

The Explorers Club Northern California Chapter

September 2018

Also available at our web site: <http://www.explorersnorca.org>

Time and Place

September 21, 2018, 6:30pm

The Dolan Law Firm
1438 Market Street, SF 94102

THE HUMAN BIOME

THE ANCIENT JOURNEY OF HOMO SAPIENS AS RETOLD BY MITES

Michelle Trautwein, PhD



Sharing a home with insects may seem like a pretty close relationship, but humans and arthropods actually get much, much closer. In fact, we ourselves are home to several species of face mites—microscopic animals that live, feed, and reproduce in the hair follicles found in and around our eyebrows, eyelashes, noses, and more.

The benefits (if any) of the relationship for humans aren't yet well understood, but face mites seem to go about their business largely without causing harm to their hosts. There is one remarkable service, though, that face mites can deliver, and it's enough to make a fly specialist devote much of her current work to them. "As [our ancestors] traveled out of Africa and the populations separated," Trautwein told SF Gate, "our face mites evolved." These tiny arthropods, Trautwein's found, can actually help tell the story of how our own species evolved and migrated.

Trautwein and her team have already discovered not only that all humans host face mites, but that an American's face mites, for example, are different from those found on a person born in China. By sampling not just people's homes but also their faces as she travels the world on her Seven Continents study, Trautwein hopes to collect findings that illustrate "the ancient journey of Homo sapiens ... as retold by mites!"



Like many of the most fascinating scientific discoveries, it's a story that runs in two directions. The data Trautwein has begun to collect inform not just our understanding of how human beings evolved and migrated, but of how human behavior impacted the evolution of our smallest, most insight-rich "roommates."

Michelle Trautwein, Ph.D works at the California Academy of Sciences as an Assistant Curator and Schlinger Chair of Dipterology (The preceding information about Michelle Trautwein and her program is provided by the Cal Academy)



A LOGO FOR THE CHAPTER

The newly developed Logo of the Northern California Chapter of the Explorers Club incorporates four iconic images symbolic of our chapter territory. Snow-capped mountains represent the familiar peaks of California that include the sleeping volcano Mount Shasta and Mount Whitney, the highest point in the contiguous United States.

In the foreground are the coastal redwoods, the earth's tallest trees and among the oldest living things on our planet. The grizzly bear (aka the North American brown bear) is a symbol of California and appears on the State Flag and the State Seal. Now extinct in California and threatened elsewhere, the grizzly is paired with the California Condor which soars above, representing the possibility of renewal. The Condor, a legendary bird with significance to California's indigenous peoples, is slowly recovering from near extermination and again inhabits areas of Northern California.

Together these symbols epitomize our region and communicate the extremes, the costs, and the opportunities characteristic of exploration. This design was submitted and perfected by Tom Paterson. Thank you Tom.

Annual Chapter field expedition and picnic, July 21, 2018
Photos by Von Hurson MN'10



Jim Hurson MN'10, Rick Saber MN'01



Tiffany Townsend, Lee "Bwana" Langan FN'99,
Winner of the Explorers Hat Contest



Karine Langan, Tiffany Townsend, Jim Prigoff



Lesley Ewing FN'93, Diedra Crow, Sandra Cook MN'16, Sue Estey FN.'92



Peter Hemming



Karine Langan, Kathy Jepsen

IN MEMORIUM

PALMER DYAL PhD FN'80 (1935-2018)

Long an attendee at Northern California meetings for many years, Palmer died from a fall on his routine morning run in Cupertino on August 7; he was 85. Palmer was an innovative space scientist noted for exploring the earth's magnetosphere. He built magnetometers for the Apollo, Pioneer and Voyager NASA Missions which observed this force. His teams brought understanding of magnetics from within and well beyond our own solar system. His now unclassified work was critical to the understanding of when nuclear blasts were exploded anywhere on earth; magnetic monitoring gave clear indication. Dr. Dyal was awarded NASA's Exceptional Scientific Achievement Award in 1972.



Palmer's family reports he believed in teaching by example, so all of his grandchildren knew him as a man who exercised daily (the Canadian 5BX) and, though he gave up his once a decade marathon habit with his track star son after he turned seventy, he ran at least four miles every day but Sunday. He was a strict vegan long, and held to the teachings of his mother Stella to create every day a blessing and to keep a simple and humble life.

Palmer Dyal is survived by Gladys, his wife of 62 years, a son, a daughter and grandchildren.

(Abstracted from an obituary in The San Jose Mercury.) LL



DONALD C. BESSEY ME'82

Ann Bessey has informed us that her husband Don Bessey, long-time chapter member, passed away on July 16, 2018. We extend our condolences to Ann and her family.

THE SUMMER MEETING AND MORE

A gathering of intrepid explorers assembled at the home of Rick and Aldeana Saber to share a summer afternoon with their colleagues. The usual abundance of culinary treats and beverages, plus plenty of talk and laughter, were among the signs that the 45 explorers and friends were having a good time. The Saber deck was indeed comfortable.

Of especial note was the Explorers Hat Contest, masterminded (mistressminded?) by Vice Chair **Lesley Ewing**. A total of nine different hats on their owners were presented and voted upon by the critical explorers; the pith helmet worn by Lee Langan was voted the winner.

In attendance was long time Chapter member **Jim Prigoff MN'67**, (that's 51 years an explorer!). Jim has been one of our members for 37 years, and still regularly attends our meetings from Sacramento. Earlier this summer Jim had favored some of the Chapter members with a showing of some of his renowned international collection of Urban Art, otherwise known as street graffiti. With his support, several such street artists have received international recognition and acclaim. His work is a wonderful example of modern urban exploration.

Jim has managed to assemble a remarkable array of "spray can" artistry gathered from around the world. Many of Jim's photos have been exhibited as posters in shows and galleries around the country. Using our summer picnic as an opportunity to introduce the idea, I received his permission to show a few of his remarkable collection of Urban Art photos in the Chapter Newsletter. Since a bear is part of our new chapter Logo and a part of our California heritage, I have chosen the amazing street scene photo of a building with Urban Art shown below as an appropriate example of Jim's exploration work. AJ

Open Walls event, at 13th and R streets, Sacramento, by Herakut, a German spray can artist



Jim Prigoff

**PAID DUES
HONOR ROLL**

MEMBERS

Alexander, James
Alexander, Linda
Allan, James
Amaral, Julia
Beer, Michael
Berg, Barbara
Bekins, Joan
Blake, Rick
Bolt, Kendra
Boothe, Joan
Chase, H. Keith
Cheeseman, Ted
Cook, Sandra
Cooper, Alan
Day, Peggy
Dehmel, Rick
Diggles, Mike
Dolan, Daniel
Dolan, Tom
Durbin, Thom
Dutcher, Susan
Dvorak, Don
Dvorak, Elaine
Dyal, Palmer
Estey, Sue
Ewing, Lesley
Ford, Art
Fox, Susan
Freitas, Anna
Freitas, Paul
Graber, David
Griffith, Jerry
Hemming, Peter
Heydorn, William
Heyneman, Donald
Hicks, Harry
Higgins, Robert
Hurson, Jim
Hurson, Von
Hutchison, Alan
Isherwood, William
Jake, Krist
Jepsen, Anders
Klein, Ronald
Klotz, Suzanne
Kvnevolden, Keith
Langan, Lee
Lapham, Ellen
LeBonte, Alison
Lidicker, William Jr.
Lingl, Herb
Macbeth, Pierre de St. J.
Mason, William
McMillan, Peter H.
Meniketti, Marco
Miller, Gregory
Nichols, Alan
Prigoff, James
Rygh, Rebecca L.
Saber, Rick
Schmieder, Robert
Skade, William
Smith, Steve
Straka, Bill
Tarter, Jill
Von der Porten, Ed
Wagner, Hugo
Weil, James
Whiteside, Dede
Wren, Sherry

SIRDARS

Barnes, James
Boothe, Barry
Clever, Karoli
Cohn, Lawrence
Cooper, William Scott Jr.
Crowder, Wendy
Durrighello, Joy
Elkus, Nancy
Engstrom, Dafne
Gorenberg, Pete
Heyneman, Louise
Hirzel, David
Hutchison, Ann
Isaac, Nancy
Jepsen, Kathy
Judd, Kathy
Kidd, Joe
Langan, Karine
Loew, Tim
Longo-Cohn, Mary
McLoughlin, Liz
Nikas, A. James III
O'Keefe, Bonny
Patterson, Tom
Phelps, Laura
Saber, Aldeana
Stewart, Zach
Straka, Barbara
Townsend, Tiffany
Van Austen, Bob
Van Austen, Judy
Weiman, Mark

FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings and welcome to our 2018/2019 meeting season. I hope that you have enjoyed the summer break and have pursued your exploration interests with vigor. Our planning for the new season is well underway and I am pleased to report that we will have a line-up of very interesting and dynamic speakers.

* The season starts with Dr. Michelle Trautwein, who holds the Schlinger Chair of Dipterology at the California Academy of Sciences. Dr. Trautwein studies the evolution and diversification of insects as well as the arthropod species that live on (yes on) humans. You did know that you have 'bugs' in residence, right? Her research on the human biome has been featured on Nova Wonders among other media venues.

* In October we will hear from Dr. Brendan Hermalyn who works with autonomous technologies and is currently at Waymo, helping to develop the self-driving car, a hot topic these days.

* In November, author, filmmaker, and adventurer Leon McCarron will be traveling from London to speak to us. Leon's recent book *The Land Beyond* has been a hit with both the public and our members. Some of us listened to him at Clif Company in Emeryville; he is an engaging and entertaining speaker and offers a 30% discount to explorers who purchase his book.

* January 2019 features long time Chapter member Dr. Patrick Scannon FN'96, co-founder of the biotechnology company XOMA and founder of The Bent Prop Project that searches for the remains of POWs and MIAs from past conflicts. Some of his recent finds have been featured on 60 Minutes.

* In February we will be listening to James Nestor, an author and widely published journalist. James has written the book, *DEEP: Freediving, Renegade Science, and What The Ocean Tells Us about Ourselves*. James is also an extreme free-diver.

* March will bring a special meeting featuring Stanford Professor Paul Saffo, a very well known futurist. If that's not enough, our special guest at the March meeting will be Explorers Club President Richard Wiese. A special venue may also be in store.

We are still working on April and May, but the prior meetings are going to be difficult to top. Stay tuned. I'm looking forward to seeing you all on the 21st. Fair warning - get your reservations in early! And please note the special phone number included in this newsletter. If you are late to a meeting it may be your only chance to gain entrance.

Stephen E. Smith FN'96

New Chapter Email Addresses and Chapter Phone Number!

The Chapter now has simplified email addresses by which you can contact the chapter officers. We have also established a phone number for those who arrive late to our meetings at the Dolan Law Center. Call the Chapter number to have someone meet you at the door.

chair@explorersnorca.org (Stephen E. Smith, FN'96)
vicechair@explorersnorca.org (Lesley C. Ewing, FN'93)
treasurer@explorersnorca.org (Joan N. Boothe, MN'07)
secretary@explorersnorca.org (Yvonne Hurson, MN'10)
newsletter@explorersnorca.org (Anders F. Jepsen, FN'03)
webmaster@explorersnorca.org (Michael F. Diggles, FN'92)
fieldtrips@explorersnorca.org (Richard G. Blake, FN'01)

We have established a phone number for those who arrive late to our meetings at the Dolan Law Center. The door will be locked and unattended after 7:15 p.m. If late, call the Chapter number to have someone meet you at the door.

Chapter Phone: 415.236.3459

(To leave a message for the Chapter or to gain late entrance to Dolan Law Center)

September 2018 Issue
Northern California Chapter
Established 1973



Chair: Stephen E. Smith FN'96
925-934-1051(messages only)
ecnca@oceaneearth.org
Vice Chair: Lesley Ewing FN'93
lesleycoastal@gmail.com
Secretary: Von Hurson MN'10
Trekking@sonic.net
Treasurer: Joan Boothe MN'07
hoodooskr@aol.com
415-233-1697
Webmaster: Mike Diggles FN'92
Newsletter: Anders Jepsen FN'03
ajviking@aol.com
925-322-8893

Chapter Calendar of Events
(Venues are identified as soon as known.)

2018
September 21 Michelle Trautwein
Meet your face mites: Dolan
October 26 Brendan Harmalyn
Perception for Autonomous cars Dolan
November 30 Leon McCarron
Exploration by Walking Dolan
December?? Holiday Party TBA

2019
January 25 Pat Scannon
Recent Discoveries Dolan
February 22 James Nestor
Outdoor adventure. Dolan
March 22. Paul Saffo
Dynamics of Change. TBA

Earlier Chapter Events
2017

June 24 Chapter Picnic
. Angel Island
September 22 Dr. Anders Jepsen
Drones to map landmines Grace Luth Ch
October 27 Dirk Rosen
Save Deep Sea Corals Grace Lutheran Ch
November 17 Jordan Fisher Smith
Engineering Eden Grace Lutheran Ch
December 17 Holiday Party
. Home of Joan and Barry Boothe

2018
January 26 Dr. John All
Climate Change on Mt. Everest. Dolan
February 23 Dr. Sherry Wren
Surgical Approaches in the Ebola Crisis Dolan
March 30 Kimberley Chambers
Swimming With Sharks Before Breakfast . Dolan
April 27 Alan Eustace
The Stratospheric Jump Dolan
May 25 3 Term EC Members
Term Members Research/Annual mtg Dolan
July 21 Chapter Picnic in Novato

Send address changes and
corrections by email to
ecnca@oceaneearth.org

**THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

Officers and Team

Chair: Stephen Smith
Vice Chair: Lesley Ewing
Secretary: Yvonne Hurson
Treasurer: Joan Boothe
Newsletter: Anders Jepsen
Webmaster: Mike Diggles

Directors (Past Chairs)

Joan Boothe
Lesley Ewing
Lee Langan
Anders Jepsen
Alan Nichols
Bob Schmieder
Rick Saber
Stephen Smith

Elected Directors

Jim Hurson
Sandra Cook
Paul Freitas

A Request for Information on Flag Expeditions

The process is well underway to produce a new printed Chapter Roster. We will be including a list of all members who have been awarded an Explorers Club Flag for a Flag Expedition. The National records are still in paper and compiling the list has been a challenge.

We don't want to leave anyone out. The table below shows the list of all Chapter members that we have been able to identify and the total number of flags that they have carried. Please take look and let us know if we have left you out or if the total number of identified flags is incorrect. The published list will include all the expeditions along with their titles and dates. Thanks for you help!

Morton P. Beebe FN'78 (1)	Patrick J. Scannon, FN'96 (1)
Nicole L. Crane, FN'97 (1)	Robert W. Schmieder, Ph.D., FN'86(9)
Michael F. Diggles, FN'92 (1)	Jeff Shea, MN'92 (3)
Thomas Dolan, MN'14 (2)	Stephen E. Smith, Ph.D. FN'96 (1)
Sylvia A. Earle, Ph.D., MED'81 (5)	Andrew A. Urbanczyk FN'02 (2)
Susan L. Fox, FN'14 (1)	Kirk Usher, Jr MN'98 (1)
Alan H. Nichols, FN'84 (9)	Edward P. Von der Porten, FN'80 (1)
Merle Greene Robertson, FN'90 (1)	Don Walsh, Ph.D., MED '61 (1)

**WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE INNER WORKINGS
OF THE CHAPTER?**

There are lots of tasks that come up during the course of a year: speakers, meetings, field trips, membership, newsletter, etc. A good place to get started is by volunteering to serve on a committee. Talk to any of the Chapter Officers or Directors for more information.

**CHAPTER MEETING
Friday, September 21, 2018**

Place: The Dolan Law Firm
1438 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
Time: 6:30 - reception
7:15 - dinner; 8:00 - program
Meal Options: Beef tri-tip or Grilled Salmon Fillet
Veggie option - pasta primavera
Cost: \$49 in advance, \$60 after 18 September; Students: \$35.
(2018 dues: Members \$25, Sirdars \$50)
Please mail reservations, checks to Joan Boothe
2435 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.
Or email Joan [hoodooskr@aol.com]
or call Joan at 415-233-1697

You can sign up and remit your meal costs online.
Go to the website (www.explorersnorca.org) and use the convenient payment buttons there.