



Culture Inscribed

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

March 20, 2006 Vol. IV, Issue 4

-- Special Women's Herstory Month Issue --



Anthropologist of the Fortnight

Margaret Mead (b. Philadelphia, 1901–1978)

Margaret Mead is the most well known personality in American Anthropology. She earned a doctorate at Columbia, studying with Franz Boas and Ruth Benedict. Her earliest ethnographic work resulted in the best-seller *Coming of Age in Samoa*. Mead was able to illustrate that biologically determined features of human development like adolescence and sexual development were influenced by cultural constraints. Although "cultural relativity" is a commonly understood concept today, her work was the first presentation of such findings to the public. The political impact Mead achieved through her publications, speaking engagements and her 43 years of work at the American Museum of Natural History insured the significance of anthropology while bringing terms like "culture" into the vernacular.

Quotation of the Fortnight

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. M. Mead

Women of Anthropology at CSUF

The editorial board of Culture Inscribed would like to recognize all the women of anthropology that have played a central role in making anthropology at CSUF the eminent field it is.

Tuesday Night Social Hour

Our next "intellectual conviviality" will be **Tuesday, April 4th around 7pm-10pm** at the John's New England Pizza, SE corner of Shaw and Woodrow (near Starbucks). Come alone, or bring a friend. Drinking is optional. Check out our last one:

www.csufresno.edu/Anthropology/events/tuesdaysocials.html

AnthroClub Business

Last week's meeting was very successful. Anthro T-shirts are in the process of being made and will hopefully be out by April 27, 2006. The cost of the shirt will be around \$15.00. **Mayaworks** is once again upon us and we are hoping to have a sale of these indigenous crafts by the end of April, so save up. Also, congratulations to Rebecca Allen who has stepped up to the plate as new web designer for the Anthropology home page. The next **AnthroClub** meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 29, 2006 @ 3:30- 4:30 PM in room 390. All are welcome to attend.

Join Pi Gamma Mu, Social Science Honor Society

Requirements: Applicant must: Be a junior, or senior, have a B average or better, have completed 20 of more semester hours in social science courses, pay a \$ 35 life-time initiation fee. Contact Simon at zemonh@csufresno.edu .

Upcoming Events:

"Buddhist Visions on Heaven and Earth"

The Islamic Cultural Center is hosting a talk from Dr. Eisho Nasu on "**Buddhists Visions on Heaven and Earth**" March 25, 2006 from 9-12pm. All are welcome to attend. Islamic Cultural Center 2111 E. Nees. Fresno, Ca. between Maple and Chestnut.

"Spring Break Projects"

CSUF along with several other campuses will converge upon the gulf coast not to party, but to serve people in need. Student will travel to New Orleans to help with the ongoing Katrina effort. Cost is approx. \$400 to attend. Dates are April 7-11. Meetings for this are held every Wednesday from March 1- April 5 @4:30 in room 317. For more info please contact: sherry.slaughter@uscm.org

Contributing Editorial Board

Rebecca Allen Amber Calvert Elizabeth Campos Nicole Engle

Editor in Chief: Robert Stitt

Faculty Advisor: James Mullooly, PhD **Website:** www.csufresno.edu/Anthropology/newsletter

AnthroGeek

Student: Hey AnthroGeek, Margaret Mead was a great Anthropologist. Her story is something that all Americans should know about. What you think about her story?

AnthroGeek: Well, I'm told, on the dubious authority of Wikipedia, that the term "herstory" originates as a pun on the word history, replacing "his" story with "her" story. This term, even when used by most feminists, is meant in jest rather than from an actual desire to change the standard spelling of the word." As we all know, the masculine singular pronoun that indexes the English third person (i.e., "his") actually is derivative of the ancient Greek word for 'investigation'. This is in no way meant to repudiate the important role that herstory has played in history or, if you like, herstory.

Student: Oh,.. by the way, I said "her"..."story"!!



AnthroEvent

By Nicole Engle, AnthroClub President

The 2006 Veritas Forum held on Thursday the 16th was a success. The topic was **Natural Disaster: Act of God?** There were a total of 4 representatives on the panel. Pastor Lee of the Westside Church of God gave a **Christian** perspective. Sheikh alSayed Ramadan, imam of the mosque across the street from Fresno State gave a **Muslim** perspective. Judge Singh Brar a team leader for the United Sikhs of Fresno gave a **Sikh** perspective of the issue. William Henry Young a Humanist Officiant gave a **Humanist/Agnostic** perspective. During the forum each representative was given the opportunity to give a brief description of their world view. They were also asked to answer several questions including: How would your world view respond to the term "act of God"? How could a good God allow bad things to happen to good people? What solace can your world view offer to those who suffer? There was also time for the speakers to discuss their views with each other and the audience.

Anthropology Applied

Interview with Jill Hufft

Getting to know fellow students is a good way to see what others in our field are doing or will be doing within their careers and to get a little insight on their options.

Who is your favorite anthropologist? Mary Leakey (1913-1996).

What book and movie everyone should skip class to read? *The Soul of Money* by Lynne Twist and the movie I would suggest you see is *Crash*, for the first time I agree with the Academy Awards.

What advice to anthropology majors/minors? Look into the American Humanics certification program. It goes hand in hand with cultural anthropology. You'll gain practical, hands-on, real-life employable opportunities and skills.

Any advice to faculty and staff? By working together you could make this department the most desirable major on campus.

Reason you chose Anthropology? When I took Anthro. 2 as a GE requirement I learned I have always been an anthropologist. I just never knew it was considered a science, and that it had a name.

What's your favorite Anthropology class?

I would have to say Dr. Pryor's Bio-behavioral evolution class, because it has a great primate film festival.

When will you graduate and what are your plans? I will be graduating this Spring, 2006 and I plan to secure well-paid employment.

Favorite anthropology oriented book? For fun: Jean Auel, Earth Children- five book series? *Clan of the Cave Bear*, *Valley of the Horses* etc. These are all fiction, but I love how she interprets the archaeological record data for her story lines. More serious: Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*.

Are you working on any Anthropology projects? What are they? I am currently doing an independent ethnographic field study project on the cultural environment of an existing, local, non-profit organization. I am also doing archaeology lab work for Table Mountain Rancheria since I have an Archaeology Lab Technician certificate from Fresno City College.

We thank you Jill for your insight and contribution to the future of Anthropology.