

2004: 20th Anniversary of EAAF

In July, 2004, EAAF celebrated its 20th anniversary in Buenos Aires. In 1984, when as students the team began to assist Dr. Clyde Snow on cases of disappearances in Argentina, none of us had any idea that applying forensic sciences to human rights investigations would become our life's work, taking us to more than 30 countries in transition from periods of violence in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El



Buenos Aires, June 25, 2004: The Mayor of Buenos Aires, Anibal Ibarra, with members of the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, and Dr. Clyde Collins Snow, who was honored by the city for his contributions in the field of forensic anthropology and human rights. *Photo courtesy of Ricardo Ferrari/GCBA.*

Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Surinam, Uruguay, Venezuela, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Zimbabwe, French Polynesia,

East Timor, Indonesia, Iraqi Kurdistan, Philippines, Bosnia, Croatia, Georgia, Kosovo, and Romania in order to help families, human rights organizations, judicial institutions and truth commissions reconstruct the events of the recent past.

The field of forensic anthropology and human rights has evolved significantly since we began in 1984. In particular, efforts around the world and in Argentina over the years to bring accountability for past crimes, show the importance of the work. It not only provides some closure by returning remains to families and establishing the historical truth, but it also brings perpetrators of human rights violations to justice. (See Right to Truth section.)

A summary of what we have been able to learn through our work during the past two decades is reflected in the recommendations that we have published in this report. EAAF recommendations aim to improve the way in which forensic work is conducted in human rights investigations.

In addition, we are proud to have assisted with the development of the field of forensic anthropology in

continued on page 124

Gratificamos la complejidad situación de los



Buenos Aires, June 22 2004. The Mayor of Buenos Aires, Anibal Ibarra (*right*) speaks at the ceremony celebrating the 20th anniversary of the EAAF and honoring the contributions of Dr. Clyde Snow (*center*). Ms. Marta Vasquez, one of the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo, also spoke at the event (*left*). Photo courtesy of Marcela Gabbiani/GCBA.

EAAF Human Rights Awards 1984-2004

AWARD	INSTITUTION	COUNTRY	DATE
Human Rights Award	Reebok Human Rights Foundation	USA	1989
Peace and Solidarity Award	Service for Peace and Justice	Argentina	1990
Human Rights Monitor	Human Rights Watch	USA	1990
Chico Mendes Medallion	Tortura Nunca Mais	Brazil	1993
Special Mention of the Human Rights Prize of the French Republic	Government of France	France	1996
Award for Valuable Contribution	Family Members of Detained and Disappeared	Argentina	1996
Award for Valuable Contribution	Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo	Argentina	1997
Award for Valuable Contribution	New Human Rights	Argentina	1998
Human Rights Monitor 25th Anniversary	Human Rights Watch	USA	1999
Human Rights Award	Argentina Association for Human Rights	Spain	2001
Award for Valuable Contribution	Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance	Philippines	2002
<i>Jerónimo Luis Cabrera</i>	Municipality of Córdoba	Argentina	2004

EAAF - SPECIAL SECTION



Buenos Aires, June 22 2004. (Top) EAAF member Dario Olmo and Rosa Rosinbilt, one of the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo at the ceremony honoring the work of EAAF and Dr. Clyde Snow. Photo: Marcela Gabbiani/GCBA. (Bottom) Members of EAAF celebrate with Dr. Clyde Snow and some of the relatives of victims of the "Dirty War" whose loved ones have been identified through EAAF's work. Photo courtesy of Ricardo Ferrari/GCBA.

Latin America, which has largely been driven by the development of the work applied to human rights cases. Forensic teams have been formed in Peru, Colombia, Guatemala, and Chile. Another significant advance in the field was the creation in 2003 of the Latin American Forensic Anthropology Association (ALAF), which will enable forensic scientists from around the region to exchange skills, pursue training, establish standards and best practices, protect forensic scientists who face threats, promote the accreditation of forensic anthropologists, and promote the right to truth of families of victims.

Beyond Latin America, EAAF has conducted significant training in several Asian and African countries, including Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

We also would like to thank Dr. Clyde Snow, who has been integral to the founding and development of EAAF and the work in Latin America.¹ In July, as part of our celebration, Dr. Snow was given a special award by the Mayor of the City of Buenos Aires in recognition of his contribution to the reconstruction of Argentina's tragic past in a ceremony held at City Hall.² In addition, public events for the recognition of the 20th anniversary of EAAF included a round table at the *Centro Municipal San Martín*, where EAAF received special recognition from the *Abuelas de la Plaza de Mayo* (Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo) for its contribution to human rights in Argentina.

Buenos Aires Staff: Luis Fondebrider, Patricia Bernardi, Silvana Turner. Anahi Ginarte, Dario Olmo, Rafael Mazzella, Daniel Bustamante, Carlos Somigliana, Miguel Nieva, Sofia Egaña, Cecilia Ayerdi, Andrea del Río.

New York Staff: Mercedes Doretti.

Consultants: Lesley Carson, Laura Rousch, Robin Lebaron, Jennifer Burrell, David Wood, Elizabeth Ferry, Betsy Brody, Mercedes Salado.

Volunteers: (*Argentina*) Mariana Selva, Analía Gonzalez Simonetto, Mariela Fumigalli, Victoria Hernandez, Maia Princ, Lorena Campos, Laura Lazo, Marína Mohn, Fernando Olivares, Ivana Wolf, Melisa Paiaro, Carolina Alvarez, Dra. Laura Valdemarca, Mariana Segura, Alejandra Ibañez, and Celeste Perosino. (*New York*) Daniel Cashin, Joni Daher, Mario Najera, Vincent Grasso, Nasreen Sayed Aziz, Claire Heitlinger, Lourdes Sada, Marisol Lopez, and Brianna van Erp.

1. In fact, Dr. Snow has been at the core of every significant effort to apply forensic anthropology to human rights investigations around the world.

2. Dr. Snow was also given a pair of typical Argentinean Carpincho boots to compete with his Texas boots and to make him a true "Porteño" (someone born in Buenos Aires).

Latin American Forensic Anthropology Association (ALAF)

In February, 2003, EAAF organized a meeting of seventeen Latin American forensic anthropologists from seven countries, which resulted in the creation of the Latin American Forensic Anthropology Association (ALAF). Sponsored by the Open Society Institute and Austin College, and chaired by Dr. Clyde C. Snow, the first meeting took place at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. ALAF's founding members include forensic anthropologists from Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Colombia, Venezuela, and Argentina. EAAF holds its presidency and a seat on its board.

ALAF is a not-for-profit civil association whose main objectives are to:

- Establish ethical and professional criteria for the practice of forensic anthropology that will ensure the quality of the practice;
- Promote the use of forensic anthropology and archaeology among the forensic disciplines used in judiciary investigations in Latin America;
- Promote the accreditation of professionals working in forensic anthropology through the creation of an independent accrediting board that will certify the quality of practitioners;
- Promote mechanisms which provide the families of the deceased access to the procedures and results of forensic investigations, in accordance with international treaties and recommendations;
- Promote the protection of the associates of ALAF and their families, considering the risks involved in working in forensic anthropology in some Latin American countries; and
- Defend the scientific and technical autonomy of forensic anthropology investigations in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Dr. Clyde Snow (center), honorary chair of the first ALAF meeting held in Sherman, TX in February 2003, with members of ALAF (from left) Mercedes Doretti, Lourdes Penados, Helka Quevedo, and Isabel Reveco.

During 2003, among ALAF's achievements were the incorporation of the association as a nonprofit entity in Guatemala, and the approval of membership of 47 new members from nine Latin American countries, and associated members from the US and Spain. We established statutes and procedures, and a Board of Directors, and also developed a web site for the association: www.alaforense.org.

With the generous support of Dr. Steve Symes and Dr. Denis Dirkmaat, both from the Department of Anthropology at Mercyhurst College, Pennsylvania,



(Top) Antigua, Guatemala, July 2004. The Second ALAF Congress was held at the Convent of the School of Christ. **(Center)** A member of the Guatemalan team speaks during one of the sessions. **(Bottom)** A representative from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) makes a presentation on ICRC's project, "The Missing" at the second ALAF meeting in Antigua, Guatemala in July, 2003.

USA, ALAF forged an agreement with Mercyhurst to enable five ALAF members each year to seek advanced non-degree coursework in forensic anthropology without paying tuition.

In February 2004, six ALAF members introduced ALAF to the scientific community in a special panel on "Forensic Anthropology and the Latin American Experience", at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, one of the world's most important meetings in forensic anthropology.

2004 ALAF Annual Meeting

The Board of ALAF, working with an organizing committee, the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG), the Center for Forensic Analysis and Applied Sciences (CAFCA), and the Archbishop's Human Rights Office of Guatemala (ODHA), also organized the second annual meeting, held in Antigua, Guatemala, from July 26 to 30, 2004. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Clyde Snow. More than 110 forensic scientists attended the conference, which included 39 papers on various aspects of forensic anthropology and archaeology.

In addition, the meeting included **special sessions** on the following topics:

- DNA analysis for the identification of victims:
 - 1) The role of DNA testing in Human Identification: ICMP in Bosnia, and other new developments, by Edwin Huffine; and 2) Toward a genetic profile bank for disappeared children in El Salvador, by Cristian Orrego and other authors;
- Working with families during forensic investigations, psycho-social impact of forensic work on human rights cases, by Susana Navarro and Monica Pinzón from ECAP, a Guatemalan NGO, and Domingo Hernández from the Maya Saq'be Center;
- Workshop on stress situations during exhumations: are there psychological risks for the forensic personnel working on exhumations? by Franc Kernak, from Austria;

- The International Committee of the Red Cross's project, "The Missing"; and
- A special session by Dr. Steve Symes on Bone Trauma.

During the meeting we also had a **Video Screening** of four documentaries describing forensic work conducted in Latin America. They included: "Fernando Came Back" (*Fernando ha vuelto*), by Silvio Caiozzi, from Chile; "Silence and Tears: Uncovering History in Guatemala" produced by the FAFG, Guatemala; "Following Antigone: Forensic Anthropology and Human Rights Investigations" produced by Witness-EAAF; and "The Furthest Corner of the World" a MAMBO-EAAF production.

In addition, the meeting included two photo exhibitions by the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation, and the International Committee of the Red Cross on the project, "The Missing."

We also held an ALAF Members' General Assembly where the Board provided members with a narrative and financial report of last year's activities. The assembly also discussed and voted to approve new initiatives for the coming year. To maintain continuity during the early stages of the association's development, the Assembly prolonged the mandate of its current board exceptionally until October 2005.



Participants enjoy the closing reception of the second ALAF meeting in Antigua, Guatemala in July 2004.

Financial support for the Antigua meeting came from: EAAF (through a grant from the Open Society Institute), the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Center of Forensic Analysis and Applied Sciences.

2005 Activities

2005 activities include the launching of an electronic journal on forensic anthropology in Latin America, the creation of a committee to design the steps for an accreditation board, a press and institutional outreach committee, and the organization of ALAF's third annual meeting in Colombia.

The following institutions sponsor ALAF: Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG); Human Rights Office of the Archbishop of Guatemala (ODHAG); Center of Forensic Analysis and Applied Sciences (CAFCA); Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF); and Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (EPAF).

How to become a member: Contact the delegate for your country, or write us at alaf_03@yahoo.com.

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Next meeting: Our next annual meeting is scheduled for **September 2005** in Colombia.