



Culture Inscribed

The Newsletter of the Department of Anthropology
California State University - Fresno

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Anthropologist of the Fortnight

Dr. Elizabeth Fentress

Dr. Elizabeth Fentress of the Institute of Archaeology at University College London, will give a lecture entitled "Islamizing the Berbers: Excavations at Volubilis and the first centuries of the Arab conquest of North Africa" here at Fresno State on Thursday, February 7th.

Archaeology Lecture

DATE: Thursday, February 7th

TIME: 7:00pm

LOCATION: University Center, room 200 (near the center of the Fresno State campus).

Fentress has been excavating at Walili (Volubilis) since 2000. Her work has revealed a substantial section of the town that was built during the time of Idriss, including the earliest Islamic baths in North Africa. Her research sheds new light on the Arabization of housing and city planning in the region as well as the continuity of buildings and construction techniques from the Roman period. She provides a new view of the transition of Late Roman North Africa to Islam.

Fentress' research interests focus on Roman archaeology, especially that of North Africa, and she has directed excavations in Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco, as well as at Cosa, Italy. She is the author of several important works, most recently Romanization and the City.

AnthroGeek

Student: Hey A.G., what's "the missing link"?

AnthroGeek: Historically, this was a "black box", id est (i.e., "i.e.") an over-generalized reference for some sort of primate postulated to bridge the evolutionary gap between anthropoid apes and humans. Although an outdated term, Crystal (see page 2) might use this term to refer to some of her fellow anthropology majors - who have yet to attend a department reception!

Anthros Closer to Home

Interview with Ellen Gruenbaum

What is your area of expertise?

Medical/health anthropology, anthropology of sex and gender and cultural anthropology.

What is a recent project that you have completed in your area of work?

I did seven community studies in Sudan this spring and summer, all of them focusing on the female genital cutting practices and the change efforts. I have a report for UNICEF called "FGM in Sudan: Knowledge, attitudes, and Practices, Qualitative Research on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/FGC) in West Kordofan and Kassala States" and another research report for CARE entitled "Bumps on the Road to Freedom from Female Genital Cutting." I presented a paper in Alexandria, Egypt, in October entitled "Sexual Response and Sudanese Conceptions of the Infibulated and Uninfibulated Vulva: Research in Sudan, 2004" and have co-authored another for the same conferences called "Hadendawa Men Break their Silence on FGM." These are for a "Seminar on Advancing Knowledge on Psycho-Sexual Effects of FGM/C: Assessing the Evidence."

What would you like people to remember most about this project?

I'm making a contribution to finding a culturally sensitive solution to a sticky human rights controversy.

Why are you interested in this topic?

How could you NOT be interested in this issue? It is something I have studied since the 1970s, observing how culture changes and responds to pressures and opportunities. Besides, I love being in Sudan and working with rural Sudanese communities is very satisfying personally.

Who's your favorite anthropologist/theory?

Jay O'Brien.

What is your favorite novel?

Morality for Beautiful Girls (one of the series about the *No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency*).

AnthroAnnouncements

Three Upcoming Events

-- Anthro Department Open House --

The Anthropology Department is starting the semester in style with a **Reception for all students in anthropology classes** (i.e., majors, minors, undeclared, interested, etc.).

DATE: Thursday, February 10th

TIME: 3:00-5:00pm

LOCATION: Peters, Room 390

What is Anthropology?

Should I major or minor in Anthropology?

Who 'does' Anthropology at Fresno State?

This informal gathering is designed to welcome new and old (and those who have not declared a major yet) to the Department. Upper classmen Mentors will be matched to any interested underclassmen. A number of new majors have recently joined us and the excitement is contagious! **ALL ARE WELCOME – GOOD FOOD PROVIDED!**

-- Anthropology Lecture --

Anthropologist **Sander van der Leeuw** will give a lecture entitled: **"Society, Environment, and the Crisis of the Roman Empire"**.

LOCATION: Smittcamp facility, CSUF

DATE: Monday, February 28

TIME: 7:30pm free of charge, open to all.

-- AnthClub Meeting --

Meeting to be held **TODAY**, Tuesday, Feb. 1 at 3:30pm in the Hall of Skulls (i.e., Peters 389).

The Darwin Awards

by Tara Ders

The Darwin's are awarded every year to the persons who died in the most stupid manner, thereby removing themselves from the gene pool. This is the second in a series of reports on the nominees for Culture Inscribed (adapted from www.darwinawards.com):

Nominee No. 4: [UPI, Toronto]: Police said a lawyer demonstrating the safety of windows in a downtown Toronto skyscraper crashed through a

pane with his shoulder and plunged 24 floors to his death. A police spokesman said Garry Hoy, 39, fell into the courtyard of the Toronto Dominion Bank Tower early Friday evening as he was explaining the strength of the building's windows to visiting law students. Hoy previously has conducted demonstrations of window strength according to police reports. Peter Lawson, managing partner of the firm Holden Day, told the Toronto Sun newspaper that Hoy was "one of the best and brightest" members of the 200-man association.

A word from the AnthroClub

By Crystal Alvarez

To all the Anthro enthusiasts: Do you think you are ready for the new semester? I'm here to tell you that you are NOT ready if you're not planning on getting involved in this department! You need to start the semester off right! We want to meet all of you, and not just the 18 new majors that we have this year, but the ones who have been majors and minors for quite some time or those considering a degree in anthropology! Your school days will be much easier if you get to know people with whom you share many interests. Get involved! The department is footing the bill for a number of social and academic events (i.e., parties) and even non-majors are welcome.

Anyone who is interested in joining the **Anthro Club** should feel free to contact anyone on the editorial board for more information. We are more than happy to speak with you. We need people to make an effort to build a group to continue to get projects done. We are looking forward to meeting with all of you at our next party on February 10th from 3 to 5pm.

ALERT! ALERT!

I would especially like to invite three people who I want to get to know, and who I think might be able to help me out here. I tried contacting you last semester with no such luck! Tamara Lauria, Felicia Salcido, and Mary Lee please email me as soon as possible. My email address is elysse@csufresno.edu. If anyone knows these people, point this out to them. Thank you!

Contributing Editorial Board

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