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10 Nov 04

Dear Candace:

I am writing to very strongly endorse your new proposal to the NSF for work on Easter Island. After your visit here at Stanford and our subsequent communications, which included my review of the NSF referee comments on your initial proposal, I can confirm a number of support-related items that I hope will help you receive your requested funding.

First of all, let me state that I find the research efforts you propose to be exciting and doable. I consider that they dovetail very nicely with my own NSF-funded research project at Easter Island. As you know, our project focuses on the acquisition of a paleoclimate record using corals and that we will focus on the last 400 to 800 years. Your work on the human aspects of both environmental change and adaptation to climatic change at Easter Island are therefore of great interest to us.

Candace, we can offer to involve you in our March, 2005, field campaign at Easter. We will mainly be working in the ocean but if we can assist you with lake or bog coring (and we have much experience with this kind of work in Patagonia) we will. We will make available, in a timely fashion, our raw and interpreted paleoclimate data derived from corals. In this regard you will need to coordinate with Ms. Sarah Newell, the Stanford Ph.D. student who is pursuing the Easter Island coral work for her dissertation. She will have "first dibs" on coral paleoclimate pubs. We can also offer some analytical support – namely the isotopic analysis of organic components and/or ostracods that you will recover from your cores. I direct a lab that maintains a variety of mass spectrometers that will be useful to you. It will be most efficient (e.g., we can let you run a larger number of samples) if you come to Palo Alto to participate in the care and feeding of the instruments while we run your samples. Finally, I can offer my own expertise in oceanic paleoclimate analysis, insofar as you may need advice/assistance during the course of your project.

I wish you the best of luck with your proposal!

Cheers,

Robert B. Dunbar
Professor