Message from the President

Rob Hoppa

It’s that time of year again – the end of classes and exams and maybe programs for some students. Ahead many of us prepare to enter the field, spend some time writing and analysing and hopefully take a little time to relax and recharge the batteries. It has been a relatively quiet term for CAPA but I am pleased to see the continued growth of our membership (as noted at the last business meeting in Hamilton). And related to this, I am very excited to see the commitment to hosting upcoming meetings by our members. As you already know, this year’s meetings are being hosted by SFU in Vancouver and the local arrangements committee (Mark Collard, Mark Skinner and Dongya Yang) is busy preparing for that, which will happen at the Vancouver downtown campus from Oct 29 to Oct 31. Next year, we are already booked for the 27-30 Oct 2010 at the Radisson Hotel Saskatoon and lead contacts Sylvia Abonyi and David Cooper have already been working hard securing the venue. And for 2011, our colleagues Michelle Drapeau and Isabelle Ribot have offered to host CAPA in Montreal. I hope to see many of you, as well as more new faces at future meetings. Until then, I wish you all the best for a great summer.

Welcome to Spring everyone!!

The flowers are out, the cherry trees are blossoming and the snow tires are finally coming off here in Toronto… although I know that some of my colleagues in Calgary are still battling some snowing days!! I hope that spring will reach you soon!

I would like to introduce a new segment into the student representative column. We would like to start acknowledging the successful thesis and dissertation defenses of our student members! Please professors and students alike, send me word of all the successful students from your departments and we will include their names here. Please provide their name, date defended, university and department, advisor name and the title of their project.

I am also coming up on the end of my term this fall as student representative, which means we will be looking for someone else to fill my role. Please start thinking if you would like to take over the position… there will be more details to come.

Have a great summer everyone!

Sarah

Message from the Student Representative

Sarah Carnegie

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WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please send submissions to: meganhighet@yahoo.ca

(Deadline for the Spring issue is: October 23, 2009)

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2009-2011 CAPA STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Names of nominations and a brief (300 word max) biography should be submitted by email to capa@umanitoba.ca by 30 Jun 2009.

Nominations must be student members in good standing.
In the next stop of our journey we will hear people Connect with One Another through speech and story. The way we understand and work with those around us can be explored through the variety and choice of language use. Whether providing an explanation for the other as told in Flores, or by defining our place within a group in Colombia or India, we use language and story to set boundaries.

A central focus of our lives is our relationship with food. In the third theme, We are What we Eat, we will travel to markets in Greece and Serbia, and to the waters of Greenland and the United States to explore how communities use food to come together, and to maintain health. Evidence of the movement of people from one community to another, and changes in resource exploitation are interpreted from the nutritional record of individuals.

In the final theme, Changing to Meet the Needs, we will look at how modernization and globalization have impacted human biology, technology, and social relationships in Tanzania, Singapore, and Canada. In redefining our relationships with the land, and through technological innovations, we create new opportunities to exploit resources, and broaden our interactions with each other. Spiritual realities are changing, and people are learning new ways to interact with each other.

This exhibition is open to the public on a daily basis. We invite you to stop by when you are on campus and take in these stories.

Upcoming Meetings of Interest:

- Canadian Archaeological Association, Thunder Bay; 13-17 May 2009.
- Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Ottawa; 23-31 May 2009.
- 14th International Congress on Circumpolar Health, Yellowknife; 11-16 July 2009.
- Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, Bristol; 23-26 September 2009.
- XVIII Congress of Italian Anthropological Association, Florence; 1-4 October 2009
- Paleopathology Association in South America, Argentina; 14-16 October 2009.
- The Stine Rossel Memorial Conference, Copenhagen; 21-23 October 2009.
- Canadian Association for Physical Anthropology, Vancouver; 29-31 October 2009

Upcoming Workshop:


**In vivo facial tissue depth measurements of African Nova Scotians for 3-D forensic facial reconstruction.**

Forensic art is a multidisciplinary field that utilizes knowledge gathered from forensic science, art, anthropology, and human anatomy. It consists of any type of art form that helps identify, capture, or convict criminal offenders, or that aids in finding missing persons or identifying unknown deceased individuals. This thesis concentrates on the three-dimensional method of forensic facial reconstruction, which utilizes clay and sculpting techniques to rebuild a face onto a skull. The reconstruction is guided by facial tissue depth markers, which are measurements of the distance between the surface of the underlying bone and the surface of the skin. Since facial tissue thickness is affected by various factors, tissue depth markers are selected according to age, sex, and ancestry of the skeletal remains that are recovered.

Population specific facial tissue depth data helps increase the accuracy of three dimensional forensic facial reconstructions as well as the chance for establishing a positive identification of the unknown individual. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to expand the facial tissue depth data available in Canada to include African Canadians. Specifically, this study involves collaborating with the African Nova Scotian community to create the first African Canadian tissue depth database to help identify missing children and adults of African Nova Scotian descent. Specific objectives include reporting standard summary statistics, investigating relationships between tissue thickness, age, and sex, comparing the results to African American data, and promoting a positive self image by providing sonographic training to African Nova Scotian youth.

Various techniques for collecting tissue depth data have been employed, however, this study will utilize ultrasound technology to collect the facial tissue depth measurements. Ultrasonic probing is the most accurate method of measuring tissue depth; it is non-invasive, safe, and portable. Tissue depth measurements will be collected from 50 living volunteers of African Nova Scotian descent. Participants include males and females between the ages of 3 years and 99 years old. Volunteers will sign a consent form and complete a biographical datasheet. Height and weight will be measured and recorded. Photographs of the front and right side of each participant will provide comparisons for the reconstruction of cartilaginous structures such as the nose and ears.

The data collection procedure involves measuring the tissue depth of 19 points on the face. The participant is seated in the upright position, facing forward, with facial muscles and jaw relaxed. The transducer is coated with a non-allergenic gel and lightly applied to the skin at a 90° angle to the underlying bony landmark. To prevent depression of the soft tissues, the gel will be the only substance in contact with the skin.

The participant remains still while the measurement is taken to ensure an accurate reading. Once the coated transducer is in the correct position, the image is frozen on the monitor using the computer keypad, and the participant can relax for a few moments prior to the next measurement. An ultrasound output is generated and the depth of the soft tissue can be measured using calipers built into the computer system. This process is then repeated for all 19 anatomical points. Averages of each point are taken for males and females of specific age groups and a reference table is generated. Statistical analyses will be used to analyze the data.

The generation of a facial tissue depth reference table for contemporary African Nova Scotians will help forensic artists accurately create facial reconstructions of missing persons. Consequently, a more accurate facial reconstruction will increase the likelihood of recognition and positive identification. As a result, this research will help alleviate the psychological, emotional, and physical suffering endured by relatives and friends of missing persons. Furthermore, this data can help authenticate historical skulls that have been identified as African Nova Scotian.

African Nova Scotian facial tissue depth measurements will be compared with African American data to assess the degree of diversity among similar ancestral populations living in different geographical locations. Finally, providing students with the opportunity to learn how to use ultrasound technology and interpret sonographic imaging will help create self-worth in African Nova Scotian youth, thus opening doors to new experiences.
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 currency)
or Student $25.00 [ ] ($21.00 if remitting in US currency)
Institution $60.00 [ ] ($50.00 if remitting in US currency)
Life Time $750.00 [ ] ($623.00 if remitting in US currency)
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)
1.
2.

If you are an instructor / professor, what is your rank!
If a student:
Undergraduate [ ] year (e.g., 3rd) [ ] or MA [ ] year [ ] or M Sc [ ] year [ ] or PhD [ ] year [ ]
If a Postdoctoral Fellow, funded by:
If none of the above:

Please make cheque or money order payable to:
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Future CAPA Meetings

Oct 29-31, 2009
Vancouver, British Columbia
Hosted By:
Simon Fraser University

2010: Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
The University of Saskatchewan

2011: Montréal, Québec
The University of Montréal