by onboard photovoltaic panels that convert sunlight to electric propulsive energy. The world-wide voyage to Mālama Honua (Care for the Earth) will take about 36 months; encompass more than 45,000 nautical miles, and visit at least 26 countries, with 62 stops. During the voyage, crews will connect with classrooms and educators and with community and indigenous groups to share their values and vision. For more information or to support this voyage and traditional Polynesian voyaging, visit: hokulea.org.

WHAT’S NEW ELSEWHERE

Vladimir Markov: Displays and Fictions

The Henry Moore Institute Events presented a workshop in April 2013 entitled “Vladimir Markov: Displays and Fictions.” Voldemars Matvejs (1877-1914) was a Latvian painter and art theorist who was fascinated by the display and understanding of art. Vladimir Markov was his nom de plume. His research included a universal theory for the development and understanding of art, based on fundamental studies of the art of all periods and regions. His research led him to photograph works of art across Europe, documenting many different modes of display and, indirectly, revealing the ways in which photography can be used to tell a particular artistic narrative. His research included an analysis of Easter Island sculpture in the book, The Art of Easter Island, published in 1914.

Mystery of Easter Island DVD released

NOVA. DVD, 60 minutes. $19.95 (available from www.pbsshops.org)

DVD synopsis: A remote, bleak speck of rock in the middle of the Pacific, Easter Island, or Rapa Nui, has mystified the world ever since the first Europeans arrived in 1722. How and why did the ancient islanders build and move nearly 900 giant statues or moai, weighing up to 86 tons? And how did they transform a presumed paradise into a treeless wasteland, bringing ruin upon their island and themselves? NOVA explores controversial recent claims that challenge decades of previous thinking about the islanders, who have been accused of everything from ecocide to cannibalism. Among the theories suggested is that the islanders used ropes to “walk” the statues upright, like moving a fridge. With the help of an accurate 15-ton replica statue, a NOVA team sets out to test this high-risk, seemingly unlikely theory – serving up plenty of action and surprises in this fresh investigation of one of the ancient world’s most intriguing enigmas.

EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION NEWS

EIF’s 2013 Scholarships were awarded in February. Marla Wold and Elaine Crumpley of the EIF Scholarship Committee visited Rapa Nui to announce the awards and meet the recipients.

Rafael Simon Paoa Rapu received the Brian Scothorne Award ($2000) and Ananda Foundation/Sheree Lipton Award ($1000). Rafael is studying archaeology at the Universidad Internacional SEK in Santiago. He has completed his major studies and is working on his professional practice and undergraduate thesis. His research includes the analysis of a lithics collection while researching the presence of Polynesians in South America based on genetic analysis to see if these relationships, through the study of lithic technology, can determine cultural patterns present in the production of stone tools. His advisory team includes Lisa Matison-Smith, José Miguel Ramírez, and Andrea Seelenfreund. Rafael, who received the EIF Annual Award in 2012, noted that EIF’s support has been crucial to the success of his studies. Several people had the opportunity to meet Rafael at the EIPC meeting in Santa Rosa in 2012.

Lafquen Passalcqua Hucke received the Fraternal Order of Moai Award ($3000). Lafquen is in her fourth year of study in social anthropology at the Universidad Católica de Temuco. Her studies include recognition of the importance of the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples. It is her belief that cultural knowledge should not only be preserved, but also transmitted to future generations to encourage pride in their ancestry. Through her education, Lafquen wants to document the cultural traditions and the ancestral knowledge of the Rapanui elders.

Pamina Olivares Paoa received the Fraternal Order of Moai Tangata Manu Award ($2500). Pamina is in her fifth year of study at the School of Architecture and Design, Pontificia Universidad Católica, Valparaíso. The study of architecture has enabled her to combine two subjects she is passionate about: art and history. After she completes her studies, she would like to work towards reinforcing two of the island’s economic mainstays: fishing and tourism. One of her ideas is to develop a long term project working with other disciplines towards creating a marine reserve on the island for endangered species, with the goal of having a sustainable ecosystem. She is also interested in preserving the ancestral methods of fishing to both revive these traditions and use them for tourism. She envisions development of an interpretive trail along the coastline that emphasizes the importance of fishing and marine resources to the ancestral Rapanui that will help educate visitors about the island’s coastal resources.

Laura Tarita Alarcon Rapu has been awarded the Ananda Foundation/Sheree Lipton Award ($1000).
Tarita is in the final stages of completing her degree in physical anthropology at the Universidad de Chile. She hopes her research will contribute to a better understanding of the island, both for visitors and at the community level. Tarita is grateful that her 2012 Fraternal Order of Moai Award enabled her to focus on her studies during her fourth year. In 2013, Tarita will be working on an internship at the Fowler Museum at UCLA with Professor Wendy Teeter, Curator of Archaeology; we wish Tarita all the best for her internship opportunity at the Fowler Museum.

Cecilia Hormazabal Araki received the Mildred R. Donoghue Award ($2500). This is a special 2 year scholarship. Cecilia is studying nursing at the Universidad de Santo Tomás in Viña del Mar. Cecilia hopes to facilitate better quality patient care on Rapa Nui, to help eliminate the custom of having to travel to Chile for treatment since it is both logistically and financially challenging for many Rapanui people to fly to the mainland for health care. Her Rapanui ancestry will enable her to communicate more effectively with patients. She is especially interested in working with the elderly and notes that the scholarship will help her to achieve her goal, which is to facilitate professional and human quality health care for all who need it.

We congratulate all the 2013 recipients of the EIF Scholarship awards and we thank all our members and others who have donated to our scholarship program. From the comments of our past winners, these scholarships have helped them to continue to focus on their studies and to purchase books and supplies. Donations to the EIF Scholarship Program can be sent to the EIF at any time during the year. A downloadable donation form is available on our website.

As always, the EIF has many interesting publications and rare books for sale; please visit the publications page of our website for the most up-to-date list. We still have a few stone coasters (made especially for the EIPC meeting) with a beautiful depiction of Ahu Nau Nau by Paul Horley. They are available for $10 plus shipping. We also created a special edition water bottle for the conference with the classic drawing of a Rano Raraku moai by Tom Scalise. The stainless steel, BPA-free, 24 oz. water bottle is white with the moai graphic in black. They sell for $20 plus shipping. Refillable water bottles are a great way to promote conservation, and the Easter Island Foundation bottles are certainly unique!