



Anthropolog

Newsletter of The Department of Anthropology
National Museum of Natural History

Summer 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The beginning of September has brought a new crop of recognitions for the exemplary efforts of our staff in collections, exhibits, and research.

Pam Wintle, Senior Film Archivist, nominated the John Marshall Ju/'hoan Bushman Film and Video Collection, held in the department's Human Studies Film Archives, for UNESCO's Memory of the World Register. The Marshall collection was one of 35 selected for its exceptional value as part of world documentary heritage. This designation places it within the esteemed company of the Diaries of Anne Frank, the Magna Carta, and League of Nations Archives. The collection is only the fourth documentary property held in a United States archive or library to be added to the Memory of the World Register.

Considered as one of the seminal visual anthropology projects of the 20th century, Marshall's collection provides a unique example of sustained audiovisual documentation of one cultural group, the Ju/'hoansi, of the Kalahari Desert in northeastern Namibia, over half a century, 1950-2000. It is an unparalleled historical record not only of an indigenous people's traditional way of life and ties to the land but of the transformation of their life in the rapidly changing political and economic landscape that developed in

concert with the struggle for Namibian independence. More information on the collection can be found at <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/naa/fa/marshall.pdf>

The Human Studies Film Archives is an internationally recognized center devoted to collecting, preserving and disseminating a broad range of moving image materials documenting past and present world cultures.

John P. (Jake) Homiak was one of ten recipients to be honored with the Secretary's Research Prize for 2009. Jake was recognized as curator for the continuing exhibit *Discovering Rastafari*, located in the Focus Gallery of the permanent exhibition African Voices. These pan-Institutional prizes recognize excellence in recent research by the Institution's employees and carry a \$2,000 award for the winner's research account.

Robert M. Laughlin's *Monkey Business Theatre in San Cristóbal de Las Casas in Mexico*, has been nominated by the University of Texas Press for the 2009 Victor Turner prize for Ethnographic Writing.

Congratulations to these members of our staff.

Dan Rogers
Chairman
Department of Anthropology



MARGARET CONTANT BLAKER (1924-2008)

by Paula Richardson Fleming, Raymond J. DeMallie,
Carol Mahler and Joanna Cohan Scherer

Margaret C. Blaker, former archivist and director of the National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution, passed away July 23, 2008 in Winter Haven, Florida, of congestive heart failure.

Margaret Eleanor Contant was born May 28, 1924 in Rochester, New York, and received a B.A. from the University of Rochester. She also studied at Catholic and American universities in D.C. Her professional career began in November 1945 as a Scientific Aid in the Division of Archeology at the Smithsonian. The next year she transferred to the Bureau of American Ethnology (BAE) as a Museum Aide in the newly created River Basin Surveys. In 1950 and 1963 she published articles resulting from her study of pottery from the Townsend site in Delaware. Jennifer Ogborne (2006) praised these studies as, “perhaps the most critical contribution to the development of ceramic traditions in the Mid-Atlantic region.”

In 1953 Margaret was appointed Archives Assistant in the BAE, rising to the position of Archivist in 1958. During her tenure as the first designated Archivist, she introduced professional standards to preserving and cataloging the BAE’s collection of manuscripts and photographs. Previous to her work, the archives was largely an unorganized repository with oversight provided as an additional duty of a curator. The archives itself was stored in cramped quarters on several levels of the north tower of the original Smithsonian “Castle.” When the BAE was absorbed into the Department of Anthropology in 1965 the archives was renamed the Smithsonian Office of Anthropology Archives. In 1967 she oversaw the move of the archives to improved storage conditions in the mall to the Natural History Building. In 1968 the name was changed to the National Anthropological Archives, reflecting an increased scope for the acquisition of collections.



Margaret Blaker in her office in the Archives, when it was located in the Castle, October 16, 1967.

Margaret took pride in the rigor of her cataloging and research and strove to maintain the highest professional archival standards. Because she knew the collections well, and was herself an anthropologist widely read in many aspects of the field, she helped visiting scholars and Smithsonian staff use the collections effectively and efficiently. Moreover, she was always ready to share her knowledge. Many scholars gratefully acknowledged her assistance in their publications.

Margaret retired on June 30, 1972 after serving the Smithsonian for 27 years. A member of the American Anthropological Association since 1948, she continued to attend meetings well after her retirement. She was also active in the American Society for Ethnohistory, the Middle Atlantic Anthropological Association, and the Society of American Archivists.

A talented writer, Margaret’s humorous verses not only amused her staff but were also published in a variety of literary magazines and anthologies such as *The Norton Book of Light Verse* (1986), which included works by Noel Coward, Cole Porter, Ogden Nash, and Dorothy Parker. She also collected poems written by anthropologists, which she hoped to publish.

After her retirement, Margaret moved to Winter Haven, Florida, where she studied creative writing, primarily at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, and began to study Mayan archeology. In 1998 *Archaeology* magazine published her “The Tears of Time” poems that captured “the mood, beauty, joy, and sadness of the pre-Columbian Maya.”

Margaret is survived by a sister-in-law, a great niece and great nephew, and many friends. Her husband of 41 years, Carl Benjamin Blaker, predeceased her in 1989.

DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Ronald L. Bishop and Research Associate **Patricia Fournier Garcia** (Escuela de Antropología e Historia, Mexico) organized the session, Interdisciplinary Advances in the Archaeology, History and Anthropology of Complex Societies in Mesoamerican and Arid-America, at the 53rd International Congress of Americanists meeting in Mexico City on July 20th. Data from the Smithsonian’s neutron activation facility maintained at the National Institute of Standards and Technology were shared in the following presentations:

Ronald Bishop with Brent Woodfill (U. Vanderbilt), “*Frontiers and Materiality in the Maya Area*”;

Patricia Fournier and **M. James Blackman**, “*La produccion alfarera virreinal en Oaxaca: El caso de las lozas vidriadas*”;

Craig Goralski (Penn State), **Ron Bishop** and **M. James Blackman**, “*Usulután Production, Exchange and Social Evolution along the Southeastern Mesoamerican Frontier*”; and

Erin L. Sears (Research Collaborator), “*Small, Portable Power Brokers: Eight Century Maya Figurines*.”

Publication

Torben C. Rick, and Jon M. Erlandson. Coastal Exploitation. *Science* 325, no. 5943 (August 21, 2009): 952-53.

Recent archaeological research from coastal areas shows that humans substantially altered and enhanced marine ecosystems in many ways, some of which obscure the definition of the term “hunter-gatherer.” The development and spread of agriculture and pastoralism during the past 10,000 years is often seen as the tipping point when humans fundamentally changed their relationship with the natural world. Ancient hunter-gatherers also altered their environments, although the extent to which they did so remains hotly debated. Hunter-gatherers may have caused major alterations of terrestrial ecosystems, including the use of fire to enhance resource productivity and the translocation of various animals to new regions. They are implicated in massive megafaunal extinctions in the Americas and Australia.

In the Media

The *New York Times* published an article, “Ancient Man Hurt Coasts, Paper Says,” by Cornelia Dean (August 9, 2009) that focused on Torrey Rick’s *Science* article on “Coastal Exploitation.”

Torrey was also interviewed on NPR for a Weekend Edition story, “For Early Man, It Wasn’t Easier Being Green” by Christopher Joyce (August 23) <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=112124572&ft=1&f=100>

NSF Grant

Torrey Rick is a Co-PI, with Jon Erlanson (Univ. of Oregon), for a project titled Colonization, Ecology, and Adaptive Adjustments of Paleocoastal Peoples on California’s Northern Channel Islands, for which they received \$98,000 in NSF funding.

DIVISION OF ETHNOLOGY

Ives Goddard's *Autobiography of a Meskwaki Woman* (2006), the edition of an 194 page NAA manuscript, is described by North American ethnologist Emmanuel Désveaux as "a text that in our view stands as one of the most amazing in all ethnographic literature." Désveaux (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris and Humboldt University in Berlin) discussed Goddard's manuscript in his article "Une autobiographie meskwaki anonyme ou la captation de l'écriture," published in *L'Homme* 190 (April-June 2009): 181-190.

Adrienne Kaeppler was re-elected as President of the ICTM (International Council for Traditional Music) at the biennial meeting in Durban, South Africa, on July 3rd. The ICTM meeting, held July 1-8, was attended by delegates from 43 countries. This large international organization focuses on the anthropological study of music and dance.

Adrienne presented a paper titled "Ritual and Dance Relationships" in an ICTM panel on ritual. She also served on a panel on Intangible Cultural Heritage and the role of UNESCO. On her way to Durban, South Africa, Adrienne Kaeppler stopped in Cape Town on June 20-21 to examine the Cook voyage collection in the South African Museum.

Joanna Cohan Scherer was invited by Frank H. Goodyear, Associate Curator of Photographs and Curator at the Portrait Gallery, to contribute to the upcoming exhibit *Faces of the Frontier: Photographic Portraits from the American West, 1845-1924*, opening September 25 through January 4, 2010. Joanna recorded a cell phone tour presentation about Alice C. Fletcher, whose photo will be used in the exhibit, which features over 100 men and women who helped define this region and era in American History. After its opening in Washington, the exhibition will travel



Alice C. Fletcher at age 30 (ferrotype also known as a tintype). Photo: Smithsonian Institution, National Anthropological Archives, 11264.

in 2010 to venues in San Diego, California and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Publication

Joanna Cohan Scherer. 2009. "Historical Photographs of North American Indians: Primary Documents, BUT view with Care." In Mary Strong and Laena Wilder, eds., *Viewpoints, Visual Anthropologists at Work*. University of Texas Press.

DIVISION OF PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Doug traveled to ancient Corinth in southern Greece, where he presented an invited lecture on "Case Studies in Forensic Anthropology" on June 24.

Doug delivered an invited keynote lecture, "The Evolving Relationship of Forensic Anthropology to Physical Anthropology," at the XVI Congreso de la Sociedad Española de Antropología Física, held at the University of Acala de Henares, Spain, on July 9.

Doug Ubelaker presented the invited introductory lecture for the course on Forensic Bone Histology,

sponsored by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, on July 13.

component site on the coast of Newfoundland in July and August.

Doug Owsley talked with Kerri Miller, host of Minnesota Public Radio, on July 29 about the NMNH exhibition *Written in Bone: Forensic Files of the 17th-Century Chesapeake* at Common Good Books in St. Paul, where over 112 people were in attendance. The one-hour interview was followed by a book signing of Doug and Kari Bruwelheide's *Written in Bone: Bone Biographer's Casebook*. Fifty percent of the profits from the sale of the book will sponsor undergraduate, graduate and post doctoral students of physical anthropology at the Smithsonian.

Doug Owsley and **Laurie Burgess** were interviewed on "The Kojo Nnamdi Show" at WAMU-FM 88.5 to discuss the Congressional Cemetery project on September 2, along with Patrick Crowley, chair, board of directors of Congressional Cemetery.

ARCHAEOBIOLOGY PROGRAM

Dolores R. Piperno was appointed an Associate Editor of the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. She will represent the Anthropology section and as one of 8 associate editors she will be responsible for the direction and other aspects of the journal.

ARCTIC STUDIES CENTER



Stephen Loring has been elected to the American Anthropological Association's Committee for Human Rights.

Post-doctoral Fellow **Christopher Wolff** received a research grant from the Provincial Archaeology Office of Newfoundland to conduct research at a multi-

ASIAN CULTURAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Paul Taylor was interviewed by French newspaper *Le Monde* at the Embassy of France regarding French anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss receiving the James Smithson Bicentennial Award. Lévi-Strauss celebrated his 100th birthday last November.

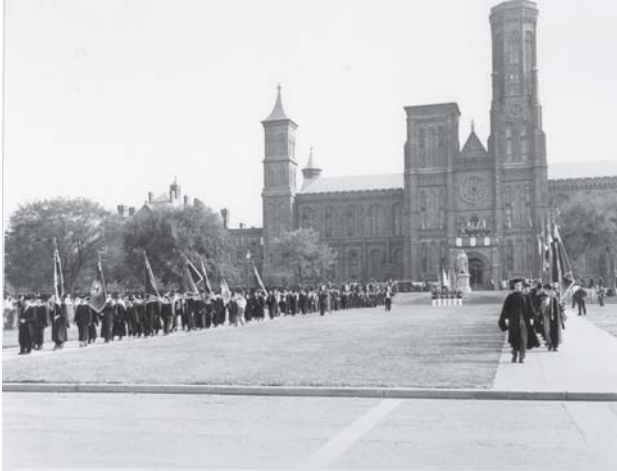
The September issue of *Anthropology News* contains the story "Smithsonian Honors Claude Lévi-Strauss the James Smithson Medal and Lévi-Strauss: A Gift Exchange" (p. 37) by Research Associate **Edgardo Krebs**.

A letter from President Obama celebrating Lévi-Strauss's Smithson Medal expressed his "warmest greetings to all those celebrating the life and legacy of Professor Claude Lévi-Strauss as he accepts the James Smithson Bicentennial Award."



Courtesy F. Michael Kelleher, Director of Presidential Correspondence.

Claude Levi-Strauss was one of the hundreds of scholars invited to celebrate James Smithson's bicentennial in 1965 and a keynote speaker.



The 1965 international meeting began with an impressive academic procession on the National Mall. Photo courtesy Smithsonian Archives.

"La Nación" of Buenos Aires, Argentina's main newspaper, published an Op-Ed by Research Associate Edgardo Krebs on the upcoming bicentennial of the country (2010) and what role social anthropology has played, or has not played, in Argentina over the last century.

http://www.lanacion.com.ar/nota.asp?nota_id=1159447&origen=premium

The Asian Cultural History Program visited the Textile Museum on August 18, where Curator Dr. Mattiebelle Gittinger gave a tour of the temporary exhibit *A Lady Found a Culture in Its Cloth: Barack Obama's Mother and Indonesian Batiks*. The Indonesian batiks were collected by President Barack Obama's mother, anthropologist Ann Dunham, during the time the family lived in Indonesia. This collection is in the possession of President Obama's sister Mrs. Maya Soetoro Ng, who received a copy of *Flagship of a Fleet: A Korea Gallery Guide* from **Paul Michael Taylor** at the "invite-only dinner" held to open the exhibition.

HUMAN ORIGINS PROGRAM



Publications

Matt Tocheri's research on the wrist bones of the hobbit of Flores is included in the article "Pathology or Paradigm Shift? Human Evolution, Ad Hominem Science, and the Anomalous Hobbits of Flores" in the *Skeptical Inquirer* 33 (4), July/August 2009, pp. 31-39. His research "supports the hypothesis that the Hobbits descended from a hominin that migrated out of Africa prior to the evolution of the modern wrist (p. 37)."

Petraglia, Michael (Research Associate), Christopher Clarkson, Nicole Boivin, et. al. "Population increase and environmental deterioration correspond with microlithic innovations in South Asia ca. 35,000 years ago." *PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences)* vol. 106, no. 3 (July 28): 12261-12266.

In the Media

Rick Potts was interviewed by *Science* and *National Geographic.com* about a publication in *Nature* (June 18) that concerns a rethinking of the distinction between ape and human fossils in East Asia, dated between 2.0 and 1.5 million years old. Potts's research on the environments and dating of the oldest ancestral humans in China contributes both to the new thinking and to a critique of it.

Science: <http://blogs.sciencemag.org/origins/>
National Geographic.com:

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/06/090617-early-human-ape-mystery.html>

On July 31, **Rick Potts** was interviewed on Science Friday, the NPR program devoted to scientific research and its impact on society. Rick was interviewed on the subject of ‘paleo-artists’ – how artists use scientific techniques and other information to recreate early humans through painting and sculpting. The interview can be heard at the following link:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/rundowns/rundown.php?prgId=5&prgDate=current> (“Art, Science Converge in Museum Displays”)

Rick participated in a panel discussion on human origins, organized by PBS NOVA, at the Television Critics Association meeting, August 1-3. Rick’s work on climate change and human evolution was featured, along with his contributions to NOVA’s highly anticipated 3-part series on human evolution, to be premiered at the NMNH in October and aired on PBS in November.

Science News August 10 Web edition features an article by Bruce Bower on “Humanity’s Upright Gait May Have Roots in Trees” that discusses a recent paper published in *PNAS* on primate knuckle-walking. In the article Research Associate **Brian Richmond** and **Matt Tocheri** of the Human Origins Program were interviewed to provide comments on the *PNAS* paper.

[http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/46246/tittle/Humanity%E2%80%99s upright gait may have roots in trees](http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/46246/tittle/Humanity%E2%80%99s%u201Cupright%u201Cgait%u201Cmay%u201Chave%u201Croots%u201Cin%u201Ctrees%u201C)

Briana Pobiner was interviewed on July 7th by the Library of Alexandria (Egypt), which is producing a program for Egypt public television about Darwin and evolution. Briana discussed what has been learned about human evolution since Darwin, the congruence of the genetic and fossil evidence for human evolution, and the misconception people have that humans evolved from living apes.

Presentations/Meetings

Briana Pobiner and Research Associates **Alison S. Brooks** and **John E. Yellen** attended the second bi-annual meeting of the East African Association of Paleoanthropology and Paleontology in Arusha, Tanzania, August 17. **Briana**, in addition to her duties as EAAPP secretary, was a co-author on a paper “In the footprints of our ancestors: a new hominin (*Homo sapiens*) trackway at Ngare Sero, northern Tanzania” (Jim Brett, Godwin Mollel, Cynthia Liutkus, William Harcourt-Smith, Briana Pobiner, Godfrey Ollemoita, Carl C. Swisher III.). **Alison** and **John** presented a talk titled “An eastern African perspective on the emergence of modern humans.” **Briana** spent one week coordinating the closing of the Olorgesailie, Kenya field season before attending the meeting in Arusha.

Briana was invited to participate in a NESCent Education and Outreach working group on Communicating Human Evolution. NESCent, the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center, facilitates broadly synthetic research to address fundamental questions in evolutionary biology. This working group plans to submit a funding proposal to meet four times over the next two years. Their focus is on communicating human evolution to the general public and educators by identifying examples of the practical applications of macroevolutionary change in areas such as disease and genetics.

Briana participated in the National Academy of Sciences workshop on communicating science topics to broad audiences. She attended all three panels: Science for All Seasons: Communicating Science to Diverse Audiences, Information – and Misinformation – at the Speed of Light, and Science and Hollywood: Education Through Entertainment.

Other news

Jennifer Clark returned August 12 from Kenya, where she managed the research operations at Olorgesailie for most of the field season. She coordinated the research visits and daily activities of 9 collaborating scientists, 4 student researchers, and the crew of 29 Kenyan excavators, allowing some time to devote to her own research on fossil rodents, frogs, and other microfauna from the excavations. **Jennifer** also collected GPS coordinates for the basin-wide mapping project and hosted a visit by Dr. Fumiko Ohinata, Program Specialist for Culture, UNESCO.



Alison Books and John Yellen leading excavations of artifacts and fauna at a Middle Stone Age site at Olorgesailie, Kenya.



Excavation of Middle Stone Age site at Olorgesailie, Kenya.

Rick Potts spent three weeks in Kenya to prepare for the beginning of the field season. **Rick** and **Jennifer** also participated in meetings with local Maasai landowners, area Chiefs and representatives from the National Museums of Kenya to write a land use agreement with local landowners and the SI/NMK research project.



Matt Tocheri is currently in Indonesia leading excavations at the site of Liang Bua, home of “the hobbits” or *Homo floresiensis*. Matt was awarded funding for this project by the SI Scholarly Studies Program.

Briana Pobiner is working with an international team to document, analyze, and preserve what are most likely the earliest footprints of our species. In August, the team presented their initial findings from the site of Ngare Sero in northern Tanzania at the EAAPP conference (see *meetings* above). The volcanic ash the footprints are preserved in was radiometrically dated by $^{40}\text{Ar}/^{39}\text{Ar}$ analysis to about 120,000 +/- 10,000 years old. This summer the team’s focus was to collect ash samples for analysis to determine its volcanic source; establish collaborations with the Tanzanian Department of Antiquities and the local Maasai community; and to map 58 footprints uncovered this summer. At least 3 different individuals can be identified by the size of the footprints, and several trackways can be traced for large distances. The smallest footprints (perhaps a female or juvenile) are in a trackway over 12 meters in length and contain 18 individual prints. Future research plans involve studying the prints to determine the height, weight, and gait of the early modern humans. Briana hopes to create an educational display on the prints for visitors to the nearby tourist camp and Tanzanian school groups.



We welcome pre-doctoral fellow **Catherine Haradon** and volunteer **Katherine Barker** to the HOP family. Catherine is in the Hominid Paleobiology Doctoral Program at GWU and her research project is titled “Environmental and faunal context of the Acheulean to Middle Stone Age transition in Africa.” Rick Potts and Alison Brooks are co-chairs on her committee. Katherine Barker (Univ. of Missouri) is working with Matt Tocheri to process CT images of our Hominin Cast Collection and create 3D models for use in an upcoming exhibition and website.

Christyna Solhan (GWU Center for the Advanced Study of Hominid Paleobiology student) has been previously working with Matt Tocheri CT scanning and creating 3D models for fossil and artifact casts from our collections for exhibit use and assisting Rick Potts with exhibit project management and scheduling. This September, Christyna is transitioning over to the Exhibits Department as an exhibition assistant and will continue working with Rick on the upcoming human origins exhibit.

Congratulations to Dr. **Robin Teague**! Robin defended her dissertation, “The Ecological Context of the Early Pleistocene Hominin Dispersal to Asia” at GWU in June. Starting in September, Robin will have a year-long appointment with HOP, continuing her research on the topic of the ecological context of early Pleistocene hominin dispersal to Asia; adding data to the faunal section of the Human Origins Program database; and contributing content to the HOP website about the scientific activities of the program.

LATIN AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGY PROGRAM

Ledergerber-Crespo, Paulina (Research Assoc.); Eduardo Reyes-Paniagua; y Patricio Tapia-Sarmiento. 2009 “Gualaquiza: Sintesis Prehistorica del Canton”, *Los Valores Humanos. Boletin del Municipio de Gualaquiza*, Agosto, pp. 1-11. Prov. Morona-Santiago, Ecuador.

PALEOINDIAN PROGRAM

Publication

Lowery, D., and **D. Stanford**. The Loess and Archaeological Record for the Late Pleistocene through Early Holocene on the Northwestern Section of the Delmarva Peninsula, USA. In Press in *Quaternary Research*.

Presentations

Dennis Stanford gave the keynote address titled “Rethinking New World Origins: Evidence from the Atlantic Continental Shelf” at the Canadian Archaeological Society meeting in Thunder Bay, May 13-17. He also presented a paper, “Clovis in the Southeast” at the University of South Carolina, on June 4.

Fellows

Pre-Doc Fellow **Darrin Lowery (Univ. of Delaware)** is working on the geologic context of Eastern Clovis sites (primarily Thunderbird, Shawnee-Minisink, Paw Paw Cove). Darrin is situated in Dennis’ office during his fellowship until July 1, 2010.

Senior Post-Doc Fredrick Sellet (Northern Colorado College) just completed his fellowship (June 1 – August 30), conducting an analysis of biface production on the Lindenmeier Folsom artifacts.

ANTHROPOLOGY OUTREACH OFFICE

AnthroNotes continues to be in popular demand. In July alone we received 42 new subscribers from the Web signup form and email requests. Teachers, students, and the general public from 11 states and 4 countries (China, Indonesia, Canada, and Argentina) asked to receive the digital version of the publication.

The Anthropology Outreach Office received a Web Advisory Group grant of \$9,640, which will help increase our diffusion of knowledge about the departmental collections and research, through the production of video podcasts.

COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES PROGRAM

Summer Institute in Museum Anthropology

This summer marked the launch of a new program within the Department of Anthropology, the Summer Institute in Museum Anthropology (SIMA). SIMA brought twelve graduate students to the museum for an intensive four-week training program in research methods for ethnology collections. The program, funded by NSF, was developed in response to a critical lack of university training in the use of museum collections. SIMA aims to revitalize the thoughtful use of museum collections for research. In addition it intends to invigorate thinking about material culture and artifacts more generally, strengthening museums as sites for the production of knowledge as well as the display of culture.

The institute combined formal lessons on data collection and analysis with individual research projects. The 2009 cohort of students brought a wide range of interdisciplinary training and interests, all directed toward using objects to address current issues in anthropology. Utilizing materials from diverse locales, they explored topics related to soundscapes, the creation of sacred space, recognition of agency, the commodification of culture, and differential inscriptions of meaning.

The SIMA students presented papers on their collections research projects on the following topics:

Amy E. Chan (Arizona State University) *Pictorial Engraving on Carved Ivory*

Holly Coleman (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa) *Natanaela Emesona: Understanding Nathaniel*

Emerson's Hawaiian Artifacts through Indigenous Epistemologies

Nicole Goude (UCLA) *Hybrid Intentions and Shifting Values: The Photographs of Harry Sampson, Northern Paiute*

Suzanne Godby Ingalsbe (Indiana University) *Examining Multiple Layers of Curation in the Berwick and Bunting Rugs*

KeunYoung Kim (University of Michigan) *Comparative Analysis in Museum Classification: The Case of Chinese Collections in the US and China*

Eugenia Kisin (NYU) *Collecting Chilkat Blankets: Materiality, Gender, and Translation on the Northwest Coast*

Stacey Loyer (Carleton University) *Building Biographies: The Social Lives of Seneca Cornhusk Dolls*

Bryce Peake (University of Oregon) *On the Semiotic Construction of a Sioux Elk Whistle*

Jodine Perkins (Indiana University) *Exploring Similarity and Difference in Ethnographic Museum Collections*

Clark Sage (Clark-Indiana University) *Recovering a Symbol of the American Indian: The Ethnohistorical Method and Plains Bonnets of the Smithsonian Collections*

Kristi Scott (Montana State University) *Material Culture in Boarding Schools*

Jessica Watson (University of California-Santa Cruz) *An Embarrassment of Conditions: Selective Knowledge Production Through Two Collections of Pomo Baskets*

Full information on the program is available at <http://anthropology.si.edu/summerinstitute>.

Meetings/Presentations

Candace Greene gave an invited lecture, “*One Hundred Summers: Deciphering a Kiowa Calendar*,” at the University of Oklahoma on June 16, followed by a book signing. During the event, she was honored by the Silverhorn family and presented with a Pendleton blanket by Don Tofpi, tribal chairman.

HSFA adds Video Clips to SIRIS records

The Human Studies Film Archives is the first Smithsonian archives to link video clips to SIRIS cataloging records. These video clips give the entries an animated quality and provide important information regarding the content and quality of the moving images. The entries, many from the 1930s and 50s, cover a range of topics and places, such as historic footage of the Bamiyan statues, Yupik Eskimo life, a butcher haggling over the price of a cow with a Belgian farmer, a Chaam dance at a south Indian Tibetan monastery, an Adena Mound excavation, and a John Marshall !Kung expedition. Some of these video clips reside directly on the SIRIS server whereas others are online at sites such as YouTube and Folkstreams. These SIRIS records can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/lzky6c>.

REPATRIATION OFFICE

Case Officer **Dorothy Lippert** of the Repatriation Office has been asked to join the editorial board of *Museum Anthropology* for a three-year term beginning in September.

Contributors: Ron Bishop, Jennifer Clark, Savannah Fetterolf, Paula Fleming, Ives Goddard, Candace Greene, Adrienne Kaeppler, Edgardo Krebs, Paulina Ledergerber-Crespo, Dorothy Lippert, Stephen Loring, Betty Meggers, Dolores Piperno, Rick Potts, Briana Pobiner, Daniel Rogers, Joanna Cohan Scherer, Dennis Stanford, Paul Taylor, Matt Tocheri, Doug Ubelaker, Pam Wintle, Christopher Wolff.

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