Anthropology Club Newsletter

A Brief History of the Anthropology Club

The Anthropology Club is the oldest academic student organization on campus. It was founded in 1971. Traditionally the Club has participated in the community by providing volunteer services in both the natural and human environment. Past projects vary from the Boise River Sweep to Community Education at local schools. In 2003-2004, the Club sponsored students to attend and present research at the Northwest Archaeological Association in Eugene Oregon. Community projects are driven by student interest and involvement. The Club also works with Department in sponsoring the Friends of Anthropology Lecture Series. This series brings BSU faculty from the social and natural sciences to present their research. In addition to providing these services, the Club promotes student involvement and social interaction by scheduling off campus activities. Participation in the Club helps students to develop their academic portfolio and curriculum vitae.

Meeting Dates and Times

The first Tuesday of the month in the Department from 2:00-3:30 p.m.
The third Tuesday of the month off-campus, after 6:00 p.m., location to be announced.

Club Officers/Contact Information

- President—Elisa Carlsen  ecarlsen@mac.com
- Vice-President—David Seng  DavidSeng@mail.boisestate.edu
- Treasurer—Brett Ritz  JasonBrett@mail.boisestate.edu
- Secretary—Kersti Harter  kerstiharter@mac.com

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Student News

Cherry Hunsaker is a senior pursuing a double major in French and Anthropology. Over the summer of 2004 she received the Ansotegui-Fereday scholarship from the study abroad program which allowed her to attend a Basque Ethnographic Field School held in France and Spain. The field school worked to discover how Basque peoples maintain a traditional identity in the French public school system. Cherry organized her projects working in the town of Hendaia in southern France. Through participant observation Cherry worked with institutional leaders in the school as well as students.

Kersti Harter was accepted as a Brown Scholar. Kersti currently works for Dr. John Ziker as a research assistant, helping him on various research projects and databases. Over the summer, she assisted him in researching hunters and gatherers and the transition to horticulture and pastoralism in human history.

Nicki McDonald graduated in May of 2004 with a BA in Anthropology and Minor in Native American Studies. She was selected as a top ten scholar at for her academic achievements.

For the 2003/2004 academic school year the Anthropology Department had 16 students listed on the Dean’s List. Congratulations!!

Faculty News

Dr. John Ziker was invited to attend and present a paper at a workshop in Halle, Germany from September 14th to the 18th, 2004, at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. The paper, titled “Rational Choice and Limits on Individual Agency in Siberia,” reported on results of economic games played among the Dolgan and Nganasan during his 2003 field trip, as well as the formation of values and sharing norms. The games utilized a methodology developed for a multi-site study funded by the National Science Foundation. The games are relevant to variation in human economic behavior and generosity.

Dr. Robert McCarl was the editor for Latinos in Idaho published in 2003. This was a collection of essays and interviews that evolved from a folk festival called Fiesta Idaho, launched in the Fall of 2000. Fiesta Idaho promotes awareness and understanding of the Latino community in Idaho. The publication was a project of the Idaho Humanities Council. The games are relevant to variation in human economic behavior and generosity.

The Long Road to Duck Valley…
A field trip is being planned around ethnographic research that Dr. McCarl has done on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. Dr. McCarl’s research involves the Pakkiata (cowboy) tradition. The field trip is tentatively scheduled for early November. Please send an email to davidseng@mail.boisestate.edu if you are interested, so we can get an idea of the number of people going on the trip.

The Friends of the Anthropology Lecture Series…
November 18th 2004
Dr. Hue Hsia Wu from the Sociology Department will be presenting her research topic “cultural and social experience of racial and ethnic minority groups.”

March 2004
Dr. Lisa Brady of the History Department will be presenting her research on environmental history.

The Agency for the New Americans…
Volunteer opportunities exist with this agency that provides education, skills, and support necessary to assist refugees in becoming self-sufficient. They resettle over 200 refugees annually from Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle and Near East.