By Kimberly Ornellas

The museum studies students have done it again! In December 2010, the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology celebrated the opening of its student installed, world-class exhibition, Sacred Places, Dreams of Leisure: The Anthropology of Tourism. The exhibit pays tribute to Dr. Valene L. Smith’s groundbreaking work in the field of cultural tourism, which is the study of travel activity and the relationships between tourists and the places they visit.

The exhibit focuses on 22 different topics of cultural tourism from around the world to our own backyard. Come explore travel and culture through media, gambling, food, road trips, student travel, sacred pilgrimages, and more.

The full exhibit will be on display until May 22, 2011. If you missed the chance to visit the exhibit during the spring semester, come by this summer to check out a condensed version. Summer museum hours are Monday through Thursday 11 am – 3 pm, beginning June 6th. We hope to see you soon!

By Georgia Fox

Our exhibition features several early 18th-century travel accounts from the Meriam Library Special Collections. The heyday of the travel account was the Victorian Era of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, of such explorers as Englishman Charles M. Doughty (1843-1926). His book, Travels in Arabia Desert, published in 1888, caused a sensation among the reading public, and influenced the later travels of T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia). Doughty’s book is now considered a masterpiece of travel writing.

Humans have wandered the globe for centuries out of curiosity, adventure, war, trade, religious pilgrimage, colonization, spying, and exploration.
Conference keynote speaker, Dr. Margaret Swain, pays tribute to Valene at the opening reception.

By Heather McCafferty

On March 4-5, 2011, the museum hosted Reflections and New Directions: A Conference on the Anthropology of Tourism in Honor of Dr. Valene L. Smith. The conference, which focused on the multiple applications of tourism, was chaired by Dr. Sharon B. Gmelch of the University of San Francisco and Union College. Dr. Gmelch brought together a wide variety of notable scholars to present their research on the cutting edge of cultural tourism.

We kicked things off on Friday night at Johnnie’s Restaurant, with a tributary Keynote Address given by Dr. Margaret Swain from U.C. Davis. On Saturday, conference attendees enjoyed sessions on the many dimensions of tourism, tourism as economic and disaster recovery, and visualizing tourism: film, photography, and fantasy. Presenters and attendants came from as far away as England and as close as the CSU, Chico Department of Anthropology.

The study of tourism has blossomed in recent years, resulting in a rich body of published papers, books, and conferences. Some key researchers and scholars include Edward Bruner, Erve Chambers, Eric Cohen, Sharon and George Gmelch, Nelson Graburn, Dean MacCannell, Margaret Swain, and many others. While today, anthropologists still grapple with precise definitions and measures to categorize their research with the field of tourism, it is a respected area of work to undertake.

How do we define tourism? There is no perfect definition, but generally, to quote Erve Chambers, it encompasses the study of “any kind of travel activity that includes the self-conscious experience of another place.” The anthropology of tourism, simply put, is the academic study of the relationships between tourists and the people and places they visit.

As anthropologists, we are interested in the cultural processes associated with these human interactions and their meanings, providing us with potentially powerful insights in what it means to be human.

The conference closed with a banquet at Sylvester’s Café on Saturday evening. One and all agreed that the conference was a great success and a fitting opportunity to honor the work or Dr. Valene L. Smith.

Our Town in Pictures: A Kids Eye-View

By Melissa Chacon De La Cruz and Vivian Reck

The inspiration for this year’s Photography Exhibition is Aaron Copland’s musical score, “Our Town,” the musical score. For the first time, kids under 14 years old will grab cameras to provide a kids’ eye view into what “Our Town,” Northern California, means to them. Images will focus on the people and places that make this part of the world unique.

This year our exhibition will be a combined effort between the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology, the North State Symphony, and Turtle Bay Museum. Young people’s work will be displayed in both museums to celebrate our great region. Photos will depict people, places, landmarks, events, or anything else that helps to represent the great diversity and bustling life of Northern California. Images submitted for the show will be used in a video production by Ronald Simonson that will accompany the North State Symphony Youth Concert, along with concerts in Redding and Chico. The concerts will feature the music from Aaron Copland’s original score from Our Town. Thirty photographs will be on exhibition at the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology from September 9 to October 21, and at the Turtle Bay Museum in November.

The deadline for submission is June 3, 2011, and is free of charge. Photographs can be submitted on the North State Symphony website at www.northstatesymphony.org. For more information call 530-898-6692 to speak with Rami White or Lauren Sharkey. The exhibitions and concerts have been funded by the James Irvine Foundation.
By Catlynn Zaro

When I think about my first day of Anthropology 466, the Museum Exhibit Planning class, I remember the anticipation I felt about the task that was ahead. Offered through the Museum Studies Certificate and Graduate programs, Museum Exhibit Planning builds a strong foundation for Museum Studies students who learn how to design, prepare, and install a professional museum exhibit. In addition, students learn about current museum theory, industry standards, and project management skills.

This semester, my classmates and I burrowed into the rich history of CSU, Chico. The results of our explorations were displayed in the Meriam Library and Butte Hall through the month of April, in honor of California State University, Chico’s Founders Week. Since 1909, Founders Week has served not only as a portal through which past faculty members and trustees could be honored for their contributions, but also as a way to celebrate the university’s growth, development, and sun-kissed future.

At the beginning of the course most of us were assigned partners to split the task at hand. From there, we selected subjects to investigate for our Founders Week exhibits. My partner, Michelle Beerli, and I spent numerous hours in Meriam Library Special Collections researching the history of CSU, Chico for our exhibit on the Chico State Yearbook Collection. Soon, we developed a storyboard outlining the narrative of our exhibit. Detail and precision followed as we created the labels that would be the heart of our display. As our installation deadline approached, the pressure was on. The Monday before Founder’s Week was a challenging day as we installed our respective exhibits and finally took a breath to appreciate the results of our hard work.

This course was a fulfilling experience, one which I will continue to draw upon as I advance in the field of Museum Studies.

By Heather McCafferty

The museum is kicking off another summer of fun with brand new camps and the return of some favorites. Kids will mix up potions and spells again in Hogwart’s Potion Academy camp and unearth what it takes to be an archaeologist in Archaeology camp. We are introducing our first green camp, called Wet and Wild Eco-Explorers, with the goal to make a zero waste week of fun. Kids will learn about bugs, frogs, and more in our new Creepy Crawly Adventures camp. Register for camp now. Camps begin June 20th. For more information check out the full schedule of events at www.csuchico.edu/anth/museum or call 530-898-5397.
A SPECIAL LOOK AT THE UPCOMING ISHI EXHIBIT

By Claire Aldenhuysen and Adrienne Scott

The devastating consequences of European conquest and contact with the indigenous peoples of the Americas have yet to be fully told and recognized. Many Native American voices and faces over the past two centuries have mirrored this misunderstanding and culture clash. Ishi is a name that evokes many emotions across the North State.

A hundred years ago, Ishi, the last member of the Yahi, appeared near Oroville, California. Ishi quickly rose to fame as word spread that a “wild man” with no knowledge of modern technologies had emerged in Northern California. Professors Thomas Talbot Waterman and Alfred L. Kroeber at the University of California, Berkeley, grew interested in Ishi and brought him to the Bay Area to reconstruct the lost Yahi culture. Through extensive interviews, Ishi outlined in detail Yahi language, family units, naming patterns, ceremonies, material items, and more. Ishi spent the remainder of his life at Berkeley, dying of tuberculosis in 1916 at approximately 54 years old.

As the Centennial of Ishi’s arrival in Oroville comes to a close this December, the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology will open an exhibition to recognize aspects of this story. The stories of Ishi and their implications deserve contemplation so as to contribute to the greater dialogue that every generation must have with history and its stakeholders.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY VALENE!

On February 14th museum Curator Adrienne Scott helped to celebrate Valene ’s 85th birthday at the museum.

Endangered Species Faire
The museum will provide hands on learning activities at this year’s faire, including primate puppets and an endangered species version of the game twister.
May 7, 2011
10:00-4:00
Cedar Grove in Bidwell Park

Anthropology Department Graduation Party
Each May the museum hosts a party for graduates from the Anthropology Department.
May 22, 2011
11:00-1:00
Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology

Summer Camp
This year’s camp promises to thrill and amaze with camp themes like Hogwart’s Potion Academy and Creepy, Crawly Adventures.
June 20-July 28, 2011
Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology

Photography Exhibition
Our Town In Pictures: A Kids’ Eye View
Children 14 years and younger were invited to submit a photo to represent the people and places of Northern California. Deadline for submission sis June 3, 2011.
September 9-October 21, 2011
Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology

Days of the Dead Altar and Maskmaking
Join us in our celebration of the Mexican holiday Dia de los Muertos. Make a mask, taste traditional foods, and help decorate our altar.
October 15, 2011
12:00-4:00
Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology
FACEBOOK STATUS UPDATE

By Claire Aldenhuysen and Viviane Reck

As you may have read in our last newsletter, the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology now has a Facebook page! Our Facebook page is a great place to learn about events, activities, and exhibits that are going on right now at the museum.

In April, we kicked off our 3-Minute Dance Party Fridays! Every Tuesday, we posted a poll with three song choices for our Facebook friends to vote on. The winning song was featured during the Dance Party. Dance parties took place at 2:30pm in the museum, and everyone was welcomed to join in the fun. A video documenting the dance was uploaded onto our Facebook page at 3pm the very same day.

This spring, we gave our Facebook friends a peek at objects in our exhibition in our new Scavenger Hunt. Here’s how it worked: each Thursday, we posted a picture of an item from an exhibit along with a line from a label, then our Facebook friends came into the museum to hunt down that object. Once it was discovered, they logged onto our Facebook page and left a comment detailing where the object was located and when they came in to find it. Other fun Facebook updates included pictures of new items in stock in our “Global Nomad: Gifts & Treasures” museum store and images of museum studies students in action. Over the summer the Facebook page will be on vacation. Check back the first week of fall semester for more updates.

THE COLLECTION CONNECTION:
NEW EQUIPMENT AT THE MUSEUM

By Kimberly Ornellas

Dr. Brian Brazeal, Professor of Anthropology at Chico State, recently made a generous donation of photography equipment to our museum. Dr. Brazeal received grant money from the National Science Foundation to purchase equipment to enhance the quality of visual media in the Anthropology department. The museum received a photography station for taking pictures of the objects in our collection. The photography station includes a Canon digital camera, high-tech lighting equipment, and a photo booth built by undergraduate anthropology student, William Padgett. This station will allow us to update our collections records with studio-quality photographs.

The Museum of Anthropology also recently installed a new PEM2 Datalogger in our gallery space to track temperature and relative humidity. Every day the logger stores data about the museum environment so that it can be tracked and analyzed. This information will help monitor the environment for objects and artifacts in our museum exhibitions. It will also support our efforts to borrow objects from other museums nation-wide.

GLOBAL NOMAD MUSEUM STORE

By Heather McCafferty

The museum has recently completed a renovation of our museum store complete with a new name and a new look. The Global Nomad Gift Store features gifts and treasures from around the world with a special focus on unique, authentic, and sustainable items.

Come in and see our new inventory, including Mexican folk art, Balinese wood-carved animals, hand-made Mongolian bells, Indian jewelry, woven bags, and Raku pottery.
MUSEUM ALLIANCE
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Your contributions help us to continue providing a vital teaching resources for the CSU campus and Chico.

CONTRIBUTION CATEGORIES

◊ $10.00 Student/Senior
◊ $17.00 Senior Couple
◊ $30.00 Family
◊ $50.00 Supporting
◊ $100.00 Sponsor
◊ $365.00 Dollar-a Day Gift

**Make Checks payable to:
Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology

Mail to: Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology, CSU, Chico
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