

CU Anthropology



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

SUMMER 2010 E-ZINE

Surviving Sudden Environmental Change



Along a devastated shoreline, people seek relief. Deep in a ravaged forest, primates seek cover from humans seeking shelter. Somewhere in the ancient and modern records are the clues that could help guide humanity in preserving both communities. This is a key portion of what our anthropologists are up to and the rea-

*son anthropology is attracting so many students at this point in the history of the planet. For our first edition of the CU Anthropology Alumni E-zine, here are a few contributions from among our ranks for... **SURVIVING SUDDEN ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE:***

Herbert Covert, Chair-Elect, is a recipient of a 2010 Innovative Seed Grant Program award worth \$40,572 titled "Biodiversity of Ca Na Pass, Vietnam: understanding threats and developing conservation strategies." This is a collaborative study with the Center for Biodiversity and Development of Ho Chi Minh City. It will provide the first detailed biodiversity surveys for this region of Vietnam that is thought to be home to significant plant and animal life that is at risk due to development and climate change, providing the foundation for developing long-term conservation planning. In addition, the possibility of establishing a tropical research station for Vietnamese and CU scholars is being explored.

Payson Sheets attended "...an amazing NSF-supported meeting in Maine last October with physical and social scientists and humanists all interested in sudden climatic change." Sheets and Professor J. Cooper decided to co-edit a book on this topic and five months later, Sheets was granted a book subvention from NSF to decrease the cost to the public and also make it available as a free PDF download to anyone, anywhere. "The book is about documented sudden changes

PUBLIC EVENTS

States of Belonging: An Anthropology Graduate Student Conference

September 24-25, 2010 at CU Boulder.

In this conference on States of Belonging, we hope to tend to experiences, structures, and epistemologies of belonging as involving both sense and consequence. The conference will be held Friday, September 24 and Saturday, September 25 and will include panels moderated by CU faculty. Gyanendra Pandey, Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of History at Emory University, will give the keynote address. For further information, please see the States of Belonging Conference website, <http://www.colorado.edu/anthropology/statesofbelonging/> or contact Carole McGranahan, Associate Professor of Anthropology, at Carole.McGranahan@colorado.edu.

Last September, our graduate students held a very successful conference on Memory + Truth. The conference website is still available at <http://www.colorado.edu/anthropology/memorytruth/>

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from human activities (deforestation, soil erosion...) or natural events (El Niño, climate changes, volcanic eruptions, etc.) and how societies adjust or collapse." The book will be available in November.

Russ McGoodwin was the keynote speaker at "Anthropology of Biodiversity and Human Life Worlds," a workshop in Norway last December. His ongoing research into maritime communities will be valued more than ever in the current crisis, but as fate would have it he retired in May after 36 years of service. That leaves a certain gulf...

Dennis McGilvray co-edited a recent volume on *Tsunami Recovery in Sri Lanka; Ethnic and Regional Dimensions* <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415778770> / ISBN: 978-0-415-77877-0

"The Indian Ocean Tsunami, which devastated 70 percent of Sri Lanka's coastline and killed an estimated 35,000 people, was remarkable both for the magnitude of the disaster and for the unprecedented scale of the relief and recovery operations mounted by national and international agencies. The reconstruction process was soon hampered by political patronage, by the competing efforts of hundreds of foreign humanitarian organizations, and by the ongoing civil war... Demonstrating the key importance of comprehending the local cultural contexts of disaster recovery processes, the book is a timely and useful contribution to the existing literature."



Magda Stawkowski, PhD candidate, received a prestigious grant to pursue a year of research on "Radioactive Knowledge: State Control of Scientific Information in Post-Soviet Kazakhstan" from the IREX (International Research Exchanges Board) IARO (Individual Advanced Research Opportunities Program). Her research came to life in the aftermath of Chernobyl.

In our next edition, coming soon:

- **Highlights from Hale**
- **Anthropologists in the media**
- **Faculty and grad publications**
- **Degrees and awards**
- **More alum news**
- **More links for avid anthropologists**

PROMOTIONS

Carole McGranahan was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure this year.

Kaifa Roland was reappointed.

Art Joyce and **Carla Jones** will be considered for promotions this fall.



FOREVER ANTHROPOLOGISTS

If anthropology is in your blood, here are two mother lodes of mind treasures on the Web:

100 Incredible Anthropology Lectures

From the Museum Anthropology Blog, Sunday, June 13, 2010:

<http://museumanthropology.blogspot.com/2010/06/100-incredible-anthropology-lectures.html>

"A useful [list](#) to find great anthropology lectures online. We've only watched a few. But lectures like the one by [Wade Davis on Endangered Cultures](#) will inspire you to become an anthropologist all over again."

<http://www.bestcollegesonline.com/blog/2010/06/03/100-incredible-anthropology-lectures-online/>

100 Best Blogs for Anthropology Students

<http://www.onlinedegrees.net/>

[blog/2010/100-best-blogs-for-anthropology-students/](http://www.onlinedegrees.net/blog/2010/100-best-blogs-for-anthropology-students/)

No matter if you are studying an ancient race of people buried under years' worth of dirt or if you are analyzing the modern culture of New York City or Japan, these anthropology blogs have something to offer you. Throw this one in for good measure: "**Genealogy of Religion**" PhD student Cris Campbell "Exploring the Origins, History and Future of Religion" <http://genealogyreligion.net/>.

Alum News and Publications

Surviving Not-so-sudden Climate Change

Craig Lee (PhD '07, Anthropology Lecturer 2010) made national news with his discovery of an *atlatl* in a melting ice patch high in the Rocky Mountains. He is interviewed about his find and the role of climate change in its recovery on CU News Services at <http://www.colorado.edu/news/r/6f01e0cf192c909927c88da29caafdd8.html> Lee was also featured in a *National Geographic* special that was televised January, 28. For the "Surviving Ancient Alaska" episode of the series on "Naked Science", Lee had a film crew follow him while he looked (unsuccessfully) for archeological material in association with melting ice patches in Denali National Park, Alaska. Lee participated in another filmed project in Lake Clark National Park, Alaska where Lee and Jim Dixon (recent Anthropology faculty) found two sites. For more details see <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/naked-science/4233/Overview#tab-Photos/7>.

Marc Levine (PhD '07, Instructor UCB Anthropology) curated the "Genghis Khan" exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. In an interview for the *Denver Post*, he revealed some surprising cultural facts about the infamous Mongol's empire. Read the complete article, "Genghis Khan's conquering genius comes to life at exhibit" at http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_13562352.

Inga Calvin (PhD '06, Lecturer UCB) gave a lecture to the Precolumbian Society at the University of Pennsylvania of Archaeology and Anthropology on January 9 entitled "Text, Pseudo-Text, and Context: A Study of Classic Period Maya Ceramic Inscriptions." She spent the week before the lecture working with Classic Period Maya pottery in the collections of the University Museum.

Tim Craig (PhD '08) was hired by Guerra DeBerry Coody, a full service marketing and communications agency in Texas, to apply his training as a cultural anthropologist to help understand more about consumers and their needs. As a professional ethnographer and consumer anthropologist, Craig's applied experience spans the research spectrum to include in-depth cultural studies for the Department of Defense to more business oriented studies that have applications in the engineering, animal services, women's retail, telecommunications, healthcare, and food and beverage industries. Most recently Craig has led research projects that investigated the redesign of the healthcare insurance and services industry as well as a cancer care study where new corporate ideas are being implemented to assist cancer patients in navigating their treatment at the local level.

Reed D. Riner, 1976, retired as Professor Emeritus from the Department of Anthropology, Northern Arizona University, where he had taught for 34 years. Reed and wife Trix expect to continue to live in Flagstaff AZ.

Catherine Workman (MA '04) has accepted a position as Conservation Biology Coordinator at Denver Zoo.

Aimee Garza (MA '07) passed her qualifying exam for the PhD at UC Santa Cruz and is moving back to New Mexico to do her field work and dissertation writing. *\$8m Gates Grant to be Directed by Lynn Sibley* (PhD '93)

Lynn Sibley: Emory University's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing has received \$8,163,298 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for a 2 1/2-year project designed to improve maternal and newborn survival rates in rural Ethiopia. Led by principal investigator Lynn Sibley, RN, PhD, associate professor in the Emory School of Nursing and Rollins School of Public Health and an associated faculty member in the Department of Anthropology, the grant will enable a team of Emory faculty and graduate students working with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health to create a community-oriented strategy to improve maternal and newborn health in rural Ethiopia and position the approach to be adopted throughout the country." Story from *EMORY Health Sciences News* Nov. 11, 2009: <http://emoryhealthsciences.org> Media Contact: Ashante Dobbs adobbs2@emory.edu.

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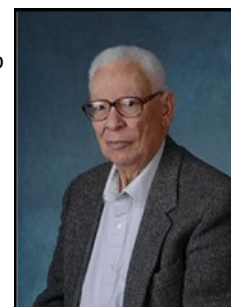
Payson Sheets, took Forever Buffs t-shirts to his excavation site at El Ceren, El Salvador last month. Ceren is a well-preserved ancient Maya village that was buried by deep volcanic ash 1,400 years ago. Payson discovered it in 1976. The men in the photo do the excavation work, and he says they're "super dedicated and hard workers." The women help in the lab cleaning artifacts and cataloging them. "And a few of their children were so excited," Payson says, "to be a part of the photo and get a CU t-shirt that there was no way I would have excluded them." *Story compliments of CU Alumni Association*



IN MEMORY OF BOULOS AYAD AYAD

Professor Boulos Ayad Ayad passed away September 29, 2009 at the age of 81. Ayad earned his PhD from the University of Cairo in 1964. In his career with the Department of Anthropology, he taught highly popular courses "...over all the areas of Ancient Egypt, Nubia and Sudan, and Ancient Near East..." including Egyptian hieroglyphics and Biblical Archaeology. His research specialized in Ancient Egypt, Jewish Antiquities in the Nile Valley, Coptic Archaeology, and the Ancient Semitic languages in relationship to the Ancient Egyptian languages.

A small sampling of his great body of scholarship can be accessed on our website at: <http://www.colorado.edu/Anthropology/people/bios/ayad.html>



Alum News and Publications continued

Scott Simmons (PhD '96) is an Associate Professor of Archaeology at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. He directs archaeological investigations at the large Maya site of Lamanai, located on the New River Lagoon in northern Belize. In April 2009 he received the Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award at UNCW. He has also recently signed a book contract with the University Press of Colorado for publication of a volume on archaeometallurgy in Mesoamerica. Scott lives near Masonboro Sound with his wife, three children, large chocolate Labrador retriever and two cats. **Dr. A. Midori Albert (PhD '95) is a faculty associate in Physical Anthropology.**

Lindsay Hale (BA '84) went on to earn his PhD from UT Austin. His research focuses mainly on Afro-Brazilian religions. He has published in *American Ethnologist* and numerous edited volumes, and his book, *Hearing the Mermaid's Song: the Umbanda Religion in Rio de Janeiro*, was published by the University of New Mexico Press in September. Hale presently teaches in the University Extension program at UT Austin."

James Stoutamire holds a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Missouri-Columbia (1975). The Anthropology degree he received from CU in 1969 was a BA. (Correction to Summer 2009 edition.)

Lane Volpe (MA '02) is a Durham Doctoral Fellow at Durham University in England. She is a member of the Medical Anthropology Research Group and a staff member of the Parent-Infant Sleep Laboratory. She is currently completing her dissertation. <http://www.dur.ac.uk/sleep/lab/>

Mishtal and Barber--Dr. Sarah (Stacy) Barber (PhD '05) and Dr. Joanna Mishtal (PhD '06), both faculty members in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Central Florida, each received \$7,500 research grants in April. See also Mishtal's publication: Mishtal, Joanna. 2009. "Matters of 'Conscience': The Politics of Reproductive Healthcare in Poland." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. 23(2) June, pp. 161-183.

Laura Brubaker (BA '09) was asked by SIT Study Abroad to post her story online about her travels to India, Nepal, and Tibet, "learning more about myself and the world around me than I ever thought possible". Photos and story on the World Learning Now website at: <http://worldlearningnow.wordpress.com/>.

Shannon Gray (MA/MBA '06) is now Director of Research for North Star Destination Strategies in Nashville. "Shannon will facilitate North Star's recent expansion of research services by developing new research products that fill community needs. Besides endless customized research possibilities, new research products offered include consumer perception studies, business and development perception studies, community program evaluation studies, ROI studies, conversion/visitation studies, and a community 'green gauge' measurement and gap analysis tool. Visit www.northstarideasresearch.com for additional information." The complete news story is available at http://news.yahoo.com/s/prweb/20091020/bs_prweb/prweb3058274.

According to a friend, "she contacted the head of the company and practically created this job for herself, and convinced them that they needed to hire her. She is thrilled and will be great in this work. It is more in line with her values than her previous job (focusing on communities rather than corporate market research), but her work at Context gave her a great foundation. What a rock star!" --Carol Conzelman

Tavie Meier (BA '08) was recruited for a start-up non-profit as the second principal. "The Center for Educational and Economic Equity mission is to provide educational and workforce readiness support for youth ages 14-25, with particular attention at-risk youth and/or youth with moderate disabilities. The CEEE model is unique in that its goals are youth initiated." Tavie acknowledges that, "anthropology has been an incredible background to have in the human services."

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Sweetgrass



Lucien Castaing-Taylor and Ilisa Barbash, former CU Anthropology faculty (alums, of sorts) are the creators and producers of an award-winning documentary on Montana sheepherders currently showing around the Big Apple. According to The New York Times, "Sweetgrass is the first essential movie of this young year." Critic Manohla Dargis comments, "In Sweetgrass, a graceful and often moving meditation on a disappearing way of life, there is little here that is objective and much that is magnificent ...the movie largely involves the enormous effort, along with the unintentional humor and grim realities, involved in driving some 3,000 sensationally noisy sheep (how do they sleep?) up a mountain for summer pasture." Dargis' insightful review of the work's artistry in the context of contemporary ethnographic film is available at <http://movies.nytimes.com/2010/01/06/movies/06sweet.html>. Clips and a trailer of the film can be viewed at <http://movies.nytimes.com/movie/459385/Sweetgrass/trailers>.

Alum Publications

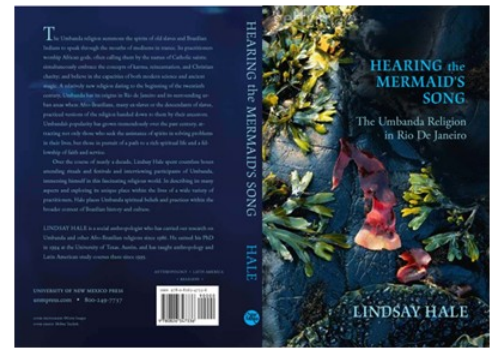
Hearing the Mermaid's Song:

The Umbanda Religion in Rio de Janeiro

Lindsay Hale

Based on personal experience as a participant and observer over nearly a decade, Hale explores the unique spiritual beliefs of this Afro-Brazilian religion originated in Rio de Janeiro in the early twentieth century.

University of New Mexico Press
978-0-8263-4733-6



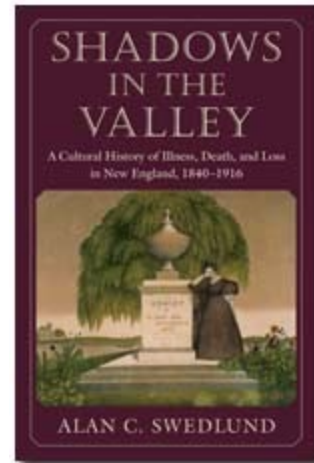
Leedom Lefferts (PhD '74)

2006-7 "The Bun Phra Wet Painted Scrolls of Northeast Thailand: New Treasures in the Walters Museum Collection", *Journal, Walters Art Museum*, 64/65:149-170 (printed 2009)

2008 "Gender and ethnicity in contemporary village-based ceramics production in Thailand", co-authored with Louise Allison Cort, in "Humanity and Ceramics: From Past to Present", *Korakot Boonyalop*, ed. Publication #66. Bangkok: Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Research Centre, pp. 153-200 (in English and Thai).

studies, ROI studies, conversion/visitation studies, and a community 'green gauge' measurement and gap analysis tool. Visit www.northstarideasresearch.com for additional information." The complete news story is available at http://news.yahoo.com/s/prweb/20091020/bs_prweb/prweb3058274.

According to a friend, "she contacted the head of the company and practically created this job for herself, and convinced them that they needed to hire her. She is thrilled and will be great in this work. It is more in line with her values than her previous job (focusing on communities rather than corporate market research), but her work at Context gave her a great foundation. What a rock star!" –*Carol Conzelman Tavie Meier* (BA '08) was recruited for a start-up non-profit as the second principal. "The Center for Educational and Economic Equity mission is to provide educational and workforce readiness support for youth ages 14-25, with particular attention at-risk youth and/or youth with moderate disabilities. The CEE model is unique in that its goals are youth initiated." Tavie acknowledges that, "anthropology has been an incredible background to have in the human services."



http://www.umass.edu/umpress/spr_09/swedlund.htm

Alan C. Swedlund (BA '66, PhD '70), Professor emeritus, University of Massachusetts, Amherst and External Professor, Santa Fe Institute, has recently published two new books. The first, "Shadows in the Valley: A Cultural History of Illness, Death and Loss in New England, 1840-1916" (2010, University of Massachusetts Press), is the product of over 30 years' research on mortality transitions in the Connecticut Valley. The second is an edited volume with co-editor Dr. D. Ann Herring (McMaster University, Ontario) titled, "Plagues and Epidemics: Infected Spaces Past and Present" (2010, Berg, Oxford). This volume derives from a Wenner-Gren International Symposium on the subject of past and current epidemics, and has chapters by many of the leading medical anthropologists in the international community. You can see more of Alan Swedlund's current research projects at his professional website: <http://people.umass.edu/swedlund/>



Mishtal, Joanna. 2009. "Matters of 'Conscience': The Politics of Reproductive Health-care in Poland." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. 23(2) June, pp. 161-183.

<http://www.bergpublishers.com/?tabid=9172>