Message from the President
Rob Hoppa

This is the last message I will write in the CAPA newsletter as President – admittedly a bitter-sweet experience. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience to have been allowed the privilege to serve as the Association’s President over the past few years. I have not accomplished nearly what I had hoped with regard to some issues, but the membership continues to be strong and as many of you will agree, the diversity and quality of research being presented at the annual meetings continues to impress. Myself having begun as a student member during my PhD program, I have had the chance to interact through CAPA over the past two decades with a core of members including both mentors and peers. Most rewarding for me has been the chance to see students developing over time, and of course to see many new students participating in the association. I always look forward to the meetings to visit with friends and colleagues. But I am increasingly delighted (though a bit daunted) by how many faces each new year that I don’t know, representing the healthy growth of the association through new members. And while I look forward to my continued interactions with both new and a familiar faces at future meetings, the 2011 meetings in Montreal will represent the end of my formal duties. On that note it is with immense pleasure that I announce our incoming President, Dr. Tina Moffat, who was unanimously elected by the membership.

Dr. Moffat is an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at McMaster University. Her research interests on child health & nutrition and environmental health in urban settings includes research on childhood obesity and the impact of social and economic differences on children’s body size, diet and physical activity. I very much look forward to the continued success of the Association under Tina’s very capable leadership. I know you all join me in welcoming Tina in her new role. My thanks are extended to the nomination committee (Tracy Prowse, Richard Lazenby and Julia Gamble) for their work over this past year.

In closing, I wish everyone a productive summer and look forward to seeing many of you in Montreal in the fall.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Please send submissions to: meganhighet@yahoo.ca
Deadline for the Fall Issue: October 21, 2011
Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology
39th Annual Meeting

October, 26-29, 2011, Montréal, Québec

Call for papers

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Département d’Anthropologie at Université de Montréal, the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology will be held at the Montréal Hotel Gouverneur Place Dupuis, which is conveniently located downtown.

**July 15th** is the deadline for submission of proposals for symposia. Organisers of symposia must provide the names of a minimum of five confirmed presenters along with their paper titles and abstracts.

We welcome all contributions within the various fields of biological anthropology. The deadline for abstract submission is **September 7th**.

To register or for more information, visit our website:

www.capa2011.umontreal.ca
Message from the Student Representative
Christine Elisabeth Boston

Salutations CAPA Student Membership:

As another school year comes to a close, the time has come again where we reflect upon the events of the past year. We remember the assignments, the presentations, the field work, the frustrations, and the joys of being a student. And this is usually when we remember (or continue to forget) to renew our CAPA membership. It is important to renew your membership so as to not miss out on the benefits, which include but are not limited to the ability to present at the Annual Meeting; receiving up to date information on field schools, graduate school opportunities, scholarships/grants, and employment; networking with fellow students and professionals in the field; and much more.

It is important to remember to renew your membership either at the end of December or early January so as to not let your membership lapse. The membership CAPA runs from January 1 to December 31, regardless of when one begins their membership. This membership period is similar to those of other professional organizations (e.g. AAPA, CAA, CASCA, OAS, etc.), but there are distinct differences between CAPA and these other organizations regarding new memberships and renewals.

Other organizations publicly state that new memberships that begin after a specific date will begin in the following year and new memberships will receive their member benefits beginning on January 1, while others state new memberships will not be accepted after a certain date. CAPA’s policy is more lax as new members who sign up after a specific time can take advantage of their membership immediately instead of waiting for the following year and still receive the benefits they missed earlier in the year (if applicable). S well, many other organizations have a set date for membership renewal, whereas CAPA does not.

CAPA members have the freedom to renew their membership within a two year period without the penalty of losing some of their membership benefits. Other organizations have strict deadlines for membership renewals, and there are no exceptions granted for late or missed renewals.

Also, it is important to remember that CAPA does not require proof of student status. CAPA has worked on the honor system for many years, and it will continue to do so until deemed necessary to change that policy. CAPA also does not require individuals whose student status changes in the year to pay the difference in membership, but members will have to change their status and pay the applicable fees upon membership renewal.

An additional benefit of being a CAPA member is that the membership fees are one of the least expensive across the board in comparison to other organizations, particularly for international and national organizations. Several provincial and local professional organizations have membership fees that far exceed those required by CAPA. The advantages of becoming and continuing to be a CAPA member are well worth the nominal membership fee.

In conclusion, it is important to renew your membership for several reasons. While you can renew your membership at any time throughout the year, I encourage members renew earlier rather than later so as to not run into a conflict with abstract submissions for the Annual Meeting (this year in Montreal). Only current members can present at the Annual Meeting, so please renew now before you forget again.

Sincerely,
Christine Boston, CAPA Student Representative

ACTIVE JOB POSTING

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

The Department of Anthropology in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta invites applications for a tenure-track appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor in biological anthropology. The successful candidate will have an active research program in the bioarchaeology of anatomically modern human populations, with the geographic region and era open. Preference will be given to candidates whose research emphasizes the reconstruction of past lives from a holistic perspective, using an osteobiographical approach. Areas of interest include palaeopathology, biomechanical analysis, histology, and subadult growth and development. The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels and to develop and maintain an active research program. We are a four-field department offering many opportunities for collaboration across the subdisciplines. The successful candidate must hold a PhD; outstanding candidates who are close to completion at the time of appointment may also be considered.

This appointment will commence July 1, 2012; salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Letters of application, including curriculum vitae, a description of research and teaching interests, and names of three references, should be sent by September 15, 2011.

For more information about the Department of Anthropology, visit our website at www.anthropology.ualberta.ca.

How to Apply:

Mail:
Dr. Lisa Philips, Chair
Department of Anthropology
University of Alberta
13-15 HM Tory Building
Edmonton, AB Canada
T6G 2H4
lphilips@ualberta.ca

Fax: (780) 492-5273

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. The University of Alberta hires on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity in employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, and Aboriginal persons.
You may be wondering about the connection between a librarian and the discipline of anthropology but, I assure you, there are plenty! The intention of this article is to provide some insight into these connections. In turn, you may consider making some discoveries of your own, in particular, partnering with a librarian in the pursuit of teaching, learning and research activities at your academic institution.

A reorganization in the University Library in the fall of 2007, led to my current position as a Liaison Librarian. My responsibilities included establishing and building partnerships with faculty in several departments, one of which was the Department of Anthropology. I was most excited about this discipline since I received my undergraduate degree in this program at McMaster.

I had, in the past, conducted numerous one-shot, in-class library sessions that were requested by faculty, who recognized the need for students to receive some form of instruction to complete an assignment. As my liaison work in the department progressed, faculty who may not have considered (or even known) about the library’s teaching and research services, took advantage of the opportunity as a collegial relationship developed. Quick exchanges in coffee lines, hallways and elevators sometimes led to follow-up meetings with faculty as well.

In the first year of the liaison program, I was invited to be a speaker for one of the department’s mandatory Graduate Workshops; I have continued to participate in the program every year, since then. Another opportunity for outreach came in the form of the CAPA conference, which McMaster University hosted in 2008 in Hamilton, Ontario. By attending the conference, I had the opportunity to learn about current research in the discipline, and to meet with fellow graduates who continued in the field. In this particular year, the membership honoured Dr. Shelley Saunders, who was my professor for several undergraduate courses at McMaster. Thus began my membership in CAPA, which continues today.

While the liaison program continued through the years 2009 and 2010, the University Library was undergoing major changes in terms of collections, services and space. It became increasingly important to communicate these changes to faculty. I approached Dr. Aubrey Cannon, Chair of the Department of Anthropology at McMaster, who agreed that it would be beneficial for me to attend department meetings to speak on library issues. I have attended several meetings and a department retreat, where curriculum planning and related items such as Ontario’s University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations (UUDLEs pronounced “oodles”) were discussed.

In 2010-2011, arrangements were kindly made for me to begin offering office hours (2) in the department on a weekly basis. Being present in the department was beneficial in several ways:

- Faculty could conveniently drop-in to meet with me (or I could meet with them) to discuss learning objectives for library sessions and to design assignments;
- Graduate students could ask questions about their research, and I could provide information on the use of library services such as Interlibrary Loan;
- Undergraduate students could meet with me, without arranging a prior appointment, for one-on-one consultations. In some weeks, I had undergraduate students lining up at my office door!;
- Faculty more readily added me to their courses in the Learning Management System, Desire2Learn. I created library “widgets” with links to helpful resources and included my contact information for students.

How can a librarian assist in a biological anthropology course, where student work outside the lectures consists of lab tutorials? Dr. Tracy Prowse, who taught a second year course entitled “Human Variation and Evolutionary Change” was interested in creating two assignments (10% each) that would address content analysis and critical reading and writing skills. We worked together on the assignments and the supporting library components. I first taught the large class in the campus classroom and, in the following weeks, students were required to attend a workshop in the library’s electronic classroom during tutorial times. Dr. Prowse writes:

“The valuable aspect of this collaboration with Olga was that we worked together to design assignments that (1) made students think critically about sources of information for their research papers (i.e. what makes a reliable internet site!), and; (2) gave students experience using library databases for research, and asked them to compare the content and quality of information obtained from these different sources. More generally, we wanted to give these students research skills that can be transferred to other courses.”

Apart from teaching and learning, you may have questions, such as the following: How will the new copyright legislation impact me, and my students, this fall term? What is an Institutional Repository and how can I make submissions of my scholarly work, or that of my students, to it?

There is, most certainly, a librarian near you, who can provide you with the answers to these questions, and more.

I encourage you to seek him/her out!
Membership Form (2011)
Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology
L'Association Canadienne D'Anthropologie Physique

New Member [ ] or Renewal [ ]

Full Membership $50.00 [ ] (Canadian or US funds)
or Student $25.00 [ ] (Canadian or US funds)
Institution $60.00 [ ] (Canadian or US funds)
Life Member $750.00 [ ] (Canadian or US funds)

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 [ ]

Academic information: (will not be published in membership list, for tracking membership 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:______________________________
News from the Department: Sally Carraher, a PhD candidate in the Anthropology of Health program (Figure 1), presented a paper, “Post-Colonial Bacteria: Bridging Anthropological, Epidemiological, and Indigenous Theories” at the 37th annual meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association in March at Fairbanks, Alaska. This is part of her thesis research with the Canadian North Helicobacter pylori Working Group in the Northwest Territories. Recently, Sally was the recipient of an International Excellence Award from McMaster and an Indigenous Health Research Development Program scholarship.

Heather Battles (Figure 2), a PhD candidate in the Anthropology of Health program, is an active member of the Rotary Club (Rotaract) and a tireless fund-raiser for their polio eradication program. She is shown with an iron lung, a machine which enabled polio victims to breathe, at the PolioPlus booth at the Rotary International Convention in Los Angeles. Heather’s PhD dissertation is on polio epidemics in Hamilton and Toronto in the early twentieth century.

Emily Cowall (Figure 3) is completing her PhD dissertation on tuberculosis among the Inuit of Pangnirtung. As part of her research, she identified and repatriated previously unidentified photographs of Inuit sent to the Hamilton Sanatorium for treatment for tuberculosis. In a moving community celebration, the photographs were returned.

Tracy Prowse writes: I will be taking undergraduate and graduate students to Italy this summer for the 2011 Bioarchaeological Field School at Vagnari. We will be excavating a Roman period cemetery in July.


Mirjana Roksandic writes: U of Winnipeg Department of Anthropology has been a busy place this year. Both Mary Silcox (who left for greener pastures at UTSC in July) and myself got our five-years of NSERC funding for evolutionary anthropology. My student Stephanie Armstrong got an NSERC for her Masters research on Cuban molecular pathology. She is off to Thunder Bay to do her analyses with Carney Matheson this summer. My honors student Emeric Seguin got an NSERC USRA to work with me this summer, and my Cuban PhD student Yadira Chinique de Armas got an ELAP grant to do her research at U of Winnipeg.

After an initial success in securing SSHRC IOF last year our Canadian-Cuban team got a SSHRC SRG this time around! Now we are funded for three years and planning on digging and surveying shell midden sites in Cuba in December (when it falls below -30 here).

The field school in Serbia was a total success by all standards! (check it out at http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/anthro-field-school-index) We had 13 students, (half of them were international students) and a large team of Serbian, Canadian, British, French and Spanish experts and graduate students. We excavated 4 caves: one of them is a hominin fossil bearing site, all of them with substantial Paleolithic layers. Watch out for an upcoming article in JHE. After Mary Silcox left, we had fought hard to get a replacement for her position. We are currently hiring two assistant professors in the department: one is in Biological Anthropology.

Starting in 2011, the Department of Anthropology at the Ohio State University and the Paleopathology division of the University of Pisa will offer a summer field school in medieval archaeology and bioarchaeology at Badia Pozzeveri, Lucca Province, Italy. The field school at Badia Pozzeveri is an outstanding opportunity for students to gain practical experience in archaeological excavation and bioarchaeological investigation by working side-by-side with leading researchers in the field. The field school welcomes both undergraduate and graduate students majoring in anthropology. More information can be found at www.fieldschoolpozzeveri.org.

“Craniofacial Embryogenetics and Development” published by PMPH-USA Press. Published by: www.pmph-usa.com
Don’t forget your Snickers bar...
And other helpful tips to know before embarking on fieldwork.
Christine Elisabeth Boston, CAPA Student Representative

While in undergrad, a professor told us about her opportunity to conduct fieldwork in Africa. She had never previously left the country and was bombarded with advice about what to expect when in the field. Of all the advice, the best was to take several Snickers bars with her. She laughed but admitted that she coveted those Snickers bars, eating them sparingly as they were her little reminder of home. That story has stuck out in my mind over the years, particularly when I have gone out in the field over my graduate student career. While I agree with my professor’s advice, there are several other things that one should know (and remember) before heading out in to the field, be it close or far from home. Here’s this advice as you may need it even if you do no expect it.

● Do not forget your “Snickers bars”. It is important to bring something that reminds you of home along with you on your trip. You cannot know how much you may need it, particularly when home sick or frustrated with your work. Plus, you never know when you could use that “Snickers bar” to strike up a conversation between you and a colleague, friend, or random stranger from whom you need help. I found that family photographs made relations between the Hostel staff and me much easier, which helped me out greatly during my stay.

● Know the language. This seems like common sense. How else can one effectively communicate with colleagues or get around if one does not know the language? Do not assume that anyone will speak your native tongue because chances are you will run into a situation where no one does and you really need some sort of help (even if it is just to find a wash-room). Along this, know the language, as in know the culture and meanings behind the language, even if you are going somewhere close to your home. Certain words or phrases that mean nothing to you may have deeper meanings amongst the people you are working with. Example: In Chile, people will frequently ask a woman, “Are you alone?” This is because women usually do not travel alone, and therefore people are concerned about their safety. There is a double meaning to this question: “Are you single?” This can lead to several awkward conversations if the context of the question is lost or unknown. Avoid this by learning not only how to speak the language, but also the contextual meanings before heading out into the field.

● Read the local newspaper before you leave. Some events and information will make the international and national news agencies (e.g. natural disasters, elections, coups, etc.), but other information will not. It is in your best interest to find out what is going on locally in the field area. Holidays, protests, pollution, strikes, etc. could interfere with your work and/or make it extremely dangerous to work in the area. Talk to colleagues or read the online newspapers, blogs, etc. to find out what you can and prepare accordingly.

● Have a Plan B...and C, D, E, F, and G if possible. You write a re-search proposal or have some sort of plan for your research/work before you head out, but very few people devise a “just in case” back up plan. It is best to have a back up plan in case something delays or ends your re-search project. Machines break down, museum records are wrong, collections go missing, weather interferes, etc. Having a back up plan (or three) is helpful for keeping on track and not delaying your work anymore than necessary.

● Know what the requirements are of where you are going. Some countries require people to pay for entrance visas before entering, and these costs range from country to country. To complicate matters further, these entrance visas may have an expiry date, and you should know what options are available for renewal. As well, some places require you to have proof of specific vaccinations before you enter. If you do not have these documents, you may not be allowed to enter the country or you may be quarantined for an extended period. Avoid these delays by familiarizing yourself with these regulations before you leave.

● Be prepared and willing to spend for your safety. You should not be afraid or unwilling to pay more for safety. Know what modes of travel, areas of town, places to eat, hotels or hostels, doctors/facilities, etc. are safe. This is important not only for the time lost from being ill but because you could potentially harm yourself for far longer than your time in the field. As such, do not be miserly about your safety.

● Sunscreen is your friend. Do not forget sunscreen, bug repellent, a small first aid kit, etc. These items may not be available or are available at an inflated cost (e.g. $20 for an ounce of sunscreen). You may think you will not need these items or you can do without, but you may come to regret that decision later, particularly when you are forever known as “The Shrimp” because of the awful sunburn you had all field season.

● Do not bring anything you will be upset to lose. It may be your favorite sweater that you must bring with you everywhere you go, but are you able to part with it? If the answer is no, then leave it at home. You may plan to be extra careful, but you cannot control for everything, including theft, laundry mishaps, no room in your suitcase, etc. It is best to bring things that you will have no problems losing or leaving if absolutely necessary.

● Know how to contact family and friends. Before you leave, find out if you will have access to the internet, telephones, cellular phones, and/or snail mail. You may be surprised by what you do have access to in some areas but not in others. Parts of the rural USA only have a few pay phones, limited cell service, and postal mail but no access to the internet, making it difficult to contact family, friends, and your supervisor or committee. Areas in South America, however, have several communication options available, including internet cafes, local and long distance phone centers, cellular services, and postal mail. Also check what access to banks and wire transfers you will have available to you in the field in case you run into a monetary emergency.

● Expect reverse culture shock. Expect to feel reverse culture shock upon returning home. You may have been speaking a different language for months, observing foreign customs, dressing a different way, etc., and all of a sudden you have to revert back to how you were before you left. The reverse culture shock can last a while but this is dependent on the length of time you were away.

● Expect to be sick both in and out of the field. Your body is used to a specific environment, and you may get sick upon entering a new one and upon returning to the old one. You may feel a little stomach discomfort or far worse. Make sure you have adequate travel insurance that will actually cover any medical expenses incurred in the field. Do not assume the plan covers everything or everywhere as some plans will not cover medical costs incurred in “high risk regions.”

REMEMBER TO HAVE SOME FUN! A senior faculty member once said, “Be happy. You’ll never be able to conduct research like this again!” Enjoy the freedom to conduct field research like that you can in your student career but also be sure to take a moment and enjoy the scenery. Network with colleagues, make friends outside of your direct research group, check out the sites, explore your surroundings, and whatever else you find fun. You never know what you will find, what experiences will make great stories for later, and the lasting friendships you will make. Plus, these experiences and people will help take some of the edge off of the stress of working/researching, which will make the whole overall experience much more enjoyable.
Notes from the Field

Jerome S. Cybulski writes: From mid-November until mid-December, 2010, Dr. Jerome Cybulski (Curator, Canadian Museum of Civilization) and Mr. Robert Stark (Ph.D. candidate, McMaster University) joined the Hungarian Archaeological Mission in Thebes to study human remains at Sheikh Abd el-Qurna in the Theban Necropolis. The area is part of the Tombs of the Nobles on the west bank of the Nile, opposite Luxor, near Deir el-Bahari, the Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut. This was the 14th field season of the mission’s TT65 project under the direction of Dr. Tamás Bács, Egyptologist and Professor at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, and the first season with a dedicated human bioarchaeology program. Cybulski and Stark set up a lab in the impressive painted chapel of Theban Tomb (TT) 65 where they analyzed the bones of mummies from five burial locations in or adjacent to the tomb. All told, 22+ individuals in varying states of completeness were sorted and analyzed, variably representing the New Kingdom 18th Dynasty, the Third Intermediate Period, and the Coptic period. Included were males, females, children, and infants. Cybulski and Stark plan to rejoin the Hungarian Mission in autumn 2011 to study Third Intermediate Period remains excavated from the forecourt of a nearby saff tomb. Funding for the 2010 bioarchaeology field season was provided by the Hungarian Archaeological Mission TT65 Project and the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

Graduate Student Profile: Amanda Melin
PhD Candidate, Department of Anthropology, University of Calgary

Amanda (Figure 2) earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences (Zoology) and a Master of Arts in Anthropology (Primatology) prior to beginning her doctoral program in Biological Anthropology at the University of Calgary under the supervision of Dr. Linda Fedigan. Her research focuses upon primate color vision. She notes that primates are rare among mammals in that they have trichomacy (3-color) vision while most others have dichromatic or monochromatic vision. Further, New World monkeys, such as capuchins are also characterized by sex-linked polymorphic color vision, meaning that while all males and some females have dichromatic vision, some females actually have trichomacy vision.

Between January 2007 and September 2008 Amanda spend thirteen months conducting field research in north-western Costa-Rica for her dissertation, studying the effects of color vision variation on foraging patterns (for both fruit and insects) among four groups of white-faced capuchins (Cebus capucinus) that inhabit a seasonally dry forest. Following her behavioral observations of these free-ranging monkeys, she spent an additional ten months between January 2009 and August 2010 acquiring photographs of monkey food items and engaging in computer-based foraging trails in the Vision and Aging Laboratory at the University of Calgary, while genotyping of the monkey subjects was completed at the University of Tokyo.

Amanda presented some of her findings pertaining to seasonal use of colorful fruits by capuchins at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution held in Banff, Alberta, held from May 12-15. She defended her PhD thesis on April 15th and will be taking up a postdoctoral position examining color vision of Euarchontan mammals in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology with Dr. Nate Dominy at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire this June.

Figure 1: The Morning Commute to the Theban Necropolis (Photo by J.S. Cybulski)

Figure 2: Amanda Melin