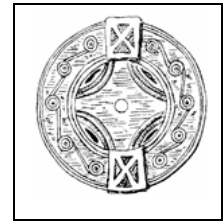




Culture Inscribed

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



February 5, 2007 Vol. VI, Issue 1

Welcome to the Spring Semester

Artifact of a Fortnight

Venus of Willendorf

By Robin Trayler

Also known as the Woman of Willendorf, it is a type of Paleolithic artifact known as a Venus figurine. The Willendorf Venus was discovered in Austria in 1908. Carved from stone or bone in the image of an emaciated pregnant woman, the Willendorf Venus and similar figurines are some of the most mysterious in archaeology. What were they for? The Willendorf Venus dates to between 22,000 and 24,000 years ago and beyond that very little is known about it. Some speculate that it is a fertility figure while



others have called it merely a good luck charm. Regardless of its intended purpose, the Venus is still a wonderful example of Paleolithic art.

Anthro Club News

By Secretary Elizabeth Govan

Welcome back! The first Anthro Club meeting for the spring 07 semester took place Tuesday, the 23rd. We had a great turnout; it was wonderful to see so many people there. We have a schedule of club meetings for the semester, and while they are not set in stone it should give you all an idea of when they will be held. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 6th at 3:15 in social science Rm. 205B. All meetings will be held at the same time in the same location on the following dates:

Feb. 20	March 6
March 20	April 10
April 24	May 8

Up Coming Events in the Valley

By Sarah Cairns

Films:

February 9, 2007 @ Tower Theater 5pm and 8pm. Family Law: Daniel Burman. 2006. Argentina/Italy/Spain/France. *Family Law* is funny and moving--a mature, deceptively simple exploration of how to live. *Family Law* focuses on a young Argentine Jewish man, his struggles with married life, fatherhood, and his relationship to his own father. Mar del Plata Film Festival: Audience Award, Best Ibero-American Film, & SIGNIS Award.

February 23, 2007 @ CSUF 5:15pm MCL 121. Surviving Abyssinia: Liz Jackson. 2000. Ethiopia . 57 min, No Rating. The film chronicles life in Ethiopia and the tumultuous events following years of war and revolution, especially its impact on women. Jackson spent a year in Ethiopia, researching, interviewing, and filming, under extraordinary conditions. *Surviving Abyssinia* was named Best Documentary Film at the Hollywood Black Film Festival 2000. Post-screening discussion by Dr. Elizabeth Jackson (film director/TV & video producer/professor from CSU Bakersfield).

Outdoors:

March 24, 2007 @ San Joaquin River Gorge 9:30am-3pm. \$10.00. A trip to the San Joaquin River Gorge in wildflower season is enough to convince anyone just how special our part of the world really is. Take an easy 2-mile round trip walk with River Parkway Trust staff to explore an amazing variety of wildflowers, and walk across the footbridge that spans the River Gorge (don't forget your camera!). After a brown-bag lunch, meet with Bureau of Land Management staff for a close look at Native American artifacts and a chance to throw an ancient tool called an atlatl. Call 433-3190 ext. 3# to register.

Contributing Editorial Board

Nicole Engle, Jenny Morgan, Rebecca Allen, Robin Trayler

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A Plea For Students

By Michael A Eissinger

I stopped into the Anthro lab, a few days ago, between classes, and talked to Dr. Pryor. He told me the number of students signed up for Anthro 101a, Archaeology Field School, is currently less than the number of students returning, as "interns", from last season's dig. Fresno State has one of only eight field schools west of the Mississippi, making this an incredible opportunity for Anthro majors who look forward to making a career, in this field. Most UC campuses don't even offer this sort of opportunity!

One thing that made last season's field school so successful was the large number of students participating in the dig. With the foundation work we did last year, we expect to make some interesting finds this coming season. The more hands scraping, the more likely we will be to unearth some amazing artifacts and features.

Even if you're a "cultural" person (like myself), it makes sense to consider at least, one season in the field. If you plan on attending a more "glamorous" field school in the jungles of Central America, or the sands of Egypt, this field school will provide you with a tremendous advantage, having honed your skills as a digger.

So, please, consider signing up for Anthro 101a, this semester. It's a six unit class. It requires minimal work throughout the semester; assembling a field manual and a few informal class meetings to prepare for three weeks on-site immediately following the semester's end. (Most people camp on-site, but if you don't think you can make it in a tent for three weeks, it's possible to commute each day from Fresno). It's a lot of work. It's a lot of fun. It's something you'll NEVER forget.

Save the Date:

Tuesday, February 6, 2007:

3:15 CSUF AnthroClub Meeting SS205B

7:00-10:00 Anthro Social Night. Our first of the semester. Come join Fresno Anthros for good pizza and conversation.

Me & Ed's First & Bullard at 7pm.

See you there!!

Anthropology Day March 8, 2007

"Participatory Action Research: Methods to motivate social change through community capacity building."

Patricia J. Hammer, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Social
Well Being



We are honored to have **Patricia J. Hammer, Ph.D.** join us for **Anthropology Day** this semester (sponsored by Associated Students). Dr. Hammer will discuss the application of Community Participatory Action Research approaches in social science and health fields. Examples of Participatory Action Research implementation in Quechua and Aymara-speaking communities of Peru and Bolivia will illustrate how such approaches may be adapted to ensure cultural appropriateness with regard to internal power relations and broaching sensitive issues (such as sexuality, undesired pregnancy, etc.), as well as confronting exclusionary practices of ethnic, class and gender discrimination.

Look for more information about **Anthropology Day** in future newsletters. I'd like to give a special thank you to Anthro Club VP Jenny Morgan for her part in bringing Dr. Hammer to CSUF for this semester's Anthropology Day. Be sure to mark your calendars and we'll see you there.

AnthroGeek

By Jim Mullooly



Student: Are their Paleolithic Martian figurines?

AnthroGeek: Don't you mean Venus figurines?

Student: If women are from Venus, why can't men be from Mars? Get it?!?!?

AnthroGeek: Oh, I do get it this time - you are alluding to John Gray's best seller where he used Weberian ideal type analysis to illustrate cross sex communication styles. That is rather funny you geek!