



Anthropology Department

San Diego State University

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2011 Commencement



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CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

Dr. Matt Lauer, Dr. Erin Riley, and Dr. Arion Mayes earned tenure and were promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology last semester!

Also, congratulations to the newest member of the SDSU Anthropology Department faculty, archaeologist **Dr. Todd Braje!** His research focuses on maritime adaptations, human impacts on marine ecosystems, and the historical ecology of marine habitats from southern California to the Caribbean.



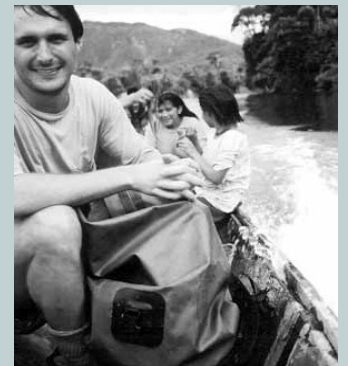
Dr. Braje (above) will join the anthropology faculty in Fall 2011.

The Department of Anthropology commencement ceremony will be held May 22, 2011 at 11 a.m. in Arts and Letters, Room 201. We invite all students, faculty, alumni, and their families to celebrate the graduating class of 2011. The ceremony should last approximately one hour and will be followed by a reception with complimentary food and drinks in the Arts and Letters courtyard.

Students that are interested can then proceed to The College of Arts and Letters commencement ceremony, starting at 1 p.m. at Viejas Arena. We hope you are able to join us for both events as we congratulate the graduates and wish them well in their future endeavors!

Aztecs in the News

Dr. Matthew Lauer was featured in the San Diego Union Tribune for his research in the Solomon Islands examining the ecological and social impact of the magnitude 8.1 earthquake that hit that region on April 2007. Over the past summers, several graduate students, **Douglas LaRose, Luke Campanella, and Ben Nugent** accompanied Dr. Lauer to the Solomon Islands as research assistants. This summer, graduate student **Savanna Schuermann** will be joining Dr. Lauer in the field and beginning her thesis research. [Click here](#) to read more about Dr. Lauer's research.



Dr. Seth Mallios and SDSU anthropology alumni **David Caterino, Hillary Sweeney, and Jaime Lennox** took part in an archaeological survey of the Buttercup Dunes of eastern Imperial County, a famous location for the film *Beau Geste* and miles from where *Return of the Jedi* and *Stargate* were filmed. Shell casings, broken water bottles, and the heel of an old boot which may have been part of a film costume were found. [Click here](#) to read more about their survey.

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A Message from the Chairman

Yes, we are back in the newsletter business. From *The Petroglyph* to *Smoke Signals*, the SDSU Department of Anthropology has a long history of official bulletins. Each contained a wealth of information and was generated by students with an abundance of energy, optimism, and insight. This newsletter endeavors to continue the legacy with a sustainable model for disseminating information about the department to our many anthropology enthusiasts. It also gives me a chance to discuss the current state of our program and send out an open invitation to our upcoming department commencement on May 22nd at 11:00am in AL-201.

Anthropology at SDSU is remarkably strong. Our enrollments and graduation rates are high; we have 165 undergraduate majors, 42 graduate students, and a graduating class of 80. Our faculty's research productivity and teaching innovations are outstanding. Furthermore, as a group we have never been more involved in local, regional, and global communities. Many of our current students, faculty, and staff have played a direct role in the major successes of the university over the past decade. Best of all, our department is far from content; we will continue to grow and excel in teaching, research, and service.

Through the generosity of the Friends of Anthropology, we are able to hold a department graduation every May for our matriculating students. This

Anthropology in Action



Anthropology students practice flint knapping techniques during **Professor Scott Mattingly's** Principles of Anthropology class in Fall 2010.

ceremony is not only a rite of passage for our most prized constituents; it has also become a celebration for our local community. Graduation is an important benchmark. It allows all of us to take a moment to reflect on nearly a century of teaching anthropology at San Diego State (and its precursor San Diego Normal School) and witness the next generation of anthropologists in action. I encourage alumni, faculty emeriti, and other members of our extended anthropological family to join us in the public ceremony.

Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Erin Riley (left) is currently involved in two field research projects. In conjunction with the San Diego Zoological Society, she has an on-going project looking at niche partitioning between two nonhuman primate species, the Tibetan macaque and the endangered Guizhou snub-nosed monkey, in Fanjingshan Nature Reserve in Guizhou, China. Dr. Riley also recently began a new field research program examining the patterning and function of male affiliation and cooperation among Sulawesi moor macaques in Bantimurung-

Bulusaraung National Park in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. Two graduate students, **Jaima Smith** and **Hailee Hove** (right), accompanied Dr. Riley to Sulawesi as research assistants last summer. In 2010, Dr. Riley published four articles including *The endemic seven: Four decades of research on Sulawesi macaques* featured in *Evolutionary Anthropology*, one of the leading journals in the field of anthropology.

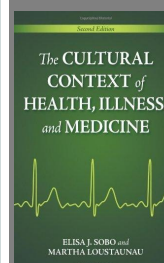


Student Awards & Scholarships

- ◆ *Del Jones Award (SfAA)* 2011; Velma Calvario
- ◆ *Fulbright Scholarship* 2010; Jeff Peterson
- ◆ *Al Sonek Memorial Scholarship* 2010; Erin Blankenship-Sefczek
- ◆ *Norton Allen Scholarship* 2010; Elizabeth Herlihy
- ◆ *ASM Affiliates Scholarship* 2010; Barbara Quimby
- ◆ *Scholars Without Borders* 2010; Nadia Merino

Recent Publications

Our faculty and students have articles recently published in some of the top journals in the field.



Dr. Elisa Sobo recently published the second edition of her book entitled *The Cultural Context of Health, Illness, and Medicine*,