

The I-Sapien



UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs
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ISAP 2003: Building a Better Mousetrap

*By Rick Rawson, ISAP
Associate Director*

Arnold is governor; Bush is president; Rush has been in and out of rehab; Walter pals around with the Princess of Thailand; Al Hasson and Tom Freese ride on camels at the Pyramids of Giza; Natasha Hackley slap-dances with South African monster ants; Janis is shrinking; Becky and Nena are firefighters....Does this remind anyone else of David Lynch's *Twin Peaks*?

Somebody famous said "Let me live in interesting times." I hope he/she got to live through 2003.

At ISAP, it's been a year of "tinkering with the system" to refine and improve the work we do and the system we use to do it.

Janis (the Amazing Shrinking Woman) Rosebrook has eliminated the ISAP "Winchell's" office (ISAP-South) and is con-

tinuing to bring us all together (sort of like Marshal Tito did in Yugoslavia after World War II). With the help of Anita and her operations staff, the move will be accomplished with military precision.

Becky Beckham and the Human Resources staff have ensured that we all got paid for another year (and made sure we will all, we hope, avoid the quagmire of sexual harassment).

Tula DaCosta (the Amazing Savings Woman) and the Accounts Payable team continue to astound everyone by finding invoices that should not be paid, overpayments, underpayments, and the like. Tula and her staff's efforts have saved us thousands of dollars this year. Go, Tula and staff!

Ken Booker and Kris Langabeer have given ISAP a first-class face to the world with the Web site, reports, and newsletters.

Paul Restovich and the fund managers are learning the "UCLA NPI way," and the fund managers are spending more time on campus than the football team.

Jeff Annon and the DMC moved to the mother ship at West and continue to pull in and process data from all over the world.

Brian Perrochet accomplished the first simultaneous center-grant trifecta ever attempted (this is something like the Ironman of grant writing) and he hasn't recovered yet.

Paul David and pals have prevented more virus infections than the CDC. (They're currently working on a cure for SARS).

The ISAP scientific agenda has expanded and become more diversified.

We've become the undisputed world leaders in

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methamphetamine research, treatment, and training (Wouldn't our mothers be proud?).

- Lynn Brecht, Patty Marinelli-Casey, Maureen Hillhouse, and Allison Hamilton Brown are chasing

(Please see 2003 on Page 8)



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Previous issues of *The I-Sapien* are
available at www.uclaisap.com.

Friends - ISAP - Matrix

Invite You to Attend the Annual



Holiday Party & Year-End Review

Dec. 18

Reception - 11:30 a.m.

Lunch - Noon

Grand Horizon Room, Covel Commons

With Entertainment by:

*Lynn Brecht and the Upstairs Studio Dancers &
the William Bryant Combo*

*Cash donations for
Friends Research Institute's
Safe House*

will be collected at the Year-End Review registration table.

Please drop-off donated goods (toiletries, gift certificates, paper goods,
dishes, canned goods, pots, etc.) *in the boxes at*
ISAP-North, -South, and -West, West-LA Matrix, and Friends.

The mission of Safe House is to provide low cost, safe, and decent housing
to a community of persons who are frequently homeless: those living with HIV/
AIDS who also have a mental illness and/or chemical dependency.

For more information, contact Anita Davis at neidah@ucla.edu.

When Mike Wallace is at Your Door, UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations is at Your Rescue

*By Dan Page, Assistant Director,
UCLA Health Sciences
Media Relations*

Are you preparing to publish a research paper that impacts millions of lives; do you have a heart-warming human interest story involving a patient; is Mike Wallace pounding on your door demanding an interview?

If so, the UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations Office is available to assist you—and the rest of the UCLA ISAP team—with your media needs.

Six media relations officers work with clinical and research programs throughout UCLA Health Sciences to place stories in appropriate print and broadcast outlets, and to respond to inquiries from the press.

The office's primary mission is to enhance the image of the UCLA Center for Health Sciences by generating positive publicity, most typically in the form of news stories highlighting unique research findings, patient care, or clinical services.

In addition, media relations officers act as matchmakers when the press call seeking experts to discuss news of the day, or the latest clinical and scientific breakthroughs. And they serve as the first line of defense when negative incidents draw news media attention.

The media relations staff also are available to provide interview tips, arrange parking, and provide other assistance when the media come calling.

The services of the office are in great demand, so a minimum of four weeks lead time is optimal for projects involving published research. Each proposed project is subject to evaluation of potential news media interest, and plans for pitching are tailored accordingly.

As the office's assistant director, I work with the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute and its centers and programs, including ISAP. I also manage the media needs of the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, Department of Neurology, the Division of Neurosurgery, and some elements of the School of Public Health and the Brain Research Institute.

I can be reached at (310) 794-2265, or via e-mail at dpag@support.ucla.edu.

What is News?

What is of great interest and importance to you and the scientific community is not always important to the news media.

Editors, producers, and reporters are looking for stories that offer fresh information of clear relevance to a large percentage of their viewers or readers.

Marjorie Centofanti, assistant director, science publications, for Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions offers these guidelines:

A medical science story that's newsworthy...

- involves humans rather than lab animals but can involve animals if the similarity to humans – genetic or otherwise – is really clear;
- involves discovery of the last, awaited piece of a scientific puzzle that has some sort of clear tie to humans;
- involves a discovery that overthrows established information about a scientific phenomenon or about medical therapy;
- involves insights about the nature of therapy for a disease/condition that affects no fewer than 1 in 5,000 "nice" people in the United States;
- involves insights on a less common or non-U.S. disease if the disease/condition is particularly horrific or bizarre or someone famous suffers from it;
- explains something fundamental and not obscure about human biology, structure, or nature;
- involves a discovery that directly affects the human condition. The greater the effect, the more newsworthy it is;
- is no more than two "jumps" away from public familiarity;
- is based on sound research principles. If the study population is small, it must be statistically significant and you must point that out.

A story also may be newsworthy purely because it's *extremely* visual or narrative or downright cute.

Jeff's Summer Vacation (or Why You Shouldn't Watch "Shark Week" Before Going Night Spearfishing off the Coast of Hawaii)

*By Jeff Annon, Director,
Data Management Center*

Editor's note: Jeff and his family vacationed in Hawaii, where he was born, for three weeks this summer. Here's one of his adventures.

We were tired from our hike to Green Valley, on the Hawaiian island of Oahu, that morning, and the wind and waves were picking up from the ocean. My brother, Makua, asked Dallan (my 17-year-old son) and I if we still wanted to go spearfishing that night. "Sure," we said.

That evening, we prepared for our night dive. We spat into our face masks (to keep them from fogging up), spreading the saliva around with the leaves we had picked from around the house. The wind off the ocean whistled in my ears as I remembered the "Anatomy of a Shark Attack" TV show we had watched the night before.

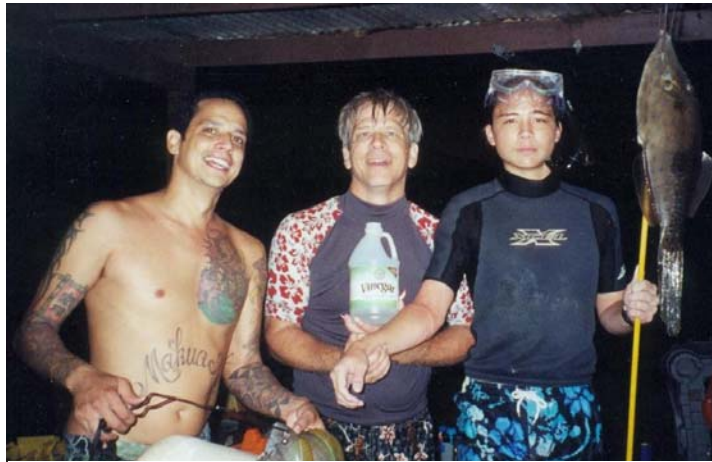
I asked Makua why he would watch such a thing, and he said he thinks about sharks all the time and always watches "Shark Week," which features recent shark sightings and video of shark attacks, on cable. This is from a man who goes into the ocean most every week spearing fish at night.

The things that you do are always balanced by the things that could happen to you—good or bad. Makua has taken this to heart. Tiger sharks are known for their attacks on swimmers and surfers in Hawaiian waters, though the attacks are rare.

I envisioned last night's real footage of several people getting chomped on by sharks. It served to make the waves and the surf, and what they

might hold, more real to me than my senses normally allow.

We backed into the surf with our fins on and our flashlights blazing a narrow path before and behind us. The water was freezing at first (by Hawaii standards), but it was a minor thing to overcome compared to getting up the nerve to get in the



The Survivors

Jeff Annon (center) holds the welted arm of his son, Dallan, after giving Dallan the vinegar treatment for Portuguese man-of-war stings. Jeff's brother, Mikua Annon, led the trio on a night spearfishing dive in Oahu, Hawaii. Dallan is holding his catch.

water in the first place. My mental images of what might be in the water with us were barely held in check.

Both my brother and son had spears and a flashlight. I had a flashlight and a camera. The hunter in me has dissipated with age, as I'd rather my son have the adventure, my brother eat the fish, and I capture the memories.

Makua took the lead and I flanked Dallan. We immediately ran into a prime fish. Makua tried to signal Dallan to spear it, but Dallan thought Makua was going to do it. The fish finally got wise to us and left as Dallan realized it was his to spear and chased it. We didn't find that fish again.

We saw many blowfish as we trolled up and down the coast. You

would never eat blowfish due to their poison, so there was no reason to "shoot" them. Dallan would look at me, and I would signal no, nothing for us.

We also ran into a number of turtles. They hang out near the rocks and coral. When we saw them, I would dip down underwater and take a picture close-up. One must have been 5-feet long and well worth the mouth full of water it took me to stay under and take the picture.

Makua got a decent fish and put it on his trolling line as I took another picture. The trolling line lagged about 15 feet behind him because it's supposed to keep any sharks away from you and toward the catch if they are around. I swear, for the rest of the evening that dead fish at the end of the line was in my face everywhere I went.

Makua was leading us on another run heading out into the deep when he signals for us to both surface. He spits out his snorkel and shouts "Get out of the water!"

I look at Dallan and I wonder if my eyes are as wide as his. We both duck back into the water and high-tail it toward shore with Makua bringing up the rear.

As we swim, neither Dallan nor I ask any questions; if my brother, who's done this a million times, says to get out of the water, you get out of the water.

I keep wanting to beam my light behind me to sneak a peak, but then I wonder, as my legs pump and my heart races, if that would attract a shark, or even if it would be better not to know there's a

(Please see Night Dive, Page 5)

Night Dive

(Continued from Page 4)

shark's face directly behind me.

I opt to make sure my son is ahead of me and just swim the hell out of that ocean, not looking back.

We approach the rocky beach and as it gets shallow, we keep going until we're crawling out, then standing, and Dallan and I are blessedly out of the water, and on the beach.

Makua stands in the shallows adjusting his mask as Dallan and I wonder what the heck he's doing still in the water. It turns out that he isn't adjusting his mask but rather rinsing his face where he had been stung by a Portuguese man-of-war.

"I saw these blue threads hanging down," Makua says, "and tried to back up away from them. They got sucked into my backwash and the tentacles went all over my face. I didn't want you guys to run into them, so that's why I said to swim back."

I look at Dallan and burst out laughing in relief. While I'm sorry for my brother's pain, I'm relieved that we had not been swimming away from sharks.

"Makua, when you said get out of the water," I say, "I was thinking of something entirely different, given last night's shark attack show."

My son and I laugh again as Makua tries to apologize for giving us the wrong impression.

After all that, Dallan still wanted to go back in so he could get a fish. We did and he did, but we all got stung—Dallan for the first time in his life.

Back at the house we took pictures of our catch—and the welts all over Dallan's arm. Proof that he had been baptized in the old, Hawaiian way, as his father and uncle had been before him.

A Decent Proposal for ISAPian Book Lovers

By Dannie Hoffman, Project Director, Health Risk Reduction Projects

When I was a fifth-grader in Granada Hills, we didn't have a permanent library, we had a bookmobile that came to my school every other Friday.

I was its best customer. My father gave me an old leather satchel and my mother signed permission for me to check out any book I wanted.

I was enthusiastic, but completely indiscriminating. *Black Beauty* and *Les Misérables* went into the same bag. I took home the limit, 10 books every two weeks.

I was pretty much a geek and a loner, and have been resigned to that status most of my life. In the past few months, though, I have found that there are others like me, here at ISAP.

At least, I should say, others who really love a good book.

Dr. Murphy has shared her favorite mystery authors with me for years. Leslie Amass and Jonathan Kamien have loaned me several books, and I lent them my copy of *The DaVinci Code*.

Then Beth Finnerty introduced me to a new mystery author, and I loaned her my copy of *Mystic River*. Desirée Crèvecoeur overheard Beth and me talking, and endorsed the books Beth lent me.

Are there more of you book lovers out there?

I was thinking that we might form a book-sharing club here at ISAP. I don't mean a club where we all read the same book and then get together to discuss it.

Frankly, I read, for pure pleasure, a mixture of "quality" books and what I call "popcorn" reading, and I'm not really all that interested in analyzing what I read. I just like to read.

What I propose is that anyone who is interested in sharing favorite books, let me know. We can have a group e-mail list, using it to tell the whole group if we have a good book to share, or describing the kinds of books we would like to read.

Everyone would have the choice of posting notices to the whole group or directly e-mailing any member. Maybe once a month we could meet for lunch, just for fun, no formal or competitive lit analyses.

If you are interested, please contact me. I'm in the directory. I would be equally happy to borrow or lend.

I've got a good one to share right now: *The Crimson Petal and the White*. It is dark and strong, but beautifully written.

I promise, if I borrow a book, I will not read it while eating, bathing, or brushing my teeth. If you borrow any of my books, though, it may be water-stained, or have food or toothpaste on it because when I am into something interesting—and I own it—I just can't put it down.

ISAP Offers Ongoing Leadership Trainings

By Janis Rosebrook, Chief Administrative Officer

ISAP currently trains managers and supervisors in leadership skills through a series of six training classes. The modules, all chosen from Achieve Global's *Leadership for Results* program, are designed to develop leadership skills to enhance collaboration, interaction, and coaching. The program is based on the following essential leadership strategies:

- Create a compelling future – by creating, communicating, and sustaining a vision and managing change.
- Involve every mind – by giving employees and teams responsibility, resources, information, and the training and support they need to solve problems and improve their work and the organization.
- Manage work horizontally – by managing projects, creating links among groups, and focusing on inter-departmental processes, systems, and technologies.
- Build personal credibility – by taking initiative and responsibility, sharing both mistakes and successes, and demonstrating professional ethics and personal commitment.

The six modules chosen for supervisory certification at ISAP are:

1. Basic Principles for a Collaborative Workplace
2. Managing Your Priorities
3. Giving and Receiving Constructive Feedback
4. Giving Recognition
5. Correcting Performance Problems
6. Coaching: Bringing Out the Best in Others

For detailed descriptions of these courses, please go to the internal ISAP Web site at www.uclaisap.com/training/courses.html.

Trainers

Tom Freese and I are both certified to teach any of Achieve Global's modules. We attended a four-day training class that involved making presentations (that were videotaped!) and receiving critiques of our presentation skills.

Feedback

Evaluations are collected at the end of each session Tom and I teach. Without exception, the comments and ratings have been extremely positive. Comments included requests to roll out this training to the Principal Investigators (PIs) and to other research staff at ISAP.

Graduates

As of publication of this article, the following staff have taken all six modules:

Jeff Annon
Jennifer Baughman
Becky Beckham
Jerry Cartier
Florentina Cosmineanu
Desirée Crèvecoeur
Tula DaCosta
Paul David
Liz Evans
Jessica Fradis
Dannie Hoffman

Kris Langabeer
Sherry Larkins
Sam Minsky
Carolyn Potter
Paul Restovich
Erin Rotheram-Fuller
Krystal Smith
Jackie Stinnett
Maria Trejo
Darren Urada
Rose Veniegas

Scheduled to complete the series soon are:

Felicia Beanum
Bill Burdon
Joy Chudzynski
Anita Davis
Beth Finnerty
Betsy Hall
Alison Hamilton
Al Hasson
Maureen Hillhouse
Linda Mechanic

Nena Messina
Valerie Pearce
Jim Peck
Jerry Rathner
Luz Rodriguez
Luis Santiago
Suzi Spear
Christie Thomas
Donnie Watson

What's Next?

We are exploring the option of providing training to other ISAP staff. A series of classes could be offered to SRAs and AAs in support roles. Four modules would be selected for a certificate. Staff who are interested in taking the certificate program would submit an application for consideration. About 15 staff will be selected, with one module offered each month. Final determination regarding this new training will be made with the PIs in January 2004.

Speaking of PIs, Tom and I will meet with the PIs on Jan. 16 for a two-hour session. During this time, we will review the outcomes of the project director training and discuss continued training for other staff. Our plans are to spend the balance of the time highlighting the "Giving Recognition" module.

We Want to Hear From You

Tom and I both believe that training is a necessity, not a luxury. The Achieve Global modules are designed to benefit all levels of employees. Leadership is a skill that is not intuitive for most people, and people learn from many modalities, including training—where skills can be learned and practiced.

If you are not currently participating in the series but would like to, please let us know. If you have taken the courses (or will soon complete the series), are there other training areas that would benefit your professional development plan? E-mail me at jrosebrook@earthlink.net.

ISAP Comings and Goings (May 2003-Present)

Welcome, New Staff

- Carter Bartee, Staff Research Associate, Prop. 36 study – ISAP West
- Dan Cutting, Staff Research Associate for Dr. Thomas Newton – NPI
- Jennifer Dacey, Staff Research Associate for Dr. Thomas Newton – NPI
- Anita Davis, Facilities Manager – ISAP North
- RoseAnn Fleming, Human Protection Coordinator – Friends Research Institute
- Jamie Fuller, Research Assistant for Dr. Leslie Amass
- Christina Harding, Staff Research Associate, Dr. John Roll's group – ISAP North
- Todd Helmus, Staff Research Associate for Dr. Michael Prendergast
- Cynthia L. Hurley, Staff Research Associate for Dr. Thomas Newton – NPI

- Tamsin Levy, Research Associate for Dr. Patricia Marinelli-Casey – Friends Research Institute
- Elizabeth Malin, Research Assistant for Dr. Steven Shoptaw – Friends Research Institute
- Gina Richardson, Research Assistant for Dr. John Roll – Friends Research Institute
- Christie Rizzo, Staff Research Associate for Dr. Deborah Podus
- Elizabeth Rossotto, Staff Research Associate for Dr. Thomas Newton – NPI
- Sharon D. Sloan, Fund Manager – ISAP North
- Joy Yang, Staff Research Associate for Dr. Cheryl Teruya – ISAP West
- Emma Zeledon, Research Assistant for Dr. Leslie Amass – Friends Research Institute

Good-byes

- Ange Appleton
- Job Augustine
- Sharon Boles
- Tom DeHardt
- Ana Gheyntanchi
- David Grieshop
- Chris Hucks-Ortis
- Rosa Lua
- Franz Monroy
- Liam Nestor
- Meredith Patten
- Claudia Perdomo
- Ronald Picazo
- Jinnie Rhee
- Joseph Saito
- Keeli Sorensen
- Darren Steinberg
- Eunice Williams



2003

(Continued from Page 1)

treated meth users across California and 10 other states...

- Eydie London is looking at their brains...
- while, Steve Shoptaw and Valerie Pearce are giving them medicines.
- Jeff Annon and Brown University are collecting data on meth use via baby poop across 5 states...
- Walter is rounding up yaba (meth) users in the Kingdom of Thailand.

The California Treatment Outcome Project (CalTOP), the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act (SACPA, or Prop. 36) study, and Los Angeles County Evaluation System: An Outcomes Reporting Program (LACES) evaluations are changing how the county and the state do alcohol and other drug (AOD) business (Yih-Ing Hser and Doug Longshore need press agents, while I need a body guard and a personal mental health professional).

- Cheryl Teruya and Liz Evans know more county AOD coordinators than there are counties in California.
- Darren Urada and the SACPA, (Prop. 36) team will be personally responsible for the entire \$500-million SACPA experiment, and if it fails they will have to pay back California taxpayers.
- Desirée Crèvecoeur, Beth Finnerty, and team will collect more ASI data from more different (and incompatible) versions

of the ASI than has ever been attempted in one setting. Then they will mush it altogether and discover that "treatment works." (Ain't science great?)

- Our research-to-practice agenda continues to "bridge the gap" (does anyone remember the movie "Bridge on the River Kwai"? Sometimes I feel like Sir Alec Guinness when he fell on the plunger and detonated the dynamite).
- The Clinical Trials Network (CTN) continues to move research protocols into local treatment centers with Al Hasson, Al Cohen, and team leading the way.
- Suzi Spear, with help from Beth Finnerty and the Los Angeles Practice Improvement Collaborative (LAPIC) team, is blending science with faith, moving AOD assessment tools into the American Indian health service system, and linking community agencies.

The criminal justice research team, led by Michael Prendergast, has added a big endeavor with their leadership of the Criminal Justice Drug Abuse Treatment Research Studies (CJ-DATS) project. David Farabee, Bill Burden, Nena Messina, and Betsy Hall are all moving important new data on drug treatment and its impact on the criminal justice system and crime.

The medication research agenda has continued to expand methamphetamine medications, cocaine medications, alcohol medications, and leadership in the promotion and training about buprenorphine for opiate addiction—all major endeavors.

AOD treatment and mental health treatment continue to flirt with marriage, and the data from Chris Grella's dual diagnosis study will help to design the pre-nuptial.

Acknowledgment of the role of drug use in the transmission of HIV grows and the role of drug abuse treatment and prevention in slowing the spread of HIV continues to progress due to the work of Steve Shoptaw, Debra Murphy, and Cathy Reback—and "Friends."

Donnie Watson, John (Johnnie, we hardly knew ye) Roll, and the folks at Matrix continue to work to bring adolescent AOD treatment into the mainstream of ISAP activities.

Tom Freese's ATTC grant has given ISAP a Hollywood shine: very visible accomplishments for all to see! He's taking the show on the road next year to bring our research to mass audiences.

Tom Newton, John Roll, and company continue to administer more illicit substances than are produced annually in Afghanistan. They are producing important new information on the basic effects of drugs of abuse and the safety of potential medications.

What an incredible year 2003 has been! We've seen many changes, exciting research, and extraordinary successes in a volatile financial environment.

You all did GREAT!! Without you, there would be no ISAP. Thanks from all of the directors for a terrific year and a job well done.

Being Inside Architect Gehry's Brainstorm

By Paula Thomas, Administrative Assistant, Friends Research Institute

On current exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in downtown Los Angeles is "Frank O. Gehry, Work in Progress."

Gehry has been touted as one of the most accomplished and inventive architects practicing today, and his most well-known works, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in Spain, the Experience the Music Project in Seattle, and his most recent accomplishment, the Walt Disney Concert Hall in downtown Los Angeles have received high accolades and critical acclaim.

The MOCA exhibit comprises 12 new and ongoing projects and highlights Gehry's design process. The patron has the opportunity to view original sketches, computer-generated architectural drawings,



This mixed media model of Gehry's Astor Place Hotel (which will not be developed further) can be seen at the MOCA exhibit. Photo by Whit Preston.

photography, sample materials, multiple models in various sizes and stages of development, and the final architectural product. You are, essentially, walked through the brainstorm.

The exhibit is well organized. Several projects take up each room, and the rooms are replete with plans, models, and images of the final works.

The exhibit concentrates heavily on the models, which are Gehry's primary tool in the development of a building. The viewer is given the opportunity to truly experience Gehry's vision. His free-flowing, organic structures are truly amaz-

ing.

The exhibit will show through Jan. 26, 2004. Art talks and audio tours are also available. Visit www.moca.org for additional information on the exhibit.

Colombian Poporo



Gold necklace and flask (poporo) to hold lime for coca leaf use from Colombia, South America, circa A.D. 0-800.

"Poporos are containers that hold the lime used in coca-leaf chewing. The lime flasks are often equipped with a small stick or dipper, which is moistened in the mouth, dipped in the lime, and chewed to assist in extracting the coca alkaloids from the leaves.

Poporos continue to be used by the indigenous groups of northern Colombia."

From: *Shamans, Gods, and Mythic Beasts: Colombian Gold and Ceramics in Antiquity*, by A.J. Labbe, The American Federation of Arts and the University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA, 1998.

- Carolyn Potter, ISAP Quality Assurance & Data Processing Coordinator

HEALTH CARE EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAYS!

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UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD

The Mystery of the Leaping Fish: Not Your Classic Anti-Drug Silent Film



By Elizabeth Foote

Modern films about drug use are generally grim and really hard to sit through, like *Requiem for a Dream* or *Wonderland*. This was also true in the silent era; the idea that the wages of sin are death, etc. was beaten into the viewer. However, *The Mystery of the Leaping Fish* (1916) did no such beating.

Douglas Fairbanks, the epitome of the clean-cut all-American, stars in this two-reeler as Coke Ennyday, a Sherlock Holmes-like scientific detective.

Drugs solve all of his problems. When he relaxes in his office, he banishes ennui with several quick shots from the syringes he keeps on his ammunition belt. As a backup, a big can of powder cocaine sits on his desk and he shovels it liberally into his face.

When the cocktail hour rolls around he imbibes a gin/laudanum/prussic acid concoction.

Later, cocaine helps speed up the inflatable fish he's riding in pursuit of the bad guys, and when he catches the evildoers, the stuff alternately causes some of them to fly out of the room while it knocks others unconscious. Did I mention it's a comedy?

The plot, and there is one, involves Coke's investigation of Fishy Joe, a rich man with no visible means of support. At Short Beach, Fishy Joe hangs around a "Leaping Fish" rental place (inflatable fish that people ride in the surf, like boogie boards).

Bessie Love plays the little fish blower (really—it says so on her uniform). Coke soon discovers that Joe is smuggling opium in the fish. Naturally, he has to lap up a considerable amount of the stuff to test it, which causes him to dance a sort of St. Vitus jig throughout the rest of the picture.

The smugglers kidnap Miss Love, and the chase is on. With the assistance of his favorite substance, but no help from the cops, he subdues the bad guys.

This movie is an anomaly, and it can't be taken as typical of Fairbanks' oeuvre, 1916 cinema, or World War I-era attitudes toward or knowledge of drug addiction. It's just weird.

It only proves that silent film was more varied and stranger than many people realize.

David Lynch and those boys have nothing on early film.

Mystery of the Leaping Fish is available on the Kino DVD release of Fairbanks' *The Gaucho* (a fine swashbuckler). If you want to know more about the serious drug films of the silent era, see *Behind the Mask of Innocence*, by Kevin Brownlow.

Cook's Corner

Chocolate Éclair Torte

By Maureen Keating, Nurse Coordinator,
Friends Research Institute

Editor's note: This dessert disappeared in no time at our October Luau Picnic, so we asked Maureen for the recipe. Maureen says it can be made with sugar-free ingredients, except for the frosting, but you could make a frosting with Splenda if you wished.

You will need:

- a large box of vanilla instant pudding
- 8 oz.-12 oz. container of Cool Whip
- Milk for the pie directions on the pudding box
- 1 container of ready-made Hershey chocolate flavored frosting
- 1 package of honey graham crackers

I use an oblong casserole dish. Cover the bottom with whole graham crackers.

In a medium-sized bowl, add milk to the pudding mix per the directions on the package. When the mixture begins to thicken, add the Cool Whip and mix until smooth.

Layer alternating pudding and graham crackers until the last layer is graham crackers. It's usually two to three layers.

Take the foil liner off of the frosting container, and microwave it for one minute. Stir with a knife until smooth, then pour it over the graham cracker evenly. Refrigerate for at least an hour. It's best if made early in the morning or the night before, if you can resist taste testing!