

# CSUN ANTHROPOLOGY

2017-2018 NEWSLETTER, NO.1



## STUDENT SUCCESS

2017 was a terrific year for students in the Anthropology Department at CSUN! We thank all of our donors for contributing to student success behind the scenes.

Four students were awarded prizes for outstanding academic achievement. The Antonio Gilman Award for outstanding achievement in archaeology was given to Krystal Kissinger. The Bruce Gelvin Award for outstanding achievement in Biological Anthropology went to Alejandro Gavilan. The Keith Morton Award for outstanding research in Cultural Anthropology was awarded to Madlen Avetyan (see below), and the Student Research Award for supporting a meritorious research project, was given to John Lawrence (see below).

We have other highlights to share. This year, 12 CSUN Anthropology students enjoyed a successful summer field school in the Cronise Basin of the Mojave Desert, taught by Professor Matthew Des Lauriers. The students practiced hands-on archaeological methods and found amazing artifacts including shells, beads, animal bones from species not common to the basin, an

intriguing swatch of ancient textile, and human remains which were repatriated by leaders of the local tribe by the end of the summer. It was an exciting summer.

While some students spent the summer sweating it out in the desert, others--Sabrena Stembridge and Tiffany Brooks--jetted off to internships at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.. Eryn Talevich, our HSI Pathways to the Professoriate scholarship winner, immersed herself in the library in order to write applications for doctoral programs focused on expressive culture. Coralia Guandidque, a star in Build Poder, a research training program designed to prepare CSUN students of diverse backgrounds for careers in biomedical fields, also stuck close to home to write applications for doctoral programs in Public Health and Anthropology.

The list of student accomplishments goes on! We are proud of the students. We see them making the most of their opportunities at CSUN, and heading into fields with skills, fresh ideas, and the drive to make a difference. We are grateful to you for helping to put them in the best possible position to reach their goals.

# SPINNING TOWARD SUCCESS

The 2017 Anthropology Student Research Award was given to John Lawrence to aid him in finishing his master's thesis research entitled, "Petrography, Production, and Provenance of Ceramics from La Blanca, Guatemala." John is putting the final touches on his thesis now! In this thesis, he analyzes ceramic wares for clues about La Blanca's domestic economy in the Middle Pre-classic (900-600 BCE) period. This project contributes to a broader archaeological study of La Blanca by Dr. Michael Love. John's thesis is compelling because it is informed by his extensive experience as a potter and love of geology. When John is not analyzing or making ceramics, he is participating in other research. He is the co-author of two articles in the Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports: "New Archaeological Insights from Petrographic Analysis of Ceramics from the Bocas del Toro Archipelago, Panama" (2017) and "Petrographic Analysis of Pre-Columbian Pottery from Four Islands in the Lesser Antilles and Implications for Inter-Island Transport and Interactions" (2016). As if this weren't enough, John finds time to give back to CSUN by tutoring students at the Matador Achievement Center. John is one of our most impressive students, and he knows how to leave his mark!



## TAKING US HIGHER

Madlen Aveytan is the 2016-17 winner of the Keith Morton Award for the best student in the area of Cultural Anthropology. Madlen completed a highly relevant master's thesis entitled "Ethnodoxy in the Diaspora: Armenian-American Religious and Ethnic Identity Construction in Los Angeles." This thesis is exceptional in examining the relationship of LA's Armenian diaspora with its Orthodox Christian identity. In addition to producing an outstanding thesis, Madlen inspired many freshmen and sophomores with her thought-provoking and insightful stories from the field. In addition to this, Madlen served the department as Peer Advisor for two years and participated in the department's Transfer Bridge Program, visiting community college campuses all over the Valley and greater L.A. area to recruit students into our program. Madlen now has a position as an instructor at LA Valley College! We are thrilled for Madlen, and proud of her many accomplishments.



## Other Department News

In other news, you'll be happy to know that the Anthropology Department continues to thrive in every way. Faculty introduced a number of new and exciting courses including "Forensic Anthropology," "The Anthropology of War," "Expressive Culture through the Lens of Clothing and Dress," and an experimental course on writing at the graduate student level. Faculty also continue to contribute valuable scholarship to the fields of primatology and human evolution, landscape archaeology and environmental resources and health, and studies of hunter-gathers and of past and present urban centers.

We enjoy what we do, and we are thankful for all of your support. We think of you as family, and so we would love to see you sometime. We hope you'll join us at some of the events that we are organizing this year, or drop us a line to let us know what you are doing. Your updates will surely inspire the students.

### Spring 2018 Events

Tuesday, March 13, 2:00-3:00, 4117 Bookstein Hall. The Keith Morton Memorial Lecture: guest speaker Dr. Jerry Moore (CSU, Dominguez Hills). Lecture title: "Putting the House Back into Household Archaeology: Making/Inhabiting/Studying Ancient Andean Houses."

Wednesday, March 14th, 12:30-1:45, Oviatt 25, "Travel Tales: Students Stories from the Field." Anthropology students discuss their study abroad and travel experiences in France, Egypt, and across the United States.

Tuesday, March 27th, 9:00-4:00, The 7th Annual African Studies Symposium. Theme: Social Movements, with presentations from Nisrin Elhamin Abdelrahman, a social activist from Sudan, and faculty and student panels, and a workshop on how to organize a social movement.

Tuesday, April 17th, 9:00-4:00, Whitsett Room. The 11th Annual Anthro/Expo. Theme: "Food For Thought." Keynote speaker: Dr. Gene Anderson (UC Riverside).

For more information about these events, contact Suzanne Scheld, Chair, [Suzanne.scheld@csun.edu](mailto:Suzanne.scheld@csun.edu); 818-677-3331. \

Photos: (Left) Students in Lab Methods for Archaeology (Anth 518); (Right) Memebers of the Anthropology Student Association at Anthropology Day in the Santa Monica National Park.

[HTTPS://WWW.CSUN.EDU/SOCIAL-BEHAVIORAL-SCIENCES/ANTHROPOLOGY](https://www.csun.edu/social-behavioral-sciences/anthropology)



## Make a difference—yes, you can!

Whether you can spare a few dollars or many more, you can make a difference in our students' lives. In the Anthropology Department at CSUN, we depend on your support for giving undergraduate and graduate scholarships, field school awards, and funds for field research opportunities. It's easy to make your tax-deductible gift through CSUN's Foundation. Go to <https://givenow.csun.edu/> for online giving, and mention in the "Special Instructions" one of the Anthropology funds listed below as the designation of your gift. Or use this convenient form to designate your gift to a specific purpose:

- The Anthropology Resource Fund** (Awards are given to talented undergraduate and graduates for research in Anthropology and other student-centered uses approved by the Department of Anthropology)
- Anthropology Student Research Endowment** (Awards are given to support student research, participation in field schools, internships, and other training, student conference presentations, and other student-centered uses approved by the Department of Anthropology)
- The Antonio Gilman Fund in Archaeology** (Awards are given to talented undergraduate or graduate students in archaeology)
- The Bess Lomax Hawes Folklore Fund** (Awards are given to talented undergraduate or graduate students for research on folklore)
- The Bruce Gelvin Endowed Scholarship** (Awards are given to talented undergraduate or graduate students in biological anthropology)
- The Keith Morton Memorial Scholarship** (Awards are given to talented undergraduate or graduate students in cultural anthropology)

Gift Amount:     \$25             \$50             \$100             \$250             \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out and return this page, along with your check made payable to the CSUN Foundation, to Anthropology, 18111 Nordhoff Street, California State University, Northridge, Northridge, CA, 91330.