An Interview with Dr. Chris Fisher

By Kenny Many

Dr. Fisher has always had an interest in soils and geology. As a graduate student, Fisher found that he could mix his two passions with the budding science of geoarchaeology. Dr. Fisher received his BA from Michigan and then attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1992-2001 earning his MA and his PhD degrees. During this time he began to develop an interest in human impact on the surrounding environment. After 2001, he spent a year at Arizona State University doing post-doctoral work and then worked at Kent State as an assistant professor. He has been at CSU for two years.

Right now he is working in the Patzcuaro Lake Basin with graduate student Florencia Pezzutti. They are studying the change in the prehistoric landscape of the lake basin. In 2003, Fisher and colleagues determined that the major cause of prehistoric soil erosion in the region occurred during periods of low population density, rather than the commonly presumed periods of high density.

This topic will be the focus of Dr. Fisher’s research as he is optimistic and excited about what future research will hold.

The Anthropology Department welcomes its newest member:
Rosalie Samaniego

By Abe Thompson

Last January marked Rosalie’s 28th year here at CSU. Previously she had been a member of the staff of the Dean’s office. In the Fall of 2006 she transferred to the Anthropology Department. The transition for Rosalie “was and continues to be welcoming and challenging.”

Originally from California, Rosalie has been a member of the Fort Collins community since 1973. Though smaller than she was used to, Fort Collins provides, “an easy escape to the foothills,” where she can, “feel as though [she’s] miles away.” Here she enjoys hobbies such as reading, hiking, mountain biking, visiting with friends, and talking with her children.

Being a mother of two college age offspring, Rosalie is surrounded by a college atmosphere. Her son, 23, will graduate from the University of Hawaii, Hilo on May 12. Her daughter, age 22, will graduate from the University of Colorado, Denver in May, 2008.

Again, from all of us here in the Anthropology Department, “welcome to our team!”
**Recent Events**

**Distinguished Lecturers Visit Anthropology Department**

By Benjamin Jewell

Gary Nabhan - On March 1, the AGSS (see page 4) brought distinguished scholar and lecturer Gary Nabhan to speak on the role of bison in the Great Plains ecosystem. Nabhan is currently the Director of the Center for Sustainable Environments at Northern Arizona University. Dr. Nabhan co-founded Native Seeds/SEARCH and became a leading voice for conserving and renovating native plant agriculture in the Americas. In addition, Nabhan has authored and co-authored nearly 20 books, including *Why Some Like It Hot: Food, Genes and Cultural Diversity*, *Renewing America's Food Traditions*, and *Coming Home to Eat*. Over three decades, he has worked with more than a dozen indigenous communities on cross-cultural initiatives to revive indigenous food traditions.

Jane Goodall - As part of the Monfort Lecture Series, Jane Goodall visited CSU on April 25 for a lecture addressing the need for conservation and protection of ecosystems. As part of the events, a chapter of Roots and Shoots, the conservation based organization founded by Goodall, was organized through efforts by several student organizations at CSU, including the Department of Anthropology’s Graduate Student Society (AGSS). Members of the AGSS were able to attend a one hour meeting with Dr. Goodall to share their efforts at increasing sustainability. In addition, a pre-lecture dinner and reception was attended by the officers and guests of the AGSS.

Arthur Joyce - Dr. Art Joyce came to the department on March 30 as part of the departmental colloquium series. Joyce spoke on his research addressing ‘The Interregional Effects of Prehispanic Landuse in Oaxaca, Mexico.’ The talk focused on the downstream impacts, both social and ecological, from land alteration in the Prehispanic period, and assessed the extent to which archaeology could make definitive statements about prehistoric ecology. Dr. Joyce is a professor of archaeology at CU-Boulder, where his research focuses on the origins and development of complex societies of Mesoamerica. He is directing a long-term interdisciplinary project along the Rio Verde drainage basin in Oaxaca, Mexico, examining the political and ecological history of the region.

**Front Range Student Ecology Symposium**

By Benjamin Jewell

The 13th Annual Front Range Student Ecology Symposium (FRSES) was hosted by CSU this year, bringing in students and professionals from across the region. Emphasizing the importance of collaboration across disciplines, the FRSES follows the growing academic and political realization that humans are a vital component of ecosystems; as such, they need to be included in scientific research addressing environmental conservation.

The Department of Anthropology was well represented, as faculty, graduate and undergraduate students presented oral and poster presentations. Dr. Galvin spoke at an interdisciplinary panel discussing the integration of social and ecological sciences. Graduate student Benjamin Jewell used the symposium as an opportunity to prepare theoretically for his summer thesis research by presenting the political ecology of diet on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Chrissina Burke, a graduate student in archaeology, took third prize for graduate level poster presentation and also best ‘Research-in-action’ award in the photography contest. Burke’s poster, titled “Biogenic Factors Influencing the Taphonomy of a Bonebed: Implications for Human-Predator Interactions on the Great Plains” looked at carnivore alteration of bison faunal remains at the Kaplan-Hoover bison kill site. Undergraduate Sara Svatos presented a poster titled ‘Using Archaeology and Statistics to Understand Prehistoric Human Ecology at High Altitudes’ which addressed human ecology in an archaeological context. Svatos drew from field research done at Site 48PA2874 in the Absarokas Mountain Range in Wyoming. Finally, undergraduate Kristin Gensmer’s poster ‘Dendrochronology and Paleoclimatology of the Greybull River Basin’ received constructive and positive feedback from jurors and attendees.

Chrisy Burke hard at work on her thesis-this photo took best ‘Research-in-Action’ prize at the FRSES.
A NOTE TO OUR FRIENDS: Our program depends on donations for its seminar series, student events and field trips. We would eventually like to be able to offer awards to top graduate and undergraduate students; your donations can make this happen.

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SELECTED FACULTY PUBLICATIONS  By Francois Dengah

Browne

Galvin:

Kwiatkowski:

Pickering:

Todd:

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Masters of Arts Graduates  By Leslie Johnson

Allison Bohn
“Scattered Glass: Obsidian Artifact Provenance Patterns in Northwestern Wyoming”
Advisor: Dr. Lawrence Todd

Andrew Mueller
“Abysmal Luck in the Absarokas: Gold Reef – A Late 19th Early 20th Century Mining Locality in Northwestern Wyoming”
Advisor: Dr. Lawrence Todd

Naomi Ollie
“An Environmental Archaeology Study of Landscape Change and Stability in the Southern Absaroka Range, Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem”
Advisor: Dr. Lawrence Todd

Christy Eylar
“Illness Vulnerability in Bolivia: A Comparative Approach to Understanding Health in the Mining Community”.
Advisor: Dr. Lynn Kwiatkowski

Teressa Gehrke
“The Myths and Truths of Cultural Conceptions of Disabilities, Identity and Services for Individuals with Genetic Diseases and Disabilities in Haiti: A Look at Wings of Hope in Fermathe and Pazpa in Jacmel.”
Advisor: Dr. Lynn Kwiatkowski

Marjorie Kemp
“Mending Social Memory; Wellness on Rosebud Reservation through Lakota Language and Song.”
Advisor: Dr. Lynn Kwiatkowski

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Anthropology Graduate Student Society: A Great Beginning

By Chrissina Burke

Starting off with a torrent of goals and aspirations, the Anthropology Graduate Student Society (AGSS) has accomplished a lot in its inaugural year. With the creation, execution, and publication of the first ever undergraduate and graduate student journal, ‘Furthering Perspectives: Anthropological Views of the World,’ the AGSS has assisted students in getting a publication in a professional format. To do so, a board of editors was created comprised of former professors Cal Jennings, Esther Pressel and Eden Welker, and current adjunct professors Kim Nichols-Bown and Hollie Kopp. In addition to producing a professional hard copy set to be released at the end of April, the AGSS has applied for an ISBN number from the Library of Congress to ensure that a copy of the journal is housed at the CSU Morgan Library.

For the creation of this journal, funds were raised from private donors and a grant was awarded from the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA). In addition to working on the journal, the AGSS also has started a bulletin board just outside the reading room in the Anthropology Department to update graduate students on group events hosted by the AGSS, grants, conferences, workshops, and other events.

A graduate student lecture series has been established. Every Friday afternoon, one or more students and a faculty member give presentations about their research. This presentation series provides a forum for students to gain experience with professional presentations and to let students share their research with everyone else. So far, the lecture series has been a huge success, the graduate student presenters have appreciated the opportunities to present and receive feedback on their lectures. Kathy Plate gave the first lecture, and commented that she received helpful comments and questions to better assess how her thesis defense presentation could be improved.

In the future, the AGSS hopes to hold the graduate student lecture series on a biweekly basis and would like to include more faculty and outside lecturers. The second annual volume of ‘Furthering Perspectives’ will be published in the spring of 2008; both volume one and two will be published online. In addition, more workshops will be held for computer programs such as Endnote and library databases including: Web of Science, eHraf, JSTOR, and Academic Search Premier. Finally, the group hopes to work with other groups interested in sustainable development and cultural enlightenment in the Fort Collins community.

*Journal Authors: April Biasiolli, Mason Cummings, Rosalie Danzman, Francois Dengah, Ashley Hamor, Benjamin Jewell, Leslie Johnson, Andrew Kumar, Ryan McElhoe, Bethany Mizushima, Kristina Pearson, Anna Schwinger, James van Lanen.

The AGSS could use your help:
Donations to the group will help with future publications of ‘Furthering Perspectives’ and other projects. Donors of $10 or more will receive a free copy of Volume 1 of the Furthering Perspectives Journal. Checks can be made payable to AGSS and sent to:
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