

BORNEO RESEARCH COUNCIL

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Annual Report from the President For the Year 2020

November 15, 2020

Dear Fellows and Members of the Borneo Research Council,

Introduction

As many of you already know, our President, George N. Appell, died on May 2, 2020. His obituary and other memorials will appear in a forthcoming issue of the Borneo Research Bulletin.

Having been part of the group of anthropologists who founded the Borneo Research Council in 1968, and after more than 50 years of research in Sabah, George Appell leaves an impressive and lasting legacy to the field of Borneo studies, and large boots to be filled by his successor. In consultation with many of you, and particularly with the guidance of Vinson Sutlive and Clifford Sather, I was encouraged to take on the role of President of the BRC, a role that I assume with great respect for all the work done by my predecessors, with great enthusiasm, and with great hope for the opportunities that lie ahead.

For some background. I am indeed the eldest daughter of George and Laura Appell. I was an infant during their initial fieldwork in the late 1950s and early 1960s and thrived growing up in Mattungung, Sabah. In the 1980s, I again joined my parents doing fieldwork, this time on the Sekatak River in Kalimantan Timur, and conducted my own research on children's play in the resettlement village in which we lived. I received my doctoral degree in psychological anthropology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where I studied with Robert A. LeVine.

The BRC will also be supported in the coming years by Amity Appell Doolittle, who is taking on the role of Secretary. Amity's fieldwork on native customary land rights was conducted in Sabah in the 1990s. She received her doctorate from Yale and is on the faculty of the Yale School of the Environment.

Charity Appell McNabb, who is taking on the role of Treasurer for the BRC. Charity was most recently in Sabah in 2018 doing a fieldsite visit to the ongoing Sabah Oral Literature Project. She will be working with Hamzah Malajun and his team on the completion of the Rungus Cultural Dictionary.

Looking Forward

In the months since June, we have been working with Clifford Sather and Vinson Sutlive analyzing the current situation of the BRC and investigating ways we can continue the work of the Council building on the strong foundation laid by our predecessors. We hope that you will find the changes outlined below to be as exciting as we do!

Membership

Over the past few years, our membership has dwindled alarmingly. As we have lost former members, fewer new members have taken their place.

Therefore we will be taking the following steps in 2021:

- Membership Categories
 - We will maintain one membership category only, that of Member.
- Membership Benefits. The BRC has always offered rich benefits to its membership. Members will continue to receive our annual Bulletin and access to all our other publications at a 25% discount. We will also be adding a members-only listserv to enhance communication and serve as a resource for all members (see more below).
- Membership Rates
 - Our membership revenue is down, yet our costs are up, therefore we are raising our rates to support our current and additional benefits.
 - Current fellows and members can renew their membership at the current rate of either \$30 or \$35 (American dollars) if they commit to a 3-year membership.
 - New Members will join us at the following annual rates
 - \$50 for Members
 - \$25 for students currently enrolled in a college or university
 - \$50 for Institutional subscribers to the Bulletin
- All authors published in the Borneo Research Bulletin will be expected to become members of the Council at the appropriate rate. Financial relief will be available for members of indigenous communities who may want to publish their work in the BRB
- Postage for additional publications will increase to \$8 for the first volume, plus 3 for additional volumes (US media mail) and \$30/\$15 for first and additional volumes to all other countries. (Discounted postage may be possible for large orders to a single address. Please inquire.)
- Membership Drive. We are in the starting phases of a membership drive. We will be reaching out to published authors, researchers, and others interested in Borneo studies to see if they are interested in the benefits of membership. Please pass the word and encourage new members to join us!

Website

Our website is in need of a facelift and overhaul. This is in process and you will soon see a revived website at: <http://www.borneoresearchcouncil.org/>. We will also be able to process Membership and book orders via the website in the coming months.

Archives

Construction of the archive building, mentioned in the 2019 President's report, has been completed and the Firebird Foundation will be working with the UCLA/Getty Interdepartmental Program in the Conservation of Archeological and Ethnographic materials to conserve and access the Appell collections as well as other collections gifted to the Borneo Research Council. In due course, an online catalog will be accessible to members of The Council.

Listserve

Listserve can be vibrant forums where ideas are exchanged, questions answered, research challenges workshopped, conferences and gatherings discussed, lost friends and acquaintances found, and connections made. We will be adding this feature for our members and information will be sent out under separate cover once membership fees have been paid.

Reviewers Needed

We are seeking reviewers from a variety of disciplines to help review manuscripts as they are submitted for publication. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or are interested in this opportunity.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Among the manuscripts that will be in preparation in the coming months will be a festschrift volume in honor of George N. Appell.

Contributions

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their contributions to the Borneo Research Council during the 2019 and 2020 years. Sadly, our contributions have dropped off precipitously in the 2020 year and we will need to renew our focus on fundraising for the Borneo Research Council.

Contributions to the Endowment 2019-2020

Dr. Donald Brown, Dr. & Mrs. Allen Drake, Ms. Judith Heimann, Professor H. Arlo Nimmo, Mr. John D. Pearson, Ms. Vicki Pearson-Rounds, Dr. Robert Pringle, Dr. Anne Schiller, Dr. & Mrs. Otto Steinmayer, and Dr. Phillip Thomas.

Contributions to the Operating Fund 2019-2020

Dr. Robert Blust, Dr. Donald Brown, Dr. Jay B Crain, Professor Ian Douglas, Dr. Michael R. Dove, Dr. & Mrs. Alfred Hudson, Dr. Michael B. Leigh, Ms. Valerie Mashman, Mr. Thomas Murray, Dr. Robert Pringle, Dr. Bernard Sellato, Prof. F. Andrew Smith, Dr. & Mrs. Otto Steinmayer, Dr. Jack Stuster, Professor Vinson H. Sutlive, Dr. Phillip Thomas, and Mr. William Wilkinson.

I look forward to working with all of you in the coming years and encourage you to renew your membership and join the listserve!

With all best wishes,



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2020

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