

# Rapa Nui Journal: Journal of the Easter Island Foundation

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## EIF News

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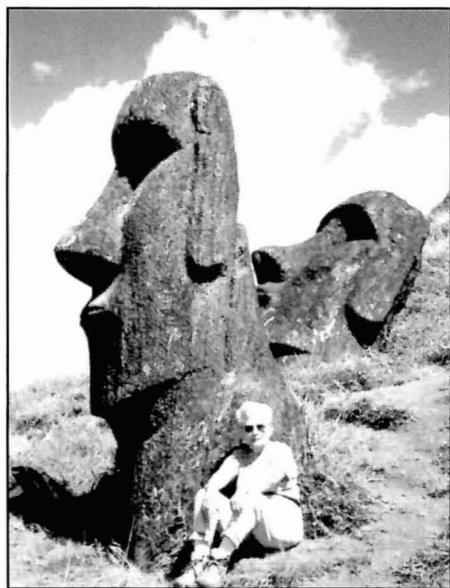
**NEWS FROM THE EIF**

**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR RAPANUI STUDENTS.** The Easter Island Foundation began awarding scholarships to Rapanui students in 2002. The program helps students from Easter Island further their studies and ultimately promote the conservation and preservation of Rapanui heritage. To apply for a scholarship, applicants must be of Rapanui ancestry, younger than 30 years of age, and enrolled in a university or institution in good academic standing. Applications are available online throughout the year (at [www.islandheritage.org/scholarships](http://www.islandheritage.org/scholarships)). The deadline for 2009 is December 31, 2008.

The scholarship committee consists of island Governor Melania Carolina Hotu Hey, Sofia Faundez Hey, Victoria Haoa Cardinali, Marla Wold, and Elaine Crumpley.

Currently the EIF is awarding three US\$3000 scholarships to deserving Rapanui students. The Foundation would greatly appreciate donations to the scholarship fund. The preservation of the cultural heritage of Rapa Nui begins with the youth and their education: "All aboard the Scholar-Ship!"

**AVONNE BRADSHAW LOVED EASTER ISLAND.** She first traveled there years ago during one of Chris Stevenson's archaeological projects. One trip was enough to captivate her, and she returned again and again. Some of her visits were with Georgia Lee's tours (Far Horizons Archaeological Trips). Avonne had many friends on the island and she eagerly awaited each issue of *Rapa Nui Journal* and often wrote, asking for news about her island friends and what was happening in



**Avonne Bradshaw at Rano Raraku**

Hanga Roa. She refused to deal with e-mail, so we became accustomed to her "hard copy" letters, often filled with clippings about "things Rapa Nui".

Avonne was a Marine in World War II. Tough as nails, she cussed like a sailor, drank amazing amounts of beer, and was an avid Red Sox fan. She went skydiving on her 80th birthday.

Sadly, we lost Avonne last year, but her memory lives on and not the least because of her generous legacy to the Easter

Island Foundation. Avonne bequeathed a portion of her estate so that our work toward conservation, preservation, and education might continue on her favorite island in the center of the world. We are grateful to Avonne, and those like her who have made a generous commitment to the conservation of Easter Island, for remembering us in her will.

**TWO RAPANUIPHILES** — Kathi Merritt and her mother Mildred Donoghue — kindly made donations to the EIF to support the research of Easter Island archaeologists Sonia Haoa and Chris Stevenson.

The funds were donated for purchase of equipment to assist them with their fieldwork on the dating of archaeological sites. Pete Kelsey of Autodesk created a great program for Sonia's research but her old computer was not up to handling the new software. With donated funds (and a bit of help

from the EIF), Sonia now has a state-of-the-art computer to assist with her field projects. The new laptop was hand-delivered by Kelsey to an astonished and very pleased Sonia.

Kathi has been working with Sonia and Chris through the Earthwatch program and was touched by Sonia's quiet strength and her hopes for the future of the island — so much so that Kathi will return next spring for another six-week field season with Chris and Sonia!

**ELEVEN NEW COMPOSTING BINS** are being shipped to Easter Island courtesy of the EIF; these bins will help to divert organic waste from the over-extended landfill on the island and will create rich compost that can be used by the islanders for growing fruits and vegetables. The bins are rust-proof, animal-proof, and recyclable. The goal of International Help Fund Australia is to provide a bin to each of the 1200 households on Easter Island. The EIF is thrilled to be able to assist in this project, which not only helps the islanders but will also help the environment by saving greenhouse gas emissions. For more information, or to sponsor a bin yourself, visit IHFA's Web site at [www.internationalhelpfund.org/](http://www.internationalhelpfund.org/).



**Sonia Haoa (at the Gotland conference; photo by P. Horley)**