

Preface to the Centennial Issue

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Anniversaries are special times for celebrating and remembering – and for looking ahead. One hundredth anniversaries are extra special. The University of Arizona School of Anthropology Centennial is being celebrated in numerous ways – through events, exhibits, and publications such as this. These have been designed to highlight the diversity and relevance of the work conducted by faculty, staff, students, and alumni of the School and to raise awareness of, interest in, and support for this work.

Born of an inspiration and a commitment, the School of Anthropology remains a place of ideas and of people dedicated to seeing them through. This Centennial issue of the *Arizona Anthropologist* reflects this spirit. Through stories, essays, photos, rosters, and achievements, it captures important moments in the evolution of the School as it grew from a single professor with a vision and purpose to a large and diverse faculty expressing multiple values and goals. It documents the processes by which anthropology students become scholars, practitioners, and sometimes professors.

Much has changed since September 15, 1915, the first day of classes in the fall semester when Dr. Byron Cummings taught the inaugural courses in archaeology at the University of Arizona. Though it was begun as the Department of Archaeology, in less than two decades departmental faculty, research, and teaching covered all four subfields of anthropology - archaeology, biological, linguistic, and sociocultural – as well as applied anthropology. In 1937, Dr. Emil Haury took over as head and marked the expansion with a new name. By 1964 when Dr. Raymond H. Thompson succeeded Dr. Haury, the Department of Anthropology was fully-fledged; the construction of its own building had been completed in 1962.

Over the years, at the same time it spawned units as diverse as the

Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, the Geochronology Laboratories (which became Geosciences), and Mexican American Studies, the department grew to be one of the top nationally and internationally recognized U.S. anthropology programs. Reorganized in 2009 as the School of Anthropology, the unit continues to thrive as faculty and students address pertinent global questions and challenges related to humans, past and present.

In 1915, when Cummings arrived in Arizona to serve as the head of the Arizona State Museum and the first professor of archaeology, the University of Arizona had 70 faculty members and 463 students and the population of Arizona was around 15,000. In 2015, the University has over 3,000 faculty and 40,000 students. The population of the state of Arizona is more than six and a half million.

And, there are vast differences in the students, faculty, and courses offered at the University of Arizona when compared to 1928 when Clara Lee Fraps (Tanner), Florence M. Hawley (Ellis), and Emil W. Haury earned the first master's degrees in anthropology and to 1953 when Charles C. Di Peso and Joe Ben Wheat were awarded the first doctorate degrees. In the fall of 2015, the School has 46 voting faculty, dozens of affiliates, nearly 300 undergraduate majors, and more than 100 graduate students. In the fall 2015 semester, the School is offering more than 40 courses on topics ranging from race and language in the United States to the archaeology of pre-Han China. As the School of Anthropology has grown and changed, so too has the human population, the challenges we face, and the need for interdisciplinary scholarship and problem solving, as well as for diverse partnerships. Anthropology is as important and relevant today as it has been throughout our history.

In the past as now, central to the university mission has been teaching, research, and service. Though the labels may change, what does not is the commitment to developing, sharing, and using knowledge – among ourselves, in our communities, and beyond. Our Centennial provides us with the opportunity to recognize, celebrate, and learn from one another and to reflect on where we have come and where we

are going. Important parts of the history of the School of Anthropology have been ably told, in excellent books on field schools by Emil Haury, and by Jeff Reid and Stephanie Whittlesey, articles by Raymond Thompson, and other publications. This volume is an important addition to those histories. Many thanks to the editors, authors, photographers, and sponsors who made this special edition possible.