

SBU Anthropology Department Newsletter - Spring 2005

▶▶▶ Upcoming events

▶ The first annual Stony Brook World Environmental Forum **will be held May 6-8, 2005. Convened by Stony Brook Visiting Professor Richard Leakey, the forum will address issues including global climate change, conservation on land and sea, and environmental protection efforts around the world.
<http://www.stonybrook.edu/lifematters>

“Seas the Day: The Need for a New Ocean Ethic.”

Jane Lubchenco, Professor of Marine Biology and Distinguished Professor of Zoology, Oregon State University “Climate change, global warming, effects in temperate zone and tropical regions.”

Mario J. Molina, 1995 Nobel Prizewinner in Chemistry, Professor of Chemistry, Professor of Earth, Atmosphere, and Planetary Sciences, M.I.T.

** please note: Anthropology Inner Circle Alumni Members' registration fees are waived or reduced for all Anthropology Department sponsored events!

For the Life Matters: The Stony Brook World Environmental Forum, Registration Fees for Anthropology Inner Circle Alumni Members are the same as Faculty and Students! Free admission to plenary sessions and lectures. Registration must be submitted in advance. Meals are an additional cost and must be requested by April 25. To register go to:

<http://www.stonybrook.edu/sb/lifematters/WEFform.pdf>

For more information about the Anthropology Inner Circle Alumni Membership Program please contact: Stephanie.Tarantino@StonyBrook.edu

▶ The Goat Roast is coming soon! Come butcher, BBQ, and bring back memories. The date of this annual event, put on by the Undergraduate Anthropology Society, has not yet been set. Please check our website for updates.

▶ Prof. John Shea is featured in BBC Horizon's "Neandertal" television documentary. The airdate for the program is not yet known, but it will be sometime in Spring 2005.

▶ Stony Brook Human Evolution Symposium and Workshop: The Initial Peopling of Asia, 1.0-2.0 Million Years Ago. ** Sept. 27-30, 2005. This conference is the second annual Life Matters conference on human evolution organized by SBU Anthropology faculty members John Shea, Fred Grine, Lawrence Martin, and Richard Leakey as well as Dept. of Anatomical Sciences faculty member John Fleagle. Last year's conference on Modern Human Origins in Africa (Sept. 8-11, 2004) was highly successful, and we anticipate similar success this coming fall.

▶▶▶ Departmental News

A new Anthropology Department website is almost ready! Please visit <http://www.sunysb.edu/anthro/> for information about upcoming events, department personnel, and anthropology education at SBU.

There have been two new faculty hires in recent months:

Internationally renowned paleoanthropologist and conservationist Richard Leakey has been appointed to the faculty as Stony Brook Visiting Professor. Prof. Leakey is currently readying a pair of important conferences to be held here at Stony Brook in the spring and fall of 2005: the first annual Stony Brook World Environmental Forum and the second annual Stony Brook Human Evolution Symposium. For more details on each please see Upcoming Events.

Katheryn Twiss joined the Anthropology faculty as Assistant Professor in the Fall of 2004. She is an archaeologist whose major research interests include Near Eastern prehistory, the archaeology of food, and the origins of agriculture. More specifically, her research focuses on the social and the ecological implications of the transition to agriculture. A zooarchaeologist, she investigates this topic using animal remains recovered from archaeological sites. Bones from domestic and wild animals reveal not only the economic adaptations in use in early agricultural societies, but also the cultural structures which accompanied them. Meat distribution patterns within sites can testify to the presence or absence of hierarchies, for instance, while butchery practices bear witness either to intensive processing of animals for food or to more selective eating. The proportions of species with known environmental requirements, or with known effects on local environments, also shed light on the relationship of early agriculturalists with their natural surroundings. Prof. Twiss has conducted fieldwork in Israel and Jordan (and Massachusetts, although that was slightly out of her usual range), and is currently co-head of the faunal analysis laboratory at the famous Turkish Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük.

▶▶▶ Faculty News

Diane Doran-Sheehy's research site is currently the only place in the world where humans can walk among and study western gorillas. She and her PhD student Brenda Bradley and colleagues recently reported what appears to be a novel type of social system in western gorillas, one where related males form groups near each other, essentially forming "neighborhoods" of kin. She and her students are studying whether western gorilla kinship patterns influence behavior between groups, how western gorilla female sociality is influenced by differences in diet, and how changes in vegetation structure and sociality alter communication. Her results are published in various scientific journals and have aired on an Animal Planet television special.

Fred Grine, <http://www.sunysb.edu/anthro/fgrine.html> is currently conducting morphological and morphometric analyses of a fossil human skull from the site of Hofmeyr, Cape Province, South Africa that has been dated to 36,000 years BP. This specimen is, therefore, is one of only a handful of fossils in all of sub-Saharan Africa that date to the period between about 100,000 and 20,000 years ago, when modern humans migrated from Africa to colonize the rest of the world. Preliminary results suggest that the Hofmeyr skull has its closest affinities to Upper Paleolithic fossils from Europe, which appears to support the view that the Upper Palaeolithic peoples of Eurasia are African emigrants. He has received several grants from National Geographic, the LSB Leakey Foundation and the American Philosophical Society to work on the geological and archaeological context of the specimen, and on its physical reconstruction and analysis. The second edition of his laboratory manual for human anatomy (Regional Human Anatomy) was recently published by McGraw-Hill.

David Bernstein continues to both teach in the Department of Anthropology and act as Director of the Institute for Long Island Archaeology (ILIA). ILIA is a research, educational, and applied organization that conducts research into Long Island's prehistoric and historic past, sponsors summer field schools and internships, and conducts cultural research management investigations throughout the New York Metropolitan area. Over the last 15 years, the Institute has employed dozens of Stony Brook students, and many of its current staff members are Anthropology Department graduates. Field projects recently conducted by the Institute include a study of World War I Camp Upton on the grounds of Brookhaven National Laboratory, the large scale excavation of a prehistoric Native American camp overlooking Port Jefferson Harbor, and the excavation of 19th century house site in the Town of Smithtown.

While John Shea's research continues to focus on early human adaptive radiations during the Pleistocene, his geographical interests have recently shifted from the Near East to northeast Africa. In 2002-2003, he conducted excavations in the Lower Omo Valley, Kibish Formation, Ethiopia, recovering archaeological assemblages associated with the oldest-dated (195,000 BP) Homo sapiens fossils thus far known. In 2005, he will be investigating Paleolithic sites on the Buri Peninsula, Red Sea Coast, Eritrea. (Prof. Shea and his graduate student Amanuel Beyin have received a grant from the L.S.B. Leakey Foundation to conduct this research.) Here at Stony Brook, Prof. Shea continues to offer his "Primitive Technology" course, in which he teaches students how to make fire, stone tools, and hunting weapons using the same techniques as Ice Age humans. Recent honors for Prof. Shea include his appointment to the editorial board of Evolutionary Anthropology and his election to the Stony Brook University Academy of Teacher-Scholars. He is also the Chair of the SBU College of Arts and Sciences Senate Academic Judiciary Committee, 2004-2005.

As Director of Undergraduate Student Studies, Prof. Shea is actively seeking opportunities and financial support for Anthropology majors to attend summer field schools, so that they can experience anthropology first hand.

Elizabeth Stone's energy is currently focused on two separate but related projects. Prof. Stone is working to help Iraq recover from two decades of wars and embargos. She is directing a large USAID grant designed to assist in the rebuilding of higher education programs in archaeology there. In the past two years she has rehabilitated buildings, provided computers and communications and sent books to Iraq. She also led a 10-week workshop for 55 Iraqi faculty and graduate students last summer in Amman, and has brought four Iraqi graduate students to Stony Brook University. Future plans include supporting a workshop in cuneiform studies for 15 Iraqis this summer at Yale, bringing seven Iraqis to the Ayanis Expedition, four more to the Jerash (Jordan) field school, providing training in remote sensing and GIS, and using high resolution imagery to document the looting of archaeological sites in Iraq. In recent years she has received a number of awards for her field work, research and humanitarian work from the American Schools for Oriental Research, the Research Foundation of the State University of New York and from the Three Village Herald. Prof. Stone's research into the nature of early state society in the Near East and its imprint on the organization of its cities and settlements is also ongoing: she is currently co-directing fieldwork (with Paul Zimansky) at Ayanis, an early Iron Age city in eastern Turkey. The project is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Geographic Society. She and Zimansky have also recently published a book on their earlier work at Mashkan-shapir, Iraq.

Pat Wright has added two more honors to her already stunning list of accomplishments. In February 2005, she was appointed a Fellow of the AAAS, and in December she was awarded the Officier National Medal of Honor, Madagascar.

▶▶▶ Graduate Student News

The SBU Anthropology Department is currently populated by a remarkable group of graduate students doing interesting research on a wide variety of topics. The list below is only a partial one. Keep an eye out for these names in the future!

Yoshiko Abe's field is zooarchaeology, and her dissertation research focuses on hunting and butchery behavior of Evenki (formerly called Tungus) hunters in central Siberia. Her fieldwork, supported by grants from the Wenner-Gren Foundation and Leakey Foundation, has been completed, and she is now writing up the results.

Andrea Baden is interested in the effects of relatedness on the social organization, affiliative behaviors and infant care strategies of the black-and-white ruffed lemur in Ranomafana National Park.

Amanuel Beyin's research is on the Middle Stone Age Archaeology of East Africa with particular emphasis on the origin of modern humans. He will conduct his doctoral research in his homeland of Eritrea, where there are high prospects for new paleoanthropological discoveries. Amanuel has received funding from the L.S.B. Leakey foundation to conduct a pilot exploration of Paleolithic sites on the Eritrean Red Sea Coast (as mentioned above, under J. Shea), and is coauthor (with J. Shea) of "The Bab-al-Mandab vs the Nile-Sinai-Levant: an appraisal of the two dispersal routes for modern humans out of Africa," currently in review for *African Archaeological Review*.

Mark N Coleman's research is focused on investigating the relationship between form and function in the primate auditory system and the evolution of primate hearing. He is investigating whether or not he can predict auditory performance in fossil taxa and follow hearing trends that characterize modern groups through the fossil record. Mark plans to defending his dissertation in spring 2006. He had his first full-length publication last fall in the *Anatomical Record* titled "Primate auditory diversity and its influence on hearing performance".

Ari Grossman's research is focused on the Early Miocene hominoids from East Africa. Understanding what environments early apes inhabited and how they were specialized for these environments is an important step in determining the evolution of bipedal locomotion. Ari is working on reconstructing the relationship between, morphological adaptations and the environment in Miocene apes. His fieldwork is in the Turkana Region, Northern Kenya, where last summer more hominoid material was recovered.

Jason Kamilar's research is focused on the patterns and processes related to the geographic variation of primate ecology. He recently received a doctoral dissertation improvement grant from the National Science Foundation to conduct this research. Jason will be presenting some of his research at the upcoming American Association of Physical Anthropologists meeting: "Factors influencing the biogeography of anthropoid primate community structure in Africa", and "Correlates of ecological and behavioral diversity in Eulemur", with fellow grad student Kerri Ossi.

Jackie Nadeau is researching lithic assemblages from four Long Island excavations: Alley Pond Park in Eastern Queens, Eagles Nest and Solomon in Mount Sinai Harbor, and Oyster Shores in East Hampton. She is attempting to discern whether the non-quartz lithics are indicative of glacial transport or prehistoric trade. Her first article was recently published in the Bulletin of the Arch. Soc. of CT, Volume 66, 2004, and is a report on the lithic artifact and bio-archaeological analysis of a possible Adena burial site (CT84-51) in Milford, Connecticut.

Kerry Ossi is interested in primate social development during the juvenile life stage. She intends to conduct dissertation research in Thailand with Phayre's leaf monkeys.

Biren Patel recently defended his dissertation proposal on the biomechanics of digitigrade hand postures in Old World monkeys. This past January, he and Kristian Carlson (Dept. Anatomical Sciences) presented a poster at the SICB meeting on bone density of the primate wrist which was funded by Sigma Xi. He has also recently published papers on the primate forelimb ("Form and function of the oblique cord (chorda obliqua) in anthropoid primates," in *Primates*, and "Hominoid proximal radius: Reinterpreting locomotor behaviors in early hominins," in *Journal of Human Evolution*) and is a co-author on two more involving finite element analysis of mastication in macaques. These latter papers are with former Stony Brook graduate students (David Strait, Brian Richmond, and Mark Spencer) and faculty (Callum Ross).

Danielle Royer is working on the evolution of the genus *Homo*, focusing on cranial morphology during the Middle Pleistocene. Danielle is the recipient of a 2004-05 Canada Study Grant for Women in Doctoral Studies.

Matthew Sisk is a lithic analyst working on differences in the stone tools of Neanderthals and Modern Humans in the Mediterranean ecozone. It is hoped that this sort of regional scale approach will allow him to eliminate environmental influences on the variation and highlight any technological or cultural differences between the two.

Brandon Wheeler's research focuses on alarm calling behavior in tufted capuchin monkeys at Iguazu, Argentina. Brandon is investigating the evolutionary function of the calls, ontogeny of alarm call usage, whether or not the calls contain semantic information, and possible deceptive uses of alarms. This work is being supported by grants from the Wenner-Gren Foundation and the American Society of Primatologists.

Jesse Young's research focuses on the ontogeny of primate locomotion. He currently has a paper in press in the *Journal of Zoology*: "Ontogeny of muscle mechanical advantage in capuchin monkeys: *Cebus albifrons* and *Cebus apella*", addressing how young capuchins adapt to the biomechanical pressures of learning to locomote. For his dissertation research, he plans on using data on primate locomotor development as a model system to investigate the evolution of primate locomotion.

▶▶▶ 2004 PhD Graduates

Roberto Fajardo (Advisor - Brigitte Demes)
Comparative MicroCT Analysis of Anthropoid Trabecular Architecture

Denne Reed (Advisor - Curtis Marean)

Micromammal Paleoecology: Past and Present Relationships Between African Micromammals and the Habitats

Lisa Paciulli (Advisor - Patricia Wright)

The Effects of Logging, Hunting, and Vegetation on the Densities of the Pagai, Mentawai Island Primates

Rebecca Margaret Stumpf (Advisor - Diane Doran-Sheehy)

Female Sexual Strategies in Chimpanzees of the Tai National Park, Cote d'Ivoire

Tanya Michelle Smith (Advisor - Lawrence Martin)

Incremental Development of Primate Dental Enamel

Undergraduate Student News

The Undergraduate Anthropology Society also has a new website coming soon. It should be ready in March. Keep an eye on it for news and information about and, of course, the Goat Roast.

▶▶▶ Alumni Notes:

If you have any news about yourself or another SBU Anthropology alumna/alumnus, we would like to include it in future newsletters, and The Brook! Please email us at Alumni@stonybrook.edu and put "Anthropology Alumni Class Notes" in the subject line.