

In Memoriam

Dr. John Patton, Coordinator of the CSUF Evolutionary Anthropology Program and beloved friend, colleague, teacher, and mentor, passed away suddenly on Friday, November 4. Dr. Patton was well known in the Division of Anthropology, around campus, and in national and international professional organizations as not only a ground-breaking scholar and researcher in evolutionary anthropology, but as a truly dedicated teacher and mentor. Dr. Patton always had time for students -- talking with them for hours in his office, mentoring independent research, taking students to his field site in Ecuador, and working tirelessly to find the funds and resources to support students in all capacities. His classes were among the most popular in the Division, and students nearly universally rated his teaching as outstanding. He was frequently known to personally reach out to applicants to the MA program in Evolutionary Anthropology to assess their interests and help them through the application process. His commitment to learning and dedication to the students of CSUF cannot be overstated. Dr. Patton spent his last hours doing what he loved best: sharing conversation, camaraderie, and warmth with students, colleagues, and friends following a meeting of the new University Center that he co-founded, the Center for the Study of Human Nature. Dr. Patton was in his element combining intense intellectual discourse with love, laughter, and fun and enjoyed nothing so much as igniting in students the spark of curiosity and passion for understanding human nature. |