2015

2015-2016

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For decades researchers have debated how and when the first humans migrated into the New World and began expanding across North and South America. Some of the first evidence of this migration to be unearthed suggested that early human groups, originating in northeast Asia, migrated though a split between the ice sheets that covered North America at the end of the last ice age approximately 15,000 years ago. Following the massive mastodons and mammoths that also were on the move at this time, humans passed through this ice-free corridor in pursuit of these beasts and expanded across the interior areas of North America to become the first Americans. This migration conjured an image of humans hunting these big game animals and “Man the Hunter” became pervasive in archaeological thought for decades. Then, researchers began to find evidence for early human adaptation to aquatic resources in numerous areas around the world. In the New World, the identification of ~14,000 year old archaeological sites in the Pacific Northwest and on the extreme tip of South America in Chile presented a conundrum. These coastal sites pre-dated the interior big game hunting sites that were thought to represent the original migration into the New World and they presented a very different image of the first Americans.

Rather than a big game hunting culture, the culture represented by these coastal sites was that of a fully maritime adapted people – migrating with the use of boats, foraging for shellfish, fishing, and hunting birds and occasionally sea mammals. The discovery of these sites caused the collapse of the “ice-free” corridor migration as the origin of the first Americans and brought to light the Pacific Coastal Migration theory. This alternate peopling of the New World argues that humans followed a coastal route out of Asia along the Northern Pacific Rim and settled coastal areas and islands along the length of the Americas. Nowhere do you find more extensive evidence for this early occupation than on the islands off of California’s coastline.

The Northern Channel Islands of California have been called a “sweet spot” along a New World coastal migration route, with ample sources of fresh water, terrestrial plant foods, marine organisms (including edible seaweeds), chipped stone for tools, and other resources. The antiquity of occupation on these islands extends back 13,000 years and continues up to the 1800s. Over 80 archaeological sites that date between 8,000-13,000 years old have been discovered on these islands and the material within these sites shows a thriving maritime adapted population.

However, the search for early coastal sites is hindered by the sea level rise that occurred when the glaciers that covered the northern part of North America started to melt about 15,000 years ago. When the waters contained in these glaciers were released, sea level rose over 300 feet, inundating much of the coastal landscape of California. The size and configuration of the northern Channel Islands were drastically altered as 76 percent of their original landmass was now below sea level. As a researcher interested in early human coastal migration, I have designed my research to focus on these islands and on the vast submerged landscapes that surround them.

Over the past decade, I have searched for and identified sites that date as old as 10,000 years ago containing evidence of intensive use of coastal environments: shell fishhooks, stone projectile points, fish and sea mammal bones, and shellfish. These terrestrial sites, located across the northern Channel Islands, have advanced our knowledge of human maritime adaptations and Palaeocoastal occupation but they are only part of the story. The search for more extensive and older evidence for a Pacific Coastal migration will continue this summer on the vast submerged landscape that surrounds the islands. My colleagues and I will spend 18 days at sea, conducting sonar surveys and collecting samples from locations around the islands that may contain submerged archaeological sites. Aside from our goal of identifying submerged archaeological deposits, this research will contribute to understanding the paleo-landscapes and paleoenvironments of the northern Channel Islands and thus refine our search for the first Americans.

Amy E. Gusick
Our Applied Archaeology M.A. Program

Last fall marked the beginning of the M.A. program in applied archaeology. With 12 graduate students accepted into the program, the inaugural class has a diversity of students, from seasoned cultural resource management (CRM) practitioners looking to advance their careers to those who have just graduated with a B.A. in anthropology and have a field school under their belts. Designed with working folks in mind, the night classes offered with the program cater to the students who are working full-time jobs while earning their graduate degrees—over half of the first cohort.

The first year curricula has focused on teaching the students the basics of how to do archaeology within the regulatory environment of CRM. The CRM: Regulation, Laws, and Practices class provided an in-depth look at the regulations that govern CRM and gave the students real-life examples of how these regulations function within industry projects. The Archaeological Laboratory class and the Archaeology of California class focused on providing the students with both method and theory specific to California archaeology and gave them the chance to analyze samples collected from Santa Cruz Island, Calif. During the spring quarter, the students had the opportunity to intern at local entities involved in CRM. Students interned at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Edwards Air Force Base, U.S. Forest Service, ECORP Environmental Consultants, Statistical Research, Inc., Applied Earthworks, Duke CRM, and Pechanga Band of Lusqueño Indians. The variety of internships gave the students a chance to understand how CRM works in both U.S. government and private sectors, and within Native American governments.

This summer, the students will travel to Santa Cruz Island to assist Dr. Amy Gusick with her research on coastal adaptations and will get first hand training in the methods of archaeological field work within California. This summer and next year will be busy for the students as they complete their fieldwork, analyze their data, and write up their M.A. theses. The two-year program is designed to provide the students all the necessary training to enter the field of CRM ready to manage projects, conduct fieldwork, and write up technical reports. We have received a very favorable response from the CRM community, with many people declaring that this is exactly the type of graduate program that is needed as it provides real-life training within CRM and is run by educators who have worked in the field and understand how to do archaeology within the regulatory environment of CRM. We are looking forward to another great cohort starting in fall 2016 and to the continued success of the program.

M.A. Program First Years

Mike McCormick, B.A. 1989, has been appointed superintendent for the Val Verde Unified School District. He has been with the district for 19 years. His two daughters are enrolled at CSUSB and are members of Kappa Delta. Samantha Middleborn, B.A. 2013, is an account executive at Konica Minolta Business Solutions USA, Inc. Rae Morgan, B.A. 2013, is in Taiwan learning Chinese while she continues to teach English and is attending Taida University in Taipei.

New Faculty!

Dr. Guy Hepp

We are very pleased that Dr. Guy Hepp will be joining us in fall 2016 as a tenure-track faculty member. Dr. Hepp is an archaeologist specializing in early complex societies of Mesoamerica. He holds a B.A. and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado at Boulder and an M.A. from Florida State University. As a member of our department, Hepp will continue his research and teach various courses in archaeology and ethnography for both undergraduates and the M.A. program in applied archaeology. Hepp’s recent research has focused on the Early Formative period (1950-1500 cal B.C.) at the village site of La Consentida in coastal Oaxaca, Mexico. This project, funded by institutions such as the National Science Foundation and the Fulbright Program, was awarded the Society for American Archaeology’s 2016 Dissertation Award. La Consentida has produced evidence for early pottery, mound architecture, and a diet incorporating significant quantities of maize. Hepp is interested in how transitions in settlement, subsistence, and social organization at villages like La Consentida were key to the establishment of Mesoamerican society. In related work, he has published several papers regarding the iconography, depositional context, technological characteristics, and cosmological implications of ancient ceramic figurines and musical instruments.
Re|Collect exhibit

On May 31, 2016, the Anthropology Museum opened its newest exhibit, Re|Collect. The focus of the exhibition is memories and mementos of childhood; each of 66 community participants was asked to share an object from their youth, along with their reflections on why they’ve kept the object for so long. The resultant stories invite visitors to reflect on the meaning and making of childhood, along with the fact that every life matters.

The title of the exhibition is meant to emphasize the process of shaping and revealing the self through telling stories. Simultaneously, the Anthropology Museum takes this exhibition as a starting point for investing in the community as a repository; a collection of valued individuals, experience, and lives that together reflect the beauty and depth of the human experience.

The exhibition was curated by our own Dr. Arianna Huhn, along with four students in the museum studies certificate program. A recent graduate from the College of Arts and Letters, served as the exhibition preparatory. More than 100 faculty, staff, students, and community members attended the opening reception. If you are interested in learning more about museum curation, collections management, and exhibition development through hands-on experience with the Anthropology Museum, contact Dr. Huhn at ahuhn@csusb.edu to sign up for the next exhibition project.

MUSEUM AND FACULTY NEWS

Seeking Support

The Anthropology Department and department Chair Pete Robertshaw are 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 gift to Anthropology Department, you may make your check payable to the CSUSB Philanthropic Foundation, and in the memo section write Anthropology Department. You may send your check to the Director of Development, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, California State University, San Bernardino, 5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA 92407.

To give online, go to https://development.csusb.edu/makeagift.

The 2015-2016 ALPACA administration began its reign by celebrating Archaeology Awareness Week in October with a series of fun activities that included guest speakers. The first activity was called “Become the Real Indiana Jones,” in which CSUSB students could decipher a message from an “ancient Egyptian CSUSB tablet” that was originally excavated at the CSUSB Anthropology Lab and win great prizes. ThenNext, CSUSB students were treated to Dr. Gusick’s presentation on “Paleo-Coastal Settlements” and Dr. Liska’s presentation of “Minning and Surviving in the Egyptian Eastern Desert.” Finally, CSUSB students watched “Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom” to discuss the inaccurate depiction of the sub-discipline.

Near the end of the fall Quarter, ALPACA created and competed in the “Social Science Canned Food Drive” to benefit the Coyote DEN, a food pantry serving CSUSB students in need. Essentially, the social science club that donated the least amount of canned food by the specified date had to perform the chicken dance and upload it on YouTube. ALPACA fought hard against the History Club, the Sociology Club and Psychology Club, but lost by merely 4 cans. The video can be seen by searching “CSUSB Social Science Canned Food Drive Competition 2015 results” in the YouTube search bar.

During the winter quarter, ALPACA was invited to Roosevelt Elementary School in San Bernardino to discuss the exciting careers in anthropology, particularly archaeology, to with two groups of third graders. At the end of the presentation, the third graders gave ALPACA members Valentine cards as a token of their appreciation.

ALPACA celebrated Anthropology Day on February 18 at the CSUSB Anthropology Museum. Dr. Huhn gave a talk about “Reflections on Anthropological Research in Northern Mozambique,” while CSUSB Students students ate pizza. Thanks to the generous donation of hats, balloons, and long-sleeved shirts from the American Anthropological Association, ALPACA raffled off “AAA Swag” at the end of the event.

During spring quarter, ALPACA had a couple of small outings. The first was Option House’s walkathon in San Bernardino. ALPACA members walked to raise awareness of domestic abuse. ALPACA later visited the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust. And finally, ALPACA put in the effort to make the huge annual CSUSB Anthropology End-of-the-Year party possible!

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Vice President: Lourdes (Lulu) Davila
Treasurer: Nathan Morin
Secretary: Vanessa Melesio

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Russell Barber

I have finally accepted that I will never find the privacy I sought at the Fairview School site, so I have begun writing the site report for publication. I am also revising the draft of Analogical Archaeology, a book-length manuscript examining experimental archaeology, ethnoarchaeology, simulation, and related methods.

Amy Gussick

It has been a busy first year for me and the summer is shaping up to be filled with fieldwork. I have been working toward getting the word out about the new master’s in applied archaeology program. I have also published two journal articles, Three Paleolithic Sites on Santa Cruz Island, California and Fish Remains as Indicators of Changes in Environment, Technology, and Sociopolitical Organization on Santa Cruz Island and have one book chapter, Paleoecological Landscapes, Megalithic Monumental Settlement of California’s Islands, in press.

Because of my interest in underwater archaeology, I was invited to a working group on submerged prehistoric archaeology at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Ocean Exploration Forum hosted by the National Aquarium in Baltimore. In April I was a discussant on a panel titled, Issues in Submerged Prehistoric Archaeology in the Americas, at the Society for American Archaeology annual conference.

In addition to my academic work, I also created a new committee of the Society for California Archaeology to promote public outreach and awareness of maritime archaeology and to advocate for the protection of submerged cultural resources. My research this summer will take me underwater, on land, and in the air! I will be hopping on and off three different research cruises focused on the submerged landscape around the northern Channel Islands of California, with the goal of identifying archaeological sites submerged by sea level rise 13,000 years ago. In June and again in September, my graduate students and I will be focusing on the terrestrial landscape of the island where we will be excavating Agua Santa, a village site of the prehistoric island Chumash. I will also visit Santa Cruz Island to use a drone to inventory a map of a number of large coastal village sites on the western end of the island.

Finally, I have continued my interest in early childhood education by participating in several care days at local schools. Our graduate student, Shannon Clarendon, and I traveled to three different local elementary and middle schools to give presentations on how to be an archaeologist, thereby encouraging students to stay in school and follow their passion.

Arianna Huhn

I am so happy to have joined the Anthropology Department as a faculty member in 2015. In my first year I have enjoyed teaching two classes – exhibition design and medical anthropology. In fall quarter, two articles I’ll be working on before I arrive were published – one on food taboos in Mozambique, another on pediatric vaccine decision making in the U.S.

In winter quarter I had another article accepted for publication, this one on salt pouring taboos and hot/cold in relation to projects of morality and self-making in Mozambique, but the journal’s queue means that the article won’t be forthcoming until next year.

In the spring I completed two book chapters for edited volumes, the first food tabos article was reprinted in English (the journal article is in Spanish) in a volume that looks at global cooking traditions, and I also wrote a short piece on sexual fluids as essential for vitality in Mozambique, which is appearing in a medical anthropology handbook. I also organized and chaired a double panel at the African Studies Association (ASA) conference in San Diego on using feature films to teach undergraduate students about Africa (my paper considered the film Mother of God). And I presented a paper in Paris about the Mozambican government’s policies regarding culture during the socialist era at an international conference on socialism in Africa.

To round things out, I traveled to Jamaica along with the dean of our college to learn more about implementing service learning study abroad programs.

Kathleen Nadreau

In the spring of 2016 I taught a new course on Cultural Anthropology, Humans, Animals, and Nature. This course looks at how different concepts of what it means to be a person in relation to the animal world are constructed in various cultures around the world. For example, hunters belonging to different ethnic and cultural communities in Malawi respected animals as being equal to themselves, able to outwit them or be outwitted in the hunt. They viewed animals as having knowledge, feeling compassion, and forming relationships and families to raise their young, just like people do.

Local people learn their understanding of animals as sentient beings by observing them in nature. In one of our class sessions an animal rights activist and anthropology minor, Holly Schafer, spoke about the plight of lab animals and some positive solutions to their situation, such as natural animal reservations as havens for rescued animals in the United States.

I also collaborated with Jeremy Murray of the history department in writing a book, Popular Culture in Asia and Oceania, that will help our undergraduates to explore the question “How do we know what we know?” with regards to Neandertal skeletal anatomy and behavior. One crucial aspect of this volume is the long history (over 150 years) of behavioral and skeletal interpretations that have changed significantly throughout the years. Consider that during the late 19th century many scientists initially argued that Neandertals were simply sickly modern humans. In the early 20th century this view began to change slowly with the subsequent discovery and analysis of many relatively complete Neandertal remains. These analyses finally proved that Neandertals are indeed our ancient human relatives.

In related news, new excavations have also begun at the famous site of Shanidar cave, Iraq, where the partial skeletons of nine Neandertals were excavated from 1953 until 1960. Political upheavals in the 1970s caused excavations to cease at the site. Withسكندر’s skeleton! British archaeologists returned to Shanidar in 2014 to resume excavations and promptly discovered evidence of additional Neandertal skeletons. I am looking forward to the discovery of additional hand remains from this amazing site.

Peter Robertshaw

After doing a lot of traveling last year, I mostly stayed home this year. Apart from going to Denver in November 2015 to interview job candidates at the American Anthropological Association conference, I only ventured as far as UC Riverside in March, where I gave an invited presentation on sub-Saharan Africa at a workshop “Systemic Boundaries: Time Mapping Globalization since the Bronze Age,” sponsored by the International Studies Association and the UCIR Institute for Research on World-Systems.

It was with a sigh of relief that a paper on the chemistry of glass beads excavated from sites on Zanzibar dating to the first millennium A.D. was finally published in the journal Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences. I worked on this paper on and off for several years, the paper had several authors spread across five countries and it proved more than a little difficult to assemble the final version of the paper and revise it in light of comments from the journal’s referees.

Speaking of journals, I continue my role as one of three editors of the quarterly journal Azania: Archaeological Research in Africa, which celebrated 50 years of publication in 2015. My own writing, however, this year has mostly taken the form of chapters for edited books; I have three such chapters in various stages in the publication process.

On the home front, my daughter gave birth to her first child, so I can now boast about my three grandchildren.

Teresa Velasquez

This past November I traveled to Denver to present a paper at the American Anthropological Association conference. It explores how an Ecuadorian state agrarian modernization project dramatically shaped the environmental landscape and political imaginaries of peasant family farmers that form the base of a local agrarian capitalism project, which began in 1959 and lasted for over 30 years, aggressively promoted industrial-technical dairy farming in the region by introducing seeds, irrigation water, fertilizer, and the Holstein cow, a high-yield milking cow. Based on my preliminary research in summer 2015, I conclude that the project benefits were unevenly distributed but created shared values of self-improvement among farmers. This raises the possibility that peasants did not join protests movement to defend a “traditional” way of life, but rather to defend the possibilities of advancement and self-improvement that came with dairy farming. I look forward to going back to Ecuador this summer and gathering more data so I can get this project published. I’m also revising a paper on peasant women’s political subjectivities. This has been one of the most enjoyable papers to write. In Cuena, Ecuador, elite who claim to be the direct descendants of Spanish “settlers” created the “Chola Cuencana” beauty pageant. The Chola Cuencana is based on the real-life mestiza woman who wears a pollera (gathered and multi-layered skirt), tall white hat, a lace blouse and an ikat-dyed shawl. Since the 1950s, the Chola Cuencana has been celebrated as a figure of folkloric femininity; however, real-life Cholas are the objects of social discrimination. In this paper, I look at how the peasant women organized against the mine transform the Chola Cuencana from a subject of folklore to a political subject that challenges the symbolic-social order that relates peasant women to the racial periphery of the regional imagination.
In 1440 Europeans invented the lateen sail, a technology that permitted them to sail partly against the wind. This innovation opened the world up to their colonial expansion, and in the centuries that followed they acquired new food animals from around the world. The problem was, they often didn’t know where those animals came from, resulting in ludicrous confusions.

Turkeys are from Central America, not the Ottoman Empire for which the English named them. Guinea pigs are from western South America, not Guinea (the coast of West Africa) or even New Guinea (in Melanesia). Muscovy ducks are from eastern Mexico, not Moscow, as their name implies. And guinea fowl aren’t really from Guinea; at least the species shown in a painting by the Renaissance Italian Pisanello comes from Ethiopia. And if we examine German or Spanish or French names, they are just as confused about the origins of exotic food animals.

How did Europeans get so much so wrong? The answer probably lies in the way these creatures were introduced into Europe. European explorers often collected foreign grains and fruits to bring back to their royal patrons, so chroniclers in their courts usually knew where those plants came from. But animals were considered too delicate for long ocean voyages, and explorers were unwilling to risk their death in transit, leaving them with no prizes for their patrons. Instead, these food animals usually were brought back by simple sailors, willing to take a chance in case the animals arrived alive. Thus, they made their way into folk cuisine before they arrived at royal tables, where scholars could only speculate on their origins.