



Culture Inscribed

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



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Anthro Day Recap

Anthro day was a huge success this year. We were joined by majors and non-majors alike at the reception. We had a packed house at the distinguished primate lecture given by Ms. Kaberi Kar Gupta. By the beginning of the lecture there was standing room only. Let me give a special thank you to all who attended the lecture and a very special thank you to Ms. Gupta, who helped make the evening such a great success. Finally, let me thank the anthro club for planning and executing such a successful anthro day.

Anthro News

We've almost made it through another semester. It's hard to believe and it seems like they are flying by us more rapidly every year. Our final social night of the calendar year was one of the largest. We wished Hank Delcore good luck on his Alaskan adventure. There were some new faces in the crowd and good food and conversation were shared by all. See you next year February 5, 2007 at our anthro social night.

Read this Book

Winter break is a wonderful time to catch up on some pleasure reading. *The Reindeer People*, written by Piers Vitebsky, tells the story of reindeer and the people who live in harmony with them in Siberia. This is a wonderful holiday read. Piers Vitebsky is the head of Anthropology and Russian Studies at the Scott Polar Research Institute at the University of Cambridge.

Join the Anthro Club Board

The anthro club is currently discussing officer elections for the Spring '07 semester. Our current president **Nicole Engle** has held the office for a year. Remember, this sort of service looks great on your resume. If you are interested in officer positions please e-mail Ms. Engle at trustdios@yahoo.com.

One Victim of Thailand's Coup

Professor Hank Delcore's sabbatical research year in Thailand is the latest victim of the otherwise bloodless coup d'état that began earlier this year. In stead of tropical jungles, Hank will be wintering in Alaska as a visiting professor in the spring semester. But fear not readers, after the abominably cold winter, he will be retuning for another hot Fresno summer. Best wishes on your travels Dr. Delcore.

Local Events

December 15, 2006: The CSU Fresno campus cineculture club presents the film **Source (Zdroj)**, directed by Martin Marecek. This film is a selected from the *Human Rights Watch Traveling Film Festival*. **Source** is a documentary, which takes place in Azerbaijan located just north of Iran. A Czech film crew captures images of the impact of a recent energy boom and the effects of this energy boom on the local people. **The film will be shown in Industrial Technology 101 and will begin at 5:15pm.** There will be a post screening discussion by **Dr. John Farrell** of the History Department. Be sure to check out this profound documentary.

The 84th Annual Christmas Tree Lane season began on December 2, 2006 and will end on December 26, 2006. Tuesday December 12, 2006 is a walking night only. Come out and enjoy the crisp winter air as you marvel in the lights and sounds of the holiday season. Hours for **Christmas Tree Lane** are 6pm-10pm.

-- Anthro Alert --

Four out of five anthropologists agree that the best way to do well on exams is to study for them. Members of the Culture Inscribed Contributing Editorial Board suggest you follow this advice **OR FIND THAT FIFTH ANTHROPOLOGIST!**
**Best of luck on exams and
have a great break!!!**

Report from AAA 2006

I Traveled West and Came Back

Enlightened

Jenny Morgan



On Friday, November 17th, I, along with a fellow Fresno State Anthro Major known as G-man, traveled west to San Jose for the Annual American Anthropological Association (AAA) Conference. I had to leave my foothill home at 6 am in order to meet my Anthro friend in Clovis and prepare for take off at 7 am. Our 2 ½ hour journey was enjoyable. To many who know my Anthro friend it may come as a surprise that our trip was filled with conversation and went fairly smoothly. I like to think it had to do with the fact that I was the navigator. We arrived. We parked. G-man put \$7 in the parking machine and received a ticket to place on his dashboard. Now whether this was needed or not was unclear. However, we exercised our customary cultural practice and went on our way. Amazingly, as we approached the building Gilberto greeted us from the second story, calling for our attention and waving us down. He pointed us in the right direction and we infiltrated the castle gates.

As we entered the Convention Center I felt a little intimidated by the fact that most participants were adorned with a name tag and I, a penniless starving student, could not afford such luxuries. Luckily for the G-man and me, verbal knowledge was free and the name tags were only required if we wanted to purchase the textual fruits of our anthropological sisters and brothers. We climbed the stairs to the second story and found Mullooly, Delcore, Gilberto, and Anne and Morghan Velez Young (a recent graduate) amongst the crowds of Anthropologists as though our haphazard rendezvous was previously planned. We greeted each other with kind gestures and they informed us on the conference logistics as we meandered down the hall to the room in which our Fresno State comrades would present their papers.

The panel consisted of two males and five females, each took turns presenting their information to the audience of 15 to 20 people.

Once the presentations concluded there was a short Q and A time to allow for discussion between the presenters and the audience, allowing Delcore to throw one of his infamous compounded, two-part loaded questions at the panel.

While attentively taking in the wealth of knowledge which bounced off the walls in that room that day, I observed a few things that took place not only in this session but also in all the sessions I attended that day, which I would like to share with you now.

There are “Good Papers” and then there are “Good Speakers”. When I plan to present a paper I need to keep in mind that I am there to speak to the audience. Impress the audience with numbers, show visuals that are interesting, vary my voice to keep it exciting and don’t read the entire paper just the main points. Concentrate on my objective and make sure I am addressing the topic.

Presentations that lack these suggestions may receive several responses from the audience. The “head nod” in a yes motion (possibly accompanied with a non verbal sound) as though the listener is agreeing with the presenter’s every word however, in actuality, not really listening at all. The “glaze over” consists of the listener staring ahead as though he/she is looking right at the presenter however taking a brief nap with the eyes open is a more accurate account of the listeners participation. And finally there is the audience member who seems to be “busy taking notes” on the wonderful presentations being given that day; these “note takers” are probably just critiquing the presentations.

Several sessions were offered at the same time, making it hard to choose which sessions to sit in on and keeping the audience numbers very low. I noticed some people just came in for specific presentations and did not stay for the entire session. Next time I may try to organize my time in this way, staying near the door for easy escape.

Contributing Editorial Board

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