

# Anthropology Department Newsletter

## Colorado College

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Issue No. 3

Fall 2006

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### New Faces in the Anthropology Department

There have been some new faces around CC's Anthropology Department this year. Below are some short biographies of our newest professors.

#### Leighton Peterson

Leighton Peterson, a yearlong visiting professor, is a linguistic and social anthropologist whose research has explored the emerging cultural attitudes, language ideologies, and discursive practices among Navajos and Navajo speakers through the lens of new media technologies, such as cell phones and the internet. His research explores the ways in which ideologies of language and technology have shifted and converged. In addition, Leighton also has extensive experience in the world of indigenous media. He was a radio DJ and producer for KTNN on the Navajo Nation, and is also a partner in *TricksterFilms*, a Native-controlled film production company. His experience with KTNN provided the practical knowledge and cultural context to explore the role of broadcasting in Navajo language maintenance. Leighton has added much to the anthropology department, including classes that examine modern technology and language. He will teach many courses this year, including AN208: Language and Speech in American Society, AN209: Indigenous Film and Media, and AN309: Language Ideologies and Cultural Identities.



Professor Peter Haney, giving a talk entitled "Garcia's Last Tape: From *Relato* to *Relajo*"

#### Krista Fish

Krista Fish is a block visitor, who is a biological anthropologist visiting from the University of Colorado-Boulder. She is also a CC alum, and graduated in '97. Her interests have included primate conservation and she has worked for the Institute for Tropical Ecology and Conservation in Bocas del Toro, Panama. She has worked in Madagascar as part of The Beza Mahafaly Lemur Biology Project, whose goal is to explore how human-induced habitat change impacts the health of ring-tailed lemurs (*Lemur catta*). Currently, she is interested in exploring primate community ecology, focusing on interactions between primates and other mammals in South Africa. This year at CC, she will teach AN202: Human Biological Variation and AN306: Primatology.



Professor Krista Fish during her fieldwork in Madagascar

#### Peter Haney

Peter Haney is a visiting block professor who recently graduated from the University of Texas at Austin. In his dissertation, Haney examined the role vaudeville and related popular entertainment played in forming public spaces of discussion and interaction among ethnic Mexicans in San Antonio. He has also participated in a street theater group organized by the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center to raise public awareness of the legal battle stemming from the city of San Antonio's decision to cut off the center's city arts funding. Within the anthropology department this year, he taught AN102: Cultural Anthropology, which he will be teaching again this coming summer.

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The Anthropology Department Newsletter is edited by Jessica Burns, the paraprofessional. If you would like to make a submission, feel free to email at [jessi.burns@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:jessi.burns@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!

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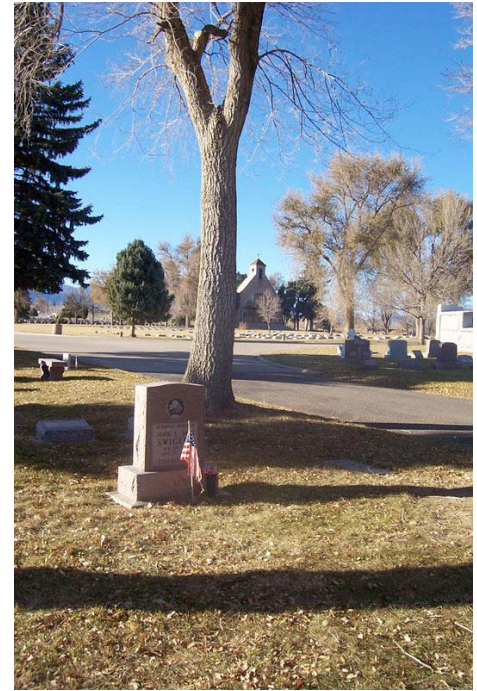
## Anthropology FYE Takes Advantage of the Block Plan

This year's First Year Experience (FYE) course taught by Mario Montañó and Christina Torres-Rouff certainly utilized CC's unique Block Plan to its full potential. During the two blocks of this introduction to biological and cultural anthropology class, the students went on a total of four daylong fieldtrips.

The first trip was one to Denver, focusing on mortuary ritual and memorializing the dead. The students visited a total of three places, including the Denver Post to meet an obituary writer, a funeral home, and Mount Olivet cemetery, all to understand why people do what they do in order to remember their departed loved ones.



Totem poles in the North American Indian Cultures exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science



Mount Olivet Cemetery

Later that week, the students visited the Denver Museum of Nature and Science focusing on material culture. Isabel Tovar, the Collections Manager for Anthropology at the museum, gave the students a 'behind-the-scenes' tour of the anthropology collection, explaining the need for conservation and preservation of these important artifacts.



Above: Observing primates at the zoo

The second block of the course took the students to the Denver Zoo to study living primates. The students were required to pick a species of primate and observe it for a total of two hours. The students were then required to choose a hypothesis and write a paper based upon their observations of their primate.

The final fieldtrip for this busy FYE class was one to a farm in Cañon City. Here, the students learned about organic foods, how a farm is run, what it's like to own a farm, and they even got their hands dirty and did a little farm work. The trip concluded with a picnic and the students were able to indulge in some wonderfully fresh fruits and vegetables!



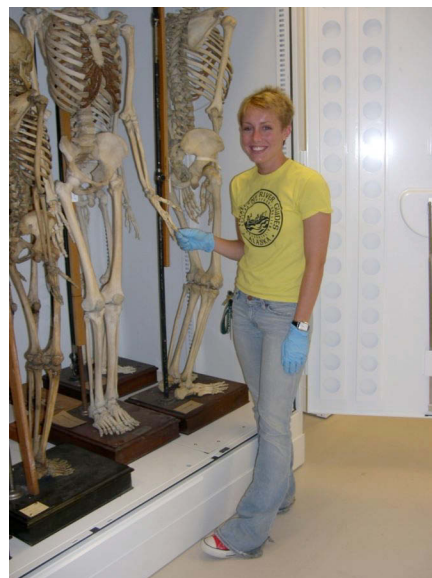
Right: Students clearing corn stalks on the farm in Cañon City

Overall, the fieldtrips were a success. Many students expressed that the ability to travel, and actually go places to learn for a class was one of the best and most enjoyable parts of their FYE experience. This FYE shows yet another example of how the uniqueness of the block plan at CC fosters a special learning environment!

## Junior Anthropology Major Blair Daverman writes about her internship at the Field Museum

My sophomore year at CC, I was fortunate enough to take Christina Torres-Rouff's bioarchaeology class and fell in love with human osteology (the scientific study of bones). I wanted to do more research, so Christina helped get me an internship with her colleague, Will Pestle, at The Field Museum of Chicago. I spent the summer of 2006 helping Will and Christina collect data on individuals from a site called Kish in Iraq.

The people of Kish lived about 5,000 years ago and were the first people to invent the wheel. Situated on an ancient branch of the Euphrates River 80 kilometers south of Baghdad in Iraq, Kish was one of the city-states of the Sumer civilization. Unfortunately, this historically important site was poorly excavated in the early 1900s by an expedition by the Field-Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. Because of this, the human remains from 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. We analyzed the almost 700 individuals housed at The Field Museum and recorded size measurements, non-metric measurements, and dental information in order to learn more about this ancient population.



Blair at the museum

We spent two weeks, about 12 hours a day, sitting in the sub-basement of the museum huddled over computers while measuring fragments of bone. I then spent another week taking x-rays of the bones and another week photographing the significant health issues on certain individuals. It was one of the most exciting, exhilarating, and fun experiences of my academic career. I learned a ton about osteology and I basically had private lessons with Christina!

One of the things we discovered about Kish is that the inhabitants were surprisingly healthy. They had very few fractures and even less evidence of disease. Enamel hypoplasia (a defect in tooth enamel caused from great stress during tooth development) and cribra orbitalia (lesions on the orbits thought to be caused by anemia) were somewhat common, but not significant. However, one interesting feature of Kish is that there was an unusually high infant mortality rate, all occurring around 38 weeks old (9 months). This raises some important questions: Were they all stillborn? Was this infanticide? We do not have enough information to make any conclusions, but hope to discover more through additional analysis.



Some of the Kish bones, ready to be analyzed

When I was not analyzing the Kish bones, I was re-housing and cataloguing the museum's entire human remains collection, which consists of approximately 12,000 individuals. This was an awesome experience because I was able to see many artifacts that the general public does not get to see.

Since returning to Colorado, Christina and Will have begun work on a book about Kish, using the measurements taken from The Field Museum and The Natural History Museum in London. They also plan to try and look at some collections housed at the

University of Pennsylvania to look at comparative material from contemporary cemeteries at Tepe Hissar, Hasanlu, and Dinka Tepe. Right now they plan to look at about 420 individuals from these three sites. I have become very interested in Kish as well and I plan to write my senior paper this summer on the site of Kish and the people's surprisingly excellent health.

Although I spent my summer in a sub-basement, I loved working in the museum and could not have asked for a better summer internship. Thank you Christina!



Will Pestle analyzing some of the bones

## Some Alumni Updates

### Trish Taylor Duque '87

After graduating from CC in 1987, I went on to obtain a Bachelors Degree in Nursing from Arizona State University. I also married another CC graduate, Mark Duque in 1988. Mark and I currently live in Phoenix, AZ where I work in the pediatric department of a large hospital as a registered nurse. Additionally, Mark and I have owned an antique business for the past ten years. We specialize in vintage advertising, mostly soda related, such as coca-cola machines and signs from the 1950's. Currently, I am involved in raising awareness and funds for a rare disease, pulmonary hypertension, a disease that Mark was diagnosed with in 2000. Our website is [www.cureph.com](http://www.cureph.com). I hope to attend our 20th reunion this fall in Colorado Springs.

### Chris Loy '99

I am currently at SUNY Binghamton and in the process of writing up my dissertation on the fieldwork I did in Japan 2005-6. I have been researching new strategies that the Ainu, an indigenous population to Northern Japan, have been using to re-territorialize large geographical spaces on the island of Hokkaido. I focused on the development of spaces within Japan that defy traditional notions of Japanese sovereignty. I did fieldwork in Sapporo with the Ainu Association of Hokkaido and with Ainu fishermen on the east coast in the towns of Nemuro and Shibetsu. I am now writing my dissertation and applying for teaching jobs or postdocs. I am also putting together a follow-up study to look more closely at the Northern Territories issue and how the Ainu are maintaining contact with the islands.



Alum Chris Loy (far right) conducting fieldwork in Japan

### Jamie Carpenter '06

I am in Chicago, working at Northwestern University's Law Library as a Bindery Assistant. I'm planning on going to library school for my Master's in Library Science in a few years, though I still keep considering a degree in Linguistics...

### Tucker Robinson '06

This past fall I have worked on 2 archaeological projects. For a majority of the fall and into the winter I have been in Bluff Utah, working on the Comb Ridge Archaeological Project conducting surveys along Comb Ridge in Southeastern Utah. On this survey we have identified sites that range in age from the Paleo-Indian era to Historic times. For the month of November I changed venue to Payson Arizona where I worked for the company Desert Archaeology doing excavation alongside SR 260, excavating pithouse sites from the Basketmaker III/ Pueblo I era. This winter I will be returning to Colorado Springs to work with Professor Ruth Van Dyke on a GIS project modeling lines of sight between Chacoan era sites in the San Juan Basin in New Mexico.



Tucker Robinson in Utah conducting surveys for the Comb Ridge Archaeological Project

### Ben Mauze '06

I recently returned from traveling for four months through India, the UK, Italy, Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia, Bosnia, Croatia, and Greece. I'm currently working at a wilderness therapy company called Second Nature Entrada in Santa Clara, UT. During my off weeks I will be commuting to Moab to work as a mountain biking guide. I'll be doing this for the next year, then I'm planning on going abroad to teach English for a while.

### Kat Wheeler '06

For the past two months I have been living and working on San Cristobal Island in the Galapagos. While here, I am working as a research assistant for the Micro-Distance Learning Program administered on the island by SolarQuest. My role on the island has been to help educate students at the local high school, *Colegio Técnico Ignacio Hernández*, about renewable energy and energy monitoring, as well as to facilitate a community outreach workshop. The community workshop is designed to raise the public's awareness about the program and to teach the community how they can aid in the reduction of energy use on the island. I am also currently applying to be an intern for the Council on Hemispheric Affairs.

Submit *your* alumni update to:

[Jessi.burns@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:Jessi.burns@coloradocollege.edu)

## News Around the Anthropology Department

Professor Ruth Van Dyke was positively recommended for tenure and promotion! Ruth was taken to the Blue Star for appetizers and a very good bottle of champagne to celebrate! A very big congratulations to her!!

Professor Sarah Hautzinger has a book, *Violence in the City of Women: Police and Batterers in Bahia, Brazil* which will be released soon. Look for it from University of California Press in the fall of 2007.

Professor Mario Montaña was awarded the 2006 Américo Paredes Award and the 2006 Smithsonian Education Achievement Award for his El Río project. These are awarded to recognize those who show excellence in integrating scholarship and engagement with the people and communities one studies, and teaching and encouraging scholars and practitioners to work in their own cultures or communities. Congratulations, Mario!

Professor Christina Torres-Rouff has two recent articles that have been published. One is entitled "La practica de deformación craneana en la población prehistórica de San Pedro de Atacama" published by Estudios Atacameños. The other is coauthored with Maria Antonietta Costa and is entitled "Interpersonal violence in prehistoric San Pedro de Atacama, Chile: Behavioral implications of environmental stress" and was published in the American Journal of Physical Anthropology.

Professor Ruth Van Dyke also had a book, entitled *Experiencing Chaco: Landscape and Ideology at the Center Place*, expected in 2008 from the School of American Research Press.

## Upcoming Events

The Student Anthropological Society (SAS) will be hosting an event entitled "A Celebration of Winter: An anthropological look at this chilly season," sponsored by CCA and the Anthropology Department. Professors Sarah Hautzinger and Paul Myrow in Geology will be discussing winter and its many cultural and physical meanings. Home-made soup, rolls, hot cocoa, and tea will be served! January 31, 6-8pm in Bemis Great Hall.

Will Pestle, graduate student at the University of Illinois at Chicago and former collections manager at the Field Museum in Chicago, will be visiting CC and giving a talk on February 12, 2007 to speak about a repatriation of 160 individuals from the Field Museum. The ancestral remains were returned to Haida Gwaii, an island off the coast of British Columbia in 2002.

## Random Photos



Co-chair of the Atlatl Club, Marie-Page Phelps '09



Ruth Van Dyke's Archaeologies of Landscape class at Kin Klizhin, a Chacoan great house, in December



Students at the Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe, NM for Karin Larkin's Museums and Presentation of the Southwest class