



# Culture Inscribed

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

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## Anthropologist of the Fortnight

### Ruth Fulton Benedict (1887-1948)

An American cultural anthropologist, Ruth Benedict is most known for her 1934 classic, *Patterns of Culture*. This book incorporated her ten years of research insights and her "cultural determinism" style of anthropology. Ruth was a student at the New School for Social Research when one of her teachers recommended anthropology to her. She was introduced to Franz Boas (a mentor she would later come to call "Papa Franz") and Margaret Mead (whom she later, it is rumored, had an intimate relationship with) at Columbia University where she began her fieldwork among the Serrano, Zuni, Blackfoot and Apache Indians. She also studied differences in temperament and culture between the Pueblo and Plains Indians. According to biographer Susan K. Hochman, Ruth Benedict's style of anthropology "emphasized the power of custom and learning as an argument against nature and for the infinite capacity of human beings to change."

## Quotation of the Fortnight

"The trouble with life isn't that there is no answer, it's that there are so many answers."

-Benedict

## 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](http://www.csufresno.edu/Anthropology/events/tuesdaysocials.html)

## AnthroClub Meeting

Our next meeting will be Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 in Peters 390.

## AnthroClub Business

Last week's meeting was very successful. It is good to see more new faces getting involved within the anthropology club. The T-Shirts are in the process of being made as I write. The new Anthropology T-Shirts will be gray with a black logo and design.

Also, Ann Spagna is asking people for help with the Maya Works sales mostly within the 10-2 time slots. The specific times are: 10-11am, 11-12pm, 12-1pm and 1-2pm. We would like two people in each of the time slots if at all possible. If you can sign on, contact Ann at: [spagna@csufresno.edu](mailto:spagna@csufresno.edu).

## AnthroGeek

**Student:** Hey AnthroGeek, how destructive is Deconstruction?

**AnthroGeek:** In 1981, Barbara Johnson wrote that "deconstruction" is in fact much closer to the original meaning of the word 'analysis' itself, which etymologically means "to undo"—a virtual synonym for "to de-construct"... If anything is destroyed in a deconstructive reading, it is not the text, but the claim to unequivocal domination of one mode of signifying over another. A deconstructive reading is a reading which analyses the specificity of a text's critical difference from itself."

**Student:** Hey AnthroGeek, it sounds like you are making an unequivocal claim of one mode of signification over another.

**AnthroGeek:** Wow, you've AnthroGeeked the geek. Bravo!



## **Anthro Day April 27, 2006!**

Come one, come all! April 27<sup>th</sup> is the official Anthropology Day of Fresno. Come alone or bring a few friends. Help us increase awareness of victims of natural disasters on this day. To honor victims of global disasters, we will be wearing blue, which will represent tears.

### **Events of the day will include:**

-MayaWorks, sales of indigenous crafts in the CSUF union 10am-2pm, at the Annual Anthropology Reception, Peters 390 2-5pm and outside of East Engineering 191 from 7-9pm (before and after the Distinguished Lecture).

-CSUF Anthropology Department Reception 2-5pm Peters 390 (ALL ARE WELCOME)

-3pm Reception High Point – Contest: “Do you know your Professor?”

**-Distinguished Lecture by Dr. Lucia Cargill, 7-9pm, East Engineering 191**

-Throughout the day, The CSUF AnthroClub will unveil and sell their brand new Anthropology T-Shirts for a nominal fee.

At 7:00pm in the evening, Dr. Lucia Cargill, RN, Ph.D., President/Executive Director, American Overseas Medical Aid Association will deliver a public lecture entitled, “The Indonesian Tsunami in Ethnographic Relief: Applied Anthropology as Disaster Response” in CSUF’s East Engineering 191. Prior to this talk, Dr. Cargill will attend an Anthropology Department reception as the guest of honor from 2:00pm-5:00pm. This is primarily for anthropology faculty and students from Fresno City and Fresno State. At 3:00, the highpoint of this reception will be an event entitled, “Do you know your Professor?”. This new annual ritual at this, our annual end-of-the-year “intellectual conviviality” will be the high point of the reception. All faculty members are strongly encouraged to attend.

During this time, we will also be sending off a group of CSUF Anthro seniors who will be presenting papers with Ellen Gruenbaum annual meeting of the Southwestern Anthropological Association conference in Los Angeles. Ellen and her students have organized a stunning session of applied regional issues of concern to anthropologists. On April 28, 2006, Dr. Cargill will visit two anthropology classes and make presentations on this same topic. The classes in which she makes her appearances will be open to the campus community.

### **The 2006 Distinguished Lecturer**

On Thursday April 27, 2006, the Anthropology Club with the generous support of Associated Students, will sponsor a lecture by Lucia C. Cargill, RN, Ph.D., President/Executive Director of The American Overseas Medical Aid Association.

Dr. Cargill is a distinguished applied medical anthropologist with over twenty years of service in aiding communities in need. Since the Indonesian Tsunami, her leadership of the American Overseas Medical Aid Association has resulted in changing the lives of thousands of Indonesian survivors stuck in "internally displaced persons (IDP) camps.

Dr. Cargill’s lecture will give the campus community first hand exposure to a global catastrophe whose implications are still being felt around the world and in our own country from a collaborative development perspective.



### **Contributing Editorial Board**

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