

Anthropological Antics

Maya Cosmovision: *Myth, Memory, and Meaning*



Prof. Gomez's Precolonial Civilizations of Mesoamerica class presenting their *Maya Cosmovision* exhibit in Coburn Hall in Worner.



Studying Anthropology on the block plan has allowed me to gain applied experience which most undergraduates would only dream of. Whether conducting research on ancient Nubian mummies, mapping archaeological sites at the Manitou Cliff dwellings, or conducting ethnographic interviews, my education in Anthropology at CC has been immersive and experiential. Working on the *Maya Cosmovision: Myth, Memory, and Meaning* exhibit fifth block was one such experience which might be rare elsewhere but is characteristic of CC.

Over the course of a block, we not only had to learn about ancient Mesoamerican history but had to think about how to convey our knowledge to others through the exhibit. This was a mighty task considering many of us did not have strong backgrounds in Mesoamerican prehistory. We made the task more manageable by limiting our scope to Maya cosmology, keeping the Popol Vuh creation story as the center point. We then divided and conquered, each individual selecting a subtopic under the umbrella of Maya cosmology.

I chose to examine how Maya body modification practices embody cosmological beliefs.

Before printing text labels and determining images and artifacts to present in the exhibit, we first presented information to our fellow classmates. Line by line, we went through each sentence as a group to retain a common voice throughout the exhibit and to ensure all information was in line with the goals of our exhibit. To be honest, this intensive editing was not a painless process. But the end result was worth it, a common voice which conveyed the complexity of Maya cosmological beliefs and the Maya culture as a living culture. Although I probably will not go into museum studies, working on the Cosmovision exhibit helped me better understand how to responsibly and effectively represent information about another culture and was an invaluable experience.

By Ruthie Markwardt

IDEA Space – Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Collaboration: *Students Restore Rafael Aragón “Altar Screen”*

For many years, Colorado College has maintained an educational partnership with the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. CC students work as interns with Registrar Michael Howell, learning basic museum skills like art handling, condition reports, photography and how to install pieces of art. However, the most exciting work students learn is basic conservation. Recently, these skills were put into practice on the “Altar Screen” by Rafael Aragón, on view in the Devotional Cultures exhibition at the I.D.E.A. Space at Colorado College. This large scale work had areas of paint chipping and canvas peeling that needed to be stabilized before the work could be transported back to the Fine Arts Center. Interns Chloe Edeal, Kim Van Lookeren-Campagne (Anthropology majors), and Katie Smith spent two weeks using conservation materials to stabilize the large altar-piece. Their work has paid off! The paint on the surface is stable and the piece is able to be transported safely, and was able to be placed on display in the Devotional Cultures exhibit at the IDEA Space.

By Katie Smith

Colorado College Anthropology Department

Telephone (719) 389-6823
14 E Cache La Poudre St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80946



Follow us on [Twitter](#) and
Like us on [Facebook](#)!



We'll be posting updates and reminders about events, deadlines, field school and internship opportunities, faculty and student research, photos, and anthropological articles.

WWW.COLORADOCOLLEGE.EDU/ANTHROPOLOGY

Alumni Updates

Where Our Majors Are Now

Paul LaStayo, '84

I tended to migrate more toward the physical anthropology side of the Anthropology degree at CC and this got me intrigued with human anatomy. I then found myself coupling this with an interest in the mechanics of movement and a yearning to be clinically-oriented. I then coalesced these interests that stemmed from my Anthropology degree and received a Master's degree in physical therapy. After years of clinical practice with a focus on the hand I found myself asking conceptual questions that comparative physiology could help answer. This resulted in a PhD in Biology. This too enhanced my clinical practice and formed the foundation for my scholarly work. I am now a full professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Utah where I am constantly emphasizing a trans-disciplinary way toward approaching problems with graduate students and trainees, and a culturally sensitive way of treating and working with patients. Because my teaching and research are translational in nature I have colleagues spanning many disciplines and hold faculty appointments in several other departments (engineering, orthopedics and exercise science). I attribute much of this diversity and integrative ways of operating to my CC-Anthro experience at CC.



Anthropology majors Kim Van Lookeren Campagne (left) and Chloe Edeal (center) helping with the conservation of this Rafael Aragón "Altarpiece Screen."

Stacy Du Clos, '09

I am currently in law school at Lewis and Clark in Portland, Oregon after working in Chicago for two years as a legal assistant for criminal defense and civil rights attorneys. I am interning at the public defender's office here, and that's my goal post-law school graduation. The combination of my anthropology research and experiences has definitely helped me find an interest in working with indigent defendants in criminal justice. I also think that it provides a really good base for any career in non-profits and social justice.

Daniel G. Martin, '84

Daniel G. Martin is a 1984 graduate of CC (Archaeology). He received his MA from the University of Arizona in Tucson, writing a thesis on the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Dan then left archaeology to pursue a career in law. He received his JD from the U of A, took a judicial clerkship on the Arizona Supreme Court, and then worked in Phoenix as an attorney in private practice for several years before becoming an Administrative Law Judge for the State of Arizona. After eight years on that bench he was appointed as a Judge on the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County, where he has worked for the past six years. He has served on the Family Bench and the Criminal Bench, and currently is assigned to the Juvenile Court. Dan misses archaeology, but would not trade being a judge for anything. He and fellow anthro alum Laura Fulginitti met in Mike Hoffman's Intro to Biological Anthropology class, and have been married for 27 years.

Prof. Christina Leza Developing New Linguistics Field Course

Imagine you live in a community where your family has lived for generations, building traditions and bonds, developing an intimate knowledge of the landscape, celebrating life, and burying loved ones. Now imagine that community has been torn by the US-Mexico border. You'd like to visit your grandmother, but now she technically lives in Mexico, meaning a simple visit requires hours of waiting and interrogations at a border crossing when you try to reenter the US, despite the fact that you are a US citizen on your own reservation. This is the reality for Native American communities along the border. Their treatment at the border is not only a personal affront, but it is also a barrier to the maintenance of their cultural and linguistic heritage.

Prof. Christina Leza is currently proposing a new course that will focus on the language revitalization efforts of Native Americans living on the border, and how linguistic anthropologists can contribute to their work. Prof. Leza wrote her dissertation on Native American activism and language revitalization on the border, and has been working with local communities that are split by the US-Mexico border, such as the Yaqui, for reform that will allow them access to important resources on both sides. The vast majority of elders fluent in Yaqui reside in Mexico, meaning they are all but inaccessible to those in the US. This makes it exceedingly difficult for Yaquis on the American side to learn their own native language, let alone teach it. *(Continued on next page.)*



Anthropology Majors Present Research at CSurf and National Conferences

Senior Anthropology majors Claire Smith and Gracie Rennecker presented their Honors Thesis research at the Colorado Springs Undergraduate Research Forum (CSurf) at the Air Force Academy on April 12. Gracie's research focused on academic and professional women and surname practices, specifically using practice theory to analyze the retention of natal surnames after marriage.

Claire studied osteoporosis and the multitude of biocultural and genetic factors that influence risk assessment and education concerning osteoporosis in women. Claire was also able to present her research at the American Association of Physical Anthropologists' (AAPA) Annual Meeting in Calgary on April 9.

Researchers and professors from across the country attend and present their current research at these conferences, making them a great place to network while also keeping your knowledge of developments within your field up to date. Presenting at conferences also looks great on graduate school applications and resumes! If you're thinking about writing a thesis or senior paper, talk to your advisor about submitting your research to present at a conference!

Having fun at an anthro event? Posting a great picture from an anthro fieldtrip? Sharing an interesting article? Ordering lots of pizza to fuel an all-nighter?

Tell us @CCAnthro or use the hashtag #ccanthro!

Join the community and let us know what you're up to!

(Continued from previous page)

Grassroots Yaqui language revitalization efforts also face challenges in terms of funding, because grassroots border activist groups cannot always count on the tribal government for help since many tribal officials do not want to speak out about border reform. Unfortunately, this not only means less funding, but also more difficulty obtaining permits and teaching materials. Colorado College students may be able to help to address some of these issues through Prof. Leza's new course, Language Loss and Revitalization.

In this new 200 or 300 level course, advanced linguistics students will be able to sit in on Yaqui language courses, apply their knowledge to help with the creation of language learning materials, and interview organizers. They will be working with Prof. Leza and the local community to identify the needs of the Yaqui people and help appropriately. Prof. Leza is also working to obtain grants for the basic needs of the community efforts, such as teaching materials and community classes. This will be an incredible opportunity to create a mutually beneficial relationship in which students can learn how to work with local communities to help in the design and implementation of effective language revitalization efforts and border reform. Keep an eye out for the course in the upcoming catalogues.

CONGRATULATIONS, SENIORS!
WE WISH YOU THE BEST IN ALL YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS.
KEEP IN TOUCH!

Colorado College
Anthropology Department

14 E Cache La Poudre St.
Colorado Springs, CO 80946



✿ Have questions, comments,
or something to submit? Email:
Elizabeth.M.Luttrell@ColoradoCollege.edu