EDITOR'S NOTE:
The beginning of this semester was marked by the passing of Professor Emeritus George Rich. When I first came to campus as a prospective professor, George chaired my search committee and became for me the face of the anthropology department and the university. All who knew George appreciate the grace and intelligence he brought to all he did, and the prospect of having a colleague like George helped convince me that I should join the department. George Rich was taken from us far too soon, but we were fortunate to have had him as a colleague.

– Martin Biskowski, Editor

GENERAL NEWS

JACOB FISHER JOINS THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

The anthropology department welcomes Jacob Fisher to its faculty. Prof. Fisher will be taking over the duties of NAGPRA director and related responsibilities left vacant by the departure of Prof. Pei-Lin Yu.

Prof. Fisher earned his B.A. at the University of California-Santa Cruz, and his M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Washington. He brings with him his practical NAGPRA experience from the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture. Prior to joining our faculty, he worked on a number of field and museum-based projects throughout the western United States. Prof. Fisher's experience includes projects based in academia and cultural resource management.

Professor Fisher's research interests center on expanding our understanding of the role animal resources played in prehistoric foraging societies, especially those in California, Great Basin, and surrounding regions. His research frequently uses human behavioral ecology to understand the underlying decision-making processes for hunting, the relationship between climate change and foraging, and culinary processing.

Professor Fisher's dissertation tested a series of predictions for costly signaling hunting at a Fremont-period site in central Utah. Using both traditional faunal
analysis and stable isotopes, he found that local climate change and overhunting forced hunters to travel greater distances to acquire mountain sheep and deer.

In other research Prof. Fisher evaluated models of jackrabbit processing using the fauna from Antelope Cave (northwestern Arizona). He also outlined the prehistoric biogeography of the western pond turtle in the Puget Sound region and elk in the Great Basin. He is excited to return to California archaeology, and looks forward to developing new research questions that may be tested using the collections housed at the Archaeology Curation Facility.

**DEPARTMENT MOURNS THE PASSING OF GEORGE RICH**

On September 4, 2010, the anthropology department lost one of its family. Professor Emeritus George W. Rich died at the age of 65 as the result of a brain tumor.

Prof. Rich was a prominent figure in the department from 1970 until his retirement in 2007. Nine of these years Prof. Rich served as the department chair, but even after he stepped down he continued to provide important leadership and guidance to the department faculty.

During his career, Prof. Rich conducted cultural anthropological research in diverse parts of the world. Early in his career he published a series of papers on kinship and social organization in Iceland. He also was interested in the anthropology of religion. Closer to home, Prof. Rich promoted the application of anthropological methods to the study of our own culture.

As a teacher, Prof. Rich inspired students by communicating his own excitement and curiosity about anthropology. He was a genuinely caring and approachable mentor who stayed in contact with many students long after they graduated.

Prof. Rich was remembered at a memorial service held Sept. 24. His life also is commemorated in the new George Rich Colloquium series. Prof. Rich was a much-loved figure, and his presence will be missed by his students.
colleagues, students, and other friends.

A detailed obituary was published in the Sacramento Bee on Sept. 12 and can be found at the following link:


DEPARTMENT SHINES IN GENERATING M.A.'S IN REGIONAL ANTHROPOLOGY

In a recent article entitled “Recent Master’s Theses of Interest” in the Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology (Vol. 30, No.1, 2010, pp. 107-116), Sacramento State University generated the most M.A. theses relevant to regional anthropology during the period 1999-2009. Here is the list of institutions and the number of “interesting” theses produced by each institution:

CSU, Sacramento 37
San Diego State 31
CSU, Chico 29
University of Nevada, Reno 17
Brigham Young University 14
CSU, Northridge 12
University of Nevada, LV 12
CSU, Long Beach 10
CSU, Fullerton 7
Oregon State University 7
San Francisco State 7
UC, Santa Barbara 7
CSU, East Bay 5
UC, Los Angeles 5
University of Oregon 4
CSU, Los Angeles 3
San Jose State 3
University of Arizona 2
University of Utah 2
CSU, Bakersfield 1
Prescott College 1
Southern Methodist University 1
UC, Riverside 1
University of So. California 1
University of Texas, Ar 1
University of Texas, SA 1
University of Wyoming 1
West Virginia University 1

These data reflect the strong commitment of our department’s graduate program to serving our community and region. Congratulations to the faculty and students whose efforts led to this public recognition!

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CURATION FACILITY NEWS

During the past summer, the archaeological curation facility expanded and acquired new staffing. New curation space was acquired in Del Norte Hall. Following Prof. Yu's departure, Prof. Jacob Fisher became the new NAGPRA Director.

Dr. Wendy Nelson also joined the repository staff to coordinate expansion into the Del Norte space and to assist with work on NAGPRA collections. Dr. Nelson already has been instrumental in preparing the CA-SAC-16 collection for NAGPRA consultations.

In addition to Dr. Jacob Fisher (NAGPRA Director) and, Dr. Wendy Nelson (Senior Researcher), the repository staff now includes Cristi Hunter (Collections Manager), Peggy Badovinac (Lead Cataloger) Melodi McAdams (NAGPRA
Assistant) and Lacey Kalber (Federal Work Study).

The work of the repository staff is supplemented by a large group of dedicated volunteers who work hard to increase the accessibility of our collections. These volunteers scan documents, take digital photographs of artifacts, and perform other similar tasks. The repository staff would like to thank Betty Falltrick, Jim Falltrick, Chris Janus, Kara Kellycheek, Jason Krantz, Amanda Lanier, Mark Miller, Christina Preston, Jason Shelly, Natascha Storms, and Ramona Weigel for their efforts.

There are now several ongoing NAGPRA consultations for repository collections. The French Camp Slough NAGPRA consultation is still ongoing. Consultations for the CA-SAC-16 collection began in July and will continue through October. It is anticipated that the Zallio collection will be ready for NAGPRA consultation in Spring 2011. Repository staff have also started work to prepare the Kadema (CA-SAC-192) collection for NAGPRA consultation.

The repository and repository staff play an active role in events on campus. In September, Melodi McAdams presented an "Introduction to Map Reading and GIS Technology" at an inter-tribal Cultural Monitoring Training hosted by Buena Vista Rancheria. Collections staff have provided archaeology lab tours for Introduction to Archaeology students. Faculty interested in arranging a lab tour for their classes should contact Cristi Hunter. A repository open house is tentatively planned for the Spring 2011 semester.

THE DEPARTMENT BEGINS NEW COLLOQUIUM HONORING PROF. GEORGE RICH

In spring semester, the anthropology department launched a new colloquium series honoring Prof. Emeritus George Rich. These talks are being organized by Profs. Joyce Bishop and Roger Sullivan with the aim of having presentations by both departmental colleagues and outside guests.

The initial colloquium on May 7, 2010, was attended by Prof. Rich and included a celebration of his life and works. The colloquium’s guest speaker, Prof. Emeritus John W. Connor, was a long-time friend and colleague. The subject of Prof. Connor’s talk was his experiences as a member of a raider company during the Korean War. These experiences are detailed in greater length in Prof. Connor’s recent book, Let Slip the Dogs of War: A Memoir of the GHQ 1st Raider Company (8245th Army Unit), A.K.A. Special Operations Company, Korea. 1950-51.

Prof. Emeritus John W. Connor
Friends, colleagues, and students from several decades traveled to Sacramento for the initial colloquium in order to visit with Prof. Rich, to share reminiscences, and to honor his contributions and friendship.

The second colloquium was held Oct. 29, 2010, following Prof. Rich’s passing in September. The speaker, Prof. Liam D. Murphy, presented the lecture “Belief Without Belonging? Religious Futures for a Renewed Europe”, which was based on his research in Belfast, Ireland. Prof. Murphy’s discussion emphasized the emerging role of religion as a social identifier even in the face of the erosion of religious belief. His work is reported more fully in his recent book, Believing in Belfast.

Both talks were extremely well attended, and the department looks forward to many interesting presentations at future colloquiums.

**THE ARC OPENS IN NEW FACILITY, HOLDS RECEPTION AND OPEN HOUSE**

Xenophon wrote the history Anabasis about a group of Greek mercenaries trapped far from Greece after the death of the rebel Persian prince they had served. Xenophon’s story is a classic tale of people overcoming incredible obstacles to finally arrive home.

Xenophon would have understood the feelings of the staff of the Archaeological Research Center as they finally settled into their new home on the second floor of Del Norte Hall. The ARC was evicted from its former quarters in the now demolished Foley Hall at the end of spring semester in 2007. For more than three years, the ARC was housed in trailers in Parking Lot 1 while various arrangements, promises, and discussions failed to lead to a new home.

But the ARC is home now, and in order to celebrate and to display their new facilities, a reception was held on Thursday, October 28, 2010, followed by an open house on Friday, October 29.
The value of the new facilities was immediately apparent to visitors. Archaeological research requires the processing of archaeological materials, the studying of maps, and the referencing of archival information. One reason for the long delay in finding a new home is that adequate facilities for these tasks cannot be found in just any available university space. The new ARC contains sufficient room, tables, shelving, lighting, and other facilities necessary for the diverse tasks of archaeological research.

**ANTHROPOLOGY MUSEUM NEWS**

The museum director, Prof. Terri Castaneda is on sabbatical this year, so the museum activities are limited. Prof. Castaneda is maintaining an active schedule during her leave. In her capacity as Chair of the Executive Board of the Southwestern Anthropological Association, she is engaged in planning the upcoming conference. This year’s SWAA conference will be at the University of Nevada, Reno, from May 5-8, 2011. The theme of this year’s conference is *Health and the Human Body: Practices, Policies and Perspectives*. Individuals seeking to learn more can visit the conference website at:  

http://www.csus.edu/org/swaa/swaa_conference/index.html

**UPCOMING DATES OF NOTE:**


**SAS Workshop: Faunal Analysis by Dr. Jacob Fisher** – 6-9 pm, November 18.

**SAS Meeting (MND 4003)** – 11 am, Tuesday, November 16.

**SAS Meeting (MND 4003)** – 3 pm, Monday, November 22.

**Thanksgiving Weekend (NO CLASSES)**  

**SAS Meeting (MND 4003)** – 11 am, Tuesday, November 30.

**Faculty Meeting (MND 4003)** – 1:30-3:30 pm, Friday December 3

**SAS Meeting (MND 4003)** – 3 pm, Monday, December 6.

**Last Day of Instruction** – December 10

**Final Exam Week:** – December 13-17

**COMMENCEMENT (Arco Arena):** – 12 pm, Friday, December 17.

**Spring Semester Instruction Begins:** – January 24.
FACULTY AFFAIRS:

HENS GIVES PRESENTATION IN COPENHAGEN
Professor Samantha Hens recently attended the annual symposium for the Forensic Anthropology Society of Europe in Copenhagen, Denmark in October 2010. She gave an oral presentation entitled: "Auricular Surface Aging: A Test of the Revised Method on a Documented Italian Collection." She also volunteered her expertise during the associated student workshop on sexing and aging from the human skeleton.

Additionally, Dr. Hens and a small group of colleagues were treated to a private tour of the University of Copenhagen Hospital's Forensic Pathology Center followed by discussion of the American and Danish pathology systems.

ZEANAH RETURNS FROM THE OUTBACK
Prof. David Zeanah spent another field season in the outback of western Australia last spring and summer. For most of that time, he was the guest of the Martu people in the remote outstation community of Parrngurr. The Martu were among the last aboriginal people in Australia to live as full-time hunter-gathers completely autonomous of Western civilization until the mid-1960s.

Today many Martu continue to hunt and gather on a daily basis. Although they now have access to store-bought foods, and use 4-WD vehicles, firearms, and other modern tools in their foraging activities, they strive to follow a lifestyle based on their traditional values and knowledge. For example, modern Martu set controlled fires to assist in their hunting of goanna lizards in the same manner they did before they came in contact with Australian authorities.

Prof. Zeanah continued to work as a partner with a research team from...
Stanford University, conducting focal follows of foraging activities, ecological inventories, and ethnoarchaeological excavations of Martu "dinnertime camps." A primary focus of the Stanford research is to assess the impact of burning on the native flora and fauna, and evaluate the extent to which the Martu intentionally use fire to manage the availability of natural foods in the region surrounding their communities. Preliminary findings suggest that burning creates a fine-grained mosaic of biotic communities that abound edible plants and animals that are hard to find in the natural climax vegetation.

Prof. Zeanah’s own research concentrates on the Martu use of small-grained grass seeds and the effects of fire on their growth. Previous anthropologists considered grass seeds to have been staples of pre-contact aboriginal diets, and the ground stone tools used to mill such seeds into damper (bread) are abundant in the archaeological record. Many elderly Martu were trained as children in the proper ways to collect and process these seeds. Yet, despite their goal to maintain a traditional, foraging-based lifeway, modern Martu rarely harvest grass seeds today. One of Prof. Zeanah’s goals is to understand why modern Martu have chosen not to maintain this aspect of their traditional subsistence economy.

Prof. Zeanah also visited museums in Perth and Canberra to analyze archaeological collections of milling equipment. Afterward, he managed to squeeze in a few weeks at a resort off the Great Barrier Reef for some much-needed R&R.

**BISKOWSKI WORKS AT TEO LAB, VISITS SITES AROUND MEXICO CITY**
Professor Martin Biskowski returned to Mexico in late July accompanied by graduate student Jessica Jones. They conducted a short season of laboratory work at Arizona State University’s Teotihuacan Mapping Project Lab. Prof. Biskowski split his time between his own research, assisting student researchers, and addressing problems managing the large lab facility and its collections.
Prof. Biskowski’s research began a second stage of work with the ground stone collection from Xaltocan. During prehispanic times, much of the Basin of Mexico was covered with shallow lakes, and Xaltocan was a small northern island with a complex history extending over many different periods. For example, the Aztecs (the Tepaneca and Mexica) drove the Otomí inhabitants out in 1395 A.D. and resettled the island with a Nahuatl-speaking population.

Xaltocan is particularly interesting for a couple of reasons. First, the lakes provided an important opportunity for waterborne instead of footborne transport of trade goods. Xaltocan was an important location in the trans-lake trade and the growth of the regional economy. Second, Xaltocan is a silt island and has no stone materials of its own. All the ground stone artifacts at Xaltocan were imported from elsewhere, and by studying their geological properties Prof. Biskowski can reconstruct the flow of these trade goods during different periods.

Ms. Jones’s thesis studies the feasibility of using less expensive macroscopic methods of geological characterization to assign artifacts to known stone sources. This work involved revisiting scores of wooden crates containing artifacts collected at Teotihuacan during the 1960’s (the total collection includes more than 14,000 artifacts). During the 40+ years since these artifacts were collected, the crates housing them have endured damage from termites, water, moving, and the considerable weight of these artifacts. So another element of Prof. Biskowski’s work was identifying and arranging for the replacement of many of these crates.
Prof. Biskowski and Ms. Jones also took time to study other sites in the region. They traveled to Tula, the ancient Toltec center about an hour’s drive north of Mexico City. They also visited Cuicuilco and the neighboring Escuela Nacional de Antropología a Historia in southern Mexico City. They topped off their trip at the Museum of Anthropology in Chapultepec Park to see the newly reopened hall of Maya exhibits.

“Being in Mexico shortly before Mexico’s bicentennial celebration was interesting and fun”, Prof. Biskowski reported. “Even out at Teotihuacan, each week there were public events in the town square celebrating Mexico’s cultural heritage. In Mexico City, bright, colorful decorations already anticipated the next month’s bicentennial festivities.”

**MURPHY PUBLISHES NEW BOOK**


**STUDENT NEWS:**

**SAS HOLDS ITS SPRING CONFERENCE**

The conference also included nine other presentations, including several by student in the anthropology department:

Dan C Reilly (CSU Sacramento)
“Will the Real Environmentalist Please Speak Up: The Discursive Production of Environmentalist Identity by Indigenous Activists in the Ecuadorian Amazon.”

Melissa Freixas (CSU Sacramento)
“Listening with Your Eyes”

Vanessa Esquivido (CSU Sacramento) and Sara Warren (CSU Sacramento)
“Anthropologists in McNair Scholars Land”

Vanessa Hull (CSU Sacramento)
“Bioarchaeological Applications of Stable Isotope Analysis Specific to Diet, Nutrition and Migration of Past Populations”

Lauren Booth (American River College)
“When (People) Eat Chocolate, They are Eating My Flesh.”

Sarah Roberts (CSU Sacramento)
“Take Back Midtown”

Colleen Truelsen (CSU Sacramento)
“Citizenship Before, During and After Secession: The United States Civil War and the Nigerian (Biafran) Civil War”

Alexis Parkhurst (CSU Sacramento)
Early vs. Late Emergence Models of the Evolution of Human Language

Kristina Casper-Denman (American River College/UCD Native American Studies)
“When is a Roundhouse Not a Roundhouse? When it is the New Maidu Museum and Historic Site”

The department congratulates these students and guests on their fine presentations!

STUDENTS RECOGNIZED WITH AWARDS

At the end of spring semester’s George Rich Colloquium, Department Chair Raghuraman Trichur presided over the presentation of awards recognizing the achievements of three graduating seniors in the anthropology department. For the first presentation, Emeritus Professor John Connor honored Synnea Fallon with the John Connor Award in recognition of her superior academic performance.
For the second award, Dean of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies Charles Gossett presented the Academic Achievement Award to Carrie Peters in recognition of a combination of academic excellence and significant contributions beyond the classroom environment.

In the third presentation, Department Chair Raghuraman Trichur awarded the Richard Reeve Award to Anand Nachtaljer in recognition of his multidisciplinary achievements in anthropology and contributions to the anthropology department.

Prof. Trichur also recognized student Bryon George Lee for his work developing the new departmental website.

**SARA WARREN CONDUCTS RESEARCH AS A MCNAIR SCHOLAR, WINS AWARD**

Sara Warren is an undergraduate with a strong interest in physical anthropology and primatology. Her excellence as a student was recognized when she became a Ronald E. McNair Scholar.

As a McNair Scholar, Ms. Warren was required to do original research in anthropology under the advising of a faculty mentor. Ms. Warren’s interests lie in primatology, and Prof. Elizabeth Strasser advised her on her research in this area.

Over the summer, McNair Scholars attended conferences across the country and presented their research. Ms. Warren attended a conference in Atlanta, GA in which she competed with other McNair Scholars. Her work with white-handed gibbons received a First Place award in the Life Sciences.
Congratulations, Ms. Warren!

NEW SAS OFFICERS TAKE THE HELM, SCHEDULE FALL WORKSHOPS AND TALKS
A new slate of officers were elected in the Sacramento Anthropological Society (SAS) at the end of spring semester. The new officers for Fall 2010/Spring 2011 are:

President Vanessa Hull
Vice President Jason Krantz
Treasurer Brittany Roberts
Secretary Angela Balta

SAS has begun a busy schedule of meetings, talks, and workshops for fall semester. Some of the events which occurred earlier this semester include:

"Fundamentals of Anthropology Research Workshop" (September 13) by Research Librarian Reza Peigahi and Prof. Martin Biskowski (see “SAS HOSTS RESEARCH WORKSHOP” article below).

"Hunting and Gathering in the 21st Century: An Introduction to the Martu of Western Australia" (September 28). Prof. David Zeanah presented a talk on his research in Western Australia studying the lifestyles and customs of the Martu people. He discussed their social, economic and dietary practices as well as sharing humorous anecdotes about those individuals he formed relationships with. Thanks again to Prof. Zeanah for an entertaining and informative talk!

Sacramento Community Homeless Forum (October 8) This event was organized by Anthropology graduate student Steve Watters to share multiple perspectives about real-life issues surrounding the plight of thousands of people living outdoors on Sacramento streets and levees every day. Over 250 guests turned out for this event which was attended by several community leaders and organizations and was reported by NPR and the Sacramento Bee. Highlights of the forum included speeches by Mayor Kevin Johnson and Councilman Robert Fong.

SAS invites interested individuals to participate in the following events in the near future:

1. A book sale (November 17-18, 10am-2pm) – SAS is looking for people who can volunteer time or donate books. If you can do either, please contact SAS at:

sacanthsoc@gmail.com

2. “Faunal Analysis Workshop”, by Prof. Jacob Fisher (November 18, 6-9pm). This workshop will teach students how to distinguish between different types of faunal skeletal material as well as how archaeologists collect faunal materials in
the field.

SAS also holds a spring conference at which students can present their research to other members of the Sacramento anthropology community. This conference is currently in the planning phases. If you are interested in presenting research or helping to organize the conference, please contact SAS at the email address above.

**SAS HOSTS RESEARCH WORKSHOP**

On Monday, September 13, SAS hosted, "Fundamentals of Anthropology Research" was held in the department computer lab. This workshop was organized by Research Librarian Reza Peigahi and Prof. Martin Biskowski.

The first part of the workshop focused on the library’s databases and other resources for finding and retrieving research materials. Using the databases, students often can download journal articles relevant to their research from the comfort of their homes. Many other journals and books can be found in the library stacks or can be retrieved through the interlibrary loan system. These resources are easy to use, and the library staff is also ready to assist interested students.

The second part of the workshop discussed the use of EndNote, a bibliographic software program licensed by the university and freely available for downloading by students from the university software site. EndNote eases the research process in several ways. The simplest benefit of EndNote is that one can type information about the journals, books, and other materials used in a thesis or term paper into EndNote’s database and have EndNote generate a formatted bibliography in the style of *American Anthropologist*, *American Antiquity*, *Current Anthropology*, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, and many other important anthropology journals. If you continue doing research in the same area, you can easily copy the information from one bibliography to another.

EndNote also provides space for supplying “annotations” which contain your observations about why the item is relevant to your research. Later, when you are writing up your research, you can use EndNote to generate an annotated bibliography so that you can quickly find and review the information you wish to cite.
Finally, EndNote provides a Cite-While-You-Write capability. If you are typing your paper in Word, you can access EndNote to insert a citation, and not only will a citation appear in your text, but EndNote also will construct a formatted bibliography at the end of your text listing all the items which you cited.

Students who missed the workshop and are interested in the library databases or EndNote should be aware that the library holds periodic workshops providing instruction which are advertised through the library’s website.

This class schedule is still preliminary and subject to change depending on budget and other circumstances. Nonetheless, it lists the courses which the department currently intends to offer and should aid planning for next year.

Note: All the above mentioned courses can also be taken as electives.