



Anthropology SCSU

NEWSLETTER

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Department Update

New Class for Spring 2008
 The SCSU Department of Anthropology celebrates its sixth year of existence this spring. Growth has been evident in the addition of several faculty members over the last four years, creation of various field school opportunities, and the development of a wide range of special topics courses being taught in the various concentrations being offered to our students.

Spring 2008 will introduce the following new courses in

Physical/Biological Archaeology:
ANT 398: Osteology

The study of the human skeleton (MW 3:25-4:40PM)

Course description:

This course provides students with expertise in the identification and

analysis of the human skeleton, focusing on functional anatomy. By the end of the term, student will be proficient in the names and landmarks of all the bones in the skeleton, along with details of the musculo-skeletal system and bone growth and development. Students will acquire skills to determine age, sex, biological affinity and stature from human skeletal remains. The use of osteology in fields such as paleoanthropology, forensics, and bioarchaeology will be explored, using reading materials, visual aids, and videos to complement lectures. Student will receive essential hands-on experience with skeletal material during class.

This course, along with the Special Topics in Bioarchaeology offered in Fall 2007, is part of a

new set of courses will cover a wide array of topics in physical anthropology and will offer students the chance to gain expertise in the methods and theories employed in physical anthropology. Future course to be offered include Fundamentals of Forensic Anthropology and Modern Human Variation.



Adult Hand from the website Virtual Library, Anthropology, Living Skeleton

Focus on the Faculty— Dr. Valerie Andrushko Assistant Professor, Biological Anthropology

I am joining the Anthropology Department at Southern after graduating in June 2007 with a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. My research focuses on the analysis of human remains from archaeological sites, a specialization known as bioarchaeology. I have engaged in bioarchaeological research in two main areas, central California and the Andean highlands, and have analyzed over 1,200 prehistoric burials for information on disease, trauma, cultural modification, and migration patterns. My interest in California prehistory began as a contract osteologist with burial excavation and analysis at a 2,000 year-old cemetery in San Jose where my colleagues and I documented an intriguing pattern of human cutmarks and body removal. A resulting article on inter-personal aggression and forearm trophy taking was published in the American Journal of Physical Anthropology, and a monograph of the site was published through Coyote Press. This research explored the implications of trophy taking in warfare for developing sociopolitical complexity in central California groups.

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Special points of interest:

- Don't miss this year's field school opportunities. Here and abroad.
- You **MUST** see your advisor before receiving the Alternate Pin number for registration.

Alumni AT Work: Class of 2005

Justin Pagnataro:

Justin Pagnataro was one of the first graduates of the Anthropology Department. He is a native of Woodbridge, CT and has a BS in Biology and a BS in Anthropology. He is currently working at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (F&ES) coordinating an environmental science program for New Haven 6th graders, and mentoring F&ES graduate student interns in environmental education pedagogy. The program, Open Space as Learning Places, uses the City of New Haven as the lens through which students learn about science and their environment. Through the course of the program Justin and his colleagues take the students to local open space sites. Highlights include hiking in East Rock Park, meeting local community stewards, canoeing the West River, and visiting the historic Grove Street Cemetery. By the program's end the students have gained a tremendous knowledge of their local landscape and an appre-

ciation for their city. There are many aspects of anthropology in his position at Yale. Justin says that his training in anthropology has helped him to celebrate the diversity of New Haven Public schools. "About 90% of the students I teach are minority students who have



Justin Pagnataro is pictured here with one of the many 6th grade students from New Haven Public School who is a participant in the Open Spaces as Learning Places Program.

roots in Latin America, Africa, Puerto Rico, Egypt and China. In addition, urban life is much different from what I experienced growing up in rural Woodbridge. One of the most important things in teaching is to connect with your audience, anthropology has al-

lowed me the cultural sensitivity to engage these students within the context of their value systems. "While Justin does not plan on attending graduate school at this point in his life, he states that he finds himself still immersed in anthropological studies and books. Currently his interested in indigenous cultural knowledge and infrastructures and their application in modern life. "The ancient wisdom held in these cultures could one day solve gigantic problems in westernized nations like the need for sustainable agriculture, or the erosion of a spiritual connection to nature." Justin's future plan is to create a wilderness school that

incorporates aspects of indigenous community and knowledge in order to create rich and sustainable relationships in his students' lives. Justin may be contacted at :

Justin.Pagnataro@yale.edu

Anthropology Club Highlights

↳ Four students are going to the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada March 26-30th along with our co- advisors; Dr. Andrushko and Dr. Rogers.

↳ Next meeting:

↳ Monday April 14th, at 11am in the Anthropology Department's meeting room.

Contact us : anthropology-club@southernct.edu



Emeritus News!

Dr. **Simon D. Messing**, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, is a cultural anthropologist whose professional concerns include four-field anthropology, ethnography, and applied medical anthropology. He has studied social change in pre-urban communities through extensive fieldwork in rural Ethiopia, focusing on the ethnographies of the Amhara and Falasha (Beta-Israel). He has written about the dominant role of women in Ethiopian spirit possession cults, and on anthropological approaches to the study of genital mutilation of females in Africa. Current students may have seen extensive reference to Professor Messing's work on this topic in the text "Taking Sides: Clashing views on controversial issues in Anthropology."

Dr. Messing been retired since 1989, but keeps abreast of cultural and applied anthropology – his preferred journals are



Dr. Simon D. Messing, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology

American Anthropologist, Human Organization and Practicing Anthropology. You might see him at a departmental event.

Recently, Professor Messing gave talks at the University of South Florida, about his experiences in doing applied medical anthropology in Ethiopia, as a member of a public health team with the aim of setting up rural health centers in regions that had no access to modern medical facilities. He shared these experiences with an applied anthropology graduate seminar, and the Anthropology Club at the St. Pete campus. A few years ago, Dr. Messing gave an invited talk at the Paris meeting of the Society for the Study of Ethiopian Jewry (SOSTEJE), a group that regards him as the father of the study of Ethiopian Jews. To learn more about his publications, please visit this website: <http://www.southernct.edu/anthropology/faculty/facultypages/drsimonmessing/>

Focus on Faculty (continued from page one)

My research in Peru relates to the growing sub-field of the Bioarchaeology of Imperialism, which investigates the biological effects of the rise, expansion, and collapse of empires. In these studies, researchers explore factors such as diet, access to resources, the role of violence in imperialism, the effects of migration, and the spread of infectious disease in created urban environments.

One unique aspect of my research is the focus on populations from the core

of the Inca Empire, providing crucial biological data from the Inca heartland. My dissertation research was a bioarchaeological investigation of the effects of the rise and expansion of the Inca Empire, featuring analysis of hundreds of burials from several sites throughout the Cuzco region. The project incorpo-

rated paleopathological data to measure the impact of increasing social stratification on health and strontium isotope data to understand migration patterns. In my dissertation, I documented the bioarchaeological impacts of the Inca Empire on local populations' health based on factors such as settlement aggregation and enforced labor.

I will continue to conduct fieldwork in Cuzco during the summer months as the Director of Osteological Analysis at Chokepukio, Peru.

The Chokepukio excavations are led by Dr. Gordon McEwan of Wagner College, who has assembled a team of experts in all aspects of archaeological research. As part of this collaborative team, I have analyzed almost 200 burials and supervised undergraduate students in methods of burial excavation and data

collection for human remains. A peer-reviewed article from this research was published in *Nawpa Pacha* in 2006, while a second article has been accepted by *Latin American Antiquity* for publication in 2008.

I'm very pleased to join the community of dedicated scholars here at Southern, and I look forward to sharing my interests with students, faculty, and the interested public. For more information on my research or teaching, please stop by my office at Engleman C027C or visit my web site at:

<http://home.southernct.edu/~andrushkov1/>

Dr. Andrushko recently was in the New Haven Register on March 3, 2008. The article was written by Abram Katz, Register Science Editor. The article pointed out the act of trepanation, cutting circular holes into the skull, which was an Incan practice which occurred 500 years ago.

"One unique aspect of my research is the focus on populations from the core of the Inca Empire"

Field School Information

THE INFORMATION BELOW WAS SUBMITTED TO SHOVELBUMS.ORG. FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF THE ENTIRE 2008 COMPREHENSIVE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL DIRECTORY, PLEASE CLICK ON ABOVE LINK.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ANNA PASCALE AT 392.7003 OR pasclea1@southernct.edu

New Mexico -

University of New Mexico 2008 Southwestern Archaeological Field School

Application Deadline: April 4, 2008

Field School Location:

Valles Caldera National Preserve, NM.

Time periods to be studied: Archaic

***** Field School Summary *****

This year's UNM Southwestern Archaeological Field School will investigate high altitude hunter-gatherer adaptations and land use in the Valles Caldera National Preserve in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico. In this area, large obsidian sources and game-filled grassy meadows regularly drew Archaic Period foragers into the mountains to acquire tool stone and hunt game. Join us as we investigate the history of this remarkable landscape, and the archaeological record of its prehistoric use through survey, excavation and geoarchaeological field research. This is a unique opportunity to experience a rare and precious landscape and to learn field archaeology at the same time.

Belarus -

Frontier Turf Settlement, Belarus

Application Deadline: April 5, 2008

Field School Location:

Asaviec, Vitebsk District, Belarus

Time periods to be studied: Neolithic-Bronze Age (Narva Culture, Northern Belarusian Culture, Usvetz Culture)

***** Field School Summary *****

Five successive settlements, excellently preserved in an anaerobic environment, located in proximity of the Lakes Region of Northern Belarus. Material culture is rich in bone, horn, stone, amber objects and decorated figurines. Large amounts of crushed human bone remains found in the occupation layers suggest existence of cannibalism, possibly ritual in nature.

Belarus - Prehistoric Flint Mines and Workshops Excavation, Belarus

Application Deadline: April 5, 2008

Field School Location:

Krasnaselsk, Grodna District, Belarus

Time periods to be studied: Neolithic-Bronze Age (Neman Culture, Corded Ware Culture, Tshinec Culture, Spherical Amphorae Culture)

***** Field School Summary *****

Neolithic and Bronze Age shallow shaft flint mines found in unique chalk environment and specialized stone tool manufacturing workshops. A necropolis dating to the end of the third millennium B.C. was located in the area. Human remains deposited in one of the mines along with a rich inventory of tools suggest reuse of abandoned mines as burials.

Applied Archaeology Australia Kepa Kurl Field School

Application Deadline: April 10 2008

Field School Location:

Esperance, Western *Australia*.

Time periods to be studied: Late Pleistocene, Early-Mid-Late Holocene, Historic Periods

***** Field School Summary *****

This unique, intensive program provides students and graduates of archaeology, anthropology, environmental science, international studies, and/or geography the opportunity to experience Traditional culture and lifeways of the Esperance Aboriginal community, and gain and in-depth understanding of the land, culture,

heritage and history. At the same time, students will develop technical skills in the field by participating in a landscape archaeology program that includes inland, coastal and offshore investigations of a range of sites and temporal periods. The program is delivered in a number of diverse ecological systems that includes stunning, white sandy beaches, granite domes, islands and coves, and endless woodlands. The program is based on a community model that integrates key elements for social well-being and sustainability – two-way exchange, education, management, and research.

Montana and Wyoming - Northwest College and Indiana University

Application Deadline: April 15, 2008

Field School Location:

Montana and Wyoming

Time periods to be studied: Late precontact and postcontact

***** Field School Summary *****

Northwest College and Indiana University will be offering their fourth cooperative program in archaeological field methods for summer 2008, in the beautiful Bighorn and Absaroka Mountain ranges of Montana and Wyoming. This field school is a holistic, field-based program in the social history and human ecology of the northwestern High Plains and Middle Rocky Mountains with a special emphasis on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

How to Contact Us...

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