WELCOME TO THE CSU DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY NEWSLETTER

This spring has been an incredible time for achievement, reflection, and new opportunities in the Department of Anthropology. Faculty and students are actively conducting, presenting and publishing research locally, nationally and abroad and curricular opportunities for students in the department are expanding. For undergraduates, we have added concentrations in cultural anthropology, archaeology, biological anthropology and geography for our rapidly growing number of majors. For graduate students, we have four specialized tracks: Health and Well-being, Human-Environment Interactions, International Development and Professional Methods and Techniques, as well as an Interdisciplinary Studies Program in Resilience of Social-Ecological Systems. We anticipate these new graduate degrees will be approved later this fall. We are also excited to begin instruction in our newly renovated biological anthropology and archaeology teaching and research labs in the Clark Building, complete with the latest in instructional technology, hands-on materials, and laboratory equipment.

On a more somber note, this spring we lost two dear members of the department’s extended family. Jim Benedict was a long-time supporter of the department’s archaeology field programs, inspiring students and faculty with his passion for alpine geological and archaeological research. His dedication and enthusiasm will be sorely missed. Esther Pressel was the first female anthropologist appointed to the faculty at CSU, and was a valued member of the department for 44 years. Her research and teaching on spirit possession established the foundation for psychological anthropology in the department, which continues to thrive to this day. The legacy of these two fine individuals will be felt in the department for generations to come.

We are so pleased with the growing interest of so many of our alumni in reengaging with the department and participating in our activities and plans for the future. The generosity of our former students and friends has been breathtaking, and for this we give you our heartfelt thanks. The Friends of CSU Anthropology is busy organizing our Second Annual Homecoming Get Together on September 30, followed by Field School Reunions for all the former archaeological and ethnographic field students on October 1. We look forward to seeing you all soon. If you haven’t seen our new website, you are in for a treat. Visit us at http://anthropology.colostate.edu

Take care and stay in touch,
Kathy

CONGRATULATIONS SPRING GRADUATES

Master of Arts
Aziza Bayou
April Biasiolli
Emily Calhoun
Lauren Denton
Kim Derry
Angie Fuhrmann
Dustin Hill
Jessica Jackson
Alissa Leavitt
Annie Maggard
Jessica Vyvial-Larson

Bachelor of Arts-Majors
Andrea M. Akers‡
Renee Badertscher
Eric M. Bombaci
Megan J. Clayton
Lindsey Ellgen
Jillian I. Gonder
Travis A. Hill†
Mikah M. Jaschke
Christopher F. Jones
Erica M. Kramer
Nicole E. Luczkow
Samantha K. Nord
Brandon T. Peterson
Samantha R. Ruiz
Kaitlin Stanley
† Magna Cum Laude
Christopher J. Anderson†
Heather R. Baily†
Heather A. Chagnon
Jason C. DeCorte
Michelle M. Garcia
Diane F. Hamel†
Kelly E. Hulkovich
Nikolas A. Johs‡
Rebecca R. Kovacik
Jessica L. Lenderts‡
Rae M. Mosher
Joseph M. O’keefe
Danielle T. Porras
Daniel B. Spitzer
Margaret Wood
† Cum Laude

Minors
Kelly D. Bleck
Ivy M. Danzl
Lauren E. Dettke
Korbin E. Dimmick
Nicole M. Frank
Kristina L. Glenn
Richard G. Kolar
Amanda V. Lubow
Freyja W. May
Megan L. Mikels
Samantha A. Murray
Jessica N. Parker-Graef
Audrey E. Rudolph
Katherine P. Ryan
Sarah E. Traynor
The Department of Anthropology has received a $1 million gift to establish the James and Audrey Benedict Mountain Archaeology Fund.

Jim and Audrey Benedict have been long-time friends and supporters of the Department of Anthropology and have dedicated their lives to studying how humans have continued to adapt to changing environmental conditions.

The Mountain Archaeology fund was established to help further geological and archaeological research in the Rocky Mountains and honors the Benedict's deep appreciation for the natural world, commitment to research, stewardship and public education.

This fund will help to promote a better understanding of the role that Native Americans had in forming the cultural and ecological landscapes of the southern Rocky Mountains and will help to train a new generation of Colorado State University students as “mountain archaeologists” by allowing for exploration of new mountain ranges in alpine country, one of the least understood cultural environments.

Jim Benedict spent his life researching natural history in the alpine country and his work has received many honors including the C.T. Hurst Award for lifetime achievement from the Colorado Archaeological Society as well as the Kirk Bryan award from the Geological Society of America.

Audrey is founder and director of the Cloud Ridge Naturalist field program, which provides history education and environmentally responsible travel through expeditions to some of the world's most ecologically at-risk locations.

The Benedict's have a number of publications highlighting their work in the Rocky Mountains and around the world which include; Valley of the Dunes: Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (2010); The Naturalist's Guide to the Southern Rockies (2008).
“Virtually Shamans: Archaic Spirituality Now Online” was the title of Dr. Jeff Snodgrass’ recent talk given to nearly 30 of his colleagues and students at Primrose Studio as the second lecture in an “Anthropology Connections” Series for 2011.

Video game enthusiasts can become deeply involved in their game play, sometimes to the point where they block out the external environment and momentarily feel that their play space is as vivid and important as the so-called “real world” outside the game. Dr. Snodgrass and other researchers on campus now say that such absorptive experiences can, in the right circumstances, actually be positive ones, providing important mental health benefits.

Research recently published by Snodgrass, associate professor in the department, examined types of video gaming experiences and the effects they can have on players’ lives, including their self-reported levels of stress, life satisfaction and happiness.

This research examines the popular online game, World of Warcraft, which currently has about 12 million players worldwide. In the game, players develop avatars and complete tasks in cooperation with other players. The complex and highly interactive nature of the game can lead players to feel as though they have become part of a vividly compelling alternate universe.

These types of games - known as massively multiplayer online games, or MMOs - can, at any given time, give players the potential for interaction with hundreds or thousands of others online.

In the first study, “Magic Flight and Monstrous Stress: Technologies of Absorption and Mental Wellness in Azeroth,” Snodgrass and his team defined the deeply involved experiences players have as either immersive or absorptive. These altered states can cause both negative and positive effects, and players’ particular out-of-game habits and levels of distress, as well as their in-game play-styles, determine the exact nature of such effects.

In addition to in-game observations, the research team conducted surveys and interviewed World of Warcraft players to learn more about their gaming experiences and habits. Many players reported that playing World of Warcraft serves as a stress or tension reliever, Snodgrass said, and players who absorbed more deeply reported more stress relief.

Many video game studies focus on the negative and addictive aspects of game play. Snodgrass hopes that people will start to understand that addiction is only one side, albeit an important one, of video game usage—his recent studies indicate that to some degree, video game playing can be healthy.

“But we want to be careful to present a balanced portrait of online gaming,” Snodgrass said. “Our study does show that in other instances players get drawn in too much and they enjoy losing themselves too greatly. That can contribute to problematic play and what some researchers even call online gaming addiction.”

For more complete information on both studies conducted by Dr. Jeffrey Snodgrass and his research team, please contact the Department of Anthropology or visit our website at: http://anthropology.colostate.edu/index.aspx.
DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

This past April, we celebrated the life and legacy of esteemed faculty member and friend Dr. Esther Pressel with a luncheon at the Wild Boar Coffee House. Over 45 of her friends, colleagues and family came together to help establish the Esther Pressel Scholarship Fund which will provide merit based financial assistance to undergraduate students in the department studying cultural anthropology. The luncheon was a great success and a wonderful opportunity to share stories and memories from all of the many fascinating and varied experiences and people who Dr. Pressel called friends throughout her life.

If you wish to contribute to this scholarship fund, please visit: https://advancing.colostate.edu/ESTHERPRESSEL

MEET OUR NEW STAFF

Brenda Avery joined the Department earlier this year as our new Administrative Assistant. After graduating from CSU from the College of Business in 2002, she is thrilled to be back on campus and part of the CSU community again! Brenda is a lifelong learner and in the spirit of this characteristic is pursuing her Master’s degree in Online Teaching and Learning. In addition, she is obtaining her Master’s Certificate in Student Affairs.

Jaime King has joined our staff as the Communications Coordinator and also will be working on alumni relations initiatives in the Department. Jaime graduated from the College of Liberal Arts in 2001 and is excited to be back on campus in this capacity. In addition to working as Communications Coordinator, she is pursuing her master’s degree in the College of Business.

Stop by and say hello to our new staff.
River Bluffs
Dedicates Open Space
By Jessica Anderson

River Bluffs Open Space was recently acquired by Larimer County to extend the popular Poudre River Trail and connect the communities of Greeley and Bellvue with a paved trail, perfect for biking and walking. The addition of this open space to Larimer County expands the protection of the riparian areas of the Poudre River, native vegetation and wildlife habitat and increases recreation activities, and offers a natural escape in the middle Windsor communities.

River Bluffs Open Space is not only a refuge for native Colorado wildlife and native vegetation, but also has been home to prehistoric peoples for at least 1000 years. The archaeology of this open space is important to understanding the lives of people living during the Early Ceramic period. The people who lived on the River Bluffs Open Space 1000 years ago left projectile points made from rocks that originate in the Rocky Mountains, as well as over 500 small, tubular bone beads.

The work on the River Bluffs Open Space is a culmination of cooperation between many different groups of the public. CSU Anthropology received a loan of artifacts from a local collector. These artifacts were instrumental in understanding aspects of Early Ceramic life in Colorado. The artifacts were collected legally when it was private land. It is now illegal to collect artifacts on the Open Space.

This Open Space also offered opportunities to educate future professional archeologists in recording archaeological sites, excavation and mapping techniques, used in research designs. Finally, the most important part of this open space is the role that the public plays in protecting their history. The River Bluffs Open Space was opened for the communities of Fort Collins, Bellvue, Greeley, and Windsor to enjoy in addition to greater Colorado. The archaeological research and remains on the open space relies on the public’s involvement and stewardship to preserve their history for future generations.

The River Bluffs dedication introduces the public to their new open space and invites them to learn about the flora and fauna of their community, as well as learn about the prehistoric peoples that called the Poudre River home.

For more information about the River Bluffs Open Space, contact Jessica Anderson at:

CONGRATULATIONS!
Kristi Gensmer was awarded The Mount Rosa Memorial Scholarship. An annual scholarship given by the Mount Rosa Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, it commemorates deceased members. This is a merit-based award given to students who demonstrate academic achievement and an interest in history. Congratulations Kristi!

STUDENTS PRESENT RESEARCH AT CONFERENCE
The High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology held its spring conference giving three students the opportunity to present their research to the Tivoli Student Body in Denver.

“The HPSFAA is a great society for students, it provides an opportunity to present research and receive critique as well as to connect with faculty in the field of applied anthropology in the region” Says Andrea Akers, pictured above, who presented her research on Economic Development and Historical Processes of Lakota Women. Akers was joined by colleagues Michael Brydge who discussed Decision Making Influences of Farmers and Ranchers in Weld County and Greg Batchelder who talked about his research on Supporting those diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder: Impacts on Perceived Quality of Life.
As part of one of the experiential learning courses, ANTH 414: Development in Indian Country, Chair and professor, Dr. Kathy Sherman, six students and I spent this past spring break exploring the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. This course is designed as a way to help further community-based development among indigenous populations and exemplifies this participatory approach to development while collaborating at the request of the indigenous communities in which we’re focused. After a week on the reservation, one student commented that, “this was probably the best spring break I’ve ever had. I mean, last year I went to Florida with my mom and all we did was spend a lot of money.” I have to agree with her claim of “the best spring break ever” and I would like to share a few of the reasons why.

In this new millennium of academics, corporations and communities are beginning to understand the importance of initiation, decision-making and representation of and within marginalized communities. This trip to Pine Ridge and consequent collaboration with residents from the Wounded Knee district illustrates this understanding in at least three ways.

First, the trip was initiated in February when the Executive Director, Mark St. Pierre, of the Wounded Knee Community Development Corporation (WKDC) visited campus. During his visit, Mark asked for student assistance with grant preparation and development for numerous projects within the Wounded Knee district of the reservation. These projects included: a youth facility, a community bison herd and a community owned gas station among others. It was at this point we were invited by the community to participate in the development process. After the grant proposals had been prepared, we hand delivered them to the WKDC.

Second, the trip allowed students and me to develop a greater understanding of the Lakota communities on the reservation. All aspects of culture and community are important when participating in community development initiatives. During our stay we received input from a Lakota representative within the South Dakota House, attended a class on Lakota language immersion, met with a Lakota Community Development Specialist, and held a meeting with the Wounded Knee Youth Council to receive input on several upcoming development initiatives.

Having an opportunity to meet with different community members of all ages, experiences, and careers provided multiple insights on the decision-making processes of Lakota people in relation to present and future development. Of the projects discussed during our collaborative sessions, the renovation of an abandoned building to a community youth facility proved most promising for near future work. This summer, a team of Lakota carpenters, community leaders, youth, CSU anthropology students and I will work to create a space that the community can be proud of and the youth can call their own.

Finally, the trip provided a sense of responsibility to holistically and factually represent indigenous communities when participating in development as an “outsider.” The term “outsider” is in quotes because when truly seeking to represent the people with whom one is collaborating, providing skills they request and not skills that an “outsider” wants to impose is crucial; the “outsider” will be treated in return with respect, dignity and as an ally, not as an outsider.

The students who travelled to Pine Ridge were able to take a break from the classroom, the reading and writing, but not from academics per se. In fact, I’d wager that these students learned more about what it means to be an academic in the 21st century - one who reaches beyond university walls and into communities, offering services at the request of people to enhance the viability of community-based economic and social development.

And these, are just a few of the reasons that this was “the best spring break ever.”

Michael Brydge is a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology focusing on community-based development and social justice and the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.
Dr. Kate Browne

Dr. Kathleen Galvin:

Dr. Mica Glantz:

Dr. Lynn Kwiatkowski:


Dr. Jason LaBelle:


2010 (Jessica Anderson and Jason M. LaBelle, authors; J.M. LaBelle, PI) Archaeological Survey and Mapping Of The River Bluffs Open Space, Larimer County, Colorado. LOPA Report 10-01, Laboratory of Public Archaeology, Department of Anthropology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Dr. Stephen Leisz:
Dr. Kathleen Sherman:


Dr. Jason Sibold:


Dr. Jeffrey Snodgrass:
Zahran, Sammy, Lori Peek, Jeffrey G. Snodgrass, and Stephan Weiler. (In press) Economics of Disaster Risk, Social Vulnerability, and Mental Health Resilience. Risk Analysis, accepted for publication, now available online, DOI: 10.1111/j.1539-6924.2010.01580.x..


Anthropology Alum Brad Patterson has published his first book, *Redefining Reason*. Patterson graduated from the Department in 1970 and went on to obtain his Ph.D. in biological psychology from the University of Oklahoma and subsequently a career in neuropsychology. Patterson lives in Pueblo, Colorado with his family. To learn more about *Redefining Reason*, visit Patterson’s website at: http://redifiningreason.com/index.htm

2001 CSU Alum, Matt Klassen, has released a song inspired by research done in the Department of Anthropology as an undergraduate. Performing under the stage name “paradox”, his song is titled “anthrAPOLOGY” Visit Klassen’s website to check out this song and more music by Paradox. www.paradoxhiphop.com

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK
If you haven’t joined our Friends of CSU Anthropology group on Facebook yet, you’re missing out!!
This is where we post updates about all that is going on in the department and pictures from our events. Stay connected with other students and alumni by joining now!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!
• Do you have something we should know?
• Got a story we can feature?
• Want to write something for our next newsletter?

GET IN TOUCH WITH US...
Jaime.King@colostate.edu
or call at 970-491-4635

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 16 - AUGUST 8 - SUMMER CLASSES
AUGUST 9-AUGUST 21 - SUMMER BREAK
AUGUST 22 - FALL CLASSES BEGIN
SEPTEMBER 12 - GRADUATE STUDENT PICNIC
SEPTEMBER 30 - HOMECOMING WEEKEND AND NEW STUDENT & ALUMNI EVENT