

National Association of Student Anthropologists

TARA HEFFERAN, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

An Undergraduate Abroad

By Edward W Tennant (Arkansas)

Increasingly, undergraduate students are carrying out research projects to produce articles and theses for their baccalaureate degrees. I am one such student. From my first day in the honor's program at the University of Arkansas, I was intrigued by the chance to conduct independent research (overseen by a faculty mentor). However, every aspect of the thesis process—from topic selection to research—was complicated by my decision to undertake research in another country. I would like to share here what I learned along the way.

The key to creating a successful research project is advanced and sustained planning. I say this somewhat hypocritically. Due to a miscommunication, my successful scholarship application was completed in two days. Fortunately, I had spent the previous year discussing my plans for undergraduate research and study abroad with faculty and staff across campus. When it came time to expedite my application, my reference writers were well-prepared to speak to my ability and desire for traveling abroad. The first step for me wasn't to decide on a country or even a topic, but just to ask general questions about researching abroad of anyone who might eventually help.

Initiating an overseas research project begins in much the same way as any project in America, with a statement of purpose. A clear and honest statement is vital to any research project, especially when looking for funding. A good statement must include the ways a project will contribute to the academic discipline, and it must showcase how the student will gain and utilize knowledge from the project. Grant makers are extremely interested in knowing their investment will support goal-oriented students who are likely to contribute knowledge either academically or publicly (increasingly interrelated); one way to demonstrate this is for the proposal to outline how your project will affect your future career. Also, because many on grant committees have



Ed Tennant at Lake Te Anau, New Zealand, where he conducted an undergraduate archaeology research project.

conducted research themselves, they have insight into what constitutes a reasonable project. Your proposal must have a realistic timetable, speak directly to the population of the host country, and demonstrate sufficient language preparation if you will be working in a language other than your native tongue.

On arrival, maintaining a flexible attitude is paramount. That a proposal looks good on paper does not guarantee its success. Projects, goals and expected contributions often evolve through time. An open mind allows the exploration of additional options if/when unexpected complications arise. Do not be afraid to ask your home university mentor or researchers abroad for their opinions or for new ideas. Often your research can be constructed or modified to support projects they already have underway.

My research focused on the Industrial Archaeology of the Chinese Diaspora in New Zealand. Originally, I planned to map and analyze migrations of miners around the south island of New Zealand using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Unfortunately, the proliferation of archaeological sites that were ethnically unidentifiable meant the project was not feasible. So, after consulting my US mentor and researchers in New Zealand, a comparative study of four Chinese and European sites was adopted, allowing me to contribute to New Zealand archaeology (in the form of original maps) and for me personally to develop a deeper understanding of archaeological methods. Also, I presented a poster at the Society for Historical Archaeology annual conference (January 2004).

In conclusion, as more US institutions understand the importance of studying abroad, undergraduate students have wonderful opportunities to conduct original research abroad. The only definite requirement: have a sense of adventure.

There are many excellent web resources for assisting in the search for an overseas program, including: American Institute for Foreign Study (www.aifs.org/college), Council on International Educational Exchange (www.ciee.org/index.cfm), International Studies Abroad (www.studiesabroad.com), Semester at Sea (www.semesteratsea.com), University Studies Abroad Consortium (<http://usac.unr.edu>) and my study abroad choice, Butler University—Institute for Study Abroad (www.ifsa-butler.org).

To talk with Ed about his experiences in New Zealand, email him at etennan@uark.edu.

Interested in contributing to NASA's Section News? Contact Tara Hefferan: heffera2@msu.edu.

Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness

CONSTANTINE HRISKOS, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Anthropology of Consciousness

The Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness (SAC), an interdisciplinary organization

concerned with cross-cultural, experimental, experiential and theoretical approaches to the study of consciousness, is looking for submissions and reviewers for the section's official journal, *Anthropology of Consciousness*.

Submissions are typically 20-25 pages, follow the AAA Style Guide, and are peer-reviewed. Other submissions are possible, such as research reports and interviews with leaders in the field of consciousness studies.

Reviewers interested in serving on the Editorial Advisory Board should have expertise in SAC's areas of interest. The primary areas of interest include: States of consciousness, religion, possession, trance, dissociative states; ethnographic studies of shamanistic, mediumistic, mystical and related traditions; indigenous healing practices; linguistic, philosophical, social and symbolic studies of consciousness; and cultural psychology.

Anthropology of Consciousness provides an excellent opportunity to explore the rich area of anthropological approaches to consciousness studies. The current issue will feature the following articles: "Dreaming the Dark Side of The Body" by Mitra Emad, "Pathologizing Possession" by Ashwin Budden, and "Maripa: To Know Everything" by Robin Rodd.

Those interested in submitting to the journal should send materials to Grant Jewell Rich, 35 Wood St, Apt 8B, Lewiston, ME 04240; OptimalEx@aol.com.

Send contributions to this column to Constantine Hriskos at c_hriskos@yahoo.com.

Society for the Anthropology of Europe

KATHERINE C DONAHUE AND LYNN MANERS, CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

The 2003 William Douglas Distinguished Lecture was given by Andras Zempléni in Chicago on November 22, 2003. Zempléni, Research Director CNRS (Laboratoire d'Ethnologie de l'Université de Paris X—Nanterre and Laszlo Teleki Institute, Budapest, Hungary), spoke about rites of political reburial in post-Communist Europe. A summary of his lecture is provided in part below; see next month's column for more.

The Peace of the Dead and the Living

By Andras Zempléni

On June 16, 1989, Imre Nagy, prime minister during the anti-Stalinist Uprising of 1956, along with some 300 freedom fighters symbolized by an empty coffin, were reburied in Budapest. This moving ceremony delegitimized, without any act of violence, J Kadar's Communist regime, responsible for all these deaths, and led to its overthrow. This reburial was but the most important in a series of similar rites. Since 1989, Hungary has become a country of Antigones: in Eastern Europe, it undoubtedly counts the biggest number of "political reburials." No