

GRINNELL COLLEGE ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT



Spring/Summer 2011

Maria Tapias
Associate Professor & Chair

Jon Andelson
Professor

Eric D. Carter
Assistant Professor

Douglas Caulkins
Emeritus Professor

Vicki Bentley-Condit
Professor

Brigitte French
Associate Professor

Kathryn Kamp
Professor

Katya Gibel Mevorach
Professor

J. Montgomery Roper
Associate Professor

John Whittaker
Professor

Sondi Burnell
Academic Support
Assistant



Anthropology Department
Grinnell College
Grinnell, Iowa 50112
Tel: 641-269-4343
Fax: 641-269-4330
burnell@grinnell.edu

Anthropology Class of 2011



Front row (LtoR): Prof. Vicki Bentley-Condit, Claire Thompson, Molly Rottman, Sarah Casson, Zasha Russell, Prof. John Whittaker, Hanna Ney, Megan Januska, Rachel Levinstein, Stephanie Wang, Prof. Kathryn Kamp, Nathanael Bonnell
Second row (LtoR): Kathleen Murphy-Geiss, Prof. Jon Andelson, Mona Ghadiri, Maja Gamble, Claire Branigan, Ali Smith, Tom Elliott, Gabrielle Robinson-Bajuscik, Evan Hunsley, Mali McCullough, Prof. Eric Carter, Kathryn Vanney, Prof. Monty Roper, Tom Rothe, Sam Levy, Prof. Maria Tapias, Prof. Brigitte French
Not Shown: Allegra Kwong, Maia Olsen, Emily Maurer, Prof. Douglas Caulkins and Prof. Katya Gibel Mevorach.

Senior Thesis Presentations

The Senior Thesis is designed to provide students an opportunity to do a piece of research and writing in any area of anthropology under the direction of two members of the anthropology faculty. A senior thesis may be based on original research, library research, or a combination of the two, but in any case should build on a student's previous course work in anthropology. It should include a thorough review of relevant previous literature and develop an original argument on the topic. In addition to a written paper, students are expected to do a public presentation of their thesis.

Spring 2011

Claire Branigan '11

*From War Against Terror to State Terror:
The Discursive Transformation of Argentina's Military Dictatorship*

Adviser: Brittine French

Mentored Advanced Project Presentations

Mentored Advanced Projects (MAP) provide a chance to work closely with a faculty member on scholarly research or the creation of a work of art. A Mentored Advanced Project is an approved course of faculty-directed scholarly or creative work that is the culmination of significant preparatory work. It serves to integrate the knowledge and skills gained by the student's course of studies, and aims to produce results that merit presentation to the college community or the wider scholarly world.

Fall 2010

Maja Gamble '11

*Contested Social Memory, Cognitive Maps, and
Shared Public Spaces in Derry, Northern Ireland*
Adviser: Douglas Caulkins

Mona Ghandiri '11

*Alumni Conceptions: Domains, Feedback,
and the Co-Creation of Culture*
Adviser: Douglas Caulkins

Zasha Russell '11

*Collaborative Work Between Non-Governmental Organizations and
Governmental Bodies in the Fight Against Human Trafficking*

Adviser: Brittine French

2010-11 HONORS, ASRELSKY AND LUEBBEN PRIZE WINNERS



Claire Thompson, Hannah Ney and Andrea Leisser

LUEBBEN AWARD (BEST ALL AROUND STUDENTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY)

Andrea Leisser '10
Hannah Ney '11

The Ralph Luebben Prize in Anthropology is awarded to graduating seniors who best exemplifies the ideal Anthropology student including meritorious scholarly work, breadth in the discipline, field experience, and an anthropological viewpoint on life.

ASRELSKY AWARD (BEST PAPER WRITTEN IN ANTHROPOLOGY)

Claire Thompson '11

The Rachael Asrelsky Anthropology Paper Prize award is given annually to the author of an outstanding paper written for an anthropology class in honor of Rachael Asrelsky ('89) who died in the Lockerbie bombing while returning from an off-campus program.

2011 HONORS

*Nathanael Bonnell
Maja Gamble
Evan Hurley
Andrea Leiser
Maia Olsen
Rosalie Mae (Zasha) Russell
Alexis Smith
Claire Thompson
Kathryn Vanney*

“Boas Boas” 2011 Anthropology T-Shirt



- Image provided by
Mona Ghadiri

Boas on Boas

Society for Applied Anthropology in Seattle, Washington



Mona Ghadiri, Prof. Douglas Caulkins, Zasha Russell, Maja Gamble, Prof. Briggittine French, Thomas Elliott, Ryan Carlino '10 and Claire Branigan.

Maya Gamble '11 writes to Prof. Caulkins ... “I gave my SFAA presentation today, and it went really well! Thank you again for the opportunity to attend this conference, it was such a fantastic experience. I went to some really wonderful panels on refugee situations, migrant populations, urban homelessness, and changing agriculture in Kenya - among others.”

“I also received some great feedback from our work. During the Q&A session two audience members said it was a fantastic project, and one said our conclusions were profound. Also, some professors approached me for further explanation of the methodology, because they wanted to include it in their research! Additionally, I did some networking and got put in touch with some cool organizations I might want to work with next year. Just wanted to give a quick update and say thanks again.”

Toby Cain '12

Painted balsa wood mask made by indigenous Boruca craftsmen in Boruca, Costa Rica. The masks, which were once simply colored with ash or natural pigments, are now elaborately decorated to appeal to tourists. The masks, which represent the indigenous people in this region, are still used in the annual year-end festival La Danza de los Diablitos, celebrating the Boruca resistance against the Spanish conquistadors. March 2011, Boruca, Costa Rica.



Welcome to “Our Town”

Prof. Jon Andelson’s Tutorial Class



Photo provided by Carol Thomason. Prof. Jon Andelson's Tutorial class visits a local business, Donaldson Incorporated.

Welcome to our town, 41.45 N, 92.43 W, founded on the prairie in 1854, population in 2010: about 9,200. Through the story of one small Midwestern town we will engage several larger themes: ecological destruction, the transformation of space into place, persistence and change, the rise of industrial agriculture, globalization, the decline of rural America, and grassroots efforts at community revitalization. Through readings, research in archives, field trips, interviews with community members, Falconer Gallery events, and a required service learning component we will explore notions of place and the relationship between the local and the global. “What’s the need of visiting far-off mountains and bogs,” Henry David Thoreau wrote in his journal, “if a half-hour’s walk will carry me into such wildness and novelty.”

In the tutorial every entering student explores a topic of interest to the student and the instructor in a small group, discussion-intensive setting. The objectives of the tutorial are to illuminate methods of inquiry rather than to cover topics comprehensively, focusing particularly on writing, critical reading, oral communication, and information literacy skills. In addition, the tutorial initiates the process of planning for a liberal education at Grinnell through advising conversations between students and their instructors. By promoting close working relationships between tutorial instructors and their students and by combining the roles of instructor and academic adviser, the college provides students with academic advisers attuned to the interests and abilities of their advisees.

EVENTS



Class of 2011





Welcome John Seebach!

Archaeology One-Year Term Replacement
2011-2012

John Seebach comes to Grinnell College having completed his doctoral work at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He specializes in the Paleoindian archaeology of the American Southwest, Great Plains, and Rocky Mountains; the anthropology and archaeology of hunter-gatherers; and the analysis of stone tools.

A native of El Paso, Texas, John started his archaeological career as a crew member on cultural resource management projects in the Mimbres and Jornada Mogollon areas of New Mexico. The chance discovery of a Folsom-aged site during a routine survey near Orogrande set him on his current research trajectory. John spent his graduate school career studying Paleoindian adaptation to the Chihuahuan Desert, a focus enhanced by his former employment at the Center for Big Bend Studies at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. He will continue his work in the desert for the foreseeable future. Dr. Seebach is very excited to be spending a year at Grinnell, and looks forward to being a part of the college community.

Brigitte French was elected faculty speaker by the graduating students of December 2010

Criticism, Generosity, and the Timely
Speech delivered at Grinnell College Mid-Year
Commencement Dinner
11/29/10
Brigitte M. French

When I received this invitation I was very pleased and, I admit, a little daunted. Anthropologist, Richard Bauman (1977), tells us any formal oral performance is “never for the first time” in so far as there is always a complex history of a genre embedded in a web of culturally-specific meanings. So, I was tempted to turn the prospect of speaking this evening into a research project. I began to consider: What does this genre look like in practice? What are its shifting forms? How has it changed over time? What are the audiences’ expectations? Who has been the most effective speaker? But the date of your event offered another possibility. November 29, 2010 is meaningful to me and, as such, a particularly timely invitation.

November 29, 2010 is my grandmother’s 100th birthday; she is a native Iowan whose first language was German, whose parents arrived just decades after American Indians were violently dispossessed from their lands, and who was not borne with the right to vote. In this brief moment, a past (tied to my own personal history as a child, as a woman, and as a citizen of the state) intersects with a broader future that all of us here are deeply invested in. You—the graduating students—are that future.

It seems, from my eyes, this moment invites a suggestion of more than just mere co-incidence in life as it continually unfolds amidst the phone calls, papers, errands, and other quotidian responsibilities. For me, it points to the possibility of serendipity in the world. Since I could not be with my grandmother today as she becomes a centenarian, it seems fitting that I should honor her as well as honor the task, or perhaps I should say gift, that you all have entrusted me with here today for a few brief moments with the hope of saying something meaningful to you as you leave Grinnell. To that end,

I'd like to suggest that the ways of knowing that Grinnell has equipped you with, coupled with a particular way of being in the world, will allow you to recognize the timely in your own lives.

As some of you, (Joey, Andrea, Shelby,) have recently heard me say, you leave Grinnell College knowing some substantial things. You have built a particular knowledge base relative to your own interests and a broad set of intellectual practices that will guide you in the years to come. Regardless of your major, you have learned to think critically in a sustained fashion and convey that criticism in both speaking and writing. Such criticism—to question, and then challenge, commonly accepted beliefs, values, kinds of evidence, and scientific truths—is the basis of social change in the world. Identifying problems and contradictions enables us to begin to envision new ways of thinking and being in our communities and enact them. In this way, the words of Vietnamese spiritual leader and peace activist, Thich Nhat Hanh, will seem familiar in logic, if not also in sentiment. In Peace is Every Step, he wrote:

“In 1966, when I was in the US calling for a ceasefire to the war in Vietnam, a young American peace activist stood up during a talk I was giving and shouted, “The best thing you can do is go back to your country and defeat the American aggressor! You shouldn't be here. There is absolutely no use to your being here!” . . . He and many Americans wanted peace, but the kind of peace they wanted was the defeat of one side. . . So when I heard that young man shouting, “Go home and defeat the American aggressors,” I took several deep breaths to regain myself, and I said “Sir, it seems to me that many of the roots of the war are here in your country. This is why I have come. . . . The roots of war are in the way we live our daily lives—the way we develop our industries, build up our society, and consume goods. We have to look deeply into the situation” (1991:114-115)

Indeed, you all are well-equipped with this kind of critical thinking to look deeply and with the passion at issues that you most care about in order make social change in your own unique ways. But let me suggest, that is not all you need.

Consider the words of Mahatma Ghandi, who is reported to have said:

“*You must be the change you wish to see in the world.*”

Now consider what Gandhi did not say.

He did not say, “make the change you wish to see in the world.”

He did not say, “enact the change you wish to see in the world.”

He did not say, “foster the change you wish to see in the world.”

Gandhi is not talking about doing—he is talking about being. The difference between a variety of transitive verbs that he did not use and the state of being verb he did, points to a serious ontological challenge for us all.

I think that ontological challenge is the challenge to be generous with other human beings in trying, taxing, and disheartening circumstances. Let me explain: When one is critical and impassioned, it is very easy to become angry, frustrated, and fed-up with those with whom you disagree. It is easy to be furious at folks who do not listen to what you say, do not appreciate the critical perspective you have worked so hard to foster. Indeed, you will, no doubt, encounter people in your personal and professional lives who respond callously, dismissively, or in very mean-spirited ways. This point is, in fact, one that Thich Nhat Hanh's ironically observes in the global peace movement and he writes, “the peace movement is often filled with anger and hatred and does not fulfill the role we expect of it” (1991: 110). Thus, the kind of generosity I am suggesting you need, indeed we need, is the generosity to give the gifts of compassion, empathy, and kindness when the desire to do so is quite the opposite.

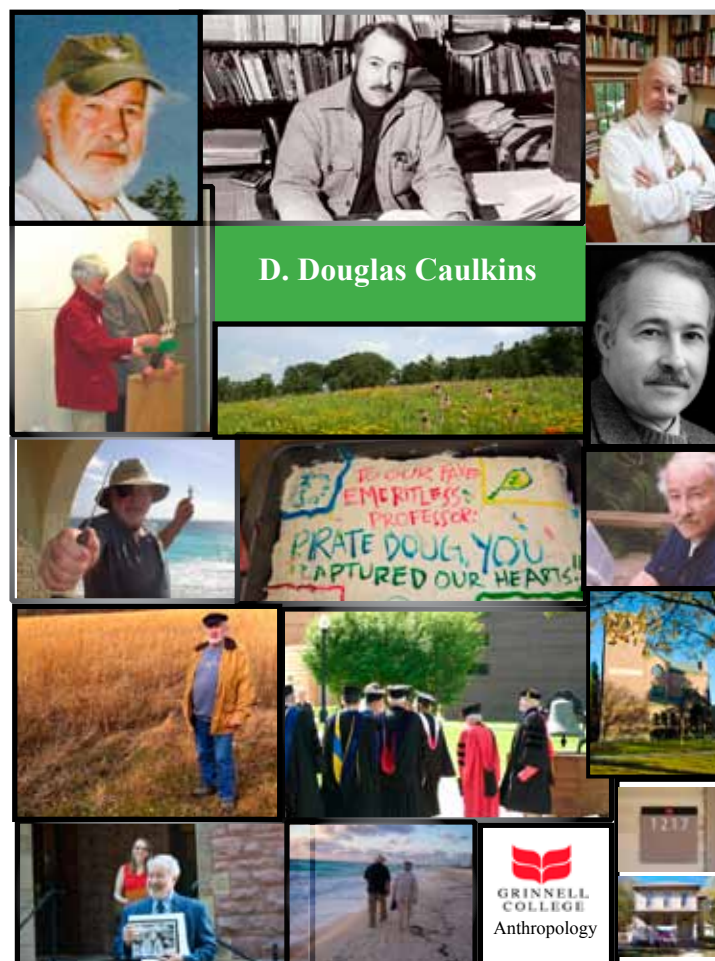
With the suggestion to bring *critical ways of knowing* together with *generous ways of being*, let us return circuitously to where I began my brief remarks with the notion of the *timely*. The ancient Greeks had a particular word to represent the kind of time I recognized in your invitation to speak. *Kairos* refers to the right time, the opportune time, a period of time in which something special happens. *Kairos* is a qualitative time—the perfect moment—that stands in distinction to chronological and measurable time. Practice recognizing the timely in your own lives.

In conclusion, I will be so bold as to speak for all faculty when I say that we have striven to give you the very best of what we know and who we are with an enduring hope that you can, and will, do better than we have. To do so, accept the invitations that the timely presents before you and meet them with a critical mind and generous spirit.

Professor Doug Caulkins: An Appreciation

A thinker and doer both inside and outside of the box, Doug Caulkins has for forty years been a steady hand and an innovator at Grinnell College. Currently the Donald L. Wilson Professor of Enterprise and Leadership as well as Professor of Anthropology, Doug's Grinnell career began in the fall of 1970 when he was hired as an instructor in the then two-year old Department of Anthropology, joining Ralph Luebben and Ron Kurtz.

(Booklet created with thoughts of students, alumni, and friends during [Doug's Retirement Celebration - April 22, 2011.](#))



Anthropology Emeritus Professors Fund

All of us have different memories of Doug. They might be full of humor—like his tongue-in-cheek depictions of the difference between Grinnell students and Carletonians delivered in class—or full of insight about a pressing intellectual issue. Together we have come to know Doug in myriad ways: as a sympathetic listener, wise counselor, thoughtful administrator, ambitious teacher, gentleman farmer, and prairie conservationist. All of these roles are united in Doug’s unfailing generosity, energy, and dedication to his students, colleagues, friends, and fellow citizens.

While Doug has worn many hats at the College, including Associate Dean, Director of Career Development, and Wilson Chair, he has particularly been involved at both the local and national levels as a leader in mentoring undergraduate research projects. His four decades of dedication to creating opportunities for student involvement in scholarly projects has been at the core of his professional life. This dedication, in turn, has indelibly shaped hundreds of individuals’ intellectual trajectories and career developments. Angie Arnold, class of 1992, recalls one such formative experience through Doug’s mentorship:

Yesterday I came across a copy of the paper we co-wrote on Geeta Cowlagi’s life history. That was such a critical moment in my life. It gave me a great deal of confidence about my own abilities. The thought that I could collaborate with a professor when I was a mere freshman was amazing. And then to present the paper at an academic conference! I have no doubt that your encouragement and recognition of my abilities have been crucial to my success today. My co-workers often ask what kind of training I have to be a grantwriter and they’re always surprised to learn that I credit Grinnell and my liberal arts education. The ability to write well, research a topic, and think analytically is the cornerstone of what I do today. And your influence — from my freshman tutorial all the way to my senior thesis — certainly shaped and influenced my skills.

Doug once candidly explained to a potential colleague the transformational potential involved in close faculty-student mentoring:

In grading final papers, as I am today, I am once again reminded of why we do this job: the intellectual and personal transformations that I see in my students over the course of a semester (or a year, or 4 years, or 25 years) provide those golden moments that make the universe right, if only for a few moments at a time. I am still publishing with one of my earliest students, from the class of 1975, and one of the final papers by a current student motivates me to offer him a research job this summer.

Providing students with experiences like these has been such a passion for Doug. In response, the Anthropology Department has established competitive grants fostering student research experiences in his honor. These grants will support outstanding students in research and travel to meetings to present research results when there are not sufficient or appropriate Collegiate funds available.

Your annual gift to the Pioneer Fund provides essential support to all areas of the Grinnell’s academic program, including Anthropology. In addition to your regular support of the Pioneer Fund, we invite you to support our project to honor Doug and support future students by sending your tax-deductible contribution to the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, 733 Broad Street, Grinnell, IA 50112. Specify its designation for the Anthropology Emeritus Professors Fund, and identify Doug as the faculty member you wish to honor. Or, you can call 866-850-1846. To make a gift on-line, go through <http://loggia.grinnell.edu>, and add the fund name and Doug’s name in the comment box.

Angelica B. Isa Adaniya, '10

I got into my institute (for art and archaeology conservation) after taking the test with a psychologist (hurray! I'm not crazy) and I will be starting on the 23rd August so I'm very excited about that. I will let you know when they allow me to handle old (possibly fake?) vases and textiles and metal things too. I can't wait. Until then, I've been teaching English at an institute near my house. It's sort of a 'summer' job and I finally delivered the winter clothing to the shanty town we're helping. It's almost 400 people so it was really great to be able to go there. They're in the middle of nowhere too. I'm seriously considering presenting a project for that alumni Wall grant so that we can build a bakery/bread shop there. It's a particularly special shanty town because it was basically set up and is now run only by single mothers. And we also want to have a Christmas party for their children this year so I need to organise a fundraiser party - I think we'll make it Halloween. So, I'm pretty busy. I am applying to a conservation program at Durham University, but it seems I will be staying here in Peru for another year - which is kind of worrying given our current electoral situations. I don't know if you've heard but we are very possibly on the verge of ending up like Venezuela.

Joel Robbins '83. Professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology at University of California, San Diego. He received his PhD in Anthropology from U of Virginia. His book *Becoming Sinners* (U Cal Press 2006) has been awarded the J.I. Staley Prize. The web site is: http://sarweb.org/index.php?staley_prize.

From the web site: The award recognizes innovative works that go beyond traditional frontiers and dominant schools of thought in anthropology and add new dimensions to our understanding of the human species. It honors books that cross disciplinary boundaries within anthropology and reach out in new and expanded interdisciplinary directions.

Andrea Leiser '11 [<mailto:leiseran@gmail.com>]

It is with extreme excitement that I tell you all that I have been offered a Peace Corps TEFL position in Benin, West Africa. I will leave the states on July 1st, and with the delayed departure, I plan on visiting both Grinnell and MN in May (including attending, although not participating in, graduation on May 23rd). I greatly appreciate the continuing support of each of you, and I'm sure you're all happy to finally hear where/when I'm going (I am too!).

Bill Dressler '73 writes about after the tornado in Tuscaloosa...We were well south of the destruction. It has been an interesting few days. The night of the tornado we had to stay with friends because we couldn't make it home. Thursday, when we got home, was spent mainly trying to figure out what had happened, how the various members of the anthro department had fared, and then planning what we could do. Friday, the "Anthropology Emergency Response Team" swung into action. The team consists of a rotating group of about 15 graduate students and a rotating group of about 8 faculty (and the anthropology truck, of course). On Friday we moved one graduate student whose apartment was damaged by the storm. Then we went to the house of a former student (who now teaches at MS State but lives here) and spent about four hours cleaning up the debris left by the four trees that fell on her house. Then we had another student who came into town from doing fieldwork in Miami with us Friday night, so she could try to salvage stuff from her house that had been in the direct path of the tornado. The Anthro ERT was on the move at 7AM Saturday to that student's house, which we had cleaned out in a couple of hours. We then moved another student and a professor from Spanish, helped another former student, and then got various sets of belongings into storage. At the end of yesterday, we had taken care of all the acute needs of people connected with anthropology.

Yesterday was the traditional date for our year-end party, a bash that usually attracts about 70 people, which was obviously cancelled. But after we got the stuff into storage, we invited the anthro ERT crew out for an impromptu year-end party. It was really interesting, because these kids had been working like dogs for two days, but after a few beers, some burgers and salad, a really spirited basketball game got started that went on for quite awhile (without me, of course). I was marveling at how anyone had any energy left, and my hypothesis was that it was helping to release the distress of seeing what they had seen over the past couple of days. Our labors had taken us literally into ground zero, and it is bad, very bad. There is an interesting photo in the Tuscaloosa News today (which is likely available online). It's an aerial shot, from the southwest looking northeast, following the path of the storm. It looks like your lawn does when you mow it a few days too late. You take that first cut straight across it, and the longer grass stands on either side of the 20-inch wide swath. That's how the city looks from the air.

Also, the efforts of the anthropology department were noted. Our former student turned MS State prof lives next door to a guy in the business school who was overheard to remark, ruefully, that his department had

not shown up to help him out. And it doesn't hurt that ANTHROPOLOGY is emblazoned across the side of the departmental truck. Actually, I think that helped us talk our way past a police checkpoint leading into a ground zero neighborhood yesterday. I mean, we must be official, we're ANTHROPOLOGY! *special edition of The University of Alabama Anthropology Department newsletter provides more information and some photos.* <http://www.as.ua.edu/ant/newsletter/newsletter-tornado.pdf>.

Judd Swanson '04 [mailto:swanson1@gmail.com]

This December I graduated from Rice University with a Master's degree in Architecture. I am currently working at the Houston Museum of Natural Science as an exhibit designer and have recently been helping with some archaeological excavations at a Permian site near Seymour, TX.

Last year I co-founded a project called Libraries Across Africa. LAA is a social venture that aims to increase access to information by setting up digitally-enhanced, self-sustaining libraries in African communities. The organization is modeled around the central question, "How can we deliver the most access to information to the highest number of people at the least possible cost?" Visit www.librariesacrossafrica.org to find out more.

University of Alabama Anthropology Emergency Response at Tuscaloosa



Thank you.....

for your restricted contribution to the Anthropology Department

Jonathan F. Cox '86
Donna E. Dralus '89
Sandra Gifford Edwards '80
Christina R. Peters '00
Colleen T. Mahar-Piersma '91
Sydney K. McQuoid '73
Jessica Roff '93
Curtis L. Scribner '73

