

GRINNELL COLLEGE ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT



Fall 2007

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Associate Professor & Chair

Jon Andelson
Professor

Eric D. Carter
Assistant Professor

Doug Caulkins
Professor

Brigittine French
Assistant Professor

Kathryn Kamp
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Katya Gibel Mevorach
Associate Professor

J. Montgomery Roper
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Anthropology 2007 Fall Potluck



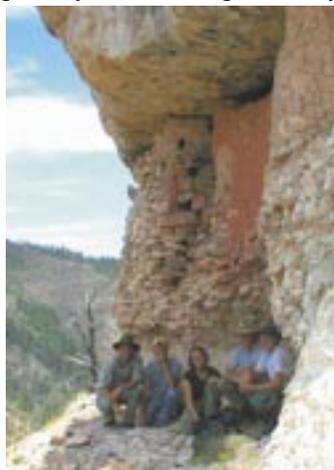
Linguistic Anthropology in the Courtroom!



Class of 2011 students are pictured from left to right as follows: (Back row) Tyler Seymour, Aaron Barker Saad Farhan, Shrish Pokhrel-Willet, Shivani Santoki, Herbie Lynn (Front row) Kyla Gardner, Matt Ruskin, Corbin Yu, Brianna Gallo, Marc Heronemus, Ross Noecker.

Students in Assistant Professor Brittine French's tutorial "Speaking Truth and Telling Lies" visited District Court in Newton, Iowa. The tutorial focuses on contentious speech in politically and emotionally charged cultural contexts. Students observed trials in the courtroom of Honorable Judge Thomas Mott in order to observe and collect data about the relationship between strategic uses of language and truth claims in an empirical context. After observing court and collecting data for two hours, Judge T.W. Mott, as well as the attorneys involved with the trials, Scott W. Nicholson and Kelly T. Bennett, generously entertained questions from Grinnell students.

Heather Kramer '09 - Spent eight weeks of her summer interning with the Forest Service in Arizona at the Kaibab National Forest, which encompasses Williams, AZ and continues all the way to the Grand Canyon. She was working mainly on archaeological survey work in preparation for a 5,000 acre fuels reduction project. She also worked on improving a national archaeological database (INFRA) by entering sites previously recorded on paper into the online format. Her boss (Grinnell alum Neil Weintraub '86) also took the crew: Kramer and three graduate students from Northern Arizona University and University of New Mexico, to see especially exciting archaeological sites on the Kaibab. This picture was taken at a cliff dwelling they visited on one of those journeys.



Andrew Stephenson '10 under the mentorship of Vicki Bentley-Condit, conducted summer research at the Des Moines Blank Park Zoo on Japanese macaque behavior. The title of the project was "The Effects of Kinship and Rank on Captive Adult Japanese Macaques' Grooming Behaviors." His findings supported research on wild Japanese macaques regarding kin being preferred grooming partners and the dominance hierarchy directionality of grooming dyads. Andrew presented his research at the Social Studies' Division Poster Session on Saturday, September 29.

Atlatl Technology Still Used in the Renaissance!



Anu Kramer '09 aims at a foam deer during the Grinnell Renaissance Fair.

The Grinnell Atlatl Team made its appearance at the College's annual renaissance festival held this year on September 29, 2007. Though not quite medieval, hunting down a foam deer could not be passed up by students and parents alike! The Atlatl team meets on Tuesdays at 4:15 and Saturdays at noon at the atlatl range located on the north end of Elm Street, a block east of campus; all are welcome!



Theories of Culture Poetry Jam by Professor Monty Roper

Theories of Culture is one of the required courses for the anthropology major. The course takes a primarily chronological approach to reviewing many of the most influential theorists in the discipline (e.g. Boas, Mead, Levi-Strauss). The materials are intellectually stimulating, but I have found that we can sometimes get in a rut of following the same basic approach to reviewing one theorist each day. In an effort to mix things up a bit and try new ways of engaging the material, I have begun a regular “Theories of Culture Poetry Jam.” I ask the students to represent the critical ideas of the theorists using different poetic forms. The class shares these with one another and we vote on a champion for the day. I think that this has brought some valuable levity to the class and has proven a useful way to begin a review of the theorist of the day. So far we have had a rap comparing Durkheim and Marx and a Haiku on Leslie White. Émile Durkheim and Karl Marx are two important foundational theorists for the social sciences. Both addressed the role of the division of labor in social evolution, but from very different perspectives. Leslie White believed that culture evolved/progressed as it came to harness new forms of energy and developed increasingly more efficient technologies to make use of that energy. Our next challenge is a limerick on Claude Lévi-Strauss! Below are our grand champions thus far.

Rap Grand Champions Kali Otto-Gentry & Andrea Rissin “Rap Time”

Gonna tell you a story about anthropology theory
now listen real hard, make sure you can hear me
this story originates in the nineteenth century
with the names Marxi Marx, the materialist
and the idealist, Durkheim, also known as BIG D

Durkheim's society was an evolving entity.
The conscience collective gave its own identity -
enculturates the youth to act favorably,
from mechanic to organic solidarity.
Mechanic solidarity was how it begins,
but a homogenous mass is no way to win.
In organic solidarity, to which you evolved,
you rely on each other, different roles are involved.
There is nothing wrong with variety,
in interdependent structured institutions, according to Big D.
Division of labor made a better society.
When people split up the jobs, it gets more complex.
Society evolves, and thus the better it gets.
Europe was there, but not others quite yet.

Marxi Marx didn't buy it, he explains it like this:
we have our thoughts and ideas because we exist.
The way we live our lives determines consciousness.
There was more knowledge that he wished to impart.
Division of labor is what sets the humans apart.
Without this division, we animalistic,
but with the division, we'll end up communistic.
The division makes the laborers dissatisfied,
frustration that the man is squeezing them dry.
Marx says there's only one possible solution.
The proletariat will rise and start a revolution.
To Keep them down, there was a higher decision.
Drug up the masses with that opiate religion.

So when studying theory, keep it real, don't forget
Marx and Durkheim are important when learning it.

Haiku Grand Champion Mitchell Parks

Loom, shepherd, village:
All need, all have, all harness
Energy, progress

The Professor's submission. In solidarity, I am also attempting the artistic forms. Here is my haiku on Leslie White:

A hand on the plow
He watches combines drive by
Culture has evolved



Generation Shifts in the Community of Scholars by Douglas Caulkins

In the past few months I finished up two projects, both of which will appear as chapters in edited volumes. One, “Anthropology and the Construction of Irish Identity,” draws on work with my former student Tanya Hedges '96 and is the latest in a series of papers on identity issues in Celtic cultures and their diasporas. The second manuscript, on Mary Douglas's grid-group framework, will appear in a Handbook on Social Capital. These two projects connect me to different generations of the scholarly community.

Tanya, after completing an M.A. in American Studies, is planning to go on for a Ph.D. in Anthropology. I had always found that I had the greatest zest for research projects when working with wonderful student colleagues, like Tanya and many others. I found it exciting to teach about the results of these projects in the classroom. For me, research is a social activity, not a solitary endeavor.

One of the giants of 20th century anthropology, Mary Douglas, a British social anthropologist and neo-Durkheimian theorist, died this year after a long and fruitful career. I felt privileged to have worked with her. I wrote the following dedication at the beginning of my chapter of Grid-group analysis: For Mary Douglas (1921-2007): Inspiring public intellectual, adventurous interdisciplinary thinker, demanding teacher and loyal mentor to several generations of scholars.

Readers might be puzzled by the description as a “loyal mentor.” Here is an example of what I mean. A few years ago I got a phone call from the University of Iowa saying that Mary Douglas was scheduled to speak in Iowa City and that she asked that I be invited to the talk and the dinner with university faculty. She knew that Grinnell was somewhere in Iowa and might be within driving distance of Iowa City. I went, of course, and had a delightful and intellectually stimulating time. Since then I have been using Mary's grid-group analysis to give a new twist to the idea of social capital, a term popularized by political scientist Robert Putnam.

We are all part of the scholarly community, both as producers of ideas as well as consumers who use these ideas in our daily activities as global citizens. Professionals, however, need to address public concerns more directly, rather than writing primarily for other scholars. We need to shorten the chain of translation of our theoretical ideas into ones relevant to current public concerns. I'll address the growth in public anthropology in the next newsletter.

Study Abroad in Turkey



A Global Partners Program, Fall 2007

Kathy Kamp and John Whittaker are still in Turkey until December 20, but the end of the semester is becoming visible. Directing the Global Partners program has been an interesting experience. The 16 students are a lively and diverse bunch from all over, with interests ranging from archaeology and classics to political science, music, and math.

Grinnellians on the program include Mari Guttman '09 (Anthropology major), Anna Logan '09, Britt McNamara '09, Kelly Ryan '09, and Anna Werner '09. We have also encountered a number of Anthropology and other alumni here. Sally Graver Collins '00 an Anthro major, came to Turkey first to work on skeletal remains at Neolithic Catalhoyuk, and is now married to a diplomat and working at the US embassy in Ankara. Aksel Casson '96 continues his archaeological dissertation work in Turkey and visited us in Istanbul. Ralph Gifford '76 is the Agriculture Counsellor for the US Embassy.

We spent the first 3 weeks in Istanbul, taking Turkish and exploring this vibrant, multi-cultural, and historical center. We came to love things as diverse as the flea market on the Asian side of Istanbul where there are literally piles of 5 dollar t-shirts, the opulent Topkapi Palace, and Cafe Dunyasi (a Turkish Starbucks, but with better coffee and the addition of chocolates and complimentary chocolate-covered coffee beans).

After our initial 3 weeks in Istanbul, Ankara is a less exciting place, but here we are more focused on a semester's normal academic pursuits. The students are taking classes at either Mid East Technical University or Bilkent University. Both have been welcoming, but the system here is rather different and setting up good class schedules took some juggling. We continue to take Turkish classes two nights a week in Ankara, which requires busing into town as both universities have large campuses set well off from the city center. We meet the class for our seminar either at our "lojman" employee housing on the Bilkent campus or in a sitting room of the students' dorm at METU. We have been

reading about Turkish history and culture at a time when there are a number of lively issues in the country, some of which even appear in US newspapers.

One apparently trivial matter that arises as a focus of contention in almost everything we read is the wearing of headscarves by young women. Some Muslims claim that covering the hair is a religious requirement. The secularizing government founded in the 1920s forbids women to cover in government institutions (like universities), and many consider this an attack on personal and religious freedom. This is the view promoted by the religiously affiliated political parties, including the party now heading the government. Some of these parties have a much deeper Islamist agenda, and even the AK Party now in charge presents a series of contradictions. They wish Turkey to modernize and prosper, join the European Union, and improve their human rights record, but have also on occasion attempted to criminalize adultery in accord with shari'a religious law, and introduce other repressive legislation. In the opinion of most of us Americans, and in the eyes of the more secular parties, the Islamist parties do not have the best interests of women in mind, however much they use "freedom of expression" as a political wedge.

Although Turkey has a rich history of diverse cultures, with considerable tolerance for a variety of religions and peoples under the Ottoman empire, in modern times ethnic diversity has been rigidly suppressed. The Kurdish separatists on the eastern border and the claims of genocide against Armenians at the end of World War I continue to raise hackles. The government's positions (any Kurdish movement is just terrorists, and there was no "genocide") seem to be widely supported by the public. Museums and other cultural institutions show no interest in, let alone celebration of,

any linguistic or cultural minorities - all are supposed to be emphatically and exclusively Turks. Many of the educated Turks we talk to are willing to believe that the US and Europe might still harbor designs to carve Turkey up into colonies, as was the plan at the end of WWI. America's botched war in Iraq not only stirs up trouble on Turkey's border, but is seen as evidence of our general imperialism and untrustworthiness. Fortunately, no one seems to need to apply these negative feelings to us personally, but it is in fact an interesting time to be in Turkey.



John Whittaker

Welcome to the Anthropology Department!



Eric Carter
Assistant Professor
of Anthropology

As the newest member of the Anthropology department, I'd like to introduce myself to readers of the newsletter. First, the shocking news: I'm not an anthropologist, I'm a geographer. I've been hired under the Expanding Knowledge Initiative, or EKI, a program that seeks to promote interdisciplinary teaching and research at Grinnell College. Since there is so much crossover between human geography and cultural anthropology, this department seemed like a natural fit, and I appreciate the warm and accepting welcome I've received. It's also great to have the chance to serve as Geography's ambassador here at Grinnell, and demonstrate all of the good things that this diverse, exciting, and growing field has to offer.

My research and teaching interests lie mainly in political ecology, international development, health geography, and environmental history, with an area focus on Latin America. I was born and raised in California, and received my B.A. in History from the University of California at Berkeley in 1994, and my M.S. (1999) and Ph.D. (2005) in Geography from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. After graduate school, I taught for two years at Millersville University of Pennsylvania. My Ph.D. thesis, co-winner of the 2006 Jacques May Thesis Prize in Medical Geography, examined the social and environmental dynamics of malaria control in Northwest Argentina from 1890 to the present. In addition to this research project, I have also studied the political ecology of shrimp farming in Ecuador (for M.S. thesis), agricultural biodiversity conservation in Mexico, and conservation policy trends in Latin America.

Since starting at Grinnell, I've had the opportunity to continue my research pursuits and gain new skills in teaching, thanks to the generous support of the College. Last June, I attended a NITLE workshop on using spatial statistics in teaching and research, in Norton, Massachusetts. The workshop was excellent and gave me lots of new ideas for an introductory GIS (Geographic Information Systems) course that I'll be teaching in the Spring. For most of June and July, I was in Argentina, along with my wife, Neela, where I did research for several different projects. I wrapped up some loose ends from my research on malaria control, mainly in archives in Buenos Aires. I also began a project analyzing changing modes of environmental governance in Latin America under neoliberalism, with special focus on new international development zones and transportation corridors. We toured the northeastern province of Misiones, doing research for a chapter in an edited volume entitled *Border Anomalies*, to be published in 2009. I was also able to present the results of my malaria research at universities in Tucumán province and Buenos Aires, which allowed me to receive helpful comments for preparing a book manuscript on the subject. All in all, we had a wonderful time in Argentina, despite the record cold winter, and look forward to continued travels there and in other parts of Latin America.

Over the summer my article "Development Narratives and the Uses of Ecology: Malaria Control in Northwest Argentina, 1890-1940" appeared in the *Journal of Historical Geography*, and I also have articles in press at

Geoforum and the *Journal of Latin American Geography*. In addition, I continue serving on the Editorial Board of the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*.

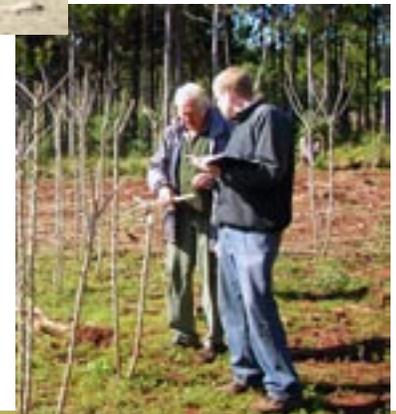
Neela and I are settling in nicely here in Grinnell, enjoying the small-town atmosphere and the local scenery. This semester I am teaching a course in Health Geography and Introduction to Global Development Studies; in the Spring I'll be teaching the department's Latin American Cultures course and two special topics courses, Introduction to GIS and Environmental Issues of the Developing World. I am very impressed with my bright, inquisitive, and thoughtful students, and I look forward to getting them involved in my research and travels abroad.



This picture was taken on a salt flat in the high plateau of the Andes, known as Salinas Grandes. It is located in Jujuy province, Argentina. The lack of perspective in this extremely flat landscape makes it possible to take pictures like this, with my wife Neela "in the palm of my hand."



Carter standing in a hole, at the ruins of an ancient fortress in Tilcara, Jujuy province, Argentina



Carter interviewing a Swiss-Argentine farmer in his manioc field in Misiones province, Argentina.

Visiting Instructors

Tomomi Naka
Doctoral Program, University of Iowa



Dr. Jeffrey A. Bach, Director of Young Center and Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania.

Hello. It has been a great semester of teaching and learning at Grinnell College. I am teaching Anthropology and American Cultures and I am excited to discover better ways to explore my interests in anthropology and American Studies.

I knew Grinnell College long before I actually came to the United States to start my graduate training. One friend of mine in Japan was an exchange student to Grinnell (1996-1997) and her stories helped me to develop my interest in higher education in the U.S. After I entered the Ph. D. program at the University of Iowa, I came to know several fellow graduate students who graduated from Grinnell College (Grant McCall, Alex Wood, Brandi Janssen, to name a few). They are intellectually and socially dedicated to improving the graduate program and their presence made a difference in my graduate school experiences.

With great support from students, faculty members, and Sonni Burnell (Academic Support Assistant), I learned a lot about teaching and learning here at Grinnell. I am constantly and pleasantly amazed at students' thoughtful opinions and great insights about course materials. Especially, I appreciate students' willingness to share their critiques and questions, rather than holding them to themselves. I believe that such active engagement in class material is one important aspect of higher education. One memorable class was a Friday class during Parent's Weekend. We had a guest (surprise, to my point of view), who was a mother of a senior student at Grinnell College. At that time, we were talking about rural town transformation (such as suburbanization, and influx of migrant workers). The discussion covered some factors that affect social relationships between residents in a town. Everyone, including our guest, contributed to this discussion and talked about spatial arrangement, social resources and events in our hometowns and Grinnell. The discussion was lively and to me greatly informative. I believe that this parent's presence prompted us to bring our diverse backgrounds into the classroom.

Tomomi Naka

Alexander Woods '03
Doctoral Program, University of Iowa

Hey Gang,

I've been honored to get the opportunity to come back to Grinnell College as a lecturer in Anthropology. We've been having a blast in Aztec, Incas, and Mayas. Aside from suffering the indignity of map quizzes on ancient site locations, students in Anthro 267.1 have gotten to sample chocolate with chiles, throw spears, and examine bizzare modern fake maya ceramic antiqities produced for the tourist trade.

Notably, as part of their section on Aztec technology, students tried their hand at putting together a Macana. A Macana, or Macuahuitl, is an obsidian bladed sword which functioned as a standard piece of Aztec Military equipment. Unfortunately, no examples of Aztec macanas have survived to this day. This being an unacceptable state of affairs, we set about to rectify the situation at the end of class one beautiful late summer day. Students took turns sorting through a pile of obsidian blades and fitting them into a long hardwood handle. Meanwhile, the class discussed the merits of different shapes and sizes of blades, and the relative ease with which they could have been maintained in the field. Everyone seems pretty satisfied with the final result, an imposing 3 foot long replica which has since been signed by the entire class. As temperatures fall, Anthro 267 has moved back indoors for good, but we look forward to further exciting hands on projects... hopefully involving more chocolate.

Alex Woods '03



Photographs of the Class are courtesy of Holly Edlin

Recent Publication from Anthropology Faculty

Eric D. Carter:

Carter, Eric D., 2007. "Development narratives and the uses of ecology: Malaria control in Northwest Argentina, 1890–1940." *Journal of Historical Geography* 33, 619–650.

Carter, Eric D., 2007. "State visions, landscape, and disease: Discovering malaria in Argentina, 1890–1920." *Geoforum* (in press, available online).

Conference Papers:

Carter, Eric D., 2007. "Privatizing infrastructure development, integrating regional economies: Latin America's IIRSA project." Paper presented at Meeting of the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers, Colorado Springs, Colorado, May 2007.

Douglas Caulkins:

Forthcoming: Tanya Hedges* and Douglas Caulkins, Anthropology and the Construction of Irish Identity, Chapter 4 in *Irelands of the Mind: Memory and Identity in Modern Irish Culture*, edited by Richard Allen and Stephan Regan.

Forthcoming: Douglas Caulkins, "Grid-Group Analysis" in Gert Tinggaard Svendsen and Gunnar Lind Haase Svendsen (eds.) *Handbook on Social Capital*, Edward Elgar Publishing

2007 Carol Trosset, Jennifer Thornton*, and Douglas Caulkins, "Perceptions of Welshness in Patagonia," *Contemporary Wales: An Annual Review of Economic and Political and Social Research*. Vol 19, pages 234-247.

2007 Douglas Caulkins, review of Charlotte Aull Davies and Stephanie Jones (eds.) *Welsh Communities: New Ethnographic Perspectives*. Cardiff. University of Wales Press in *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, (N.S.) 13, pages 231-232.

* Co-authorship with former student.

Brigitte French:

French, Brigitte M. 2008. "Guatemala: Essentialisms and Cultural Politics." *Companion to Latin American Anthropology*. Edited by Deborah Poole, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, forthcoming.

French, Brigitte M. 2007. "We're All Irish": Transforming Irish Identity in a Midwestern American Community." *New Hibernia Review* 11(1): 9-25.

Katya Gibel Mevorach:

Prof. K. Gibel Mevorach, Publications and Lectures 2006-07
"Race, racism, and academic complicity." *American Ethnologist* Volume 34, Number 2 (May 2007). [also available on American Ethnologist Online Book Reviews]

"Reflections on 'Race' and the Biologization of Difference." *Patterns of Prejudice*, 40, 4-5 (2006), 353-380. (ed. Sander Gilman (Routledge 2006) and appears as first chapter after Introduction in *Race and Contemporary Medicine*. Ed. Sander Gilman, London: Routledge (forthcoming October 2007).

"Les identités juives au miroir du racisme au États-Unis." *Ham et Sem, Juifs et Noirs du mythe à la réalité Symposium international*. Collège des études juives de l'Alliance israélite universelle, Paris, France 3 décembre 2006.

"Grounded by Roots and Routes: The Politics of Identities Within the African and African American Diaspora." Presentation to *Laying Claim to Our Sprit: 2006 African American Women's Leadership Conference*, Cedar Rapids, IA, 29 September 2006.

Online videos of recent talks:

(In French) http://www.akadem.org/sommaire/themes/histoire/3/6/module_1683.php

http://www.barnard.edu/sfonline/jewish/panel1_02.htm

Monty Roper:

Roper, J. Montgomery 2007 *Between Midnight and the Rooster's Crow (Review)*. *The Americas* 63.3: 511-512

Presentations:

Roper, J. Montgomery 2007 *Popular Participation, Rising Expectations, and the Indigenous Movement in Moxos, Bolivia*. Presented March 31, 2007 at The Society for Applied Anthropology 67th Annual Meeting (March 28-31) Tampa Fl.

September 2007 *False Paths?: Indigenous Forestry and Development in Lowland Bolivia*. Presented September 6, 2007 at XXVII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (September 5-8), Montreal, Canada.

Rachel Knudson '00 [<mailto:rknudson@deskmedia.com>] Life is great here in Minnesota. I started my independent midwifery practice (doing home births) about a year and a half ago. I love it and am starting to get more clients. My other big project in life right now involves my old family farmhouse. I'm renovating it as it hasn't been lived in since I was a teenager. I'm doing much of the work myself and trying to keep it as eco-friendly as possible. When the house is done, I shall move on to the land surrounding it--Jon Andelson's been a great resource for learning about restoring prairie.



Anne Feltovich '03 (Classics major) [<mailto:feltovac@email.uc.edu>] [Anne wasn't a major but took classes with us and was one of my most faithful atlalists. - JW] I am now an official future Fulbright scholar! I first heard the news in March, but I was in disbelief until I actually received the grant documents in hand and all necessary clearance to study abroad. I got my final clearance in the mail today, so now I'm ready to spread the word without fear of jinxing the award!

For those of you who don't know, I'll use the award to attend the American School of Classical Studies in Athens next academic year (where I hear Erika Zimmerman is this year- too bad I missed her). I'll be in Greece from Sept. 7 to June 6 (with lots of forays into Greece in the fall and Turkey in the Spring), so stop by if you are in the neighborhood!

I'm also soon to be Anne Feltovich, M.A. I've complete all the requirements and am now awaiting only the official graduation date (August 30th- I'll celebrate by being no where near Cincinnati but on a beach in Pensacola, FL where my parents live). I bypassed the traditional M.A., but can obtain the degree by virtue of passing the comprehensive exams, which is why it took me four years instead of the traditional two. All in all, I don't feel any smarter than I did at the beginning of the year (when I embarked on the torturous year-of-the-testing), and in fact I feel much stupider. And I've still got two big tests left to go (special authors Aristophanes and probably Catullus: by the end of the summer, I'll know all the dirty words in both Latin and Greek!).

Robert Schwaller '03 (ANT/ART) [rcs218@psu.edu] Rob Schwaller '03 I wanted to inform my fellow alumni that I was awarded a Fulbright Graduate Research Grant for this upcoming academic year '07-'08. I will be conducting archival research in Seville, Spain, on my dissertation "From Conquest to Casta: The Development of Racial Ideology in Colonial Mexico." I am currently a graduate student in History at Penn State.

Andrew Derksen '00 (ANT/BIO) [derksen@chthonian.org] The short version of my life for the last seven years outside of the cornfields: "After six years with Lexicon Genetics working on mouse-models of human disease, I decided that it was well past time to return to school and take charge of my own research project. After being accepted to the University of Florida's entomology MS-program to work on molecular methods of pesticide resistance, my funding fell through, and I now find myself working on "the growth and dispersal of the invasive chili thrips, *Scirtothrips dorsalis*, through ornamental hosts common to southern and central Florida". The curious can always read a sanitized version of my latest adventures at "<http://www.chthonian.org/blog>". The truly dedicated can e-mail me at this address."

Judd Swanson '04 [<mailto:swanson1@gmail.com>] HEY Y'ALL, Houston just became WAY better. If any of you are going to come see Lucy, give me a shout and we can meet for drinks / Lucy viewing. I can give some hotel suggestions etc. I'm currently in architecture school at Rice... and I have no Anthro friends to go museum hopping with. http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/j/msnbc/Components/Photos/070828/070828_lucy_bcol_1p_standard.jpg Who could resist a face like that?

Lauren Knapp '06, received "honorable mention" in the Society for Linguistic Anthropology's national student paper competition! Lauren's essay on blue-grass music, performance, and identity that the department recognized for the Asrelsky Prize was the only undergraduate paper that was considered meritorious this year. The award will be presented at the SLA business meeting on Friday, Nov 30th at the AAA meetings in Washington, D.C. [If you'd like to congratulate Lauren, her e-mail is: knapplau@gmail.com]

Claire Tindal '07 [claire.tindal@gmail.com] After graduation I got an archaeological lab tech job for a company called Brockington and Associates. Brockington is based in Atlanta, but has little subsidiaries about the southeast, and even smaller one-man crews elsewhere. Charleston's location is the biggest behind that of Atlanta and so far I really like the job. I'm responsible for washing artifacts, bagging them up, identifying them, and putting them in an access-based catalog. I also do flotation samples and have taken over our conservation program. And right now our lab is undergoing some personnel changes between different departments, so hopefully I'm in line for a promotion sometime in the next few months.

Artifacts we encounter range from prehistoric (Archaic) to very historic. I spent the first few months learning the cataloging system and the different names for prehistoric ceramics, lithics, etc. And the same goes for historic ceramics, "colonoware" (slave-made ceramics), nails, buttons, bullets, bottles, etc. etc. Really the list goes on and on. Probably the hardest to learn so far has been the historic ceramics--there are so many different types of wares and design styles, and different names for combinations thereof, that identifying them correctly can be difficult. But I've been working with them for a while now and feel fairly confident in my ability. One big difference I've noticed between prehistoric ceramics in the west and those on the east coast is that painting styles are not used for identification over here. In fact, prehistoric pottery wasn't painted at all; instead many designs were impressed into the clay before firing. Native Americans over here used cord, fabric, complicated rectilinear and curvilinear stamps, incising, dentate, punctate, and other methods of design, but they did not paint designs. Variation in tempers and design styles is the primary way we determine who made what. But making the transition from what we learned on fieldschool [summer 2006 in Flagstaff] really hasn't been all that hard. If anything it's easier, and when I hear about other fieldschools (ie: the College of Charleston's), they don't even remotely seem to compare. We produce reports that the SC archaeological department reviews and edits, but the primary goal is to get something on the site so our clients - usually developers - can build. Certainly I find myself conflicted, but the main goal is to work here a while until I can get into grad school and move on to something a little more consciously gratifying. Fortunately most of the people here are absolutely amazing; very nice and for the most part, extremely capable. Although generally the most capable of my colleagues are the ones without the bullshit/online masters degrees, and therefore, those who occupy the "lowest" positions in the lab. That can be frustrating at times, but life's not fair all of the time, and so I generally ignore it. That aside, I think I may have an idea of what I want to do in the future. Once I started working at Brockington, I took immediately to the

Grinnellians in the Southwest

conservation aspect of the job. We don't have a very sophisticated system - just electrolysis, and a sketchy system at that - but I think I've found something I'd really like to pursue at the graduate level. I've been checking out graduate programs, and there aren't many in the U.S., but my favorite so far is the one offered by UCLA and the Getty Institute. Many of these programs require some conservation experience, so I've been graciously taken on as an intern at the Warren Lasch Conservation center where they are currently holding the H.L. Hunley. This was the first submarine ever to sink an enemy warship in battle (during the American Civil War), but it sank shortly after discharging the torpedo charge - only to be raised 136 years later when I was in high school (the lab is located right across the street from where I went to school). People in South Carolina are a little obsessed, but unfortunately not so much with regard to science, but rather in the you-may-have-won-the-war- but-booyah-we-made-history-with-this-one way. Anyways, it's a great opportunity because I'll be working with some of the best maritime conservators from all over the world. And they're really going out on a limb for me - usually they only allow masters-level graduates in the lab. Of course, I won't have many of the same responsibilities, but I can already tell I'm going to learn a lot. And I've been following the vessel for a long time now, so it'll be great to actually get to work artifacts from the sub in a first-class facility. And, come October, I'm helping out with the archaeology field day at the Charleston Museum. They're going to have different displays and games, but a project manager at Brockington, Andrew, and I are doing the flintknapping and atlatl demonstration. So I've been busy making a few atlatls and darts. Should be fun.

Rachel Miller '06 [<mailto:millerra06@gmail.com>] I've settled into work at Bi Gui Yuan (Country Garden) School in Guangdong, China. I teach English to 180 students in Year 10. Check out frequent updates at my blog at: <http://nihui.wordpress.com>

After commencement in June, and before going to Turkey, John Whittaker visited alumni in Colorado. Steve Nash '86 has recently moved from the Field Museum to become Curator of Anthropology at the Denver Museum of Science and Nature, and has a grant to collect tree ring samples at ruins in Mesa Verde. Many of these famous sites were dated by dendrochronology years ago, but earlier practice was to collect samples only from a few of the largest beams. Modern dendrochronologists sample as many architectural beams as possible, which allows much more detailed reconstruction of the way communities grew and were abandoned. Accordingly, I joined Steve's small team working in a number of sites not open to the public, including some historic Ute sweat lodges, and we examined some ancient trees, some of which are suspected of having had branches cut with stone axes. Also at Mesa Verde we met Dani Long '00, who is a seasonal ranger doing archaeology there, and Jon Till '89 who runs part of the lab operations at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, a private educational foundation. In Boulder, I visited Avi Pogel '06 who is working for various restaurants and organic farming operations, and reports that other Grinnellians frequently drop by. Meanwhile Anu (Heather) Kramer '09 spent the summer working as an archaeological intern on the Kaibab National Forest under Neil Weintraub '96.



Thank You

for your restricted contribution to the Anthropology Department

Elizabeth Neerland '00
Colleen Mahar-Piersma '91