

# Anthropology Department Newsletter

## Colorado College

Issue No. 4

Spring 2007

### Colorado College's Anthropology Class of 2007 Celebrates!

This year's end of the year celebrations for the Anthropology seniors started with a bang. The final week of school began with an "End of the Year" BBQ. Here, students of all grades and numerous permanent and visiting faculty gathered to celebrate the coming of summer break.



Seniors and Prof. Sarah Hautzinger burning a few draft pages at the senior paper burning



Students and Faculty enjoying food and sunshine at the end of the year BBQ

The "End of the Year" BBQ also serves at the perfect place for a senior paper draft burning. The senior paper burning is a ritual that began with last year's seniors, and is meant to be a cathartic release for the hard work seniors do on their senior papers. Even Chair Sarah Hautzinger got in on the action, burning a few draft pages from her forthcoming book! But don't worry, we had a fire extinguisher handy!



Professor Ruth Van Dyke and Cusick Award recipient, Chelsea Kuiper, at the senior reception

### Wormington and Cusick Awards presented at Honors Convocation

The *Courtney Cusick Memorial Award*, an annual award for the outstanding senior paper, was presented to two Anthropology seniors this year : **Chelsea Kuiper** for her paper "Basketmaker III Cultural Origins of the Mesa Verde Region: An Investigation into Site Structure and Architectural Traditions" and **Charlotte Moroz** for her paper "Punched by the Punch-Line: Cross-Linguistic Joke-telling in Brazil."

This year, the *H. Marie Wormington Award*, an annual reward to an outstanding anthropology student, went to first year **Megan Poole**. Megan was integral in sustaining the Student Anthropological Society this year. As president of SAS, She organized many events, including a career panel and an event titled "The Anthropology of Winter."

The Anthropology Department Newsletter is edited by the paraprofessional.

If you would like to make a submission, feel free to email at [SRidings@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:SRidings@coloradocollege.edu)

Alumni are especially welcome to send in a 150 word update, letting us know what you are up to these days. Pictures are great too!

## And the Senior Celebrations Continue...

Next on the list of celebrations for our senior majors was the annual Senior Reception, immediately following Baccalaureate. This event was filled with students, food, parents, decorations, family members, and faculty alike. Everyone enjoyed the food, conversation, and parents especially enjoyed meeting the faculty who inspired their children! The reception was also an opportunity for parents and families to see the PowerPoint presentations the students put together for their Anthropology Days Senior Presentations. It was a great opportunity for families to meet and greet, and also see what their children have been up to for the past four years!



Enjoying the food at the Senior Reception

The festivities came to a close at this year's graduation. The 2007 commencement speaker was the photojournalist David Burnett, who graduated from CC in '68. Burnett has been photographing the world for more than 35 years, working in 60 countries and covering presidential campaigns and Olympic games for the past three decades. He gave some good advice to the graduating class which included staying focused on your goals and enjoying life's experiences, with or without a camera.



Graduates and families listening to graduation speaker David Burnett



Seniors, parents, and faculty enjoying a toast given by Chair, Sarah Hautzinger. Congratulations, graduates!

The Senior Reception was wrapped up with a toast by Chair, Prof. Sarah Hautzinger. Professor Hautzinger reiterated how proud the department was of each and every senior, and mentioned the immense scope of senior papers this year. The papers this year took us from oil workers in Texas, to joke-telling in Brazil, to studying how human primates treat non-human primates, to medical practices in Peru. Senior Charlotte Moroz then gave a little toast herself, thanking the department for its hard work and encouragement this year.

## Senior Anthropology Students Summer Plans

**Justin Rochell** is planning to move to Chicago for the summer, get a job, and decide what to do next. He is still considering whether to pursue further education in Computer Science.

**Parker Nathane** says "this summer is full of adventure for me. Between the occasional bluegrass festival (my guilty pleasure), I plan to do lots of backpacking in the north Cascades and Olympic mountains. Come snowfall, I will be heading out to northern Idaho or northwest Montana to start my glamorous ski bum career, hopefully working on ski patrol. Once I get that out of my system, it could take 1 year to 2 lifetimes for all I know, then I'll start thinking about graduate school. Applied anthropology? You never know!"

**Sonya Niess** will begin a masters program at the University of Hawaii, Manoa in Public Health.

# “Indigenous Film & Media” Class: Final Project Explores the Idea of Representation in the Media

During 7<sup>th</sup> block this year, a visiting professor, Dr. Leighton Peterson, taught a class titled “Indigenous Film and Media.” This course examined the role of media and its relationship to native American/First Nations peoples under the theoretical rubric of “representation” and representational practices. The students explored what constitutes “media,” including photographs, print, radio, museum displays, the Internet, and the increasing convergence of mediated forms.



Three students final project explored the idea of “What Is An American?” and people were asked to write down their personal opinions on the question. Their project also included a video focusing on western civilization as the “Others”, rather than Indigenous peoples.

The class began with an overview of the history of image-making in anthropology and its role in creating tropes and stereotypes of Native Americans as “noble savages” and “the vanishing race.” They then examined links between anthropology, ethnographic films, and Hollywood productions, considering issues of authenticity, metanarratives, and racialization. In order to explore postcolonial self-representation, they viewed a number of films by Indigenous directors and producers, including numerous short works from emerging filmmakers, and then examined them within the context of future directions for Native and Indigenous media.



Students and other observers waiting for the screening of the various films made for the class to start



Interactive displays setup in the Worner Center at the final presentation of the Indigenous Film and Media projects

They also looked at the processes of mediation, i.e. the ways in which images, sounds, and texts are circulated, commodified, and appropriated in mediated forms. Special consideration was given to the history of Native representations and self-representations in film and photography and their relationship to the American imagination and the construction of American national identity and its indigenous peoples as “Others.” Additional case studies that were looked at included salvage ethnography and photographs, indigenous language radio, and ethnographic films.



One student's project focused on misrepresentation in the media, such as photographs. She used a Polaroid camera to take pictures of unsuspecting people in Worner Center, and then made up her own descriptions of what was happening in the photo. This was a practice often used in the past when studying Indigenous peoples.

Finally, the students were required to develop a final group project using visual or audio media. The final projects were meant to engage the issues discussed in class, and could use a wide variety of formats including film, websites, podcasts, or museum displays. Students made films and a few made displays that were setup in the Worner Center for all members of the CC community to see. The films made were shown at a screening, also open to the entire CC campus. Overall, the class was wildly successful, and brought to light some very interesting and intriguing issues within our society.

## Some Alumni Updates

### Nancy Pollock '65

Over the last ten years, my work has included working on the Marshall Islands Nuclear Claims Tribunal in RMI's case for compensation from the US for the health and environmental damage that lingers for 50 years after exploding the Nuclear Bomb over Bikini. I have also been involved in the Commission of Enquiry into Worked out Mines on Nauru, another major rehabilitation issue. More recently, I was one of 12 anthropologists working in Oceania invited to explore a list of 72 issues for the international agency, Transparency International, looking at corruption and related concerns for good governance in Pacific societies, as part of an international project. I am officially retired after re-starting in Victoria University, Wellington's Department of Development Studies. Last August I was invited to join a group that linked with the Anthropology Dept. at Yunnan University in SW China for a symposium on Tourism and Identity. I would urge any former CC Anthro students to book themselves a ticket to the major international anthropology event which will be hosted by Yunnan University in July 2008. The International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences has a web site where information on sessions can be down-loaded.

### Chris Jones '83

I was the paraprofessional from 1983-6, and now own a small southwest art and jewelry gallery near downtown Colorado Springs. "The Great Southwest" is located in the old train depot behind the Antler's Hotel. I guess you could call it, "applied anthropology."



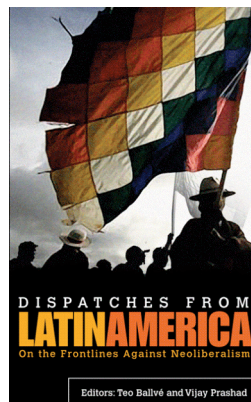
Painting by Jan Oliver that is being shown at "The Great Southwest" gallery in Colorado Springs, owned by alum Chris Jones.

### Lindsey Sommer '06

In June of this year, I will be starting an internship at The Smithsonian in Washington, DC. I will be working at the National Museum of the American Indian, in the repatriation department. I'm not quite sure what I will be doing yet, but I will be dealing a lot with NAGPRA.

### Teo Ballvé '01

I recently edited a book entitled "Dispatches from Latin America On the Frontlines Against Neoliberalism." Here is a brief synopsis of the book: From the laboratory of neoliberalism—popularly known as "globalization"—Latin America has transformed itself into a launching pad for resistance. As globalization began to spread its devastation, robust and thoughtful opposition emerged in response—in the recovered factory movement of Argentina, in the presidential elections of indigenous leaders and radicals like Hugo Chavez and Evo Morales, against the privatization of water in Bolivia. Across Latin America, people are building social movements to take back control of their countries and their lives. Check it out at: <http://www.southendpress.org/2006/items/87689>



Book cover for the recently released book edited by alum Teo Ballvé.

### Beth Conklin '76

Although I was a history major at CC, I'm an anthropologist now, specializing in indigenous peoples of the Amazon. I am a cultural and medical anthropology professor at Vanderbilt University. My research focuses on the anthropology of the body, religion and ritual, cannibalism, death and mourning, disease and healing, and indigenous identity politics. I teach courses on cultural anthropology, medical anthropology, shamanism, international development, South American Indians, and the anthropology of contemporary issues. Some of my publications include *Consuming Grief: Mortuary Cannibalism in an Amazonian Society*, "Body Paint, Feathers, and VCRs: Aesthetics and Authenticity in Amazonian Activism," and (with Laura Graham) "The Shifting Middle Ground: Brazilian Indians and Eco-Politics."

### Bonnie Algera '97

I am currently running my own consulting firm, Performance Strategies, applying anthropology to the non-profit world, studying the behavior of donors and members in non-profit associations in order to increase donations and memberships. Some of my clients include the American Bar Association, National Society to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the Army Ten Miler, American Physical Therapy Association, Coats for Kids, Hospice of Charles County (MD), and the Wolf Trap Foundation. My husband Todd Sipe and I are expecting our first child (a girl!) in April.

Submit *your* alumni update to:  
[SRidings@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:SRidings@coloradocollege.edu)

## News Around the Anthropology Department

Justin Rochell, '07, completed his senior project in anthropology for this year with the design of a web site. The site is titled "Intervisibility and the Chacoan Regional System." We invite all of you to visit the site and leave your comments at <http://www.coloradocollege.edu/dept/AN/JRochellChaco/home.html>. It can also be accessed by visiting the CC Anthropology department's web site, under "Students and Alumni."

Tucker Robinson, '06, was published in the April 2007 issue of *Glyphs*. *Glyphs* is the monthly newsletter of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society. His article talks about line-of-site connections between Chaco Canyon and outliers across the San Juan Basin. This research was conducted this spring when Tucker worked in conjunction with Professor Ruth Van Dyke, making GIS maps and viewsheds of these connections within the San Juan Basin.

Professor Christina Torres-Rouff is traveling to London to add to her research on the archaeological site of Kish, located in Iraq. The site was poorly excavated in the 1900s, and the individuals found at the site were split between three international museums: The Natural History Museum in London, The Natural History Museum in Iraq, and The Field Museum in Chicago. Professor Torres-Rouff has already studied the individuals housed at The Field Museum, but will now be able to study those at the Natural History Museum in London, adding to the data gathered on the people of this ancient civilization.

Professor Ruth Van Dyke will be on sabbatical for the 07-08 school year. Her sabbatical replacement will be Rich Wilshusen who has previously worked at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center.

### "Archaeology of the Borderlands" Class Heads to Arizona



Above: Students hiking to Tonto National Monument, where well-preserved cliff dwellings, that were occupied during the 13th, 14th, and early 15th centuries, are found



Students exploring Besh-Ba-Gowah, a 700 year old Salado Culture pueblo



Class picture taken at Casa Grande Ruins, one of the largest and most mysterious prehistoric structures ever built in North America



Director of the Amerind Foundation, Dr. John Ware, showing the students some beautiful Mimbres pottery from the museum's collection.