

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

"Yes," said Enrique, back in Australia, "This is a problem," but this is a very beautiful project and an important one; we need one in Spanish, too. I need this book, so does my daughter. I'll try and find you someone."

When Enrique returned to Rapa Nui I received an email from his cousin Patricia Riroroko Laharoa. Patricia is a teacher at the primary school and she was willing to give up her time to write this book with me. So we began. We have done the bones of eight chapters now. We spent Christmas and New Years 2006 almost daily, developing the dialogues in the book and doing test recordings. Many women came in from the language department and elsewhere to contribute to the conversations we designed and assist with accuracy of the translations, explanations and grammar.

There will be both a Spanish and an English version. The final product will go through the fine toothcomb of language/culture specialists on the island before going to print. We have established deadlines so that it does not become a dusty relic on that mighty unfinished-project shelf. Patricia and I have thus far donated our time, working around our usual professions, as has everyone else. But the project now requires funding to meet deadlines.

If you wish to be a supporter of this project - along with the Easter Island Foundation - your donation will be acknowledged, and will also be noted with gratitude in the preface. Please address any support to the Easter Island Foundation, PO Box 6774, Los Osos, CA 93412, and specify that it is for Petra's Rapanui Language Project. *Maururu.*

CONFERENCES

A FORUM TITLED "Politics and Sovereignty: Colonial Legacies in Oceania," sponsored by the Center for the Americas, Wesleyan University, Connecticut, will be held on Friday, 29 September 2006, at the Mansfield Freeman Center of East Asian Studies. One of the featured presentations will be "Self Determination or Integration? The Uneasy Relationship between Rapa Nui and Chile" by Riet Delsing, Ph.D. Candidate, University of California, Santa Cruz.

THE PACIFIC ARTS ASSOCIATION IXth International Symposium will take place at the Quai Branly Museum in Paris, France, from July 5-8, 2007. Special events and tours are planned for July 2-4, 2007.

Many museums today are being rebuilt or redesigned, reflecting current philosophy and approaches to Oceanic art. Areas of discussion include histories of collections and the role of indigenous Pacific artists and scholars.

The local organizing committee in Paris includes Phillipe Peltier, Yves Le Fur, and Magali Melandri. For information: <http://www.pacificarts.org>

AT THE MEETING OF THE BOARD of the Easter Island Foundation in April 2006, Christopher Stevenson turned over the reigns of the presidency after completing two 2-year terms. The Board thanked Chris for his leadership for the past several years. He is not gone, however, he will still serve as Vice President for International Conferences. Kay Kenady Sanger is our new 1st Vice President. Joan Seaver Kurze accepted the position as Secretary for the Foundation, and Frank Morin continues as Treasurer.

The Board sadly accepted the resignation of Alan Drake who has been a dedicated member for many years and was Webmaster for the EIF webpage (islandheritage.org). Ann Altman and Shawn McLaughlin also left the Board. Shawn, another significant contributor and author of *The Complete Guide to Easter Island*, is now in the process of revising his book and we were all very pleased when the playwright Edward Albee described his visit to Easter Island in the Sunday Travel section of the *New York Times* and gave Shawn's book a very favorable mention.

The EIF has always considered its scholarship program to be one of its major functions, and this year we decided to increase the amounts of our scholarship awards. The scholarship award recipients for 2006 were announced and the lucky, and worthy, winners are:

- Daniela Macarena Araki Gonzales, (Nicolas Haoa Sr. Award). Daniela is in her second year studying early childhood education.
- Antonio Fernando Munoz Tuki, (EIF Scholarship). Antonio is a second-year law student.
- Tiare Aguilera Hey, (EIF Director's Award). Tiare is a third-year law student.
- Ioan Soler Hotu, (Weigand Award). This is Ioan's third year as a Weigand recipient.
- Juana Luna Atamu, (Weigand Award). This is Juana's second year as a Weigand recipient.

The EIF congratulates all of the scholarship recipients and wishes them well as they go forward in their academic careers.

In addition to the scholarship awards, several grants were given to graduate students to assist them with research projects and fieldwork. The projects involved subject matter as varied as creating a database of skeletal materials and associated DNA for the Museo Antropológico Sebastián Englert (Peter Ragen, St Mary's College, Maryland); supporting Earthwatch fieldwork at the La Pérouse area (Mara Mulrooney, a graduate student from University of Auckland); dating pollen sediment from Rano Kau (Candace Gossen, a graduate student at the University of Oregon); to creating a series of CDs to preserve and assist in learning the Rapanui language (Petra Campbell, Australia).

In addition, the EIF expanded its scope of supported projects by providing assistance for the construction and in-