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- Welcome new Friends of Anthropology President, Betty Shutler!
- Archaeologist, Dr. Todd Braje, joins the Anthropology Department

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In Memoriam. It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Dale Bal-lou May (’79) on December 10, 2011. Together with her husband, Ron May, Dale was an active member of the Friends of Anthropology, Save our Heritage, Legacy 106, The Fort Guijarros Museum Foundation and many other local organizations committed to preserving the cultural heritage of San Diego. We are eternally grateful for her many contributions.

The Friends of Anthropology would like to invite all students, faculty, alumni, and their families to the Department of Anthropology’s commencement ceremony on 

Friday, May 18 at 9 a.m. in Arts and Letters, Room 201. 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 11 a.m. at Viejas Arena. We hope you are able to join us as we celebrate the graduating class of 2012 and wish them well in their future endeavors!
Congratulations to graduate students **Ben Nugent** and **Wendy Leicht**! Ben’s photo (left), taken in the Solomon Islands, won the ‘Adventures In Photography’ photo contest at the Museum of Man. Wendy’s photo (right), of the Marquesas Islands, won the 2011 AAA photo contest.

Congratulations are also in order for **Dr. Matt Lauer** who was recently named the co-director of the new major in Environmental Studies and Sustainability at SDSU. This major is designed to enable students with the tools and knowledge necessary to tackle complex social and environmental problems, both locally and globally.

Finally, graduate student **Savanna Schuermann** was recently awarded a $7,203 grant from the National Science Foundation. The grant is entitled 'Assessing disaster recovery in an ethnic minority community of the western Solomon Islands' and will fund her research this summer. Congratulations Savanna!!

**Anthropology in Action**

**Dr. Seth Mallios** and his 2011 summer field school class at the Whaley House.

**Dr. Arion Mayes’s** Forensic Anthropology class meet Rescue and Recovery dogs and renowned forensic odontologist Dr. Norman Sperber.
Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Todd Braje is the newest member of SDSU’s Department of Anthropology. Most of his research is conducted on the Northern Channel Islands of southern California, where he investigates the 13,000 year history of human-environmental interactions and the application of archaeological records to modern fisheries management. Dr. Braje has two new projects underway, both on Santa Rosa Island. This summer, he will begin a survey and excavation project of 19th century Chinese abalone fishing camps. These sites represent the birth of commercial abalone fishing in California and the project aims, in part, to help resource managers better evaluate the health and structure of endangered abalone stocks in southern California. Dr. Braje will also begin excavations at a village on eastern Santa Rosa Island. Archaeological data from Qshiwqshiwiw will provide a window into the lifeways of the Island Chumash Indians at Spanish contact and the health and structure of near-shore marine ecosystems prior to intensive commercial harvest by Euro-Americans.


Recent MA graduate Mike Wilken’s lifelong fascination with the natural environments of the Californias and the native peoples who have long inhabited them has led him on a quest for a holistic understanding of Baja California’s indigenous cultures, and for ways that this dynamic knowledge can be applied to serve the descendants of the region’s original inhabitants. After years of research, advocacy and building relationships with the tribes, a number of SDSU faculty encouraged Wilken to attend the university’s Anthropology Masters program, which he recently completed with his thesis on Kumeyaay Ethnobotany. While working on the thesis, he was accompanied for two days by an LA Times reporter and photographer doing a story on the Baja California Kumeyaay, who had found Wilken through an online article that he co-wrote with SDSU emeritus faculty member, Dr. Lynn Gamble. A few weeks later, he received an urgent early morning call from his father: “Wake up, you’re on the front page of the LA Times!” To read this article, click here.

Graduate students Erik Hendrickson and Sean Tangco are keeping busy this semester as Research Associates on Dr. Elisa Sobo’s program of research exploring the potential health benefits of Waldorf (aka Steiner) education. Sonia Khachikians and Sam Katzman also are assisting. The project has two parts: an archival and ethnographic study of the system’s ‘developmental pediatrics’, as expressed in classroom teaching strategies, and an interview and survey based study asking whether findings from large-scale research in Europe, which demonstrate certain health benefits for Waldorf students but also high rates of immunization rejection, are replicated in any way in the USA. The research program grew out of Dr. Sobo’s relationship with the local Waldorf school, for which she oversees our K-12 internship program. Waldorf is one of the fastest growing alternative K-12 education systems in the USA, which makes the research timely and important. Some reasons for Waldorf’s popularity are outlined in Dr. Sobo’s recent commentary, featured in the Union Tribune: What can slow schools teach us?.
Join the
Friends of Anthropology at SDSU

The mission of the Friends of Anthropology (FoA) at SDSU is to promote the appreciation, relevance, and understanding of the diversity of the human experience. The FoA is a collaborative group built on the continuing legacies of SDSU’s outstanding students, alumni, faculty, and community members. They aim to create community interest in anthropology, linking students with practical experience and job opportunities, building partnerships within the community, and creating learning and training opportunities in applied anthropology. We would like to invite you to join the Friends of Anthropology by supporting our commitment to the SDSU Anthropology Department and the field in general. Your patronage will help us create community interest in anthropology, link students with practical experience and job opportunities, build partnerships within the community, and create learning and training opportunities in applied anthropology. Fundraising will support these objectives for outreach and student opportunities through student scholarships, internships, faculty development, academic programs, community educational training, socials, and events.

Yes! I want to support the Friends of Anthropology!

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Suggested donation amounts: $25, $50, $100, $250, $500, $1,000

Your donations directly support the Friends of Anthropology Fund.
Please make checks payable to: The Department of Anthropology
Please mail this form along with your check to:
Kathy Peck, Department of Anthropology, San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Dr., San Diego, CA 92182-6040

On behalf of the Anthropology Department and the Friends of Anthropology, thank you for