

Evolutionary Anthropology Society

Mary K Shenk, Contributing Editor

### **Introducing the New EAS Officeholders**

Patricia Draper, President

Pat is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. She is interested in the biological bases of behavior and the application of evolutionary ecology to the study of human reproductive behavior, especially in populations which have experienced relatively few Western influences on fertility. As President-Elect Pat chaired EAS's program committee, putting together some great sponsored sessions as well as working with members to get additional sessions and talks accepted in the program. She looks forward to her new role as President, and plans to work to both retain and increase membership, particularly among students and new PhDs. "At our separate institutions we often lack a group of colleagues with similar interests. I think the most important role of EAS is to stand as an interest group that encourages discussion and research around evolutionarily-related topics."

John Patton, President-Elect

John is Associate Professor of Anthropology at California State University, Fullerton. John's research interests include human behavioral ecology, evolutionary psychology, and evolutionary game theory, especially as they relate to the evolution of cooperation and conflict in horticultural forager and hunter gatherer societies. His recent work has focused on alliances, reciprocity, coalitional structures and warfare in the Ecuadorian Amazon. John has been actively involved in EAS since its inception in 2003. He was party to the informal talks during which the idea to found an evolutionary anthropology section was developed, and later helped recruit the original list of anthropologists interested in joining. John was finishing a term on the EAS Board of Directors when he was elected earlier this year, and he looks forward to continuing his service to the organization he helped found.

Michael Alvard, Board Member

Mike is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Texas A&M University. He works at the margins of cultural and biological anthropology and his interests include evolutionary ethnography, behavioral and evolutionary ecology, hunting, and cooperation. He has worked Amazonian Peru and in Sulawesi, Indonesia; his recent work in Lamalera, Indonesia looks at how indigenous whalers solve the problems of cooperation inherent in big game hunting. Mike is a founding member of EAS who was inspired to run for office to help support the society's mission of advancing the application of evolutionary theory in all branches of anthropology. He adds that "I feel it is a mistake to abandon the AAA to anti-science, anti-evolution perspectives. AAA is the public face of anthropology, and in order to have an effect on its direction we need to have a seat at the table."

Timothy Earle, Board Member

Tim is Professor of Anthropology at Northwestern University. An archaeologist who studies the evolution of complex societies from a comparative perspective, Tim's work

focuses on the emergence of the political economy and social stratification, especially with regard to chiefdoms. Tim was a charter member of EAS, encouraged by his colleague outgoing EAS Past President Bill Irons. He believes that “evolution is an integrating theme for anthropology, and to the degree that we reach out for broad membership we can have an integrating benefit to the EAS and the AAA.” A primary goal for his term on the EAS Board is to bring more archaeologists into the section.

David Nolin, Student Representative

David is a Doctoral Candidate in Anthropology at the University of Washington as well as a Predoctoral Fellow at the Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology. His current research uses social network analysis to test evolutionary hypotheses about the nature of food sharing in the fishing and whaling village of Lamalera, Indonesia. He also has an interest in using historical demographic data to test parental investment, offspring dispersal and life history hypotheses. About his new position, David comments that “Brian Wood has done an amazing job in this position and will be leaving some very big shoes to fill. I hope to continue his energetic efforts to increase student membership and to encourage student participation in the annual meetings.” Part of his role is to present students’ perspectives to the EAS Board, and he encourages student members to contact him with their ideas and concerns.

Donna Leonetti, Secretary/Treasurer

Donna is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Washington. She describes herself as “a human behavioral ecologist interested in kinship ecologies, especially the roles of grandmothers, husbands, and others in various kinship settings” who believes that “the evolutionary approach is fundamental to comprehending ourselves and our problems of adaptation, both biological and social.” Donna joined EAS as a charter member because of her conviction that “evolutionary anthropology deserves broader representation and understanding” and took the position as EAS Secretary/Treasurer because she sees it as a small contribution she can make toward increasing the EAS presence at the AAA.

John Ziker, Contributing Editor

John is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Boise State University. His research interests include human foraging and food sharing, common-pool resources and property, religion, and health in the circumpolar north. His current work focuses on mobile architecture, cooperation, and demographics among indigenous minorities in Siberia. As newsletter editor he hopes to “highlight society news, initiatives, and publications of members” and “emphasize themes that are relevant across the anthropological community.” By doing so, he hopes to “educate understandings about current evolutionarily-minded anthropological research and to pursue the EAS goal of being a unifying force in the AAA.”

*Contributions to this column are welcomed and may be sent to the incoming Contributing Editor John Ziker at [jziker@boisestate.edu](mailto:jziker@boisestate.edu). Queries regarding past columns may be sent to [shenkm@missouri.edu](mailto:shenkm@missouri.edu). As always, EAS columns are archived at [www.evolutionaryanthropologysociety.org](http://www.evolutionaryanthropologysociety.org).*