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Anthropology Department

The Anthropology Department's 2011-2012 Newsletter, Issue No. 7

Cross-border Health Care at the U.S.-Mexico Border

By Jennifer Miller-Thayer

I conducted my doctoral dissertation fieldwork on cross-border healthcare access in Los Algodones, Mexico. Having read in newspapers about people from the United States crossing into Mexico for medication and other services, I decided to find out why and how people were doing this. I also wanted to understand how people discovered this option and began to access care in another country.

I found out that several types of people go to Los Algodones for medications, eye glasses and dental work. First, there are the snowbirds who migrate down to the Southwest every winter. They come from northern U.S. states and Canada, some traveling in RVs, some staying in mobile home parks and some owning permanent housing in a southwestern state. Another group is the year-round residents who live in the border area. Some of these residents also have border insurance policies that cover their care as long as they access it in Mexico, although they can get emergency care in the United States when needed. Lastly, there are the day and weekend crossers who carpool from various U.S. states such as Minnesota, Oregon and Washington State. Some also take tour busses

that originate in cities such as Palm Springs, Calif., and Prescott, Ariz., and take them directly to Los Algodones for the day. They cross the border, get their eye glasses, medical prescriptions and dental work done, have lunch and then get back on the bus for the trip home. I refer to all of these people as transnational medical consumers (TMCs) because they are crossing a national border in order to access medical services and goods.

Social networks are at the heart of this practice. People find out about how to access care in Mexico, where to access it and how to be safe about it from friends, family members and/or neighbors who are already doing this themselves. Ninety percent of my interviewees started their access in Mexico this way. There are even chat room discussions on how this works for people who have heard about it, but don't know anyone who has done it.

The main reason why so many people were crossing into Mexico for care was basically the cost savings; for example, 700 pills of Delanotin were \$700 at Rite Aid and \$380 at Walmart in the United States and only \$42 in Los



Algodones. Not all medications have that high of a cost savings, but many do. However, this was more complex than just saving money. In most cases the TMCs have insurance coverage, but the coverage was inadequate for the medications, eye glasses and dental work that they needed, either because of a lack of coverage for those services or co-payments that made them unaffordable. The demand for these services and goods was so high that Los Algodones built its economy on providing them for U.S. residents. Therefore, this small town and others like it provide a subsidy for the U.S. medical system by providing services and goods that are not accessible for these people in the United States. For those who need this medical access and for the townspeople of Los Algodones, it is a win-win situation.

Anthropology Alumnus Endows Scholarships



Great news! Mike Swank, who recently completed our anthropology program, has made a pledge to donate enough money to endow scholarships to the tune of about \$6,000 each year. Moreover, while he slowly builds the size of the endowment, Mike will continue to donate funds that we can spend immediately each year to maintain the scholarships at their current level.

These scholarships are available only for anthropology majors and support summer fieldwork, including participation in

archaeological field schools.

Mike Swank pursued his interest in anthropology after he retired from a successful career in business, though he modestly describes himself as having been "lucky." Well, in this case we are the lucky ones, since Mike chose to donate so generously to support current and future anthropology students.

We are also grateful to other donors who have also earmarked their donations to the department to supplement the summer fieldwork scholarship program.

From left: Larry Sharp (CSUSB vice president, advancement), Enrique Gonzales-Salgado (CSBS director of development), Mike Swank, Pete Robertshaw (anthropology chair) and CSUSB President Albert Karnig. Photo: Robert A. Whitehead/CSUSB

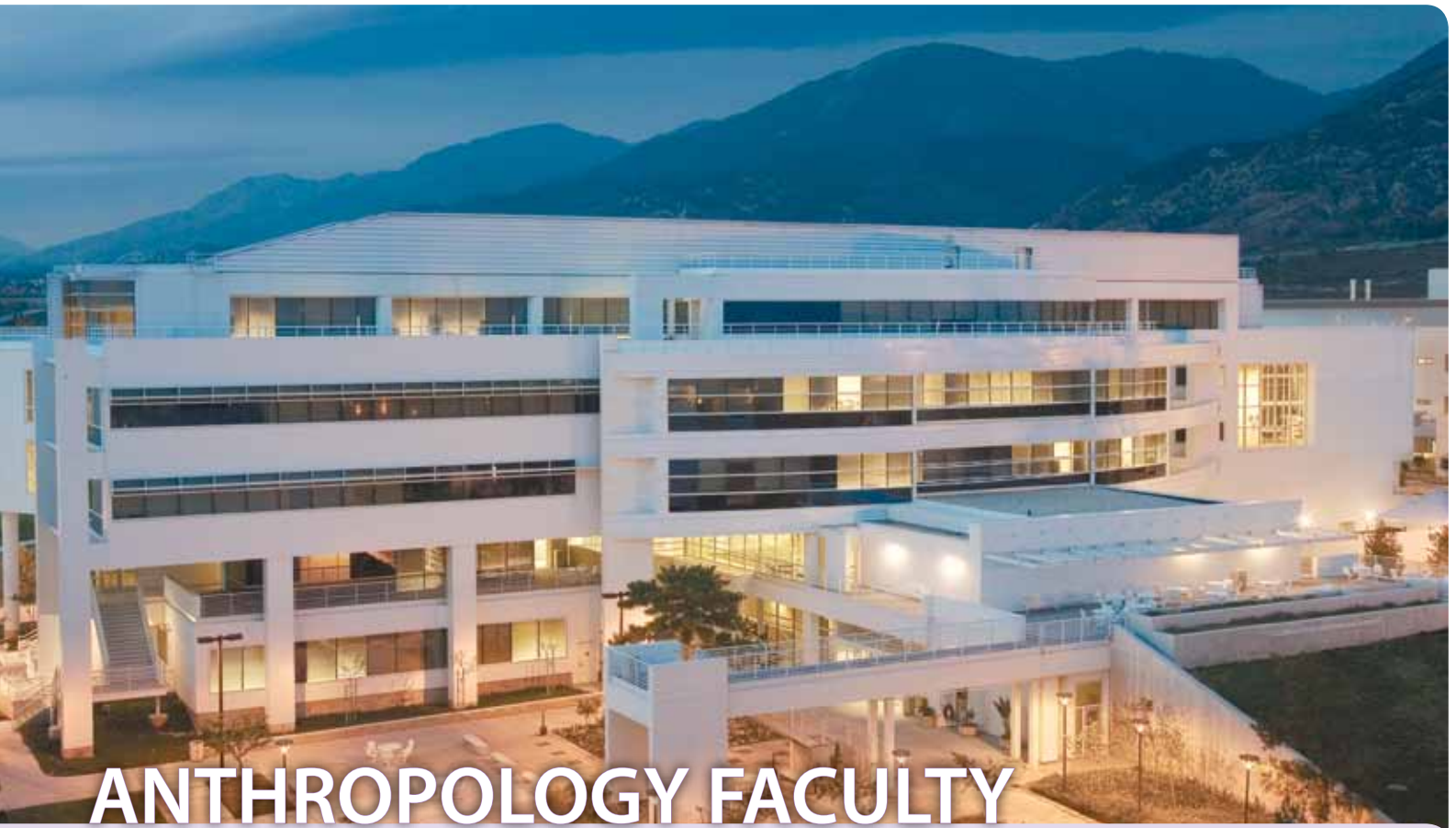
DEPARTMENT NEWS

Adieu to Dr. Bennett

Dr. Anne Bennett will leave her full-time position at the end of the 2011-2012 academic year in order to spend more time with her family and to pursue some of her other interests. We hope that she will continue to teach for the department on a part-time basis. However, she will no longer be available for student advising and supervision of independent studies and theses. We wish Anne all success and happiness in the future.

Dr. Robertshaw Wins Award

Dr. Pete Robertshaw, together with seven other faculty members from CSUSB, was named a "global academic excellence professor" for his achievements in promoting global education. The award was bestowed by a panel of jurists at the 14th annual International Business Summit and Research Conference held at Amity University in Noida, India. Unfortunately Dr. Robertshaw was unable to travel to India to receive his award.



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For advising in the major, please contact any full-time faculty member during their office hours (preferably in person) or by phone or e-mail.

Anthropology Web site

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Newsletter Editorial Team

Alan Llavore
Patricia Massei
Peter Robertshaw

Niki Verga Berry, B.A. is a scuba instructor and travel agent at Scuba Schools of America in Montclair. She leads group diving trips around the world. She also spends a month each summer digging in permafrost at the Little John archaeological site in the Yukon with the White River First Nation.

David Bush, B.A. 2011, was able to persuade his Army employers to allow him to carry out some primate field work. He is working at the Lajuma primate research center in South Africa following samango monkeys, assisting a Ph.D. student with his research on baboons, as well being given the task of heading up an effort to habituate a local troop of vervet monkeys.

Laura Chaffin (Chatterton), B.A. 2007, is working at Caltrans as an environmental planner in archaeology. She will be working with Dicken Everson, who taught at CSUSB for several years, as well as with other CSUSB anthropology alumni. Her family is all doing well: husband Eric (a 2006 graduate) is still working at the University of Redlands, and they have two boys aged four and two.

Jennifer Clark, B.A. 2005, is in Columbia, Mo., (along with Harsh and her daughter) getting a degree in food science. She says she got a chance to tour the nuclear reactor that Dr. Robertshaw sent glass beads to in one of her chemistry classes!

Brandon Fryman, B.A. 2008, has completed his master's degree in applied anthropology at Cal State Long Beach. He received an award from the College of Liberal Arts, The Dean's List Award, the Most Distinguished Graduate Student Award and the Overall Achievement Award during the commencement ceremonies.

Natalie Kahn, B.A. 2009, has been re-hired as a library media specialist in the Saugus school district in Valencia, has begun a master's program in library and information science at San Jose State and is really loving it!

Kristina Lindgren, B.A. 2001, has recently started a new job with Ecorp Consulting, based in Redlands, Calif., and has been out surveying near Stateline.

Michele Lynn, B.A. 2009, is currently a first year graduate student in the forensic anthropology program at CSULA. She reports

that she really loves it. Next year she will get to work with the coroner's office and get experience in the field, but for now it's all lab hours and decomposing pigs in pajamas.

Rut Nieves, B.A. 2007, is working as an administrator for Staffmark, a company based in Arkansas. In recent years she has held a variety of positions in business communications, editing and language instruction in South Korea and Japan.

Paul Perry, B.A. 1996, is now program coordinator at King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture in Saudi Arabia, where he oversees audience and program development for the Children's Discovery Zone.

Jennifer Ramirez, B.A. 2011, is also employed by Ecorp Consulting as a field archaeologist.

Jenn Richards, B.A. 2010, completed her master's degree in archaeology at Durham University (UK) and has returned to California.

Ashley Sauer (O'Neill), B.A. 2008, has been accepted into the M.A. program in applied anthropology at the University of North Texas.

Linda Stockham, B.A. 1975, M.A. special major 1987, will have her one-act solo play, "The Victorian Traveler," performed by actress Vanessa Hyde at the Lismore Travel Writing Festival 2012 in Lismore, Waterford, Ireland. A fringe benefit in the IMMARAMA festival, this will mark the premiere staged production for the play.

Lyudmila Stoupnikova, B.A. 2009, is a project accountant at GCI General Contractors in the San Francisco Bay area. She plans to earn a master's degree in taxation and will be taking the CPA exams soon.

Christine (Cobos) Vargas, B.A. Social Sciences 2002, obtained a nursing degree from New Mexico State University and is now both an RN at Kaiser Permanente and a nurse clinician at Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Timothy Worthington Sr., B.A. 1980, is a manufacturing and engineering consultant. He says his anthropological background has greatly helped him in establishing rapport and confidence within many diverse cultures around the world.



Pictured (left to right) are: John Rudik, Chelsea Parham, Dr. Robertshaw, Kelli Dahlhauser, Elisabeth Cook.

The following students received departmental awards at the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences 2011 Awards Ceremony on Saturday, June 11, 2011:

Outstanding Academic Achievement: Elisabeth Cook, Kelli Dahlhauser and John Rudik.

Outstanding Service to the Department: Chelsea Parham.

Summer Scholarships: Chelsea Parham, Josh Van Buskirk and Jessica Ramirez.

In November, 2011 Robert Porter, B.A. in Anthropology 2000 and a current interdisciplinary M.A. student, received a \$5,000 scholarship and a certificate of recognition from the Zapletal Charitable Trust. This scholarship recognizes veterans and descendants of veterans. Robert works as an archaeologist for CRM TECH in Colton, Calif.

In May of 2011, The Anthropology Museum opened an exhibit curated by Wes Niewoehner with the assistance of two student co-curators: Linda Apodaca and Danica Langston.

That exhibit, "Steps Through Time: The Emerging Human," traced the development of modern human beings through stations focusing on major human adaptations as reflected in the skeleton.

The next exhibit will open in May of 2012: "Beads," an exploration of the 90,000-year story of beads as ornament, symbol and religious device.

A variety of historic beads will be presented, as well as stations discussing bead manufacture, use of beads as symbols of identity, prayer beads, beads as amulets and spiritual protectors, and the impact of the colonial bead trade.

Many of the examples on exhibit will be the work of Sharon Yellowfly, a traditional Blackfoot beader.

'Steps Through Time: The Emerging Human' a Success; 'Beads' Is Next Exhibit



At the 'Steps Through Time: The Emerging Human' opening reception at The Anthropology Museum, counter-clockwise from top: Linda Apodaca, Dr. Wes Niewoehner and Danica Langston (from left to right); one of the skeletons that was part of the exhibit; and Dr. Russell Barber, The Anthropology Museum coordinator, and Dr. Jim Pierson, emeritus faculty.

Photos by Corrine Jamieson/CSUSB



New Faculty Member

The Anthropology Department is delighted to welcome our newest tenure-track faculty member. Teresa Velásquez is currently completing her doctoral dissertation at the University of Texas at Austin. She earned her B.A. in International Relations at UC Davis.

Teresa is a cultural anthropologist whose work examines conflicts over sustainable mining development in the Ecuadorian highlands. Her dissertation research, carried out in the Azuay province, examines how farmer organizations

effectively mobilize scientific knowledge, indigenous discourses, laws and creative forms of protest to stop the extraction of gold from their watershed. Collective political action, Teresa argues, has transformed farmers' relations with each other and with their environment.



She has published an article on the role of science in organizing

public debates over mining development and has co-authored two book chapters on the intersections of post-neoliberal state practices and multinational mining development. Her research interests include the anthropology of knowledge, social movements, nature, gender, race/ethnicity, and the state. Teresa is especially interested in activist and collaborative research methodologies. She has worked for more than ten years in Ecuador on questions of resource conflicts with indigenous, environmental and farmer organizations.

ALPACA has been on a never-ending roller coaster ride this year. We have continued to host our traditional ethnic dines, as well as incorporating new events, such as student-led presentations, to our agenda.

Our first ethnic dine took place at the Wok 'N' South, Mongolian BBQ, on Del Rosa Avenue. We later took advantage of our visit to LACMA's exhibit "Contested Visions," and ate with our hands at the Merkato, an Ethiopian restaurant in Little Ethiopia, Los Angeles. We celebrated the end of the 2011 winter quarter with an ethnic food pot-luck dinner at Desiree Lopez's house in the High Desert. We had more than 20 dishes of food from all over the world from which to choose. Those dishes included foods such as pad-thai, vegan cupcakes, Croatian rice, bratwurst and sauerkraut, Indian tacos, chicken/veggie kabobs and baklava.

For our first event of the winter quarter, we walked on the wild side by eating at the "C"-rated Thai food restaurant on Kendall Avenue, but I assure you that nobody became ill from eating the delicious Thai food.



Later in the quarter, we hosted student-led presentations on archaeological field schools. Soon thereafter, we hosted our largest ethnic dine at the tiny Spanish Tapas Viva Madrid restaurant in Claremont.

We also attended CSULA's Art History Society's symposium, "Teotihuacan to Tenochtitlan: Cultural Continuity in Central Mexico." At the symposium we listened

to presentations by top Meso-American scholars, such as Dr. Berdan and Alfredo Lopez Austin. ALPACA's attendance at the symposium was recognized by CSULA's Art History Society's president and adviser. Through that event we have created networks with Cal Poly and CSULA's anthropology clubs.

Perhaps our greatest achievement of the winter quarter was acquiring club T-shirts and hoodies.

Later in the quarter, Professor Dubois gave a very well-attended presentation on his research on the historical ecology of rock art in the north central Andes of Peru.

For the spring quarter we are planning a trip to San Diego's Museum of Man. Taking advantage of the trip, we will also be hosting an ethnic dine at Pokez Vegetarian Mexican food in Downtown San Diego.

ALPACA would like to thank all that have participated in our events, and a special thanks to Patricia and the CSUSB Anthropology Department.

This year's ALPACA officers are Manny Galaviz, president; Monique Corona, vice president; Desiree Lopez, treasurer; Kat Souratha, secretary; Andrea Frost, historian; Rhaine Waters, honorary shaman.

Seeking Support

The Anthropology Department is very grateful to those who have donated to the department during the last year. As a result of your generosity, we have given some student scholarships and used money to buy materials for exhibits in our Anthropology Museum. Most of our own faculty are also continuing to contribute via payroll deduction to a scholarship fund for our anthropology majors. We hope that some of you will consider adding your donations to the department or designating a larger gift in your name or in someone else's honor. We have many needs, including scholarships, our museum, student fieldwork and travel, and lab equipment.

If you would like to make a donation to the department, either contact **Dr. Pete Robertshaw** (proberts@csusb.edu or (909) 537-5551) or simply send us a check, letting us know if you have a preference for where we put your donation to use. You can also donate on-line by clicking on the "Give to CSUSB" button on the university's home page (csusb.edu), but please make sure to specify your gift is for **Anthropology**. For additional information on how to establish a named or endowed scholarship fund in the CSUSB College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, please contact our director of development, **Enrique Gonzalez-Salgado**, at (909) 537-7363.



FACULTY NEWS

Russell Barber

I am happy to report that my article, "Numerical Place Names in California," was accepted for publication in *Names*, the journal of the Onomastics Society. A second article, "Adena Tablets, Vultures, and Dualism," has been submitted to the *Mid-continental Journal of Archaeology* and is under consideration. My ongoing revision of *Doing Historical Archaeology* for its second edition is progressing and nearing completion. In the meantime, most of my time is consumed with planning and execution of the upcoming exhibit in The Anthropology Museum: "Beads." That exhibit will explore the prehistory and history of beads, their significance and their use and will open in spring 2012.



Aztec Daily Life (co-authored with Michael E. Smith of Arizona State University). During the past year I also published an article, "Rebeliones contra Tenochtitlan," in the Mexican journal *Arqueología Mexicana*, and consulted with film producers for a History Channel production called "The Story of All of Us" (they're including an Aztec segment). I am especially excited about receiving permission (with two other researchers) from the National Museum of the American Indian (Smithsonian Institution) for scientific analyses of turquoise and adhesive materials from mosaic objects in their collections. It looks like all of the turquoise found in Mesoamerica did not come from the U.S. Southwest (as previously thought), and this research should contribute to our rapidly changing ideas about these Mesoamerican-Southwest U.S. relationships.

Jennifer Miller-Thayer

I was the co-organizer of the California Community College Anthropology Teachers Association (CCCATA) meeting held in Paso Robles, Calif., this past January (2012), since I teach at Chaffey College as well as at CSUSB. I will also be the co-organizer for this same meeting next year. This meeting allows community college anthropology professors to share teaching techniques and discuss issues relevant to teaching anthropology



in a community college setting. I also recently had the opportunity to be an expert reviewer for a grant for the National Science Foundation (NSF). In March of this year I will be presenting my paper titled, "Is it safe? Exploring Cross-Border Healthcare at the U.S.-Mexican Border," at the Society for Applied Anthropology/Society for Medical Anthropology joint meeting in Baltimore, Md. This paper is based on a chapter in my dissertation that deals with the perceptions and issues of risk and safety of cross-border healthcare practices in the border region where I worked.

Kathleen Nadeau

Last year, I published an article, "So far, yet home? The Impact of Colonization and Globalization on the Philippine Family," in the *East Asian Pastoral Review*, 48 (4): 247-257. This journal is published by



the East Asian Pastoral Institute of Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines, where I often stay when in Manila. This institute brings together liberation theology practitioners from around Asia, coming from the different world religions in the ecumenical movement for the promotion of human, animal, and environmental rights. I also published three encyclopedia articles on "Lingam," "Yoni," and "Devadasi" in the *Encyclopedia of the Middle East and South Asia*, edited by Gordon

Frannie Berdan

I am happy to say that my seemingly endless book, *Aztec Archaeology and Ethnohistory*, has finally been submitted to its publisher, Cambridge University Press. And while it feels good to catch my breath a bit, I am already beginning another book for the same publisher,





Newby. My work with the Filipino American student organization, *Lubos PASO*, is on-going. Each year the students perform an annual Celebration of Pilipino Culture event at the Sturges Center for the Fine Arts in San Bernardino. The San Bernardino Concert Committee is sponsoring this year's event.

Wes Niewoehner

In last year's newsletter, I mentioned that I was planning an exhibit on human origins for the Department Museum. After much fretting, planning, and help from my colleagues, the exhibit opened in May of 2011. Two anthropology majors, Danica Langston and Linda Apodaca, were also instrumental in the design and mounting of the display cabinets, giving them valuable, practical museum-design experience. The exhibit, *Steps Through Time: The Emerging Human*, presents our current knowledge of the origins of the human lineage based on the fossil record. The opening was well-attended (in fact, the museum space was totally packed) and the comments by the attendees were overwhelmingly positive. The exhibit utilizes our own collection of fossil casts as well as recent human and nonhuman primate skeletal material. Additionally, our department was able to secure funding to have full-sized replicas of the Lucy skeleton and a Neandertal skeleton on display for the first week



of the exhibit. Overall, this exhibit was a great success and certainly helps to increase the visibility of the department.

On the research front, I attended the 2011 Paleoanthropology Society meetings and presented my poster, *Is the Neandertal opponens pollicis insertion a flange or just a large crest?*, which focuses on the morphology of the Neandertal first metacarpal, the bone that runs through the palm of the hand at the base of the thumb. Neandertal first metacarpals are remarkable for their large their large *opponens pollicis* muscle insertion, which is expressed as a flange-like projecting ridge. Interestingly, the flange is apparent, though not fully expressed, even in young Neandertals. Some argue that only Neandertals exhibit this unique form of the *opponens* insertion while virtually all other modern humans do not. One notable exception to this pattern is the European early modern human Sunghir 1. The flange-like *opponens* insertion on Sunghir 1 is presented as one (but not the only) example of evidence for Neandertal admixture with European early modern humans. The admixture argument, though, assumes that the *opponens* insertion morphology is not a developmentally plastic reflection of habitual behaviors and that the Neandertal flange is not simply a highly developed *opponens* crest. My research indicates that *opponens* crest morphology is, in fact, developmentally plastic and therefore cannot be used as evidence for Neandertal/European early modern human admixture.

Peter Robertshaw

My book for young adults, *Every Bone Tells A Story*, co-authored with Jill Rubalcaba, has been translated



into Italian and published as *Gli Antenati: Che cosa ci raccontano i più antichi resti umani* by the publishing house Zanichelli Editori. During the process of

translation Jill and I had the chance to update the information on the famous Iceman found in the Alps. Although this discovery was made more than 20 years ago, laboratory analyses continue to yield new facts about the final hours of his life.

I have four papers that will soon see the light of day: two of them are research articles on chemical analyses of glass beads from African sites; one is a book chapter on the archaeology of human migrations in sub-Saharan Africa; and the last is the written version of the presentation on archaeology's role in future multi-disciplinary research on the African past that I gave at a symposium last year at Rice University in Texas. I am also currently writing a paper on the human remains and burial practices that were uncovered by my excavations in Uganda.

I continue to serve as one of three editors for the peer-reviewed academic journal *Azania: Archaeological Research in Africa* that is published four times per year by Routledge.

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Address Service Requested

Gustatory Corner: Borscht

If the only borscht you have eaten is the thin beet soup made by Manishevitz, you have never really tasted borscht.

The real thing is thick – ideally so thick that a spoon will stand upright in it – and brimming with flavor. In the Ukraine, where borscht originated, it typically is made with beets, onions, carrots, parsley root, cabbage and a little bit of meat; when it spread to other parts of the old Russian Empire, it took on regional flavors but retained its basic root-vegetable composition. For both Jews and Gentiles, borscht is quintessential Russian peasant food.

Besides the fact that it is so delicious, why has borscht been so popular? Much of the answer lies with those root vegetables. Root vegetables can be grown successfully in soils and climates that would not support grains or leafy vegetables. And root vegetables have a tremendous advantage over other kinds of vegetables: they store well.

Root vegetables can be stored for several months in a cool place, like a root cellar. Alternatively, they can be left in the ground (providing it doesn't freeze solid during winter) and harvested as needed.

During the various wars that ravaged Eastern Europe during the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries, armies often scavenged food as they marched, but they wouldn't expend the time and effort required to pull beets, carrots, and parsnips.

Storing your vegetables in the ground they grew in effectively protected them from scavenging soldiers.

