

The Anthropologist

Volume 15

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Santa Clara University

Notes from the field...

Morris Kim `15

Costa Rica: Perceptions of nutrition

This last August, I spent three weeks in Costa Rica as a part of Dr. Michelle Bezanson's field course. This was my first field-work experience and I took on a small project researching the Costa Rican diet and what I called "perceptions of nutrition." When I look back on the trip, one special moment comes to mind. My diet research consisted of interviewing residents in both rural and urban areas and comparing the responses from each group. Since La Suerte Biological Station (where the field course took place) was situated in the rural town of Primavera, I conducted the rural portion of my interviews with members of the station staff. In order to conduct interviews in an urban area, I traveled to the capital city of San José with Rebecca Murillo (SCU Anthropology 2013), an SCU alumna who was helping me conduct interviews in Spanish.

Continued Page 8

Allison Mc Namara `15

Research Experience in Costa Rica

After taking Dr. Michelle Bezanson's Anthropology field course my first summer at Santa Clara University, I decided to return for a two month study in order to collect more data and expand my research experience. During the summer of 2013, I spent two months at Estacion Biologica La Suerte in Northeastern Costa Rica studying the positional behavior and tail use of white-faced capuchin monkeys (*Cebus capucinus*). SCU alumna Kristie Kurtz (2014) and Natasha Mazumdar and I collected over 160 hours of data on locomotion and posture. The project focused on differences in posture and locomotion between juvenile and adult capuchins with a special emphasis on how the tail is used to bear body mass during different behaviors. Juveniles were seen to have a larger repertoire of positional behavior and to use their tails more often for grasping and supporting their body weight, mostly during play and other social behaviors.

Literature often

Continued Page 8

Zoe Soter `15

Research in Morocco: My Experience with the School of International Training's Program Migration and Transnational Identity

During my time in Morocco I was given the amazing opportunity to design, conduct, and present an original qualitative study regarding migrant identities in Morocco. My paper was called *Identity and Transnationalism Among Moroccan Migrants: Stories from North Morocco and the Netherlands*. The paper outlined and analyzed the stories I collected from 7 different participants using semi-structured interviews.

Migration from Morocco to the Netherlands is not a new phenomenon. It had a prominent start in the 1960s when a guest-worker program was established and it continued over the decades through the process of family unification. Globalization has contributed greatly to the increase in migration out of Morocco in recent years. Today, 350,000 Moroccans live in Holland, about half of whom were born there and have *Continued Page 9*

Matt Stockamp `15

Factories, Phones and Faces in India: An Ethnography of Good World Solutions in Indian Factories

This past summer, I was awarded a fellowship through Santa Clara University's Center for Science, Technology, and Society to conduct research in India with Good World Solutions (GWS), a social enterprise at the cutting edge of building transparency in global supply chains by connecting factory workers at the base of the pyramid with supply chain managers through affordable, scalable web and mobile technologies. Since 90 percent of India's population, approximately 1.1 billion people, now possesses a mobile phone, companies are able to access more transparent data relating to working conditions than ever before. This information is harnessed through GWS distributing a mobile survey consisting of 12 questions to factory workers. The data from these surveys then gets analyzed and passed on to supply chain managers, who become aware of the working *Continued Page 9*

Letter from the Chair



Welcome back to the Anthropology Newsletter! What a great year for SCU Anthropology!

The Department of Anthropology is excited to welcome three new members to the department. Susan Babbel joins us as our new Senior Administrative

Associate. Susan grew up in California and earned a BA in Creative Arts from San Jose State University. She has spent several years working for Santa Clara University in Counseling and Education Psychology and at the Career Center. Susan is also an artist who focuses her art on emotional portraiture of women. You may find her art here:

www.susanbabbel.com

Dr. Mythri Jegathesan joins the department as our newest Assistant Professor. Dr. Jegathesan is a sociocultural anthropologist and her research focuses on power and community in tea plantations in Sri Lanka. During the 2014-2015 academic year, she is teaching *Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology*, *Senior Capstone*, *Anthropology Methods*, & *Women Gender & Sexuality*. We also welcome Dr. David DeGusta as an academic year lecturer. Dr DeGusta is a paleoanthropologist and is teaching *Introduction to Biological Anthropology*, *Introduction to Archaeology*, and *Paleoanthropology*. We are so happy that Susan, Dr. Jegathesan, and Dr. DeGusta have joined our anthropological community.

We have several exciting book announcements! Dr. Lee

Panich published an edited volume titled: *Indigenous Landscapes and Spanish Missions: New Perspectives from Archaeology and Ethnohistory*. Dr. Sangeeta Luthra published *Her Name is Kaur* and Dr. Matthew Jobin published *The Nethergrim*. Dr. Jobin is currently finishing his second book in the Nethergrim trilogy.

The Anthropology faculty are an actively engaged community of scholars and teachers. You can read about their research activities in the publications section and in the faculty activity section.

The Department of Anthropology had many student accomplishments during the 2013-2014 academic year. Several students were awarded prestigious SCU research fellowships. Matthew Stockamp was awarded a GSB (Global Social Benefit) from the Center for Science, Technology, and Society to travel to Delhi and Bangalore, India, to work with the social enterprise Good World Solutions. Morris Kim received funding from the University Honors Program to conduct research on human health in Costa Rica. Allison McNamara (2015) and Kristie Kurtz (2014) received SCU provost's grants to present their research at the annual American Association of Physical Anthropologists meeting in Calgary, Canada. Several anthropology students presented their research at in our annual Anthropology and Sociology Undergraduate Research Conference.

The 2014-2015 promises to be a wonderful year as well! We have many exciting seminar lecturers, Anthropology Club events, and celebrations! See all our exciting news as it happens and continue to update us on our public Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SantaClaraUniversityAnthropology>.

Michelle Bezanson

Dean's List 2013-2014

Maroo (Morris) Kim (2015), Matthew Stockamp (2015)



2014 Lambda Alpha Honors Society inductees

Cathleen Bottini, Madison Buthler, Audrey Hiatt, Shelby Hoek, Kathryn Jacobs, Kristine Kurtz, Grace Lehman, Jena McDougall, Allison McNamara, Zoe Soter, Matthew Stockamp

Costa Rica Field School

During second summer session 2014, Michelle Bezanson taught the Primate Behavioral Ecology and Environmental Biology in the Tropics field courses. Eleven students from five departments participated in the course and presented some excellent research at our final symposium. Field course alumna Allison McNamara (Anthropology, Environmental Studies and Sciences 2015) returned to the field site as a teaching assistant. Some highlights from this summer were using wildlife motion cameras, finding sloths, Tortuguero National Park, the final banquet at Tin Jo restaurant, and an environmental education project with local Primavera children.

Research projects from the 2013 field courses:

Bandimere, Ashleigh (Major: Environmental Studies & Sciences, 2016): Dietary and Behavioral Variation Across Habitat Types in a Home Range of *Cebus capucinus*.

Conlon, Miranda (Major: Biology, 2016): A Survey of Vocalizations Among Juvenile Mantled Howler Monkeys (*Alouatta palliata*).

Cormier, Jenna (Major: Biology, 2017): Object-Use and Tool-Use in Free-Ranging White-Faced Capuchins (*Cebus capucinus*) at Estación Biológica La Suerte in Costa Rica.

Gillen, Alex (Major: Anthropology, 2015): A branch between two species: the foraging patterns and behaviors present in *Cebus capucinus* and *Alouatta palliata*.

Jain, Vikrum (Major: Biology, 2016): Importance of Medicinal Trees to both human and nonhuman animals at Estación Biológica La Suerte: A Comprehensive Study.

Kim, Morris (Major: Anthropology, 2015): Diet and perceptions of nutrition in rural vs. urban Costa Rica

Silverman, Jamie (Major: Political Science, 2015): Trusso, Nina (Major: Biology, 2016)

Tse, Lawrence (Major: Environmental Studies & Sciences, 2015): Investigating *Ateles geoffroyi* and its neighbors at La Suerte Biological Field station in Costa Rica.

Wells, Kayla (Major: Biology & Anthropology, 2016): Activity and feeding patterns of *Cebus capucinus*: Examining the ecology and behavior of white-faced capuchins.

Windsor, Skye (Major: Psychology, 2016): The nature of play: positional behavior in the sociality of white-faced capuchins (*Cebus capucinus*).



Faculty Publications

Zhu, W, Garber, PA, **Bezanson M**, Qi, XG, Li BG 2015. Age and sex-based patterns of positional behavior in the Golden Snub-Nosed Monkey (*Rhinopithecus roxellana*). *American Journal of Primatology*. 77:98-108.

Farnsworth JS, Baldwin L, **Bezanson M**. 2014. An invitation for engagement: Assigning and assessing field notes to promote deeper levels of observation. *Journal of Natural History Education and Experience*. 8:12-20.

Panich, Lee M., and Tsim D. Schneider, editors (2014). *Indigenous Landscapes and Spanish Missions: New Perspectives from Archaeology and Ethnohistory*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Panich, Lee M. (2014). Native American Consumption of Shell and Glass Beads at Mission Santa Clara de Asís. *American Antiquity* 79(4):730-748.

Panich, Lee M., Helga Afaghani, and Nicole Mathwich (2014). Assessing the Diversity of Mission Populations through the Comparison of Native American Residences at Mission Santa Clara de Asís. *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 18(3):467-488.

Grave, P., **L. Kealhofer**, B. Marsh, U. Dietrich Schoop, J. Seeher, J. W. Bennett, A. Stopic
2014 Ceramics, Trade, Provenience and Geology: Cyprus in the Late Bronze Age. *Antiquity* 88(342):1180-1200.

Aslan, C., **L. Kealhofer** and P. Grave
2014 The Early Iron Age at Troy reconsidered. *Oxford Journal of Archaeology*, 33(3) 275:312.

Liu, L., **L. Kealhofer**, X Chen, P. Ji
2014 A Broad-Spectrum Subsistence Economy in Neolithic Inner Mongolia, China: Evidence from Grinding Stones. *The Holocene*. 24(6): 726-742.

Marsh, B. and **L. Kealhofer**
2014 Scales of impact: settlement history and landscape change in the Gordion region, central Anatolia. *The Holocene*. 24(6): 689-701.

The Anthropology Banquet

The eighth annual Anthropology Banquet took place on May 14, 2014. We had an excellent turnout of Anthropology majors and minors who shared a wonderful evening with the faculty and staff at the Adobe Lodge. In addition to a delicious dinner the attendees honored the recipients of the 2014 Anthropology Awards and inductees into the Lambda Alpha society (see page 2).

The Anthropology Award was presented to Kristine Kurtz and Shelby Hoek. The Father Eugene Buechel, S.J. award was given to Grace Lehman, and the Outstanding Scholastic Achievement was presented to Lynsey Cumberford-Palmer. Congratulations to all!!!

Congratulations to the Class of 2014!



Cathleen Bottini, Dylan Coyne, Lynsey Cumberford-Palmer, Katherine Edgecumbe, Shelby Hock, Kristine Kurtz, Danielle Kaigler, Grace Lehman, Jena McDougall, Anna McPhee, Fatima Moreno, Elizabeth Pettit, Nicole Powell, Jeffrey Ramos, Kimberly Rosadini, Ariel Ross, and Laura Ruggles.

Faculty and Staff Notes

Dr. Bezanson According to Michelle, the 2013-2014 academic year was a blast! She finished her first full year as department chair and feels pretty lucky to be surrounded by such great faculty, staff, and students. She published on golden snub-nosed monkey locomotion and on the use of field notes in academic education. In addition, her artwork appeared on two journal covers and she just recently finished illustrating a book (Storytelling Apes, Spring 2015) and a book cover for Jon Marks (How to Think about Human Evolution, Fall 2015). One of Michelle's current side projects involves engaging the community in Natural History projects (scugonewild.com). Michelle looks forward to a great year connecting with faculty, students, and alumni on topics anthropological and beyond!

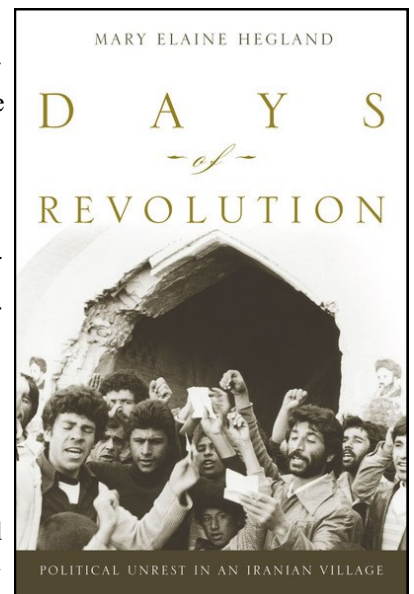
Father Calero Fr. Calero received a one-year research and teaching fellowship from LMU in Los Angeles for the 2014-2015 academic year. During this time, he taught courses in anthropology at this sister Jesuit school and assisted the university's office of Mission and Identity. Additionally, he worked among immigrant populations from Latin America in the area of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Hollywood. His research interest continues to be in the area of immigration, culture and religion in Latin America.

Dr. David DeGusta taught the introductory archaeology and biological anthropology courses this year, along with an upper-division paleoanthropology course. In addition, he is working on two research projects: developing software to assist in inferring the clinical significance of genetic variants (which also has forensic applications), and helping to analyze skeletal material recovered from fieldwork in France with the aim of shedding light on human evolution.

Dr. Gregory Gullette was on leave during the fall quarter of 2014, where he was fortunate enough to spend his time in Thailand continuing his fellowship roles at Mahidol University and Chulalongkorn University. In all, 2014 was a busy year. He served as a guest editor for a special issue of the International Journal of Tourism Anthropology (scheduled for publication in 2015). He also published "Rural-Urban Hierarchies, Status Boundaries, and Labour Mobilities in Thailand" in the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. Currently he has several manuscripts in preparation and under review. He has also prepared a book proposal titled *Political Ecologies of Migration: Development, Environments, and Human Mobility*, where he plans to comparatively analyze migration patterning in Mexico and Thailand. Drawing from frameworks such as 'engaged political ecology' or 'ethics and practice', this book takes a sensitivity to differences in power, privilege, and position and explores how and under what circumstances mobilities are pursued by families and individuals located in changing socio-political, economic, and ecological landscapes. Of course, the most notable event was that his substantially better half finally received her green card and made the

move to the US. Travel time to visit each other has been **substantially** reduced.

Mary Elaine Hegland's book, *Days of Revolution: Political Unrest in an Iranian Village* was published last year, and Mary gave talks about the book at Stanford, SJSU, and New York University as well as an Iranian women's group in the Bay Area. The book has since been reviewed in American Anthropologist and six other publications. Dr. Hegland underwent a hip replacement operation in early March. The hip promptly became dislocated, necessitating another operation and then a long recovery process. At the end of July Dr. Hegland gave a paper for the panel on "The Thread-bare Margins of Revolutions: Painful Participation and Failed Mutualities," for the European Association of Social Anthropologists in Tallinn, Estonia. For the World Congress for Middle Eastern Studies in Ankara, Turkey in August, she organized five panels about Shia Muslim rituals during Moharram, the month of mourning for the central Shia figure, Imam Hossein, who was martyred in 680 AD in present-day Iraq. Participants gave papers on Moharram rituals of mourning in the eastern Caucasus region, Iran, Iraq, Istanbul, and Pakistan.



After the Ankara conference, Dr. Hegland was able to spend time with Iranian friends from her Iran research site who now live in Turkey and then—surprise!! She was able to get a visa to go to Iran for 97 days, including the Moharram mourning season in November. She observed mourning ceremonies in Bushehr, on the Persian Gulf, and in Shiraz and her research site, "Aliabad." The Bushehr rituals are unique in that women (completely veiled) play the roles of women in the passion plays about the martyrdom, instead of men taking on female roles. As well as observing rituals, Dr. Hegland investigated changing levels and meanings of participation in mourning rituals and also evolving attitudes about religion. All of this research will be incorporated in her next book about the politics and meanings of Moharram mourning rituals.

Faculty and Staff Notes

Dr. Mythri Jegathesan has had a wonderful welcome since joining the Department this past fall. Before the fall, she had a busy year teaching at The College of William and Mary and Georgetown's School of Foreign Service and continuing her field research on rights-based development programs involving Sri Lankan NGOs and international solidarity networks. She has conducted research in Sri Lanka since 2005 and focuses specifically on local NGO development practices, gender and labor dynamics on tea plantations, and forms of world-making and belonging for Tamil communities in Sri Lanka during and after its 26-year civil war. In February 2014, she received a grant from the American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies (AISLS) to conduct follow up and new research on rights-based development for women in Sri Lanka. She returned to Sri Lanka to research the collective activities of the country's first women's trade union and to continue her work with select NGOs implementing rights-based programming in Sri Lanka's plantation sector. Her work has been published in *Himal Southasian* and *L'Harmattan* and has been featured in Inter Press Service News Agency, International Crisis Group (ICG) and GlobalPost. Since arriving at SCU, she has presented her work at the Annual Conference on South Asia at University of Madison-Wisconsin and at the Sri Lanka Roundtable Conference at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. She had a wonderful time teaching in Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology and Women, Gender and Sexuality and immensely enjoyed the Senior Project, focusing on the power in and of anthropology. She is currently working on publishing her findings on rights-based development and plantation life and on finalizing her book manuscript, *The unbecoming coolie: dispossession and decolonial desires on Sri Lanka's tea plantations*. She looks forward to speaking about her research on campus on April 29th in the Department's lecture series and to returning to Sri Lanka for two months in the upcoming summer to continue her research on women's labor movements and rights-based development.

For **Dr. Matt Jobin** the biggest and most important event was the April publication of his anthropologically-informed, middle grade fantasy novel *THE NETHERGRIM*, the first of a trilogy published by Penguin Random House. The development and publication of this, his first fiction series, has been the culmination of the lifelong dream, and it has been especially enjoyable to work elements of various disciplines of anthropology into the storyline. As Edmund, Katherine and Tom explore the ruins of a long-lost civilization, looking for clues that will lead them to the lair of a legendary monster in time to rescue Edmund's brother from certain death, they pass through many of the states of mind Matt once did when considering the evidence of human behavior, civilization and culture. Dr. Jobin is looking forward to releasing the paperback version of the book this February, and has nearly finished the sequel. Exciting times!



Dr. Lisa Kealhofer was on leave in the Spring quarter of 2014, pursuing a variety of writing projects related to her previous archaeological research in Turkey. Over the summer, she began a new collaborative project using ceramic production and distribution to understand the development of the Khmer Empire (funded by the Australian Research Council). She also worked on research related to colonization and ancient land use in New Guinea and developing microbotanical methods for studying the development of millet agriculture. Being on leave made it possible to attend conferences in Europe and reconnect with friends and colleagues from around the world.

In 2014 **Sangeeta Luthra** published a chapter in an edited volume of personal narratives called *Her Name is Kaur: Sikh American women write about love, courage, and faith*. She also served on the editorial board of the Sikh Love Stories Project for this publication. In November, she presented a paper, "Out of the Ashes: Sikh American civil society and the promise of gender equity," at the Sikh Feminist Research Institute conference at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. The paper outlines the first part of a larger research project on Sikh American institution building in the post 9/11 period. Her research explores institution building, ethics, identity and social change in the Sikh American community.

STAFF

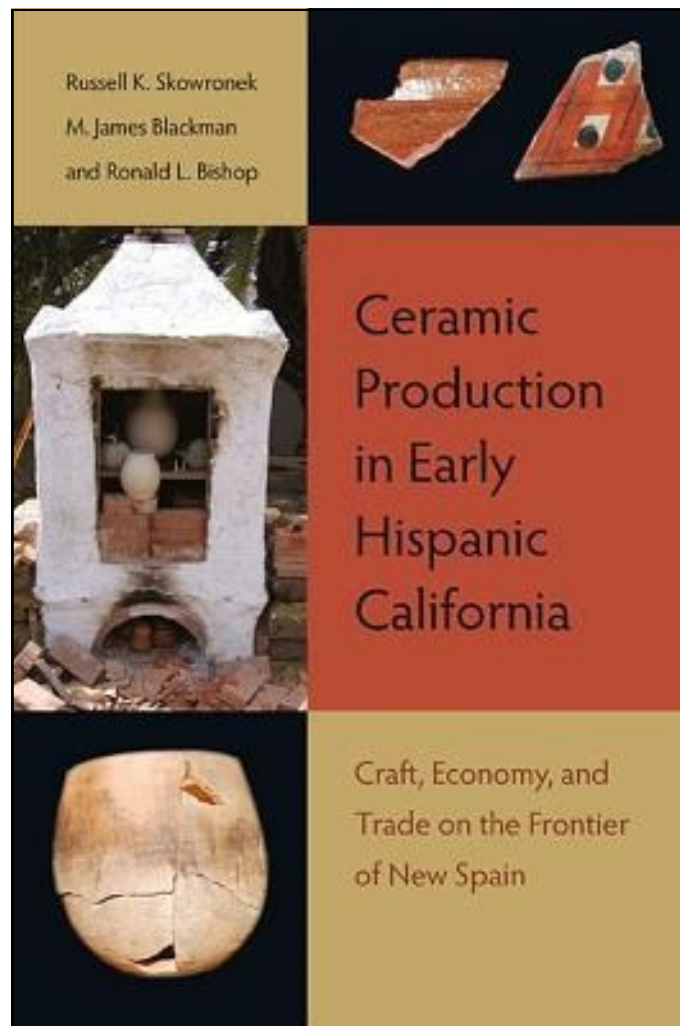
Ms. Susan Babbel is the new Sr. Administrative Assistant who replaced Sandra Chiamonte. Susan has worked at SCU since 1999 in both Counseling Psychology and the Career Center. In addition to pursuing a Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Education at SCU, Susan is an exhibiting artist and mother of two daughters (Jillian SCU '08 and Colleen SFSU '12). This past summer she relived her 3rd grade adventures and traveled to Yellowstone with her entire family.



Ms. Sandra Chiamonte After more than 20 years of service to the Sociology and Anthropology departments at SCU, "Sandee" retired in September 2014. She has moved to Roseville, California, where she is closer to her children and grandchildren. Despite a major move (sold her house in the Bay Area and got a new one in Roseville), she says her new home is coming together well. She is also looking forward to getting involved in the community around her. Recently, she reported: "She is very happy and looking forward to traveling in the near future. She takes long walks with her dog, Lady. There are so many beautiful parks close to her new home. Life is good!"

Faculty and Staff Notes

Dr. Russell Skowronek who taught in the Anthropology Program at SCU from 1991-2009 reports the publication of a book which should be of interest to his students* who participated in the Smithsonian-Santa Clara California Pottery Project between 1998 and 2009. Published in 2014 by the University Press of Florida it is titled, *Ceramic Production in Early Hispanic California: Craft, Economy and Trade on the Frontier of New Spain*. Ask your local libraries to purchase a copy.



*Smithsonian Interns- Sarah (Ginn) Peelo, Linh Pham, Mateo Carrillo, Kathleen Breiling, Erin Orazem, Alvaro Galvis, LumOr Chet, Sarah Friend, Leslie Rice, Kareem Raad, Aroba Hafeez, and Kelly Greenwalt; 2005-Jason O. Allen, Richard Carlson, Jelena Radovic Fanta, Abigail T. Fox, Nicole Fox, Yessica Islas, Courtney Thiesen, Kenny Jocewicz, Vanessa Koons, Dinelle Luchesi, Nicole Marshall, Kelly Richards, Shuryn Riggins, Emily Johnson, Carmen Rosas, Michael J. Skaug, James Templeton, Marisa Tsukiji, Erin White, and Kelly Greenwalt; 2008-Jessica Barnett, Sabrina Brett, Tyler Burks, Marisela Cardona, Anastasia Gandarilla, Aaron Green, Colin Guidi, Robert Kozak, Noah Levine, Jeanette Moritz, Anne Murphy-Hagen, Anrew Nicchitta, Daniel Pursley, Robert Raymond, Natalia Rodriguez, Hailey Trefethen,

Morris Kim `15 *continued*



Photograph taken in Costa Rica by **Morris Kim**.

Rebecca and I went out to a major plaza in the city and spent a few hours asking strangers if they'd like to answer a questions for us about the Costa Rican diet. I'll always remember the last interview we conducted that day. Rebecca and I approached a middle-aged man sitting on a bench alone and asked if he'd like to answer a few questions about diet. We started off asking about the Costa Rican diet but ultimately ended up hearing much more than we expected. When we told him we were from a university in California, he told us he grew up in California as a kid. He went on a tangent about his past, about how his parents worked so hard to bring him to the U.S. and how he slacked in school, getting in with the wrong crowd and getting involved

with drugs. Facing legal issues in the U.S., he returned to Costa Rica, leaving his entire family behind. Though I couldn't understand every word of what he was saying, I was able to make out the important bits. While I listened, I kept thinking about how odd it was that a stranger was sharing such personal stories with us.

At the end of our conversation, he told us he was having a rough day until we came along and took the time to listen to his story. I had no trouble understanding him when he said, "*gracias por escucharme*" at the conclusion of our "interview." As I walked away from this experience, I realized how special my position was as an interviewer. Of course, in this

instance, Rebecca and I got more than we were expecting and I realize that not every interview will be as memorable. But with each interview, I get the opportunity to hear someone's story. Perhaps this is what makes anthropology special.

The three-week trip to Costa Rica had many highlights, such as visiting Tortuguero National Park, seeing wild sloths and monkeys for the first time, and forming close friendships with the people in the field course. But when I think back to my first fieldwork experience, I'll remember the conversation with the man at the plaza and how it helped me understand and appreciate my position as an interviewer.

Allison McNamara `15 *continued*



Allison McNamara observing Capuchins in Costa Rica.

refers to capuchin tails as 'semi'-prehensile and claims that their tails are unable to bear the entire mass of the body. Despite morphological differences between capuchin tails and those of other species with prehensile tails, our data prove that the tails of capuchins are able to completely bear the animals' body mass. Therefore white-faced capuchins have prehensile tails. Through my

experiences of the past three summers in the field, I have been able to grow as a researcher and as an individual. My research experience has given me the opportunity to present my data internationally at the American Association of Physical Anthropology Conference in 2014 and locally at different events around campus. I am very grateful to Dr. Michelle Bezanson for inviting me

back to the field course with her, as well as for her help developing and executing this project. We are currently working on a paper that will be submitted for publication this year. I plan to continue field work on non-human primates and attend a graduate program for primatology.



Photograph taken outside a small town outside of Burken, Morocco taken by **Zoe Soter**.

Zoe Soter '15 continued

the developed identities based on both cultures. This study explores identity development and cultural expression amongst Moroccan migrants and their children in both northern Morocco and Netherlands. With the use of surveys and interviews conducted in both Holland and Morocco, my work examines the similar experiences Moroccans have in forming their identity in Dutch society. I found that through keeping connections

to the language, traditions, and current events in Morocco while living in Holland, many migrants and their children have developed transnational identities, a sense of self that is shaped by activities and experiences that defy the borders of the nation-state.

In order to conduct this very personal research I spent a week living in the small town of Berkane in northern Morocco, a town especially

known for the high number of return migrants from Holland. I worked closely with the coordinating social-judicial worker at the Dutch Re-Migration Institute (*Stichting Steunpunt Remigranten*). I developed close relationships with the institute and hope to return there some day in the near future to visit and perhaps expand my research to include gendered or generationally-based analysis.

Matt Stockamp '15 continued



Photograph taken in India by **Matt Stockamp**.



Photograph taken in India by **Matt Stockamp**.

conditions in their contracted factories and enabled to implement changes to benefit the workers at the base of their supply chain.

As GWS recently began operating in India, their social impact in many of the factories in which they have distributed surveys is largely unknown. A fellow SCU student and I went to five clothing factories, in Delhi, Punjab, and Bangalore, observing the production floor and conducting semi-structured interviews with workers in an effort to discover how they interact with mobile technology and GWS's survey, in addition to measuring the impact these surveys have had on their lives. As an anthropology major, it was fascinating to confront some of the issues researchers face when conducting research in a politically heated environment. I found it very difficult to access factories, as managers were often suspicious about the reasons I was there, and usually insist-

ed on being present during interviews. Since these interviews largely focused on workers' experiences with the survey and the ways in which they have seen the factory impacted as a result of it, management was okay with my research and I believe the data collected was honest and accurate.

From these observations and interviews, I found that GWS is making a positive impact in the factories where they distribute surveys. Workers feel cared for when management asks for feedback, and as mobile technology continues to develop workers will have more access to the outside world and communication with employers. In this sense, positive impact was seen. On the other hand, measuring GWS's social impact was difficult since they act as a consultant to clothing brands that ultimately have the power to implement changes in their factories. Since many of these surveys were launched recently, more

social impact analysis in the future will be beneficial, as supply chain managers will have had more time to understand the survey findings and implement changes in their factories.

I learned a lot about myself and the nature of social research through this experience. In the field you deal with a lot of ambiguity, and your project seems to constantly be changing. At the heart of social research is the need to be adaptable and always spend time with your subjects. This experience motivated me to look for job opportunities with social enterprises in Latin America, and I am currently in the process of applying for and interviewing with companies operating to empower women out of poverty. I could not be more thankful to Santa Clara University for providing me this opportunity and to our Anthropology department for giving me the tools necessary to navigate this research project.

Alumni Notes



The Anthropology Department would love to hear from SCU Anthropology alumni. What journeys in your life after graduation have led you to where you are today?

<http://www.scu.edu/cas/anthropology/alumni.cfm>



www.scu.edu/cas/anthropology



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