



SMU

Dedman College

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Anthropology
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Biological Sciences
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English with Creative
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and Literatures
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William P. Clements Center
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Monkeying Around: Anthropology Students Study Primates at Dallas Zoo

Ken Kaemmerer, curator of mammals at the Dallas Zoo, teaches an SMU anthropology course on primates. He quickly explains, however, "This is not a 'pet the monkey' class." For the past two years, Kaemmerer has taught "Monkeys and Apes: The Nonhuman Primates" to anthropology students. He has more than 20 years of experience at the Dallas Zoo and an expertise in primate behavior.

Recruiting Kaemmerer as a lecturer was a logical decision, says Caroline Brettell, professor and chair of anthropology. "He deals with nonhuman primates on a daily basis. Also, as we have learned from Jane Goodall and Dian Fossey, close observation of these animals yields the richest data."

By the second class session, Kaemmerer takes students to the zoo to study its 14 species of primates. "Students can go only so far with the reading; they need to actually observe the animals," he says.

Nearly half of each student's grade depends upon compiling a behavioral catalog of a primate species, which includes a literature survey and background research. Students also observe and record a detailed description of each primate's behavior – how the animal walks, sits, grooms, eats, fights, and runs.

"Nonhuman primates offer models that help us understand human behavior," Brettell says. "In the DNA, there is only a 1 to 2 percent difference between chimpanzees and humans."



Dallas Zoo Curator Ken Kaemmerer teaches an anthropology course on primates to SMU students.

The course also includes a field trip to the M.D. Anderson Science Center in Bastrop, Texas, which contains a laboratory with 100 chimpanzees. In addition, students study the ethics of using primates in research and conservation.

Two of Kaemmerer's students continued their primate studies as summer interns. Sophomore Sam Ross Sloan studied primates in Panama as part of a summer field internship and senior John Paul Michel studied lemurs at the Dallas Zoo (see article on page 8).



Fact or Fiction?

Course Explores Myths in Archaeology

"How many of you believe in flying saucers?" Professor of Anthropology David Freidel asks students in his class. Three students raise their hands.

Another student suggests rephrasing the question. "How many believe in the possibility of flying saucers?" Ten students quickly raise their hands.

A new course offered by the Anthropology Department in Dedman College looks at the "X-files" of archaeology. "Fantastic Archaeology" evaluates claims of the lost continent of Atlantis and evidence of ancient astronauts at Mayan temples, among other myths.

Students learn to discern the difference between science and pseudoscience using tools such as the "baloney detection kit" in the class text, *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark*, by Carl Sagan.

"If students come away with anything from this class, I want them to understand that skepticism is a good thing; it is part of the privilege of living in a free and democratic society," Freidel says. "A skeptic is not the same thing as a cynic. Skepticism does not mean closed-mindedness; it means being open-minded to alternatives."

Senior anthropology major Laurie Taylor says she is less cynical after taking the class. "I realized I might be too quick to judge evidence for the wrong reasons," she says. "There are truly fantastic things in archaeology that are real; if you're too cynical, you may miss those things as well."

Anthropology Students Investigate Human Diversity

By Caroline Brettell, professor and chair of the Department of Anthropology



Caroline Brettell

Imagine digging 10 feet into the Saharan desert in southern Egypt and discovering a four-ton stone sculpture of a cow placed upright over a table-shaped rock.

Picture using remote-sensing technology to prospect

under the ground for buried features left by ancient peoples in the American Southwest. Envision spending a year on a remote island in the South Pacific to study the impact of global capitalism on a native population's way of life.

These are only some of the research activities experienced by the faculty in the Department of Anthropology at SMU.

Anthropology is a broad, comparative discipline. Anthropologists look across time and space to find what is broadly "human" in all cultures. To an anthropologist, the often bewildering human diversity – in body size, custom, clothing, technology, speech, religion, skin color, and food – provides a frame of reference for explaining any single aspect of life in any community of the past or present.

In the classroom, our faculty teach students not only about what it means to be human, but also to develop tolerance for cultural diversity. These are important lessons for negotiating a global world and a multicultural America.

The department comprises 15 full-time faculty members, whose scholarly interests include gender, migration, bilingual education, and the study of prehistoric people. Faculty members publish extensively, secure major research grants, serve on national scientific review panels, hold national offices in scholarly associations, and lecture nationally and internationally.

More than 50 students are working on doctoral degrees in anthropology. In the 1999-2000 academic year, seven students received Ph.D. degrees with dissertations on such subjects as war and relief in refugee

camp in Sierra Leone and the emergence of social complexity among the ancient Maya. Graduates from this program have taken academic positions at universities or contract archaeology positions with either government or private firms. They find employment with hospitals or public health agencies, and sometimes in corporate America.

At any time we also have from 40 to 50 dedicated undergraduate majors, many working closely with faculty on their research.

The department also has established partnerships with the Dallas Zoo and curator of mammals Ken Kaemmerer, who teaches an advanced undergraduate course on nonhuman primates, and the Dallas Museum of Natural History and curator of archaeology Alex Barker, who holds a research assistant professorship at SMU.

The department operates a summer archaeological field school at SMU-in-Taos in northern New Mexico and is establishing a data analysis laboratory at SMU-in-Legacy in Plano.

"The projects of students and faculty are varied and reflect the energy and diversity of the field."

~ Caroline Brettell

Professor David Meltzer, through a gift from Joe Cramer of Denver, has established the Quest Archaeological Research Project for paleoindian studies.

The projects of students and faculty are, in short, varied and reflective of the energy and diversity of the field. For more information, call the Anthropology Department at 214-768-2684 or consult our Web site at www.smu.edu/~anthrop/html.

Students Uncover Ancient Kiva at SMU-in-Taos

Students in the Anthropology Department's field school spend several weeks in the summer excavating Pot Creek Pueblo, an Anasazi Indian pueblo that existed from 1260 to 1320 A.D. Located on the SMU-in-Taos campus in northern New Mexico, the 400-room pueblo is the ancestral home of today's Taos Pueblo and Picuris Pueblo residents.

Students focused their attention in June on a room larger than other rooms in the pueblo under the supervision of Mike Adler, director of the field program and associate professor of anthropology, and Severin Fowles, a University of Michigan Ph.D. candidate. Excavation revealed that the room was a surface kiva, a ceremonial space, and the first one found at Pot Creek Pueblo.

"Field school is my favorite learning context," Adler says. "Teaching archaeology without field school would be like teaching journalism without requiring students to write."

For three-and-a-half weeks students learn about archaeological recovery, mapping, and identifying techniques. Adler also reminds students that they are excavating a culture's history as well as artifacts.

"Site excavation is not a game or a hobby," he says, "it's somebody's ancestry. If we are careless or callous, we are doing someone a disservice."

Field school participants and other students will continue studying the artifacts they found at Pot Creek Pueblo this fall in a course at the University's new archaeology lab at SMU-in-Legacy in Plano. The large lab provides room for research such as classification, chemical fingerprinting of ceramics, and analysis of stone tools.

"The archaeology you see on TV has already come to a conclusion for the viewer," Adler says. "It's very different when students are involved in the process of creating knowledge by interpreting the past."

Course Helps Teachers Remain Lifelong Learners

Although Kathie Poff ('58) has worked as a science teacher for 24 years, she eagerly registered for a new course the Anthropology Department offered to teachers this summer.

Poff was among elementary and secondary teachers who took the educators' workshop, "Archaeology: Our Window into the Past." Taught by Mike Adler and Lana Coggeshall, Anthropology, and Alex Barker, Dallas Museum of Natural History, the three-day workshop offered field and laboratory experiences for teachers.

Teachers received curriculum materials as well as literature and Internet resources. One day was spent at the new archaeology laboratory at SMU-in-Legacy in Plano. Teachers spent the final day of the course conducting field work at the site of an ancient Caddo Indian civilization near Paris, Texas.

Although the study of archaeology is traditionally presented for the first time to students at the college level, course director and Associate Anthropology Professor Mike

Adler says archaeology is an approachable science with potential for younger students.

The archaeology workshop also offered information for social studies teachers. Texas social studies students spend fourth and seventh grades learning about Texas history, beginning with its earliest inhabitants.

Fourth-grade teacher Diana Colvin learned how to sharpen a spear point. She was surprised to see how far she could throw a spear and found two matching pieces of pottery during a lab session. "The information was so exciting, we got to do hands-on things I can actually tell my kids about," she says.

Kathie Poff's science students also can expect to learn more about Texas' past. "We will study the early inhabitants of each ecosystem and why they lived in that area," she says. "I already have my information organized in a three-ring binder."



Anthropology students excavate an ancient Indian pueblo at SMU-in-Taos.

In Their Own Words

"I was thoroughly fascinated by the chance to learn more about archaeology. If you don't keep learning, your classroom gets awfully dull."

*Kathie Poff ('58)
seventh and eighth grade
science teacher, Parkhill
Junior High, Richardson*

"In archaeology, we're studying people, and everyone has a fascination with other people. The study of archaeology also offers a very powerful way to understand how the scientific process works."

*Mike Adler
associate professor
of anthropology*

For more information on Anthropology workshops for teachers, call Mike Adler at 214-768-2940 or e-mail him at madler@mail.smu.edu.

Professor Searches for First Americans

Fans of cable television's History Channel may have seen a documentary featuring Anthropology Professor David Meltzer. He provides much of the background material for "In Search of History: The First Americans," which aired in April.

A world renowned expert on the New World's population, Meltzer's research focuses on the prehistory of the U.S. high plains, the tableland that lies between the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi Valley and stretches from the Mexican to the Canadian borders.

Archaeologists have been able to trace human occupation of the Americas to at least the late Ice Age—spear points estimated to be more than 11,000 years old were discovered in 1933 in Clovis, New Mexico. Based on this discovery, archaeologists surmised that mankind arrived in the Americas by way of a land bridge across what is now the Bering Strait in Alaska. But recent discoveries in South America predate the Clovis spear point by at least 1,000 years, presenting more questions than answers.

The dilemma is clear, Meltzer says: Either the first Americans came late and moved fast, creating a multitude of late Ice Age sites within a brief span of geological time. Or they arrived more than 20,000 years ago, before the onset and buildup of the massive glaciers, and archaeologists have yet to recognize the earlier traces.

The documentary, which offers a comprehensive look at the subject, is available from A&E Home Video by calling 888-708-1776.



David Meltzer, an expert on the New World's population

Rebel With a Cause: Lewis Binford Challenges the Study of Archaeology

The man known as the "Father of Modern Archaeology" does not look like a rebel. Bearded and gray-haired, Lewis Binford works in a book-lined office at SMU – filled with reminders of a life dedicated to worldwide travel and study. He scans proofs of his



Lewis Binford, distinguished professor of anthropology

soon-to-be-published book as students stop by to share plans for archaeological field study during the summer.

Binford was hardly more than a student himself in his first teaching job at the University of Chicago in the early 1960s, when he wrote a controversial article that revolutionized the study of archaeology.

In "Archaeology as Anthropology," published in *American Antiquity* in 1962, he proposed that the rules of science should be applied to the study of archaeology. Binford, today a distinguished professor of anthropology in SMU's Dedman College, believes that archaeologists can determine broad global patterns of behavior by searching for patterns in human behavior that are reflected in cultures, and ultimately reflected in the archaeological record.

"I viewed my career quite early as having a thrust – that archaeology really didn't have a robust methodology for making inferences about the past," Binford says. "Archaeologists dug up stuff and made up stories, but whether

those stories had anything to do with the past is a matter of question."

The academic community ostracized Binford for his ideas – he did not receive tenure at the University of Chicago. "I used to say that I have been fired from the best universities in the country."

Despite early challenges, his resume is heaped with accolades. An article in the November/December 1999 *Scientific American* describes Binford as "quite probably the most influential archaeologist of his generation."

For his work and radical theories, Binford has been honored by the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, the National Association of Student Anthropologists, and

the New Mexico Endowment for the Humanities, among others. He has served as a visiting professor at universities throughout the world, including as a distinguished Fulbright professor.

"Lewis Binford is quite probably the most influential archaeologist of his generation."

~ *Scientific American* magazine, Nov./Dec. 1999

Binford's forthcoming text, *Constructing Frames of Reference: An Analytical Method for the Archaeological Use of Hunter-Gatherer and Environmental Data*, is the result of nine years of labor and the culmination of a lifetime of study.

Scheduled for publication in February 2001, the book offers archaeologists a summary of variables and behaviors to use as a benchmark. True to form, Binford predicts the book will be controversial.

Amber Johnson, now a research associate in anthropology, served as a graduate research assistant to Binford while he completed his book. "There is no one better to teach you



From their field camp at Tulugak Lake, Alaska, in 1968, Lew Binford (right) and students from the University of New Mexico studied contemporary Nunamiut Eskimos.

how to think than Lew Binford,” she says.

“A crucial part of understanding how the world works is to change the way you look at it,” Binford says.

He changed the way scholars looked at archaeology by studying contemporary hunter-gatherer cultures, in addition to the remains of ancient hunter-gatherer cultures. His undergraduate training in wildlife biology inspired him to approach archaeology from a scientific viewpoint, he says.

Binford helped pioneer “ethnoarchaeology” – the study of living societies – to help explain the cultural patterns of the archaeological record by spending a number of years with Nunamiut Eskimos, Aboriginal Australians, and King Bushmen of Africa. By studying and living with the contemporary Nunamiut Eskimos in Alaska, Binford determined that rock piles at ancient hunter-gatherer sites were the remains of animal deadfall traps. Built of stones with low walls that guide animals to the bait, the trap used a heavy stone slab propped up by a wooden trigger. Once it served its purpose, the trap was collapsed and abandoned, leaving what looked like a pile of rocks. Archaeologists at an Illinois site had described them as infant burial sites, among other speculations.

“I was trying to learn how the archaeological record comes into being by observing the dynamics of what people were doing, and

then seeing what kinds of archaeological traces were left,” he says.

Challenging conventional wisdom and spending much of his life in far corners of the world had its personal as well as professional costs, Binford says.

“In the long run, everything worked out; but when it was happening, it was not easy. However,” he says without hesitation, “I would do it all over again.”



At the southern tip of Argentina, Binford studied the home of an ancient group of hunters and gatherers.

Student Seeks Answers to Ancient Questions

Senior Allison Mittler was among a select group of SMU undergraduate and graduate students to participate in research at the Folsom site in northeastern New Mexico, one of the most famous archaeological sites in North America.

The site is known for the discovery of projectile points lodged in the skeletons of larger but now extinct bison. They provided the first evidence that humans arrived in the New World during the Ice Age. Archaeologists have since dated the Folsom site to between 10,600 and 10,900 years ago.

Anthropology Professor David Meltzer has been excavating the Folsom site for the past three years with support from Quest Archaeological Research Fund. He is also using a Dedman College research fellowship to publish a comprehensive volume on the site, including information from the original discovery of the site in the 1920s that has never been published.

Mittler excavated the site with Meltzer in the summer of 1999. “It is an amazing site,” she says. “I am so thankful I was given the opportunity to go out there.”

She is now working with Meltzer and members of the SMU Geology Department on her senior thesis, which will examine the isotopic signature of bison bones collected at the site. The study will help reconstruct the climate and environment at the time of the Folsom occupation.

Dedman College Calendar of Events

Godbey Lecture Series

The fall program begins in September with a four-part series, "Shakespeare On Love." Other series will feature lectures on "Exciting Elections of the Past and Present" and "American Music." Fall GLS tours include an art, architecture, and theatre tour to London in October led by Randall Griffin, associate professor of art history. A tour of the Kimbell Art Museum exhibit, "Renoir to Picasso," also is planned. For more information, call 214-768-2532 or e-mail gl@mail.smu.edu. Information also is available at the Web site www.smu.edu/~godbey/.

Louise Ballerstedt Raggio Lecture in Women's Studies

Best-selling author and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Susan Faludi will present the Louise Raggio lecture at 8 p.m. October 11. Faludi's books, *Backlash: the Undeclared War Against American Women* (1991) and *Stiffed: The Betrayal of the American Man* (1999), examine cultural stereotypes. For more information about the lecture or for tickets, call 214-768-2610.

3:15 With the Dean

Dedman College Dean Jasper Neel will provide an academic touch to pregame festivities on The Boulevard before SMU home football games. Known as an entertaining speaker, Neel will speak at 3:15 p.m. before each game in McCord Auditorium in Dallas Hall. During Family Weekend on September 23, Neel will speak at 2:15 p.m. He will speak at 3:15 p.m. Friday, October 27, for Homecoming weekend.

Graduate Relies on Anthropology Degrees in Cement Jungle

With two anthropology degrees, one might expect to find Jeff Jordan studying remote cultures in a South American jungle. Instead, he puts his degrees to work in an urban public health setting as the grants manager for the Dallas County Department of Health and Human Services. Jordan serves as the county liaison to the HIV Health Services Planning Council.

The council, a community group responsible for planning HIV services in the Dallas area, administers four federal and state HIV grants totaling \$16 million. Community leaders, health providers, and people infected with the HIV virus participate on the council.

"The council is a great mix of people with a lot of different perspectives," Jordan says.

Jordan earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and anthropology from SMU in 1993 and a Master's degree in medical anthropology in 1996. As national HIV demographics move into heterosexual and minority communities, Jordan's anthropology background has helped him understand how different cultures respond to the disease.

"A mother infected with HIV can't have a care system that neglects her children. She may need day care and transportation along with medical care." ~ Jeff Jordan

"One of the things we study in medical anthropology is the interface between disease and culture. My background is trying to understand how different cultures perceive and react to diseases," he says.

HIV services for minority communities must consider that African Americans, Asian Americans, and Hispanics may be more secretive about the disease and less likely to seek care, Jordan says.

To be effective, Jordan says, health services need to be culturally appropriate. "People like to receive care from people like themselves."

Federal and state agencies that provide HIV grants require a comprehensive system of care. As a result, funds are provided for services such as drug reimbursement, housing, and day care, as well as medical care.

"A mother infected with HIV can't have a care system that neglects her children. She may need day care and transportation along with medical care," Jordan says.

Another council objective is to ensure that the community care plan reflects the course of the disease. As new HIV medications such as protease inhibitors have been developed, the life expectancy for HIV patients is increasing. However, medication costs have increased dramatically, also.

"Large amounts of dollars that used to fund hospice-type services are shifting to drug reimbursement and treatment compliance," Jordan says.

As HIV treatment and demographics change, funds also are being designated for outreach and prevention in minority communities. In Dallas in 1995, 27 percent of AIDS cases were African American. In 1999, 39 percent of AIDS cases were African American. Hispanic AIDS cases increased from 12 percent of the total in 1995 to 14 percent in 1999.

"It is wise to design preventive and treatment efforts now for minority communities to avoid being in a reactive state," Jordan says.

As a complement to his medical anthropology background, Jordan will begin work this fall on the Master's of Public Health degree at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas.

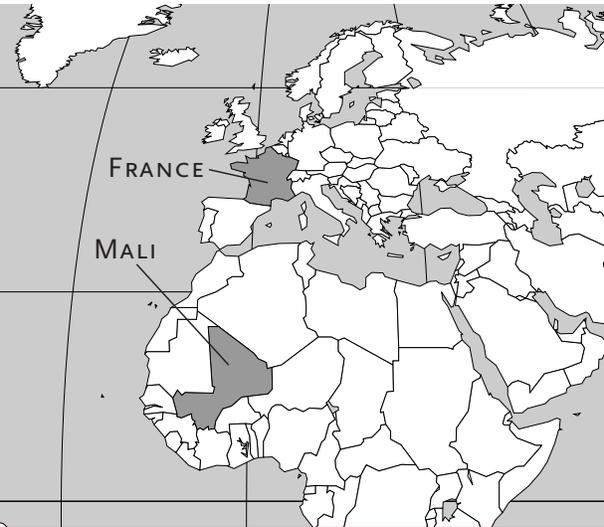
"Community health planning really interests me," he says.



Bryan's House is a day care and residence facility for children affected by and diagnosed with HIV. As a medical anthropologist, Jeff Jordan helps oversee grants that provide comprehensive services to children and families affected by AIDS.

Medical Anthropology Provides Key to Understanding Cultures

Men who migrate alone and families who migrate to Paris from the underdeveloped West African nation of Mali face a multitude of changes. Carolyn Sargent, professor of



Faculty members Carolyn Sargent and Dennis Cordell study the way migration to France affects Malian immigrants.

anthropology, and Dennis Cordell, professor of history and adjunct professor of anthropology, are studying the ways that migration to France has influenced perspectives on the family, reproduction, and gender relations among Malian immigrants.

Located on the southern border of the Sahara Desert south of Algeria, Mali has long been a cultural and economic crossroads of West Africa. French is its official language. France serves as supplier of much of Mali's foreign aid and as a vital trading partner. Underdeveloped and hit by a series of devastating droughts beginning in the late 1960s, Mali is heavily dependent upon foreign aid.

Much like the families from Mexico who migrate to the United States, the Malians of West Africa began migrating to France several generations ago to find work to send money back to their families.

Sargent, who conducts research on reproductive health, and Cordell, who is interested in migration and the history of the family, study how relocation to France has affected birth rates, the use of contraceptives, and men's and women's decisions about relocating to France or returning to Mali. Their research is supported by a grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation.

With the permission of French authorities, Sargent, who also serves as director of women's studies at SMU, interviews Malian women in the waiting rooms at public health clinics in Paris. She has learned that the women, often without the knowledge of their husbands, seek contraceptives through French socialized health care agencies.

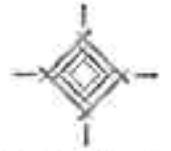
Because Malian women no longer have access to the extended family support systems they enjoyed in Mali, they secretly begin taking measures to limit their family size, despite cultural pressures toward larger families.

"I am interested in migration and gender issues, and I wanted to research how the French political policies and contraception campaigns impacted African women and their visions for their families," Sargent says.

Cordell focuses his efforts on understanding how Malian men view the migration process and its impact on their families and reproductive lives. Malian men generally oppose contraception and family planning, citing their understanding of Islamic beliefs on issues of family, fertility, and sexuality. "First, we are studying the policies and politics of France and its message to limit fertility. Second, we're looking at men's sense of their masculinity and desire to have more children, which is an Islamic virtue," Cordell says.

Before studying Malian immigrants in France, Sargent studied the culture and organization of medical traditions among rural and urban residents of Benin, West Africa, as a Peace Corps volunteer. Sargent also has studied client dissatisfaction with a maternity hospital in Jamaica. Her research led to recommendations to the Jamaican Ministry of Health.

Cordell served in the Peace Corps in Chad. A demographer as well as a historian, he is interested in social and biological reproduction among African societies. With other SMU colleagues, he is studying recent international migration to the Dallas-Fort Worth area.



SACRED SPACE
Cygnus Symbol

The sacred sites and traditions of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and the Southwestern United States will be featured in an exhibit at the Hall of State at Fair Park in Dallas during the Texas State Fair. The exhibit, "Sacred Space: Man and the Divine in Mexico, Central America, and the Southwestern United States," is co-sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Earth and Man in Dedman College and will be on display at no charge September 11 through October 27. Essays by anthropology faculty members Mike Adler and David Freidel are featured in the exhibit's program.

The photographs, by Dallas photographer Carolyn Brown, will be displayed on immense free-standing scaffolding that will be divided into sections presenting themes including natural sacred places such as mountains and waterfalls, mystical ceremonial sites of Mayan and Aztec cultures, and facades and interiors of historic churches.

For more information call 214-768-3762 or check the exhibit Web site www.visitsacredspace.org.



The "Sacred Space" exhibit at the Hall of State at Fair Park will feature mural-size photographs of the sacred spaces of the American Southwest, Mexico, and Central America.

Dedman Students Expand Career Potential with Internships

Anthropology major John Paul Michel used his classroom knowledge as an intern studying lemurs at the Dallas Zoo this summer. Michel became interested in the research after he took a course on primates taught by Ken Kaemmerer, the Dallas Zoo's curator of mammals. Michel observed the zoo's collection of lemurs, an endangered species, and recorded data on their social behaviors and dynamics and on their use of the habitat.

"I am learning as much as I can about the research process by doing research," Michel says. "Research is an integral part of being an anthropologist."

Michel is one of 16 Dedman College students who participated in summer internships at corporations and organizations such as Merrill Lynch, *Working Woman* magazine in New York, U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions' Washington, D.C. office, and the Dallas Council on World Affairs. Students can earn up to three hours of credit for their internships, but students and faculty members say benefits go beyond class credit.

"We expect that students will realize that the skills they develop with a liberal arts degree are valuable and highly marketable," says internship coordinator Jeanene Anderson.

Recent interns have helped evaluate book manuscripts for Taylor Publishing and served as researchers at UT Southwestern Medical School. To learn more about the internship program or to sponsor a Dedman College intern, call Jeanene Anderson at 214-768-2103 or e-mail her at jeanene@mail.smu.edu.



For a research internship, John Paul Michel studied lemur behavior at the Dallas Zoo.

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Jasper Neel
Dean, Dedman College, and
SMU Vice Provost

Jeanene Anderson
Editor
Assistant to the Dean
for Special Projects
Dedman College

Nancy George
Managing Editor
Public Affairs

Vicki Olvera
Design Director
Public Affairs

Ryan Martin
Designer

Hillsman S. Jackson
Photographer
Public Affairs

Ellen Mayou
Janet Ragland
Contributors
Public Affairs

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Southern Methodist University
Dedman College
PO Box 750235
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