

CSUN Department of Anthropology Newsletter

September 2008

Dear CSUN Anthropology Department Alumni and Friends,

It's been a year of great changes for the Department of Anthropology at CSUN! The academic year has begun again, and a whole new crop of students are coming through our doors. As CSUN prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary, I want to let you know about some of the transformations that have taken place, and invite you to become a part of the department's exciting future.

Let me take a moment to introduce myself, for those of you who may not have stopped by my office to chat during the last year. My name is Sabina Magliocco, and I joined the department eleven years ago. I came to CSUN through a circuitous route that took me through some of the top Anthropology departments in the nation. My Ph.D. is from Indiana University, and before coming to CSUN, I taught at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, UCLA, UC Santa Barbara and UC Berkeley. I'm a cultural anthropologist specializing in folklore, festival, foodways, religion, and witchcraft. I have worked in Sardinia (Italy), Cornwall (Britain), and with ethnic diasporas and new religious movements in the United States. I became department chair in August 2007, upon the retirement of my distinguished predecessor, Dr. Antonio Gilman.

In fact, there have been quite a few retirements during the last twelve months. In addition to Antonio Gilman, Dr. Naomi Bishop retired and moved to Portland, Oregon in Fall 2007, and Dr. Greg Truex, who served as Associate Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences since 2005, retired in June 2008.

There have also been exciting new hires in the last several years. Dr. Matthew Des Lauriers, a California archeologist specializing in early Paleolithic culture on Isla Cedros, Baja California, came on board in 2006, and in his short time at CSUN, has already developed a strong student following, a set of exciting classes (including Experimental Archeology), and a summer field school, which he ran in 2007. Dr. Des Lauriers recently obtained a contract from the U.S. Army Base at Twenty-nine Palms to conduct field excavation and analysis at a local site. Several students will be working as assistants on this project beginning in Fall 2008. Dr. Des Laurier's work continues CSUN's strong tradition of training students to work in public archeology and cultural resource management. In the future, we hope to hire additional faculty to expand these strengths in the direction of public folklore and cultural heritage management.

The Department has been without a full-time physical anthropologist since the retirement of Dr. Bruce Gelvin in 2005, so we are particularly excited to announce the addition of two full-time faculty in physical/ biological anthropology in the 2008-09 academic year.

A native of New Zealand, Dr. Christina Campbell is a biological anthropologist specializing in New World primates, with an ongoing research project in Panama examining reproductive biology, behavioral ecology and the evolution of alcoholism among spider monkeys. In Fall 2008, she will be teaching ANTH

151, "Physical Anthropology," ANTH 311, "Human Variation," and the ANTH 603 graduate seminar on Physical Anthropology. She plans to develop more physical and biological anthropology classes for our department in the future. An internationally-known expert on spider monkeys, Dr. Campbell is the primary author of *Primates in Perspective*, a college-level textbook which won the 2007 Choice Award for Outstanding Academic Title, an honor granted by the American Library Association to books that make exceptional contributions to undergraduate education. Her new book *Spider Monkeys: Behavior, Ecology and Evolution of the Genus*, will be published this fall by Cambridge University Press.

Dr. H  l  ne Rougier comes to CSUN from Bordeaux, France. A paleoanthropologist, she specializes in the study of Neandertals during the Middle and Late Pleistocene periods, focusing on the forms and variations of this early human species, their relationship with modern humans, and the reasons for their disappearance. She has conducted field excavations in Le Piage, France, Pe stera cu Oase, Romania, and Dia Shoma, Mali. The author of over twenty articles, Dr. Rougier is an internationally-known expert in her field, and her research projects will offer students exciting opportunities to contribute to our knowledge of early hominids. Dr. Rougier received a Wenner-Gren Fellowship for Anthropological Research for Fall 2008, and will begin teaching in our department in Spring 2009. She will offer two sections of ANTH 151, "Physical Anthropology," as well as ANTH 490B, a seminar on Neandertals and their portrayals in anthropology. She plans to develop courses on identifying and dealing with human remains, as well as other aspects of physical anthropology, in the future.

This year has seen many promotions, as well. Dr. Christina von Mayrhauser, a medical anthropologist hired in 2001, has been made Associate Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Among our part-time faculty, Dr. Wendy Birky is now Director of the Liberal Studies Program, while Dr. Elizabeth Adams has become Special Assistant to the Dean Beth Say, of the College of Humanities.

Among our faculty receiving honors, Dr. Michael Love will be a Dumbarton Oaks Fellow at the Institute for Pre-Columbian Studies in Washington, D.C. for the 2008-09 academic year. Dr. Suzanne Scheld will be the first Research Fellow in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences in Spring 2009. Her project examines the role of Chinese traders in Senegal, Africa.

One of our most exciting projects this summer has been the renovation of the Bone Lab in Sierra Hall 235. The room received new storage trays for artifacts, a double sink, and new countertops and shelves; all the new facilities are accessible to students with disabilities. They will be used by archeologists Dr. Michael Love and Dr. Matthew Des Lauriers and their students to process and analyze materials from their field sites. Drs. Campbell and Rougiers will each have their own labs in Sierra Hall, where some of the large collection of bone casts built by Dr. Bruce Gelvin will now be housed.

This Fall, we are offering a number of interesting courses, including a seminar on the anthropology of food taught by Dr. Cathy Costin, a seminar on the archeology of intercultural contact, offered by Dr. Garcia – Des Lauriers, and my ever-popular "The Supernatural in the Modern World." Students in these classes will be preparing posters and papers to be presented at next spring's Anthro Expo. This event, pioneered by Dr. Suzanne Scheld in 2006, highlights the contributions of Anthropology and our students' noteworthy achievements. Stay tuned for more information about Anthro Expo in spring 2009.

I invite you to drop by the department and see first-hand some of the transformations I have described for you. You'll see that the Department of Anthropology continues to be committed to offering our students a top-notch education with strengths in both the scientific and humanistic approaches to the

study of human beings and their cultures. In fact, our students have been accepted into top-flight graduate programs at UC San Diego, UC Berkeley, University of Michigan, Northwestern, Indiana University, Emory University, University of Montana and CSULB.

I also invite you to become a part of our future by supporting the Department of Anthropology at CSUN through gifts and donations. These help support students by making available a variety of educational experiences that would otherwise not be possible for them, such as internships, travel to field sites and exposure to hands-on learning. Donations can be made to the Anthropology Resource Fund, or to any of the following targeted funds and scholarships:

The Anthropology Department Resource Fund

This fund supports general instructional programs in the Department of Anthropology, such as student travel to conferences, field trips and research materials.

The Keith Morton Memorial Scholarship

Founded in memory of one of our most beloved professors, Dr. Keith Morton, whose broad interests spanned the discipline, this scholarship is given annually to the most outstanding undergraduate or graduate student in cultural anthropology whose work embodies the excellence, thoroughness and breadth of Dr. Morton's work.

The Antonio Gilman Award

Established in honor of the noted Iberian prehistorian Dr. Antonio Gilman, who gave over 30 years of service to the department, this award recognizes the most outstanding undergraduate or graduate student in the field of archeology.

The Folklore Archive Fund

Established by the noted folklorist Bess Lomax Hawes, who taught in the department from 1959 to 1975, this fund supports the Bess Lomax Hawes Student Folklore Archives, a collection of oral expressive culture from the San Fernando Valley and surrounding communities gathered by CSUN students through field projects, as well as other folklore-related activities in the department.

The Council Taylor Scholarship

Founded in honor of the most distinguished scholars of African American cultures who taught in the Department of Anthropology and the Department of Pan-African Studies, this scholarship recognizes outstanding student contributions to the study of African and/or African American cultures.

To make a donation to any of these funds, please contact the Anne Robison, Director of Development for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, at anne.robison@csun.edu.

I look forward to hearing from you during the upcoming academic year, and to your continuing participation in our department and its future.

With all good wishes,

Sabina Magliocco
Professor and Department Chair