



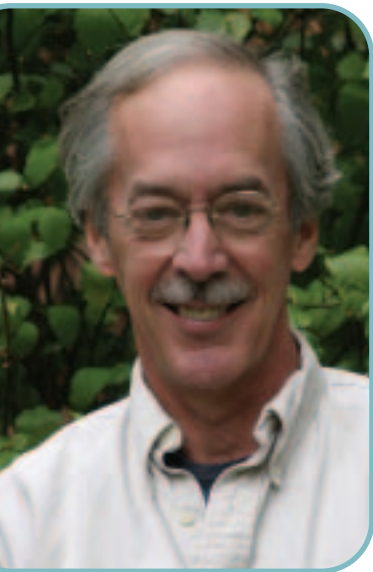
Sound Effects

MANY FRAMINGHAM STATE COLLEGE FACULTY MEMBERS have traveled to distant parts of the globe to gather information pertaining to their research. If you are tuned in to the dance rhythms and songs of Argentina or the Pacific Islands, or to languages not often spoken in the United States, or even to animal calls, you have heard the sounds that underlie some of the most fascinating research on campus.

Dr. William Barklow

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

Why do animals know enough to try to escape just before tsunamis hit? Based on his extensive research on animal sounds, Dr. William Barklow is considered to be among the scientific experts who can provide answers to such questions.



Bill's research on loons and hippos has been written about and discussed extensively and has been featured in at least eight documentaries. Of the latest two, both funded by National Geographic, one explores new findings on hippo biology. For this, Bill was interviewed at the College last spring by a British film company associated with a commercial television channel that attracts an audience of 45 million people each week. The other documentary, filmed in Botswana last June, deals directly with how animals respond to

earthquakes during tsunamis. It explores hippo vocal communication and will soon be released on PBS "Nature," after which it will be used for a National Geographic program called "Animal Omens."

Arriving at the film set on the Chobe River, Bill plugged in the trusty iPod that he had previously filled with hippo sounds and then waited. His ploy worked. The hippos began to "chain chorus," starting with one hippo, joined by an entire herd and then spreading to yet another herd. Previously, Bill had discovered in another context that "the bellow—an exhaled moo followed by a series of grunts—often

triggers a chorus when it is given by the territory holder. The call is deafening: The effect is about the same as being fifteen feet away from a heavy-metal rock band. The ensuing chorus is even louder, and travels at least a mile over the sounds of the river to trigger bellows from other territory holders, which in turn stimulate a chorus from the hippos in their territories."

As for responses to the tsunami, Bill theorizes that amphibious hippos, which transmit and hear sounds through their jaws and ears both above and below water, can detect the low frequency sounds produced by earthquakes. Inaudible to humans, such sounds are always associated with an aggressor and therefore provide a warning to flee.

Dr. Lisa Burke

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND MUSIC

The islands of the Pacific sound distant and exotic to most of us, but they make up a large part of Dr. Lisa Burke's familiar world. During the last couple of decades Lisa has spent months at a time, adding up to years, researching the cultures of those islands. Recently she contributed an article to the *Encyclopedia of World Folklore* in which she covers all facets, including the song and dance rituals, of Kiribati, a Pacific nation that encompasses thirty-three coral islands. She

also contributed a chapter, entitled "The Evolution of Performance Competition in Kiribati," in *Traditionalism and Modernity in the Music of Oceania*, tracing the changes that have taken place over the centuries in the indigenous music and dance practices, which continue to be important "for communicating stories and social messages."

In the summer of 2004, Lisa spent six weeks doing ethnomusicological



fieldwork in Palau at the Pacific Festival of Arts where she had worked in 1980. She then went on to the Republic of Kiribati, where she continued to investigate the connections “between performance, emotion, and modernity” in that culture. Her main purpose was to interview and videotape Kiribati performers and to update her doctoral fieldwork.

The music courses Lisa teaches have been shaped by those experiences. Not only in her World Music Cultures and American Musics classes but even in those on composers of the Western World, such as Beethoven, she tries to approach her subject through the idea of “how music and dance work in human beings to stimulate emotional response.” She encourages students to distance themselves from their own music so that they can hear and understand it within this larger context.

In addition to her publications, Lisa has made recordings. She has had requests from various writers for some of these recorded song texts to accompany their books and for possible inclusion in a new opera by Peter Sellars, renowned director of theater and opera, based on “the human impact of nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands.” Her recordings have also been played by Ellen Kushner on NPR’s “Sound and Spirit.”

Dr. Emilce Cordeiro

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES

Silence produced by the disappearance of 35,000 people in Argentina between 1976 and 1983 in an unspeakable military coup has haunted Dr. Emilce Cordeiro, who grew up in that country. This “missing generation” has been at the center of much of Emilce’s research and teaching.

Years ago when watching a film with her thesis advisor, Emilce was helped along in her research by a serendipitous meeting. She heard the voice of a stranger seated behind her, asking if he might meet with her after the film. He had overheard her frustration at being able to find only one book by the famous Argentinean author Haroldo Conti who was to be the subject of her dissertation. Conti, like so many other artists and writers, had disappeared in 1976, and his books, like theirs, had been burned under the new military dictatorship. But the stranger who had overheard Emilce had a copy of every one of Conti’s books that he had managed to save from the flames. Now Emilce was able to resurrect Conti’s voice.

Emilce, who studied at the National University of Rio Cuarto in Argentina and later at Temple University in Pennsylvania, has been promoting an understanding of Latin American cultures in a variety of ways. One is through the widely adopted text she co-authored, entitled *Quiosco*. Among the organizations



to which she belongs is the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese for which she organized two meetings at Framingham State and one at Wellesley College.

Emilce teaches all of her courses in Spanish and uses articles from Latin American magazines and newspapers to bring students closer to the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. Her latest interest has become Latin American film. Recently she presented a paper, “Mexico and Brazil Seen through Film Scenes,” at a Massachusetts Foreign Language Association conference; she includes films in all her courses; and she is in the process of developing a Latin American film course. Emilce believes that such films provide authentic insights into those cultures and “help students hear how people really talk.”

Dr. Yaser Najjar

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

The explosion caused by planes slamming into and taking down the World Trade Center was for Dr. Yaser Najjar “a wake-up call. . . . I remember that day—how suddenly I had to see myself as others might see me.” Most Americans, he says, are still unaware that in the trade center there was a mosque where 300 Muslims prayed every day, but now he, like so many Americans of the Islamic faith, would suddenly be viewed suspiciously.

Born in Jordan and attending high school there, Yaser later furthered his education in Lebanon, Egypt, Japan and finally the United States. Except for a couple of years when he taught in Saudi Arabia, he has been at Framingham State since 1987. Until September 11, he had taken his Arabic and American backgrounds for granted. Now he began to think about ways to promote understanding on both sides.

To this end, Yaser has been involved with several organizations in Worcester, including one he co-chairs, which work to find ways to lessen crime in that city. He has presented lectures to various agencies and residents, as well as to police and new police recruits, in an attempt to make them more culturally sensitive. Because he believes that even young

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