CSU, Chico
Forensic Anthropology
Faculty and Students
Assist in Recovery of
San Bruno Fire Victims
Organizing stories for each issue of Vanguard is truly enjoyable for college staff because it is an opportunity to share with you the many outstanding accomplishments of the students, faculty, and staff in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences. This fall, Forensic Anthropology faculty and students assisted with the recovery of San Bruno fire victims. The Department of Sociology announced that its Distance Education BA in Sociology will return to an online delivery platform, beginning in August 2011. Students in Health and Community Services led older adults through a physical exercise program called “Generations in Motion” in an effort to improve their health and mobility. The School of Social Work implemented a new Interdisciplinary Center on Aging (ICOA) under the direction of Professor Seema Sehrawat. The center is charged with conducting scholarship and providing education about the health and well being of an aging population. The Department of Psychology unveiled the International Cognitive Visualization Program (master’s degree) in partnership with the University of Koblenz-Landau, Germany and the Pierre Mendès-France University in Grenoble, France.

As you read this issue from cover to cover, you will see that each department/program/school is strongly engaged in service learning, civic engagement, and applied scholarship. The number of faculty and students earning grant awards and prestigious honors is remarkable. When you reflect upon all of the accomplishments highlighted in this magazine, I hope that you will be as proud as I am of the significant contributions our faculty and students make to local, regional, national, and international communities. Their pursuit of knowledge not only advances the disciplines in the behavioral and social sciences, it sustains a long tradition of academic excellence in the College of BSS and at CSU, Chico.
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Distance Education BA Program in Sociology Resumes

The sociology department will resume offering its BA in Sociology, Distance Education Degree Completion Program in August 2011.* The program is designed to accommodate the traditional junior transfer student in California’s North State region who has taken courses at community colleges, but is not within commuting distance of a public university. In addition, the program will attract employed adult learners in fields that would benefit from a BA in Sociology (e.g., nonprofit organizations, human resources, criminal justice, law, student services, public service, education, health services, youth services, and counseling) that would otherwise not have the opportunity to pursue a baccalaureate. As a degree completion program, lower-division course preparation is required. Admission criteria for the online BA in Sociology are the same as those of the CSU, Chico campus. The application period ended November 30, 2010 for fall 2011.

Click here for more information

*Pending WASC approval.

Instructor Leads Students to the “Lucky Seven”

Transitioning into an environmentally responsible economy was the focus of a presentation that social science instructor Lee Walker gave this past July at the 2010 National Career Development Association Global Career Development Conference in San Francisco.

The idea of a “green economy” is an economy that is driven by jobs that are clean, manufacturing that is environmentally responsible, and money that is spent on ways to clean up the environment such as recycling and cleaning up environmental impacts. Jobs should also be good for workers and offer a decent wage and necessary benefits.

In researching her presentation, Walker selected 200 internet sites promising information about green jobs and training programs and then evaluated them using her “Lucky 7 Evaluation Rules,” a marker she invented herself. Each site was scrutinized under her seven rules, which included the following criteria: safe, honest, congruent, easy to use, minimum or no registration, good links, and current.

If the sites survived her seven rules, she also considered who the key players and developers were, if the contacts were real, what the purpose of the site was, and if there was any bias or agenda. The “rules” were especially helpful because they are concrete and can be applied to a variety of sites. Of the 200 sites researched by Walker, 40 came up as reliable resources in “green jobs.”

Ms. Walker is the instructor for the social science class Career and Life Planning and is also a National Career Development Association Career Development Facilitator Instructor. She recently had an article, “The Change to a Green Economy: Why Career Development Facilitators are Already There” published in Career Developments, a magazine sponsored by NCDA.
Leading Edge International Masters Program in Cognition and Visualization Is Funded

Neil Schwartz, professor of psychology, and his partners Professor Wolfgang Schnotz, University of Koblenz-Landau, and Professor Erica de Vries, Pierre Mendès—France University in Grenoble, France, recently won funding for the International Cognitive Visualization (IVC) program—a dual master’s program between universities in the United States, France, and Germany. The funding came on both sides of the Atlantic by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, a program of the U.S. Department of Education, and the European Commission, totaling $832,000. The program breaks new ground in the emerging science of cognitive visualization by being the first of its kind worldwide to train multilingual students who will be specialists in the psychological design and evaluation of visualization tools within international business.

The IVC program will select 12 students from applicants from the United States, France, and Germany. The students will take courses in cognitive psychology, applied computer graphics, media psychology, communication, and learning science. In addition, they will intern with international companies.

The first group of students will begin a month-long German-language immersion intensive in September 2011 in the university town of Landau, Germany. Then, at the end of October, they will begin their coursework there. In February 2012, they will move to Grenoble, France (right at the base of the French Alps), and enter a month-long French language immersion intensive. In March, they will begin their second semester at the University of Grenoble. They will finish up in July, then move to Chico to begin the fall semester in August. They will finish in May 2013, with a dual degree in the time it would normally take to complete one degree.

ICV will train specialists in understanding how these visualization and media tools work, how to design them to be the most effective, and how to evaluate them. These specialists will work alongside graphic designers, design teams, and management staffs to help create visualization tools and solve problems in an international context.

“This emerging discipline will provide tremendous employment potential to trained professionals in countries around the world,” said Schwartz. “I think the students entering this graduate program are going to feel like they are getting in on the ground floor of something very, very exciting.”

Students with bachelor’s degrees in psychology, instructional design, computer graphics, and foreign languages are among those who may be interested in applying for this master’s program.

The deadline to apply is March 1st, 2011 for fall 2011 admission.

For more information please visit http://www.csuchico.edu/psy/ivc/ or http://www.csuchico.edu/~nschwartz/IGRE.2010.html

From left to right: Professor Wolfgang Schnotz, Professor Erica de Vries and Professor Neil Schwartz
Each year the Faculty Recognition and Support (FRAS) calls out for nominations for Outstanding Professor, Outstanding Teacher, Outstanding Academic Adviser, Outstanding Faculty Service and Outstanding Research Mentor. This year three Behavioral and Social Sciences professors were surprised and honored during regular scheduled class. President Zingg presented the awards accompanied by Provost Flake, Dean Hutchinson, Department Chairs Dr. Cynthia Siemsen and Dr. Brian Oppy, along with members of the FRAS committee.

Most Inspirational Teacher

High achieving first-year students voted Professor Dan Pence their best and most inspirational teacher. Professor Pence was named Honorary Faculty Membership in Phi Eta Sigma.

Below are a few direct quotations from some of those students:

• “Professor Pence kept the class engaged. He is very enthusiastic about the subject. He really made me think and evaluate how sexuality is portrayed in our society. You could tell he enjoys teaching.”

• “Professor Pence really gets you thinking outside of the box. He understands we are all human and he never tries to put anyone on the spot in class.”

NSF Grant Brings Digital Cinema to the Department of Anthropology

A grant from the National Science Foundation, Major Research Instrumentation program will fund the creation of the Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology in the Department of Anthropology at California State University, Chico. Researchers in the new facility will use Red Digital Still Motion Picture Cameras to create documentaries spanning the breadth of the field of anthropology. This technology is in use in major Hollywood productions, but so far has not been adopted in any academic context. The Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology will therefore be a unique facility, unmatched by any other laboratory for anthropological cinema in the world.

Professor Brian Brazeal is the primary investigator on the NSF grant and will build and manage the new laboratory. He states that in order for anthropologists to reach the audiences they deserve, we must make motion pictures of the highest possible quality. High production values are essential to visual anthropology’s twin aims of producing visual documents for scientific analysis and documentaries for wide dissemination. Digital cinema technology frees the anthropologists from the constraints imposed by the film crew and the economics of the motion picture industry. According to Dr. Brazeal, “Our movies will be made by researchers who have rigorous training in traditional anthropological methods and in cinema production. I am excited to have the opportunity to create the laboratory in the Department of Anthropology at CSU, Chico.”
Curriculum Changes Provide Learning Opportunities

As part of the Child Development Program’s work with the Associated Students Child Development Lab (ASCDL), faculty and staff have revised the process of curriculum planning in the children’s classrooms. This new process, Inquiry-Based Planning, utilizes the daily experiences of the children and students who participate in the program to design a curriculum that focuses on important aspects of children’s learning.

Professor Melissa Groves (Child Development Program faculty), Susan Toussaint (ASCDL Director), and Steve Erwin (ASCDL Assistant Director and Child Development Program instructor) developed and implemented this new planning process. According to Groves, the previous curriculum planning process was somewhat invisible for the students who participated in the ASCDL as part of their coursework. Now the focus is on what teachers need to know about children’s learning and development with the result that teachers and students work together to plan intentional learning experiences for the children. The students have become members of a collaborative team that plans for and develops important considerations for children’s learning.

Center on Aging Initial Development Activities

The CSU, Chico Interdisciplinary Center on Aging (ICOA) was established in December 2009. The mission of the ICOA is to create partnerships across CSU, Chico disciplines and throughout the North State region that is served by the University, with a primary focus on the development of aging education, community service, and interdisciplinary research.

In May 2010, the ICOA received funds for initial development activities from the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching. Under the leadership of Dean Hutchinson, the ICOA director, Professor Sehrawat, and the interdisciplinary members of the ICOA board enthusiastically started carrying out initial development activities for the year 2010–2011. The three initial development activities are:

- A video contest for students, which captures students’ innovative and creative perspectives on aging at CSU, Chico.
- An annual Careers in Aging Fair, which enhances gerontology education on the CSU, Chico campus.
- An interdisciplinary lecture series, which is free for the University and North State community.

The first lecture series topic was “Deadly Triangle: Older Adults and Suicide Prevention” with speaker, Professor Patrick Arbore, from the Institute on Aging in San Francisco. More than 150 people pre-registered to attend this training on October 22, 2010. This lecture was organized in conjunction with PASSAGES’ Connections Program, Butte County Adult Services Coordinating Council, and the School of Social Work. The funds for this presentation were provided by the Butte County Behavioral Health’s Mental Health Services Act.
Approximately 10 times per year, the CSU, Chico Human Identification Laboratory’s services are requested from law enforcement to assist in the search and recovery of human remains. A typical recovery may involve the search for skeletal remains scattered on the surface in one of the national forests, or less commonly, a search for a clandestine grave of a homicide victim. On Sunday, September 12, 2010, the Human Identification Lab’s services were requested to assist in the recovery of victims of the San Bruno fire that occurred on September 9.

Forensic anthropology faculty Eric Bartelink, Colleen Milligan, and Turhon Murad took a team of 13 students and a recent alumnus to the fire scene at the request of the San Mateo Sheriff-Coroner’s Office. The team also included two physical anthropology faculty members, Professors Mark Griffin and Cynthia Wilczak, of San Francisco State University. The team arrived in San Bruno by 9 a.m. and worked steadily at the scene until 7 p.m. Numerous agencies, including local police and fire rescue teams, the San Mateo Coroner’s Office, and the National Transportation and Safety Board, coordinated the recovery effort.

Employing the skills of archaeology and forensic science, the team meticulously excavated a burned house near the site of the pipeline explosion. Excavation equipment, such as trowels, sifters, brushes, and shovels, was used to carefully remove debris in the search for human remains. The team separated into groups, with some members excavating different rooms of the house and others screening and sorting debris. Fire scenes are among the most difficult scenes due to the intensity of the fire, which results in a high level of fragmentation of a fire victim. A careful and thorough approach maximizes the recovery of human skeletal remains, and by extension, the likelihood of making a positive identification of the victims.
CSU, Chico is among the few universities in the United States to have three full-time faculty with a specialization in forensic anthropology (Professors P. Willey, Colleen Milligan, and Eric Bartelink), as well as an emeritus forensic anthropologist (Professor Turhon Murad). The program at CSU, Chico directly involves students in experiential learning through their participation in active forensic casework and field recoveries for law enforcement agencies. For many of the first year graduate students, this was their first experience working on a fire scene recovery. The team left knowing that their efforts assisted in the identification of some of the fire victims, providing closure for families.

Eric Bartelink, is the director of the Human Identification Laboratory at CSU, Chico. He worked on international forensic cases in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in the victim identification effort after the 2001 World Trade Center disaster.

Colleen Milligan recently completed her PhD at Michigan State University and is a new faculty member at CSU, Chico. She has worked internationally on bioarchaeological projects in both the United Kingdom and Belize. While at MSU, she worked on policy development related to mass fatalities within the United States as part of a fellowship with the Department of Homeland Security.

Turhon Murad, DABFA, professor emeritus in the Department of Anthropology at CSU, Chico, is a physical anthropologist with academic interests in skeletal biology and forensic anthropology and has worked with local and federal law enforcement on cases from around the western United States. He developed the Human Identification Lab at CSU, Chico.
Anthropology Student Carrie Brown Gives Back

Carrie Brown was the recipient of the 2009–2010 Outstanding Master’s Thesis Award from California State University, Chico. She attended CSU, Chico from August 2006 to May 2009. Her thesis, “Uncertainty in Skeletal Aging: A Retrospective Study and Test of Skeletal Aging Methods at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Central Identification Laboratory (JPAC-CIL),” examined over three decades of casework at the CIL to better understand the error associated with methods of skeletal age estimation. She is currently employed as a forensic anthropologist at the JPAC-CIL, where she regularly leads recovery missions and conducts casework to contribute to the identification of Americans missing as a result of our nation’s past conflicts (for more information go to www.jpac.pacom.mil).

Brown has elected to donate her financial award to a student travel fund for graduate students focusing on forensic anthropology. She greatly benefited from the expertise and support of the Anthropology professors at CSU, Chico during her tenure there and would like to continue to support the program. Additionally, conferences were and continue to be an important component of her professional development, and she understands that it is not always financially feasible for students to attend. Because of this, she has chosen to contribute the money received from the Outstanding Thesis Award to CSU, Chico graduate students who will be presenting their research at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. Based on abstracts submitted, a paper or papers will be chosen to receive money to help cover travel and registration expenses. She would like to acknowledge the members of her thesis committee for their support: Professor Eric Bartelink (Committee Chair—CSU, Chico), Professor Beth Shook (CSU, Chico), Professor John Byrd (JPAC-CIL).

While Brown was an MA student at CSU, Chico she presented the attached PDF of a peer-reviewed article she wrote about forensic anthropology at CSU, Chico at a 2008 anthropology conference in Paris. The paper is geared toward introducing American forensic anthropology (as practiced at CSU, Chico) to the forensic community in France. The paper is published in the Early View (ahead of print) in the *Bulletin et Memoires de la Societe d'Anthropologie de Paris*. This is a nice example showcasing our physical anthropology program to an international audience.

Click Here to see Carrie’s article
The World Association for Political Economy selected Michael Perelman’s 2005 book, *Manufacturing Discontent: The Trap of Individualism in a Corporate Society*, for one of five awards for Outstanding Achievement in Political Economy. The award was presented at the annual meeting in Shanghai, attended by delegates from 33 nations.

The book explores the way in which both risk and responsibility were moving down the social hierarchy to those without much and who could least bear the risk. At the same time, wealth and power were rapidly shifting to the minority who were shedding their risk and responsibility. The arrival of the Great Recession confirmed his prediction that this process represented a serious danger to society.


To read more about Dr. Perelman’s work, please visit:


### Best Chapter Award for 2009–2010

Chico State’s Upsilon Delta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, received a Best Chapter Award for 2009–2010 from the national organization. This award recognizes local political science honor society chapters that are particularly active in their universities and exhibit high levels of energy and creativity. The Upsilon Delta chapter also previously received Best Chapter Awards for 2002–2003, 2005–2006, and 2008–2009.

In April 2010, five Pi Sigma Alpha students and their faculty advisor, Professor Mahalley Allen, traveled to the California State Capitol in Sacramento for a guided tour of the capitol building and legislative chambers. Chapter members also met with an alumnus from our university who spoke to the students about his experience working in the California Senate.

In May 2010, the Upsilon Delta Chapter held its 11th annual initiation ceremony and banquet. The honor society initiated 29 new members, and graduating members received Pi Sigma Alpha graduation medallions and honor cords. Professor Michael Coyle delivered the ceremony’s keynote address. Students, friends, and faculty members also enjoyed presentations by the political science student organizations about what their groups had accomplished over the past academic year.
Generations in Motion

Between 58 and 74 percent of older adults don’t get the minimum amount of daily exercise needed to stay active and healthy. Students in Mary Portis’ Health Education Techniques class decided to create a program to help local elders become more active. Their efforts resulted in a new company, Generations in Motion. The students researched the needs, assets, interests, and abilities of older adults and developed a fitness curriculum that incorporates new and known activities, as well as a big dose of opportunities to socialize. The students tested their program with area seniors, made revisions, and have been offering their services to residential facilities for older adults.

Words of wisdom from the students for when planning fitness programs for older adults:

- Don’t call it fitness or exercise. Use the name of the activity such as “dance” or “disc golf.” The name of an activity sounds like fun. Fitness and exercise sound like work.
- Centralize the social aspects of the activities. Allow the older adults to make connections with others.
- Work on balance. Falling is the most common cause of disability.
- Provide different levels of difficulty for each activity so that those with less strength or mobility can participate.
- Introduce new activities but break them into manageable steps so that learning a new activity seems possible.
- Provide activities known to older adults from their past.
- Focus on getting older adults to move more each day. Ambitious fitness goals are less important than standing, walking, biking, and playing.
When asked, “who is Jillian Ruddell?” The junior majoring in multicultural and gender studies with an option in women’s studies answers, “an activist?” However reluctant she may be to claim the title, Ruddell epitomizes the term “activist” and embodies the mission of the multicultural and gender studies program. Through her activism, she has helped to “cultivate a just and diverse environment.”

Ruddell is the CSU, Chico recipient of the 2010 William Randolph Hearst/CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement. This prestigious award is “given each year to those students who have demonstrated financial need, experienced personal hardships, and have attributes of merit, including superior academic performance, exemplary community service, and significant personal achievements.” She is also a recipient of the 2010 Lt. Robert Merton Rawlins Merit Award, which recognizes CSU, Chico students on the basis of scholarship, involvement in extracurricular activities, and professionally-related and academic accomplishments.

Although only a junior, Ruddell has built a rather impressive résumé. While a sophomore at Atascadero High School, she established the school’s first gay-straight alliance. A victim of verbal and physical assaults, she sought to create a support network for herself and other students so that they would not feel as harassed and isolated as she once had. During her freshman year here at CSU, Chico, Ruddell founded the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) Leadership Conference, an annual event on campus. As a sophomore, she became the youngest ever director of the Associated Students Women’s Center. She currently has her sights set on creating a Gender and Sexuality Equity Center on campus for which she received a summer stipend from the University Honors Program to work on the proposal.

Ruddell’s activism began out of a desire to create a more inclusive and welcoming world for herself. Now, however, she is driven by a desire to fulfill the unmet needs of her peers. Two years ago at the Cross Cultural Leadership Center’s Diversity Summit, she received notes from some of her peers expressing their gratitude to her for the work she has done on campus. Those notes sparked what Ruddell calls her “Ah-ha moment,” for it was then that she realized that it is her fellow students who “fuel” her drive and determination to “change [the] campus for the future, so students who [come] here will not feel the way she did.” Ruddell recalls that she

“had an explosion [of activity and clarity] her freshman year, and it’s been a snowball effect since then.”

Jillian Ruddell is truly a fascinating young woman. Her choice, if she could be any superhero, is especially telling. She is torn between Hugh Laurie, the actor who plays Dr. House on the television series House, because he is a flawed human being who saves lives; Austin Powers, “a regular guy who fumbles his way through everything but somehow manages to make it all work out in the end”; and Batman, “a normal guy with gadgets.” She see herself as an ordinary person equipped with a fabulous tool kit—knowledge, compassion, feminism, and a little mojo.

Ruddell plans to pursue a graduate degree in sexuality and gender studies and would like to return to Chico and teach. Ruddell proclaims, “I love Chico and its small big-town feel.” She notes with pride that the “campus is becoming LGBT friendly.” Although she would never admit it, this change for the better is due in large part to her efforts.
Biodiversity Research in Cape York Peninsula

Professor Hankins spent the summer conducting applied fire and biodiversity research in Australia’s Cape York Peninsula as part of his fall 2010 sabbatical research project. He worked with Kuuku Y’yu traditional owners within the Kaanju Ngaachi Indigenous Protected Area to initiate a long-term research project to assess the effects of cultural fire restoration on biodiversity within their homelands. Aside from the biodiversity aspect of this project, Hankins collaborated with an Australian researcher to monitor the habitat structure and wildland fuels within the same landscape. While in Australia Hankins was a key presenter at the week-long Chuula Indigenous Fire Workshop, which served as a forum to teach a diverse audience how to implement indigenous fire practices, record traditional knowledge, fire mapping, and fire monitoring. The approximately 80 attendees included Australian fire personnel, land managers, and indigenous people from across Australia. As a result of the workshop, Hankins was invited to consult on the restoration of indigenous fire to the Blue Mountains west of Sydney. While in the Sydney area he networked with University of Technology Sydney faculty regarding collaboration on future fire research projects.
On October 12, 2010, the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences held its first Scholarship Award Ceremony to honor our 55 BSS scholarship recipients and the donors that make scholarships and awards possible. A highlight of this event is that each scholarship donor and recipient are able to meet personally and share their mutual connection to Chico State.

The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences welcomed Leslie Schibsted as our new director of advancement on November 29. She has been on campus since March 2006 where she served as the director of advancement for the College of Natural Sciences. While there Leslie was responsible for many fundraising, scholarship, and endowment programs along with being an instrumental part of the Gateway Science Museum project. Prior to her appointment to campus, she worked as a fundraising consultant providing counsel for projects in excess of $500M to over 60 non-profit organizations. She holds a BS in Business Administration from the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, and graduated in May 2010 from CSU, Chico with a Masters in Education focused on Leadership and Development. Welcome, Leslie!
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“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”

-Sir Winston Churchill