Subject: Announcement of the Lantis University Chair Awards

Date: Monday, March 3, 2014 at 4:05:35 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: CSU, Chico President Paul Zingg

To: All Announce (restricted)

I am pleased to announce the selection of Anthropology Professor Georgia Fox and Geological Sciences Professor Rachel Teasdale as Lantis Endowed University Chairs. Their selection follows a very competitive process featuring a number of strong applications from among our faculty.

Professor David Lantis was a faculty member of the Department of Geography who understood that private giving would help to enrich the teaching and learning environment of the University. Professor Lantis and his wife, Helen, donated $2 million to endow a university chair in their name, which allows for the annual funding of two university chairs. Past recipients of the Lantis University Chair are David Colson, Michelle Neyman Morris, Stephen Lewis, Greg Kallio, Tracy Butts, Kate Transchel, Lori Beth Way, and Byron Wolfe.

Professor Fox and Teasdale each will receive a $40,000 award to advance their research and student-centered projects. The award period will begin July 1, 2014, and continue for 18 months or 24 months.

Provost Wei and I thank the Lantis University Chairs Selection Committee, chaired by Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs Wenshu Lee, for its time and expertise in choosing the recipients for this prestigious honor. Below are some details about this year’s Lantis Endowed University Chairs:

Anthropology Professor Georgia Fox will use the Lantis Professorship to continue her research at the Betty’s Hope Plantation on the Caribbean island of Antigua. Professor Fox’s proposed project incorporates scholarly research and student centered learning and will build on the research she has already conducted, starting in 2007. Betty’s Hope offers Professor Fox and her students the opportunity to study the rise of a capitalist economy, the Atlantic slave trade and the African Diaspora within the context of the European colonization of the New World. In addition, the research will explore the ecological disaster precipitated by the unprecedented demand for sugar, which was produced by the cane agriculture system on the island. The work of Professor Fox’s research team will be complemented by faculty in the field of ecosystems from the University of South Florida. Professor Fox’s research will culminate in the completion of her book, “Plowing Paradise: Ecological Disaster and the British Plantation System in the Eastern Caribbean, 1630s-1944.” Through this project, students will learn how the past and present are inextricably linked by human actions and how the long-term consequences from local, regional, and global perspectives can affect human populations, both past and present.

Geological Sciences Professor Rachel Teasdale plans to use the Lantis Professorship to complete a project that is a natural extension of her teaching and research. Professor Teasdale will work with students on cooling experiments to characterize crystallization of basaltic lava flows, such as Lovejoy Basalt and Poison Lake Chain and Cinder Cone flows in Lassen Volcanic Center. This research will also include decompression experiments at the University of Bristol’s Electron Microbeam Laboratory through a collaborative partnership. Not only will Professor Teasdale and her students present their research at the Fall 2015 American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco, this project will result in the development of related curriculum for her senior-level Volcanology course, in which student researchers will be recruited to serve as peer leaders in the course. Professor Teasdale will also work with a student in Science Education to produce high quality, standards-based K-12 curriculum and activities that will be presented to teachers in the Summer Science Project, in collaboration with Professor Bev Marcum. Partnering with peer professionals in the community, Professor Teasdale’s research will also benefit members of our greater North State community through informal science education activities at both the Gateway Science Museum and Lassen Volcanic National Park Visitors Center.