

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE D'ANTHROPOLOGIE PHYSIQUE

Newsletter

Editor
Megan J. Highet

Volume 2010 Issue 1
Spring 2010

Message from the President

Rob Hoppa

Well it's that time of year again and I am late as usual in preparing this for the newsletter. I hope that everyone has had a rewarding winter term and I am sure we are all looking forward to the spring. As classes wind down many of our students are finishing up their degrees, while others are just getting started, and others are preparing to embark on a new graduate career this fall. Many of us are looking forward to some time for dedicated writing and research and I hope you all will have some time to take for yourselves to relax and enjoy the summer. The first order of business of course is that planning for our annual meetings in Saskatoon is well underway and I look forward to seeing many of you there. The meetings last fall at SFU were wonderful and despite a forecast of 14 days of rain, Saturday afternoon the sun broke through and the skies were blue. The meetings were well attended and I think we all enjoyed the hospitality of the SFU team - so thank you to all of you and your many volunteers.

For the Association, several things are on my mind as I write this, but probably foremost is the ongoing struggle the discipline is encountering with funding agencies. A discussion on this was had over lunch one day at the 2009 meetings and the many recurring themes (which are not new) have now been exacerbated by program changes at SSHRC. This was the first year of SSHRC no longer including health related research in their mandate. However, there have been several situations brought to my attention which are quite concerning - most notably several bioarchaeological projects that were deemed 'not SSHRC eligible' because they were health related. Partly in response to this, I sent out a very brief (and very rough) [survey monkey](#) on funding

experiences to the membership. I encourage all of you to respond to this, as applicable, and I will be summarizing the results at the 2010 meetings. Physical Anthropology in Canada has always been multidisciplinary and I view that as a strength of the discipline. We are one of a few disciplines that have research being funded by all three tri-council agencies and in fact one of the only disciplines which have Canada Research Chairs from all three funding agencies. Nevertheless, it seems that we are constantly having to justify and sell how we fit into the funding models. I suspect more than half of the funding is through SSHRC yet there is no discipline code for physical anthropology there. These issues continue to create frustration and concern within our membership and it is my hope that we can continue, both as individuals and as an Association to help promote physical anthropology within the Canadian funding system. In the meantime, we should continue to celebrate the many successes of our membership and the outstanding contributions being made by so many of our members.

On that note, I will pause and simply wish you the best for a happy, healthy and productive summer. I look forward to seeing you in the fall in Saskatoon.



CAPA 2010
Saskatoon, SK

Host:
University of Saskatchewan

27-30 Oct

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please send submissions to:

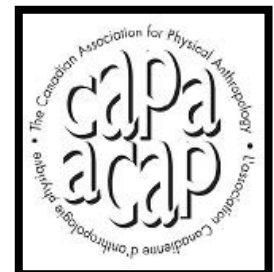
meganhiget@yahoo.ca

Deadline for the Fall issue is:

October 22, 2010

Inside this issue:

Message from the President	1
Message from the CAPA Student Representative	2
Osteoware Press Release	2
"10 Ways to Promote Public Awareness"	3
CAPA Member News and Book Corner	4
New Graduate Program	4
Renew Your Membership	5
2010 Meetings Announcement	6
"Raising Public Awareness"	7
Secretary-Treasurer's Report (2009)	8
Minutes from the 2009 Business Meeting	9



Message from the CAPA Student Representative

Christine Boston

Salutations, CAPA Membership.

I hope everyone has survived this past term and is well prepared for whatever the summer may bring. I have heard that this term has been extra busy for various student members, and I want to assure you that you are not alone. It has been equally busy on my end, particularly for the work completed on behalf of the organization. Here is a brief report:

Membership Recruitment Initiatives: Earlier this year, a CAPA Membership Recruitment Letter was sent out to the current membership as well as various Anthropology Departments & Anthropology Societies throughout Canada. This was done to recruit more student members since it was reported at the last Annual Meeting in Vancouver that student membership had declined. The letter was published in both English and French in order to connect with as many students across the country as possible. The French translation was made possible through the assistance of Nicholas McGinnis, a PhD Student from the Department of Philosophy at UWO. Additional language translations and copies can be provided upon request (cboston2@uwo.ca). I request that all members, both student and non-student, encourage interested students, colleagues, and professionals both within and outside of the discipline to join this organization. A diverse membership benefits everyone, particularly the student membership.

I also encourage and remind current members to renew their membership if they have not done so already. It is important to note that memberships run from January to December unless otherwise noted at the time of membership acquisition. New memberships, renewals, and inquiries can be sent to Ian Colquhoun, CAPA Secretary/Treasurer, at colquhou@uwo.ca or via mail at Department Of Anthropology, The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada N6A 5C2.

CAPA Student Travel Award: Megan Hightet, CAPA Newsletter Editor, and I worked on and sent in a proposal for a CAPA Student Travel Award to assist students attending the Annual Meetings. The purpose of this award is to help offset costs associated with travel to the meetings for the student membership. Travel funding available to students varies from institution to institution, making it difficult for many students to attend these meetings due to financial constraints. The proposal was sent to Rob Hoppa, CAPA President, for review.

Public Awareness Initiatives: I have composed two pieces for this issue of the CAPA Newsletter focusing on Public Awareness Initiatives. The first highlights three different approaches that have worked for three Physical Anthropologists, and the second suggests different ways anyone can increase the public's awareness of Physical Anthropology. I encourage everyone to check them out in order to foster your own ideas on how to increase awareness of Physical Anthropology within the communities you work and live in. Also, I encourage all students to partake in Public Awareness Initiatives and send in reports and pictures of what was done and how it was received to cboston2@uwo.ca. I plan to use these for a future piece in the CAPA Newsletter.

In closing, I would like to hear from any and all of the CAPA Student Members. I am able to field questions about any of the above discussed points or anything else you may be concerned about regarding the organization. I also want to know what you want to read about both in the listserv and the newsletter. I plan on writing a piece for the Fall newsletter on how to get into graduate school, and I am willing to tailor that piece to meet the membership's needs. Or, if you want to see something else, let me know. I hope everyone has a productive field season and relaxing summer,

Press Release for Osteoware:

The Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History's Repatriation Office Osteology Lab has developed an intuitive graphic user interface (GUI) and Structured Query Language (SQL) relational database for documenting, storing, and managing biological information collected from human skeletal remains. Under the working title 'Osteoware', this program will be available as a free download under shareware user agreement. It is the result of many years of effort on the part of Repatriation Osteology Lab staff and former staff now at other academic institutions. The software GUI prompts users to systematically collect and enter standardized data in real time based on the widely acknowledged "Standards for Human Skeletal Data Collection" of J.E. Buikstra and D.H. Ubelaker (1994), and has powerful query capabilities for meta analyses. The data entry modules include: Inventory, Age & Sex, Pathology, Taphonomy, Postcranial Metrics, Dental Inventory/Development/Pathology/Morphology, Cranial Nonmetrics, Macromorphoscopsics, Cranial Deformation, Craniometrics, and a Summary Paragraph module that imports all other comments fields from the various modules to easily create individual summary reports.

The software is currently in public beta release and can run on a standalone computer (Windows™ operating systems only) or in a network environment thus allowing simultaneous data entry by up to five users. We have tentative plans to conduct hands-on workshops and/or symposia at major physical anthropology conferences next year.

The project team anticipates great international interest in the software and are developing an educational website, download portal for the software and user manual, and the first interactive online support forum on a public-facing Smithsonian Institution server. Through dialogue on this forum Osteoware users will be able to request assistance, provide constructive suggestions and new features to improve the software, as well as share research interests and advice. In this way user-generated content and collaborative relationships are encouraged, as well as the formation of an online community spanning international boundaries and subdisciplines of physical anthropology, archaeology, and forensic science.

This website and online forum will be developed under a grant from the National Park Service and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, as well as the Smithsonian Institution Web 2.0 Fund grant. The Osteoware website and forum contents are solely the responsibility of the project team, and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Park Service and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, or the Smithsonian Institution.

The Osteoware project team (in alphabetical order) consists of: Chris Dudar, Dennis Hasch, Erica Jones, Marilyn London, Gwyn Madden, Dawn Mulhern, Claire O'Brien, Steve Ousley, and Cynthia Wilczak.

For further information email: dudarc@si.edu



10 Ways to Promote Public Awareness

Christine Boston, CAPA Student Rep, PhD Candidate, University of Western Ontario

Interested in raising public awareness of Physical Anthropology or Anthropology in general? Need ideas on how to do it? Or are you just looking for ways to improve ideas that you already have? Look no further! Here are ten different ways to promote public awareness.

1. **Write a travel blog!** We often get to travel to far off, exotic locations in order to conduct research, or sometimes we just work in our own backyard. Either way, blog about it! You can create a blog on one of the various blogging websites (e.g. Blogger, Live Journal, Windows Live Spaces, etc.), or if you have Facebook, Twitter, or MySpace, just periodically update your friends with quick updates. I recommend including pictures as they draw attention and can be more meaningful than text.

2. **After school programming!** There are several after school programs out there, such as the YMCA, who welcome volunteers. Take advantage of the after school energy in the children by developing interesting and creative games, activities, etc. that are informative and fun.

3. **Help a Boy/Girl Scout Earn a Merit Badge!** If there is a local Boy/Girl Scout troop in your area, ask them if they have any merit badges related to your area of study and see if they are interested in working toward that badge. The Boy Scouts of America have an archaeologically-themed merit badge which requires scouts to learn about several different cultures and volunteer with an archaeologist at an excavation site or laboratory.

4. **Visit Your Old High School!** This is convenient if you are at home and have a little time on your hands. Talk to your old teachers and see if they are interested in having you create and present a lecture to their new students. It is particularly handy if you speak with History, Biology, or Social Science teachers depending on your area of research.

5. **Get creative!** Do you have a flare for the dramatic? A way with words? An artful approach? Use your talents to your advantage! Create works of art focusing on Physical Anthropology. Photography, painting, dance, film, music, web design, etc. are great ways to get the public's attention and can be a fun and useful distraction from everyday research.

6. **Give Back to the Community!** If you are highly motivated, you may want to try your hand at organizing a charity event with the charity being a Physical Anthropology related group. Your charity event could be as simple as auctioning off donated items to something more complex like a special event at a bar or a Battle of the Bands. Please note that the more complex the charity event the more time and energy you will have to spend on it, particularly if you have not already developed contacts. Larger events may be best done in groups in order to delegate jobs and better manage time for both research and the event. Do not let that discourage you from taking on the challenge, however, as these events are fun for both the public and the organizer(s).

7. **Museum Lectures!** A museum is the perfect place to provide the public with information about your research: possibly even better because those attending the lectures are keen on learning in an academic type setting. These types of lectures do not have to be overly creative, and they are perfect opportunities to practice conference presentations or prepare for speaking in front of larger groups.

8. **Volunteer at the Museum!** Not quite ready to present research? No problem! Volunteering at a local museum is a great way to contribute to the community, gain valuable contacts, and learn about other areas of research that you may be interested in or unaware of. Also, encourage people to visit the museum to which you are volunteering. One cannot inform the public without their presence.

9. **Form/Join a Club!** If there is a local club/organization which is within the realm of your research interests, join it and get involved in their activities. If one does not exist, it may be worthwhile to form one.

And when all else fails...

10. TALK ABOUT IT!

If you are not comfortable or unable to do any of the above nine ideas, then follow the KISS (Keep It Simple Silly) philosophy: just talk to people about what you do and why it is important. This is usually quite easy since what you do will eventually come up in a conversation, so be sure to take advantage of the opportunity and promote, inform, and educate your listeners.

MEMBER NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Nancy Lovell has returned from Italy, having spent the winter term teaching at the University of Alberta's School in Cortona (Tuscany) Although it was the worst winter there in 24 years, Nancy enjoyed teaching her courses in Mortuary Archaeology, and Diseases and Human Evolution, as well as various field trips to Herculaneum and Pompeii, the catacombs in Rome, and the Protestant ("English") Cemetery in Florence (the burial place of Elizabeth Barrett Browning). She hopes to get permission to study some Roman period skeletal remains that were excavated in the vicinity of Cortona's Etruscan tombs, so she may be returning to Italy fairly soon, hopefully when the weather might be better!

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Susan Piffer writes: on April 14th, **F.J. Melbye**, emeritus professor from both the University of Toronto and Texas State University at San Marcos received the **Eve Cockburn Mentoring Award** from the Paleopathology Association at their meeting in Albuquerque. Congratulations, Jerry!

McMASTER UNIVERSITY

News from the Department: We are delighted to announce the appointment of **Dr. Megan Brickley** as a **Tier I Canada Research Chair in the Bioarchaeology of Human Disease**. Megan comes to McMaster as a distinguished scholar and former Reader in Biological Anthropology and Head of the Forensics Death and Burial Research Group at the Institute of Archaeology & Antiquity (IAA) at the University of Birmingham in the U.K. Her research in biological anthropology centers on the use of paleopathology for bioarchaeological interpretation and investigation of health and nutrition of past populations. She has exceptionally strong expertise in the study of metabolic bone disease and histology; forensic anthropology, especially the analysis of burned human remains; scanning electronic microscopy; prehistoric mortuary practice; field archaeology and the development of practice for dealing with human skeletal remains at excavation and post excavation levels; and the integration of biological and historical sources of evidence to uncover life and death in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Congratulations to **Robert Stark** who has been awarded the first ever **Shelley Saunders Graduate Scholarship** in skeletal biology. Robert comes to our PhD program from the University of Alberta and will be conducting isotopic and nonmetric trait analysis under the supervision of Dr. Tracy Prowse.

Meghan Burchell, our department's Academic Assistant, was recently awarded a **President's Award for Outstanding Service**. Meghan works exceptionally hard to enhance the quality of the student experience in Anthropology and we are so pleased that her dedication has been recognized with this prestigious award.

Ann Herring was the 2010 recipient of the **President's Award for Instruction**.

BOOK CORNER

NEW PUBLICATION

"Craniofacial Embryogenetics and Development" published by PMPH-USA Press. Access to the Press Website is: www.pmph-usa.com

UPCOMING PUBLICATION

Keep your eyes peeled for a new edited volume edited by Tina Moffat and Tracy Prowse. "Human Diet and Nutrition in Biocultural Perspective—Past Meets Present, which will be published by Berghahn Books in October 2010.

NEW GRADUATE PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

Doctor of Philosophy Program in Anthropology:

In September 2010, the Department of Anthropology at the University of Victoria will commence a new and innovative PhD Program. We are offering four unique themes in our program that cross-cut traditional sub-disciplines:

- Inequality, Culture, Health
- Evolution & Ecology
- Indigenous Peoples
- Visual Anthropology & Technology

For more information on the program, see our new graduate programs website: <http://anthropology.uvic.ca/graduate/doctoral.php>

For information on how to apply, see Faculty of Graduate Studies Admissions webpage: <http://registrar.uvic.ca/grad/admission-checklist.html>

NB: applicants send their completed application to Faculty of Graduate Studies, not the Anthropology Department. Info. on the above webpage.

For more information contact the Anthropology Secretary: anthtwo@uvic.ca or the Anthropology Graduate Advisor, Dr. Lisa Gould: anthgs@uvic.ca

Deadline for Applications is January 31.



Membership Form
Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology
L'Association Canadienne D'Anthropologie Physique

New Member [] or **Renewal** []
Full Membership \$50.00 [] (\$42.00 if remitting in US funds)
 or **Student** \$25.00 [] (\$21.00 if remitting in US funds)
Institution \$60.00 [] (\$51.00 if remitting in US funds)
Life Member \$750.00 [] (\$630.00 if remitting in US funds)

Please make your cheque or money order payable to:
CAPA (Cdn Assoc for Phys Anthro),
and forward, with completed Membership Form, to:
 Dr. Ian Colquhoun
 Secretary-Treasurer, CAPA-ACAP
 Dept. of Anthropology, U. of Western Ontario
 1151 Richmond Street
 London, Ontario, CANADA
 N6A 5C2

(Questions? Sec-Treas. email: colquhou@uwo.ca)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Affiliation and department (if different from mailing address):

email: _____
 publish email with membership list []
 /do not publish with membership list []

phone: _____
 publish with membership list []
 / do not publish with membership list []

fax: _____
 publish with membership list []
 / do not publish with membership list []

Demographic information: (will not be published in membership list; for tracking trends only):

Research Fields (please indicate primary and secondary research interests/activities)

- 1.
- 2.

If you are an **instructor / professor**, what is your rank? _____

If a **student**, please give level and year: **Undergraduate** [] year (e.g., 3rd) []; or, **MA** [] year [];
 or, **MSc** [], year []; or, **PhD** [] year []

If a **Postdoctoral Fellow** [], position funded by:

If none of the above:

CAPA 2010 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan!



Mark your calendars for October 27th to 30th for CAPA this year! The University of Saskatchewan and the City of Saskatoon are thrilled to be hosting for the first time. Stay tuned for our upcoming call for abstracts. The conference hotel is the Radisson, located downtown close to the river, the Meewasin walking trails, and many fine shops, restaurants, and pubs. We will soon send out a link to our conference web site, from which you will be able to book travel and accommodation, as well as explore opportunities for fun in our sunshine city.

See you in October!

Your Conference Organization Committee,

David Cooper

Ernie Walker

Angela Lieverse

Sylvia Abonyi



Physical Anthropologists Raising Public Awareness

Three Physical Anthropologists share experiences and advice

By: Christine Boston

Ethical responsibility. Public education. Service to the discipline. Opportunity to spend time outside of the office. Fun. These are a few ways to describe activities related to raising the public's awareness of Physical Anthropology. Increasing public awareness is an integral part of being a Physical Anthropologist (or Anthropologist in general) and is included as parts of tenure submissions, scholarship and bursary applications, and volunteer and employment opportunities. There are several different ways in which one can promote public awareness of Anthropology (see article "*10 Ways to Promote Public Awareness*") and presented in this article are profiles of three Physical Anthropologists who have unique approaches to reaching and educating the public.

Bernardo Arriaza: Creative Concepts

Dr. Bernardo Arriaza is a Physical Anthropologist at the Universidad de Tarapaca located in Arica, Chile. Arica is an area rich in archaeological history and home to the world's oldest anthropogenic mummies, the Chinchorro. In an area so rich in cultural history, one often has to resort to unique ways to pique the public's interest in subject matter that is literally available to them in their yards, and Arriaza has managed to do this through various artistic mediums, including photography, comic books, and children's games.

Arriaza was always interested in art, particularly photography, and was able to channel his artistic abilities into his professional work in ways that fulfilled both his and the public's needs. In 2005, Arriaza embarked on his first endeavor which involved using photography to depict the Chinchorro people in their everyday lives. The goal of the project was to represent the Chinchorro as a living group who interacted and participated in daily activities, not just their mummification practices and death. The project was a collaboration with mutual friends who volunteered to model, have their bodies painted, and pose, performing traditional Chinchorro activities on the beaches these ancient people once inhabited. Arriaza later printed the pictures in large formats, which were on display in galleries in both Arica and Chile's capital city, Santiago.

In 2008, upon securing a small grant, Arriaza and his brother embarked on their second enterprise, this time targeting children. They launched a comic book about the Chinchorro. Arriaza was inspired to create the comic because he was an avid comic book reader as a child and knew this was a great way to reach youth. Arriaza is responsible for the story line while his brother, an artist in Santiago, illustrates the full color comic. The first in the series was launched in early 2009 and subsequent editions are set to release this year.

Regarding public awareness, Arriaza feels that it is "a must, not just for physical anthropologists but the sciences in general". He encourages the integration of art and science as much as possible, as he believes it is the optimal way to engage the public. Arriaza recommends those with artistic abilities try their hands at creating handicrafts and archaeological replicas as an alternative means of reaching the public.

Ian Colquhoun: Enriching Education

Dr. Ian Colquhoun, the current CAPA Secretary/Treasurer, is no stranger to creating public awareness of Physical Anthropology and has done so for a number of years with adults, but has primarily provided outreach to children. While speaking in public settings can be challenging, working with children presents its own unique sets of challenges in that children often have decreased attention spans, increased energy, varying interests, and a completely different level of connection into which the presenter must tap. Colquhoun has been successful over years of presentations in a variety of settings, such as recent work with Grade

8 students in a "Choose Your Own Adventure" Conference targeting middle school youths to raise awareness of a university education and as a "Virtual Researcher" where he was teamed up via video-link with Grade 8 students interested in environment and ecology.

Colquhoun first became interested in working with children because of his own children. He admits that he was naturally drawn to this work, beginning with short presentations to his daughters' elementary school classes regarding his Primatological work in Madagascar. He also began to work alongside his wife, who was also working with elementary school aged children in a "Roots and Shoots" Eco Club, in collaboration with the Jane Goodall Institute, Canada, and run through the school. From there, he branched out to other groups of children, classes and schools, both through offering and accepting requests for his services. Ultimately, he says, a track-record reflecting outreach activities to children and students came about more through a series of opportunities than some strategic plan.

Colquhoun's advice to anyone interested in these types of public awareness activities is to know one's audience before one presents. One can ask the teacher or coordinator of the event for ideas of what the children have learned or want to learn and possibly even receive hints on how best to capture their interests. He also recommends that one learns of the technical setup before arriving at the presentation, since not all places are identically equipped. He also says that discussing one's passion is not as bad as it may initially seem and that the endeavor can be a fun, enriching experience both for the presenter and the audience.

Andrew Nelson: Video Veteran

Dr. Andrew Nelson, a past CAPA President, had his first television appearance as a Physical Anthropologist during his time as a Graduate Student at UCLA. He participated as a guest spot on *America's Funniest Home Videos* where he was asked to provide an evolutionary explanation for why one's pants continually fall down. This appearance was the first in a series of television, radio, website, and newspaper appearances, which include spots on television documentaries, children's shows, and local newspaper press. This press has both educated and raised the public's awareness of various Physical Anthropology subjects but on a wider scale compared to other public awareness activities.

Nelson has also been involved in smaller public awareness initiatives in both Canada and Peru, having worked in the "Virtual Researcher" program and in summer and after school programming for children of all ages. He notes that neither approach, speaking with the media or smaller groups, is more advantageous than the other, but each requires its own approach in order to better achieve the goal of raising public awareness. Speaking with smaller groups in a more intimate setting allows the researcher to better connect with the audience and draw them into the subject matter. While working with the media can create a disconnect from the audience and can present greater difficulties in sparking their interest, one can reach a larger, more diverse audience and potentially multiple times, as media reports are recycled and reused over time.

He also notes that working with the media presents its own sets of challenges. It can be stressful in different ways, particularly if one is working (in a lab or out in the field) and the television crews are filming and interrupting as reshoots and interviews occur. Also, one may have less control over how the research is presented in its final product if that is not initially negotiated, so great care regarding what is said is necessary to avoid misrepresentations of the research and affiliates. In order to secure more control in the final product, Nelson suggests approaching a production company with an idea and how it can be presented and working together on the final vision. Many production companies have open calls for ideas which are most often available through their websites. Despite these challenges, using the media as a means of raising public awareness can be fun and beneficial to all parties involved and is often times worth the short term hassles experienced during filming and production.