Emil Haury, Ned Spicer, Clara Lee Tanner, Jane Hill—The University of Arizona’s School of Anthropology helped define Southwestern anthropology in the 20th century. Now the Tanner family has initiated the Clara Lee Tanner Endowed Professorship for an anthropologist who will teach, conduct research, publish, and engage with the public on topics related to the indigenous peoples of the U.S. Southwest and northern Mexico, their material culture, and their societies through time. The vision for the Professorship is a faculty position shared by the SoA and the Arizona State Museum to hire a Southwestern anthropologist to continue this grand tradition. I am asking you to join with me and my wife, Dr. Christine Szuter, to make the Clara Lee Tanner Endowed Professorship a reality.

Although the SoA now spans the globe, the Southwest remains an important focus of many faculty and students. The Southwest Land, Culture, and Society concentration allows students from all four fields of anthropology to minor in the Southwest. Its core course—ANTH 418/518, Southwest Land and Society—is team-taught by a sociocultural anthropologist and an archaeologist to ground students in the entire sweep of human history in the Southwest from early humans to the present. As one of the SoA faculty whose research, teaching, and outreach has been focused in the Southwest, I have been proud to play a role in this concentration and contribute to the ongoing work of the SoA in this region. In the last five years alone, my students have completed cutting-edge dissertations on urban Yoemem (Yaqui Indians) in Hermosillo and the Comcaac (Seri) bighorn sheep program on Tiburón Island in the Gulf of California.

I plan to retire in 2023, however. In this era of budget constraints and competing priorities at the UA, the best way to ensure that Southwestern anthropology remains strong is through designated funding. We would like your help in raising the additional monies by the time I retire. Christine Szuter and I are therefore donating $1,000 a year until then to the Clara Lee Tanner Endowed Professorship. I urge you to join with us to make sure the legacy of Clara Lee and other SoA giants of Southwestern anthropology flourishes in the decades to come.

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