the selection of William Hanks’ *Converting Words: Maya in the Age of the Cross* for the 2015 J.I. Staley Prize from the School for Advanced Research (SAR), Berkeley’s Department of Anthropology cements its status as the home of the largest number of Staley prize winners in the country. The J. I. Staley Prize, awarded annually to an outstanding anthropology book by a living author, is the only discipline-wide book award in anthropology.

2015
William Hanks
*Converting Words: Maya in the Age of the Cross*
2010, University of California Press.

2007
Charles L. Briggs with Clara Mantini-Briggs
*Stories in the Time of Cholera: Racial Profiling During a Medical Nightmare*
2003, University of California Press.

2005
Terrence W. Deacon
*The Symbolic Species: The Coevolution of Language and the Brain*

2003
Lawrence Cohen
*No Aging in India: Alzheimer’s, the Bad Family, and Other Modern Things*

2000
Nancy Scheper-Hughes
*Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil*
1992, University of California Press.

1998
Patrick V. Kirch with Marshall Sahlins
*Anahulu: The Anthropology of History in the Kingdom of Hawaii*
Anthropology in Public

Nancy Scheper-Hughes at the Vatican

Nancy Scheper-Hughes, Professor of Medical Anthropology, participated in a ten-day stay at the Vatican for a plenary session called by Pope Francis (April 17-21, 2015) at the Pontifical Institute in Social Science (PASS) at the Casina Pio IV in the Vatican. The plenary meeting, entitled “Human Trafficking - Beyond Criminalization,” brought together 20 scholars, human rights activists, governmental, UN, and civil society leaders at the request of Pope Francis who asked the group “to examine human trafficking and modern slavery. Organ Trafficking could be examined in connection with human trafficking.”

We worked on a draft of recommendations regarding the Prevention, Criminalization, and Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Trafficked Persons. We used the Pope’s guidelines, which define global human trafficking as modern slavery, and as a crime against humanity.
-Nancy Scheper-Hughes

The plenary was meant to assist Pope Francis in his recommendations to the General Assembly meeting of the UN in late September 2015. His goal is to have the UN include the global problem of human trafficking within the UN initiatives on global economic and environmental sustainability. Nancy Scheper-Hughes gave two presentations, one on “Neo-cannibalism and Military Necropolitics in Human Trafficking for the Organs and Tissues of the Enemy During Wartimes” and one on “Scars-the Medical, Social and Political Damages of Human Trafficking for Organs.”

In addition to presenting papers, the Plenary worked on a draft of recommendations regarding the Prevention, Criminalization, and Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Trafficked Persons. They used the Pope’s guidelines, which define global human trafficking as modern slavery and as a crime against humanity. Among their recommendations were that all nations having ratified the ILO Convention (1957) make forced labor a criminal offense with commensurate penalties, and that the assets seized from convicted traffickers be used for the basic needs and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking. They also called for the creation of a WATO (World Anti-Trafficking Organization) as a watchdog to the WTO (World Trade Organization) to make visible the complicity of transnational industries in the exploitation of trafficked workers.

Rosemary Joyce appointed to Federal Cultural Property Advisory Committee

Rosemary Joyce, Alice S. Davis Chair in Anthropology, was appointed by President Barack Obama in 2011 to serve as one of eleven members of the Federal Cultural Property Advisory Committee. In this role she advises the State Department on its response to foreign nations requesting protection of their cultural heritage from looting and antiquities trafficking. A former curator and assistant director of Harvard University’s Peabody Museum, Professor Joyce came to UC Berkeley to join its anthropological archaeology faculty and was also the Director of UC Berkeley’s Hearst Museum of Anthropology (1994-1999). She has directly supervised or co-advised scores of doctoral students. Dedicated to increasing diversity among both faculty and students, Professor Joyce was a co-recipient of the Leon Henkin Citation for Distinguished Service from the Academic Senate’s Committee on Student Diversity and Academic Development.
Anthropology in Public

Kent Lightfoot Spearheads Collaborative Eco-Archaeological Project
Kent Lightfoot, Class of 1960 Chair in Undergraduate Education, has been leading a collaborative team of scholars from UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, local tribes, and state and national parks to employ a low impact field program to recover evidence of plant and animal resources that may provide information about the timing of sustained landscape burning in the greater San Francisco Bay Area during the Late Holocene and Historic times. The research team examines how these practices may have changed over time and influenced local biological communities. A significant component of the research addresses how lessons from the past may be relevant to addressing current landscape management issues, particularly those that are concerned with enhancing the richness and diversity of native species, maintaining high levels of landscape productivity and heterogeneity, and mitigating increased fire hazards due to climate change.

James Holston Develops New App: Dengue Torpedo
The Social Apps Lab at UC Berkeley is co-directed by Anthropology Professor James Holston, along with Greg Niemeyer (Art Practice and New Media Studies). Founded in 2011, the Lab focuses on developing interactive mobile and web applications that engage issues of urban citizenship and direct democracy. It uses social science - especially anthropological investigation - and aspects of gameplay to identify social problems that apps can productively address by reformulating the terms of democratic assembly and civic motivation. Among its various projects during the past two years, the Social Apps Lab is building an application to promote crowdsourced initiatives to combat dengue fever, called “Dengue Torpedo: A Community-Based Interactive Web and Cellphone Application for Dengue Vector Control.” The Lab is currently developing this project in Brazil, with support from the UBS Optimus Foundation, and in Mexico, with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Jun Sunseri Receives Faculty Award for Community Engaged Scholarship
Assistant Professor Jun Sunseri received the 2015 UC Berkeley Faculty Award for Community Engaged Scholarship. Jun’s collaborative research and teaching projects support native descendent communities disenfranchised by colonialism. In his projects in New Mexico and California, multiple under-served Indo-Hispano villages have identified him as a true collaborative research partner in their current struggles for self-determination, which include not only heritage revival and local school curriculum, but also federal recognition, and land and water rights cases. Through Jun’s Anthropology class and his research projects, undergraduate and graduate students are actively involved in this community-engaged approach to archaeology.
Anthropology in Public

Alexei Yurchak Wins Russia’s 2015 Prosvetitel Prize


Alexei Yurchak on the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict

To unpack this complex story, one needs to understand the history of the Soviet disintegration that happened in 1991 and the role that the Crimea played in it. Also, one needs to know under what conditions “the referendum” about whether to re-unite with Russia was conducted in the Crimea in Spring 2014.

-Alexei Yurchak

Anthropology Professor Alexei Yurchak has made numerous contributions to discussions on the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. In Spring 2014 he wrote an essay for the public anthropology site *Anthropoliteia*, called “Little Green Men: Russia, Ukraine and Post-Soviet Sovereignty,” when the Crimea -- at that time part of Ukraine -- was in the process of becoming part of Russia. The essay was picked up in Russian and English social networks and circulated widely. The international debate about the issue was extremely heated, as some people called it “annexation” and some called it “re-unification” with Russia. The link to Yurchak’s article is available at: [http://anthropoliteia.net/2014/03/31/little-green-men-russia-ukraine-and-post-soviet-sovereignty/](http://anthropoliteia.net/2014/03/31/little-green-men-russia-ukraine-and-post-soviet-sovereignty/)

In June 2014 Yurchak participated with academics, politicians, and journalists in Paris in a roundtable debate, “Ukraine/Russie: analyses croisées sur un conflit en cours” (Ukraine/Russia: cross-analysis of an ongoing conflict), which was organized by Fondation de la Maison des Sciences de l’Homme. Yurchak’s presentation addressed the way Russian state media operated today and the techniques Russian state television used to mis-represent the conflict in Ukraine.

Since the height of the West African Ebola Epidemic, Professor Mariane Ferme has been active in scholarly debates and global health interventions in response to the disease. Ferme spent the fall of 2014 in the Netherlands collaborating with Paul Richards, Esther Mokuwa, Maarten Voors, and others who are part of an interdisciplinary team of social scientists based at Njala University in Sierra Leone. Ferme also worked with medical anthropologist and physician Vinh-Kim Nguyen and some of his French colleagues -- who are working on Ebola in Guinea -- and she was invited to spend 4-6 weeks in residence at the Fondation de la Maison des Sciences de l’Homme in Paris to work with them on comparative cross-border research. Ferme also provided advice on culturally appropriate approaches to communities and health interventions in rural Sierra Leone to MSF (Doctors without Borders), the UK government, and field teams for the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, the United Nations MEER (Ebola Emergency Response agency), as well as collaborated with the IDS (Sussex)-based “Ebola Anthropology Platform.”

Ferme has produced a number of articles on this topic, including an article in the open-source medical journal, Public Library of Science (PLoS): http://journals.plos.org/plosntds/article?id=10.1371/journal.pntd.0003567

She also participated in an interdisciplinary panel organized by the UC Berkeley Center for Emerging and Neglected Diseases (CEND), in November 2014, which can be found on YouTube: http://cend.globalhealth.berkeley.edu/portfolio/roots-ebola-outbreak-discussion-berkeley-faculty-panel/


As of July 30, there have been 1,440 suspect and confirmed cases of Ebola and 826 deaths. Ebola can have a mortality rate of up to 90 percent.
I've been living in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, since September 2014, waking up to this incredible view every day. The bulk of my fieldwork is spent with slam poets—attending and performing at slams, teaching slam classes, going to writing workshops, organizing slam events, and hanging out with poets in between. Things got particularly exciting (and exhausting) during the national slam in December, when a total of thirty-one poets from all over Madagascar, and four poets from neighboring Indian Ocean islands, converged on Antananarivo for a week packed full of poetry, heated discussions, and dancing. But my schedule changes every week, and has also included weddings, school openings, classes on kabary (oratory) with employees of a local bank, and joining a gang of journalists at a formerly exiled president’s house when he snuck back in to the country. My slam skills are slowly improving, although last time I performed I thought the audience was laughing because my poem was funny when really they were laughing at the old man who had wandered onto the stage behind me. I am still a long ways away from being able to perform a whole kabary in Malagasy, but can do a convincing impression complete with hand gestures and properly arranged scarf. In the coming months I’ll be traveling around the country to visit poets in other cities and acquire a hat from every region (each has its own style, and Malagasy hat game is serious).
Graduate Students Agora Symposium: “The Unexpected in the Field”  
By Mario Castillo

On February 21, 2015, the Anthropology Graduate Students Organized for Research and Action (AGORA) hosted a one-day research symposium at the University of California, Berkeley. Students at various points in their graduate careers convened at the Archaeological Research Facility (ARF) to discuss the discipline and the nature of fieldwork. Considering the implications of “the unexpected” in anthropological fieldwork, graduate students interrogated how to locate “the field” by defining field sites as translocated places. Participants discussed how orientation toward the field-site shapes how anthropologists undertake their fieldwork. Julia Sizek (UC Berkeley, pictured right) presented a fascinating study on the afterlife of anthropological field notes. Her work shows that field notes — observations of social phenomena — can have relevance after fieldwork in unexpected ways.

Speakers also explored how non-human organisms intervene in human social relationships. Igor Rubinov (Princeton University) highlighted how the field-site unexpectedly enters the fieldworker. He explored how microbial pathways mediate relationships between locals and foreigners and suggests that attention to the unseen microbial actants will help fieldworkers relate to interlocutors. Similarly, Marlee Tichenor (UC Berkeley) explored how power works to impact public health initiatives and the ways that unexpected ruptures in information can effect the management of malaria at the local level.

Participants also discussed anthropological research design and research strategies. Ashwak Hauter (UC Berkeley) discussed the emergent qualities of ethnographic interviewing. She explored how context specific information helps fieldworkers to construct recognizable questions to interlocutors. Wolfgang Alders (UC Berkeley) presented a fascinating case study in community-based archaeology. He discussed how contradictory data resulted in unexpected opportunities to collaborate with communities. He suggests that the unexpected may help to present new options and opportunities to collaborate with descendent communities.

Agora Conference: “Classification, Instrumentation, Technique”  
By William Stafford and Ashwak Hauter

On April 19, 2015, the department hosted a one-day conference titled “Classification, Instrumentation, Technique: Exploring the Thin Line Between Religion and Science.” The discussions were organized around four themes, with faculty and students at various levels given equal standing, with a final panel and group discussion to reflect on the questions that emerged in the course of the day. The first panel focused on questions around form and technique, concerning the directionality of inference secrets, and care. The second panel focused on returns affected through differentiation and departure, and various modes of their persisentce. The third panel raised questions on the relationship between signs (cosmological and geographical) in the world and the figure of the model and questions of learning and crisis. The fourth panel discussed a number of figures of crossing and encounter, working through questions of conversion, refraction, and translation. In the final discussion, three scholars were invited to reflect on the course of the day’s discussions, and a rich discussion followed among all those present.

The conference was organized by Anthropology PhD studnets Ashwak Hauter and William F. Stafford, Jr. with support from the Berkeley Center for Religious Studies, the Townsend Center for the Humanities Working Group on Form and Formalism, and the Department of Anthropology. The program is available on the Townsend Center Groups website.
Alumni Updates

Terra Edwards,
Assistant Professor, Gallaudet University

Terra Edwards completed her dissertation in August of 2014. Her research, funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research and the Diebold Foundation for Linguistic Anthropological Research, examined the social and interactional foundations of a grammatical divergence between Visual American Sign Language and Tactile American Sign Language in the Seattle DeafBlind community. Since leaving Berkeley, Dr. Edwards has taken a tenure track job in the linguistics department at Gallaudet University in Washington DC. In the fall of 2014, in collaboration with colleagues in the Deaf Studies department and the Office of Design and Planning, she was awarded $35,000.00 from the Provost’s Office at Gallaudet to fund the Tactile Mind, a collaborative initiative aimed at bringing researchers, students, and community members together to think about the intellectual potential of establishing a “pro-tactile” community on campus. Edwards also published an article in 2014 in the Journal of Pragmatics, titled, “From Compensation to Integration: Effects of the Pro-Tactile movement on the sublexical structure of Tactile American Sign Language.”

Eric Plemons,
Assistant Professor, The University of Arizona

Eric Plemons completed his dissertation research in the Anthropology Program at UC Berkeley in 2012. Funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation and the UC Berkeley Center for the Study of Sexual Cultures, his research investigated the tensions between scientific and aesthetic knowledge in practices and discussions of Facial Feminization Surgery, questioning how shifting conceptualizations of “feminine” are changing the practice of trans-medicine in America. While a Society Fellow and Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Michigan, Plemons adapted his dissertation into a book, The Look of a Woman: Facial Feminization Surgery and the Therapeutics of Trans-Medicine, which will be published soon by Duke University Press. This fall Plemons joined the faculty of the University of Arizona where he is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and a founding member of the Transgender Studies Initiative.
Support UC Berkeley Anthropology!

As you can see, the community at the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley is vibrant and active in academic and public life at the undergraduate, graduate, and faculty levels. Your annual support contributes to our essential core activities, undergraduate and graduate research funding, advising activities, and lecturer support. Here are some other ways that people have supported the department:

Our newest Departmental award, the Nissan funds are designated for students of Native American ancestry of a California or Nevada tribe who are pursuing either undergraduate or graduate studies in Anthropology at Berkeley. We are immensely grateful to the Nissan family and to all of the donors whose generosity has helped support graduate and undergraduate research at Berkeley. Funds supporting graduate and undergraduate research include the Alan Dundes Distinguished Professorship of Folkloristics, The Professor George F. Dales Award, the George A. DeVos Memorial Fund, the Ronald Olson fund, the Stanley Brandes Prize, the Ruth M. Boyer Prize in Anthropology, the Richard Diebold Jr Fellowship Fund in Linguistic Anthropology, William Self funds, George and Mary Foster Funds, and the Lowie Fund. Prizes celebrating outstanding undergraduate achievement and senior theses include the Frankenberg Prize, the Kroeber Award, and the McCowan Award.

Endowed Chairs held by member of the Berkeley Anthropology Faculty include the Class of 1960 Chair in Undergraduate Education, the Alice S. Davis Endowed Chair, the Berkeley Distinguished Chair in Linguistic Anthropology, The Alan Dundes Distinguished Professor of Folkloristics, the Robert Lowie Distinguished Chair, and the Robert and Colleen Haas Distinguished Chair in Disability Studies.
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