

GRINNELL COLLEGE ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT



November 11, 2005

Fall 2005

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Professor & Chair

Jon Andelson
Professor

Doug Caulkins
Professor

John Whittaker
Professor

Vicki Bentley-Condit
Associate Professor

Katya Gibel Azoulay
Associate Professor

J. Montgomery Roper
Assistant Professor

Maria Tapias
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New Signage to Help Locate Some Familiar Sites

1995 - Present



1984 - 1995



Summer 2005 Mentored Advanced Project*

Women's Work at the Public, University-based Hospital in
Montes Claros, Minas Gerais, Brazil



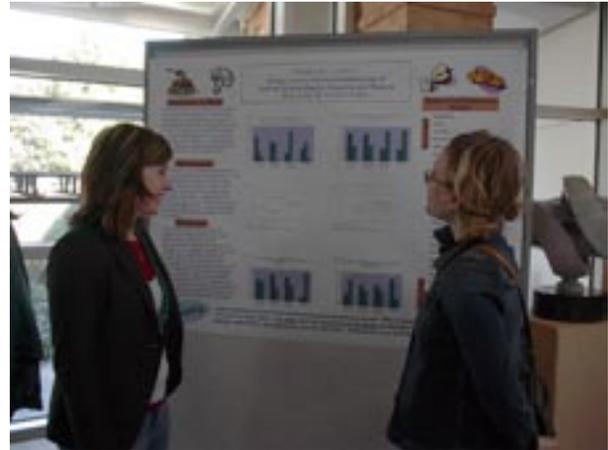
Research team back row: Sarah Jane Alves Durães, Fernanda Veloso Lima, Flávio de Oliveira Carvalho, Prof. Kim Jones; front row: Meredith Ashley Groves '08, Dhanyane Alves Castro, Izabella Vieira Souto, Rosenelly Pérez '08

On July 29, two Grinnell students, Meredith Groves '08 and Rosenelly Perez '08, presenting with two professors and four Masters' level UNIMONTES students, gave excellent and informative presentations in Minas Gerais, Brazil. A three and a half week seminar on Gender and Development, the panel presentation was based on extensive English and Portuguese readings on Women's Work and Social Development, with some emphasis on Brazil. Professor Jones concluded, "Grinnell's two students and the four students from UNIMONTES grew in their cross-cultural and research knowledge.

Other Anthropology MAP Projects Conducted in Summer 2005

Molly Lewis '06
"Politics of School Food"
Bryan Berube '07
"Indigenous Politics in Bolivia"

**Mentored Advanced Projects provide a chance to work closely with a faculty member on scholarly research or the creation of a work of art. It serves to integrate the knowledge and skills gained by the student's course of study, and aims to produce results that merit presentation to the college community or the wider scholarly world.*



Molly Lewis ('06) explains her poster on food culture and the Grinnell school lunch system during Family Weekend. Molly did a project on British school lunches while on Grinnell-in-London last fall while there, she enrolled in a class on British foodways with John Whittaker and Kathy Kamp. This Summer and Fall 2005, she has been interviewing parents, students and administrators in Grinnell, under the direction of Kathy Kamp and Doug Caulkins.

Experimental Pit Excavation

Ten years ago, Kathy Kamp, John Whittaker and Barry Brenton did an experimental project with students which involved storing corn overwinter in simple pits dug at CERA. The pits were very effective; almost all of the corn was still good for either food or seed in the spring. This September, Kathy and John along with two volunteers reexcavated one of the pits. They sampled and analyzed the soil to detect pollen, phytoliths, fungal spores, or other evidence of processes affecting the corn.



Ryan Lyerla '08, Andrew Polta '08, John Whittaker, with cross-sectioned pit.

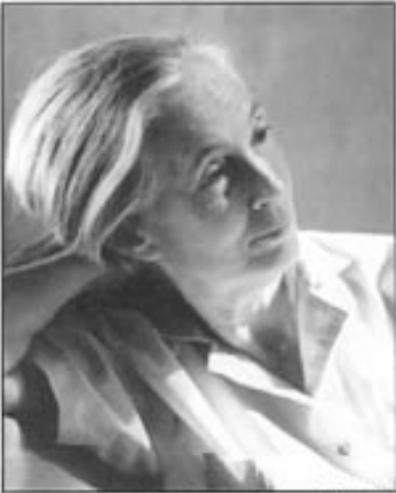
Anthropology Sponsors

Trip to See Dr. Jane Goodall

“Reason for Hope”

An Evening with Dr. Jane Goodall

Thursday, September 22, 2005, 7:30 p.m.
Drake Knapp Center, Drake University



Conservationist Jane Goodall, Ph.D., and Dame of the British Empire, dreamed of being “Jane of the Jungle” as a young girl in the mid 1940s. She brought that dream to life by living in Africa, studying chimpanzees and sparking the evolution of humanity’s understanding of wildlife and the world. Drawing on more than 40 years of work as a tireless advocate for environmental stewardship, personal action and humanitarianism, Dr. Goodall inspires audiences to reach above and beyond what they’ve believed they can do and challenges people’s beliefs to instill a “Reason for Hope” for the world and environment. She is the founder of the Jane Goodall Institute, a United Nations Messenger of Peace and has authored many books, including *In the Shadow of Man*, *My Life with the Chimpanzees* and the popular Jane Goodall’s *Animal World* children’s series.

The Anthropology Department coordinated a college van that took nine students to see Dr. Goodall. Here are some comments from some of the attending students...

Matthew Pflaum '06. “I am really glad the anthropology department organized a trip to see Jane Goodall. After conducting primatology research with baboons during my study abroad term in Tanzania, I really appreciated hearing from her. I have wanted to see her for years as she is one of my personal heroes. She eschewed speaking about her research for the most part in favor of environmental and political issues that are important to her. She did, however, tell some amazing stories, particularly about her early career as a primatologist. I would have liked to stay longer and speak with her in person, as I had questions to ask her about her research, but it was very nice to see her and I am glad I participated in the trip.”

Sarah Mirk '08. “The lecture was held in a arena that was absolutely jam-packed, Jane received a standing ovation just for walking onstage. In the first portion of her lecture, she talked about how she wound up as a young girl working in the African bush and then segued into talking about global peace. She advocates conscious consumerism and believes we have lost the wisdom of the indigenous people who oriented their societies around asking the question, “How will our decisions affect those seven generations from now?” She said that she has done all she has in her life by being forever optimistic and in defense of her idealism said ‘We don’t know if it’s going to work, but we’re trying.’”

Emily Stiever '09. “Overall I found the lecture very interesting. Dr. Goodall talked about her work studying chimps in the wild, but also addressed a range of issues surrounding the environment, political conflicts, and human rights. Her talk was accessible for all ages of people and overall, very informative.”

Francesca Galicki '07. “She was definitely very moving and almost made me want to work with chimps, a desire I have never had. She put the issues right out there on the table, she was funny, and she connected things in a way that showed that everyone can help. Her use of stories was also very effective. She is an amazing, accomplished, and determined woman. The lecture covered pretty much everything from why she started doing what she does, including antics about her love of and curiosity about animals as a child (she brought earth worms to bed with her; and hid in a hen house under hay to find out how a chicken lays an egg), to explaining the many activities and lack of activities being done that are leading to chimpanzees’ extinction. Examples of activities that are leading to extinction include the fact that many hunters kill chimps for bush meat for fancy restaurants, and babies are sold in the marketplace; in some places deforestation is also a problem. She talked about her early adventures in Africa, having her mother live with her in a tent for four months (she was not allowed to be alone in the jungle). She talked about the chimps, how they are like humans, how they are different, their loyalties, their relationships, their noises, and her personal relationships with them. She discussed reasons for hope, how we can help, National Peace Day (in September each year), etc. She also acknowledged the fact that in order to help the chimps we must first help man. She travels over three hundred days of the year delivering this message all over the world.”

Kirsten Tretbar '89 Teaches Special Topic: Making Documentary Films

In September, two students who had taken the Wilson Program's, Documentary Filmmaking Short Course, taught by Kirsten Tretbar, came back to her class to talk about their film projects. Anthony DalPra '08 brought his new Panasonic DVX 1000, which he used this summer to shoot an original film, one that he is currently editing (a project started in Tretbar's class). Anthony showed the students his camera and explained to them all the ins and outs of this great Mini DV camera -- the same kind of camera, Kirsten, used to shoot her last two feature films: "Gigi 12x5" and "Horrible Flowers" (both directed by Kirsten's brother, Eric Tretbar). The following week, Jaime Giorgi '07, another Documentary Class alum, came to show the September class clips of her recently completed feature documentary, "Valley of the Moon." Jaime shot the cinema verite documentary film last year over breaks and completed it last summer. It was started as an idea in Tretbar's class, and shot and produced under the supervision and guidance of Jon Andelson. Jaime's remarkable film, a story about her grandfather and great uncle, Swiss Italian immigrants in Sonoma, California, was very well received by Tretbar and the whole class. "Her film was subtle and beautiful. I was really impressed!" said Kirsten. Jaime shared stories about making the film and discussed issues such as buying cameras and professional microphones as well as the importance of original music and good sound. "I felt our class," explained Tretbar, "was really inspired by both students. It's important to learn that what gets started in a class like this can often continue after the class ends, with other teachers, or in other projects. I'm really proud of what we've accomplished with this class in the last four years and I want to thank the Anthropology department and faculty for helping Grinnell students to make more films!"

Documentary Film Pitch Competition 5 Finalists, Anthro 295.02



Back row, standing, left to right: Doug Caulkins (Wilson Program), Paul Bateman '07, Kirsten Tretbar '89 (Instructor), Sarah Mirk '08, Art Valeri '07, Front row, Veronica Clark '07(Winner), Yuki Goto '08

Anthropology Goes to Washington

Vicki Bentley-Condit

This semester, I'm leading the Grinnell-in-Washington program in Washington, DC. I'm here with 10 Grinnell students and we're all having quite an experience. The GIW program is internship-based. The students are taking an anthro course with me, a policy course with a professor from Georgetown, an internship seminar with me, and completing a 10 ½ week internship at sites relevant to their interests and career goals. I have students doing internships at locales ranging from the US Chamber of Commerce to NGO's to the Syrian Embassy. I'm actually doing an informal internship myself at the National Zoo in a lab where we will be analyzing the nutritional content of primate breast-milk. The semester, so far, has been great. We've been on field trips to the National Zoo, the Natural History Museum, and the Pentagon. We'll be visiting the Holocaust Museum and Mt. Vernon, among other sites, later in the semester. We're having Friday lunch/talks with Grinnell alums from now until Thanksgiving. There are, of course, more things to do and see in this city than any of us can hope to accomplish in a semester but we're all giving it our best effort. So, for those anthro alums in the DC area, I hope to see you all at upcoming alum events. Alternatively, drop me an email or call me at 202-213-1154 and we'll see if we can't arrange a mini anthro reunion!

Professor Bentley-Condit took a group of students on a DC Ducks Tour of DC. The Ducks Tour is in a WWII amphibious vehicle (on the left) that drives around DC and then goes out on the Potomac River for part of the tour.



photo courtesy of Neha Govil

L to R: Ivy Selechnik '06, Luzat Khandkhar '07, Deisy Del Real '07, Prof. Vicki Bentley-Condit, Sung Choi '07, Fardous Bahboub '07 (Back), Neha Govil '07, (front) Alex Fisher '07, Menwei Cheng '07 (in the back), Shan Lakhmani '07, (in the front, red shirt), and Tue To '06 (barely in the photo)

Photos:



Acorn taste tests; Atlatl team at Cahokia; Flintknappers in front of Goodnow; Anthropology pot luck on the lawn.

Current News:

Matthew Pflaum ('06) "I was in the Chiang Mai region of northern Thailand working with an NGO called Rejoice Urban Development Project. The focus of the work was treating underprivileged Thai citizens and refugees (mostly from Burma and Laos) suffering from HIV/AIDS. Many of the patients are either current or former sex-workers, children of parents with HIV/AIDS, or orphaned children whose parents died from the disease. Though the work was depressing, because 97% of all Thai citizens are Buddhist, they treat all situations with a positive outlook. Because they believe they will be reincarnated, I did not meet a single patient out of the thousands we treated who was sad about their status. This positive outlook is very unique and makes treating Thai patients a joy. Because I want to study infectious disease and epidemiology in graduate school and for a career the opportunity to work with AIDS patients was a wonderful experience."

Kelly Eldridge ('07) The Field Museum Internship: "I spent this past summer as an intern in the Anthropology Department at the Field Museum under Dr. Steven Nash ('86), working on the Kish Project, an important undertaking supported by a \$99,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The city of Kish, excavated by a joint team from the University of Oxford and the Field Museum between 1923 and 1933, is located 80 kilometers south of modern Baghdad, Iraq. Dating back 5,000 years, it is one of the first true cities of the world, and can claim the earliest known system of writing (cuneiform), as well as the first known instances of wheeled transportation. During the excavation, the artifacts recovered from Kish were divided up between the Field Museum, the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, and the National Museum of Iraq. The goal of the Kish Project is a full, synthetic internet catalog of the Kish holdings of all three institutions. The Field Museum houses over 32,000 artifacts from the site at Kish. Working with three other interns and two staff members, I spent the summer going through a copious amount of field note cards from both the Field Museum and the Ashmolean, entering the data into FileMakerPro. In addition to data entry, the other interns and I photographed the artifacts. The internship was, suffice it to say, awesome. Not only did I get to handle irreplaceable ancient Mesopotamian artifacts, I was able to interact with some amazing anthropologists, many of whom are experts of their specific fields. My summer was wonderful – I had keys to storage rooms housing over 1.5 million archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, and on sunny days the anthropology department would meet outside on the lawn in front of the Museum during lunch and play cricket. It was an exciting, intellectual atmosphere (though I have to say, sometimes tedious with all that data entry), and I would definitely recommend that other Grinnellians take advantage of the Field Museum Internship."

Jennifer Rosenbaum ('07) "I worked at the Center for Contemporary Conflict in Monterey, CA, doing research into the causes and dynamics of conflicts with an eye to preventing future ones. In particular I studied South Asia issues, Strategic Culture literature from an anthropological perspective, and worked on briefings for troops in the Persian Gulf."

Francesca Galicki ('07) This summer I received a Rosenfield Grant to work at YMCA International Services in Houston, Texas, working mainly with Cuban and Colombian refugees in the Refugee Resettlement department. I worked with a case worker, getting food stamps, medicaid, social security, apartments, and english classes for the clients. I also helped to get the children into schools.

Benjamin Cantor-Stone ('07) "At Professor Whittaker's recommendation, I took a Geology course at Colorado College during the summer. He knew I was fond of earth sciences and was familiar with the Colorado front range, so it seemed a logical choice for someone looking for science and graduation credits. (Did my first two years really go by that fast?) I was looking forward to three weeks of relatively easygoing fieldwork compared to my typical massive workload of papers, presentations and readings. However, I got more than I bargained for in terms of workload, education and fun... For those not familiar with the school, Colorado College uses a block system, where students take a single course for three or six weeks with a long weekend between blocks (regular students there tell me that it means time for skiing or camping). Taking a full-credit lab science in that time meant class from nine until noon, labs until four or five and field trips that could last as long as twelve hours! The things I saw in the field nevertheless made the sleep deprivation, hard hiking and rock-scrabbling worthwhile because of the sheer volume of practical knowledge acquired. I got to collect Cretaceous seashells and uncut rose quartz crystals for back home – these make great presents, especially if you don't tell the receiver how easy they are to find in the right places! I also found some garnet, a real thrill for any rock hound! While the instructors weren't full professors, one of them had gone there as an undergraduate and pointed out all the nice places to go in town, including restaurants and used bookstores (my favorite kind). The local students were very nice, as were the on-campus accommodations. I wasn't even bothered by any of the weird religious or political groups! Overall, I was sorry to leave for home, even after all the hours spent walking and working. Beyond my sunburns, I had acquired a great deal of practical knowledge that will assist in future archeological work at any level – how to identify rocks and soils by the plants growing on them, how to spot artifacts among the rocks, what minerals were important to the ancient natives and more. Just as important, I met new and interesting people – which Anthropology likes plenty!"

The Grinnell Magazine, Fall 2005,
features an article by:

Kelly Eldridge '07
"A Summer Spent in the Field"

Faculty News:

Iowa Gothic in France

John Whittaker

I had a busy summer. First I attended the World Atlatl Society meetings and atlatl competitions at Ulm Pishkun Buffalo Jump State Park in Montana, where I was elected Vice President of the association, and Courtney Birkett '99 was elected Executive Secretary. If you are not members of WAA, you should be!

Then Kathy and I spent a couple weeks in Guatemala, attending a Spanish language school in Quetzaltenango and exploring.

We visited Belize to tidy up loose ends on our project at the Maya site of El Pilar, where last summer we excavated an axe-manufacturing area, and scouting flint sources. Of the four students who were our team last summer, Jose Guerra Awe worked on wildlife studies in Belize and has now been accepted at Georgia College and State University starting in December; Kim McLean '05 returned to Hawaii to do contract archaeology, and Rafael Guerra continues to work for the Department of Archaeology in Belize. Pete Brands '05 had the most adventures, working in Belize and Guatemala for NGOs and conservation organizations, seeing jaguars, being hijacked at Caracol, and surviving the recent flooding in Guatemala.

At the end of July, Kathy served on an NEH panel, and I visited Bill Green '79 at the Logan Museum in Beloit, where he is now director, to look at collections and write an introduction for the reprint of a 1930 classic, *Primitive Methods of Working Stone According to the Experiments of Halvor L. Skavlem*, by Alonzo Pond. The archaeology of collections is the archaeology of ideas too - by examining the experimental stone tools made by Skavlem and Pond, and their book and notes, we can tell what they knew about stone tools and what they did not yet understand, and why, in the context of 1930, a pioneering study had less impact than it might have.

In August, Kathy and I spent two weeks in France, mostly in the mountains near Nice, being prehistoric farmers. I am a member of EARTH (Early Agricultural Remnants and Technical Heritage), a European Science Foundation funded consortium of scholars from all over who work with traditional agriculture. One of my colleagues, Patricia Anderson (a friend from excavations as a student in France 30 years ago), has a long-term project examining the microscopic wear on stone tools, and using it as evidence of agricultural activities. With local farmers, she had planted a field of einkorn, an early form of wheat. I made flint-edged sickles replicating some from the Neolithic site of Hacilar in Turkey, and we did various experiments in harvesting efficiency, after which we threshed the wheat with a replica of a flint bladed Mesopotamian threshing sledge, which we also had to build. It was lovely country and interesting work, although we found the



French liking for two hour lunches with wine, a civilized but inefficient way to run a field project - our field school alumni will remember a somewhat different attitude on our own projects.

Speaking of field schools, we plan to return to Flagstaff for at least one more season at the site of New Caves. We have excavated three samples from the lower parts of the mountain, conducted a site survey covering much of the surrounding community, and finally mapped the whole site. Now all that remains is to sample the very highest structures, an arduous task that we have been putting off. So if you plan to travel in

the southwest this summer, come visit.

Publications

Whittaker, John:

2005 Bits of Bogus Science Preceding Piltdown: Review of *Piltdown Man: The Secret Life of Charles Dawson and the World's Greatest Archaeological Hoax* by Miles Russell. *Skeptical Inquirer* 29 (1): 50-51.

Grinnell College, Primitive Sports Powerhouse!



The Raging Cows, "World's First Collegiate Atlatl Team" continues to prosper. Thanks to Avi Pogel '06, who secured SGA funding, we now have nice new 3D animal targets: a boar, a turkey, and an ibex. Eleven of us went to the competition at Cahokia: John Whittaker, Jon Cline '08, Avi Pogel '06, Robin Cleland '06, Brigham Hoegh '08, Sarah Pruett '07, Anne Borkowski '09, Rachel Miller '06, Jaime Giorgi '07, Aven Frey '06, and Adam Doorenbos. The Iowa City team sent six, led by Alex Woods '03, and Grant McCall '01, and Courtney Birkett '99 traveled from her contract archaeology work in Williamsburg, VA to be there with her father and brother. Accordingly, Grinnell dominated the event with both presence and good shooting.



What Happens in Santa Fe Doesn't Stay in Santa Fe!

Doug Caulkins

During the Spring Semester Molly Offer-Westort '05 and I traveled to the Society for Anthropological Sciences General Meeting in Santa Fe. We jointly presented a paper on "Perceiving Ethnic Differences: Consensus Analysis and Personhood in Welsh-American Populations" for a panel on "Contemporary Research in Cognitive Anthropology." We used data from the NSF-funded project on the Welsh Diaspora that Carol Trosset and I had initiated three years ago. Molly and Jason Arends collected much of the data through interviews of Welsh Americans in the Slate Valley region on the New York/Vermont border. (Others involved in data collection included Jennifer Robinson, Terry Osborn, and Sarah Aswell.)

The presentation went well. In the discussion after the panel, one of the audience members from a research university asked the group what we should be doing to further the development of Cognitive Anthropology. Stu Plattner, the Director of the Cultural Anthropology Section of the National Science Foundation, had some typically incisive comments: Investigate topics that are of greater interest to the public in general and get students involved in those projects. "Doug is the only one of you who brought a student" he remarked (Two students actually, since Ilana Meltzer was there too, but she and I presented in a different session that Plattner had not attended).

Molly, Ilana, and I sat there, trying to look casual as heads swiveled to stare at us. We felt that the MAP (Mentored Advanced Projects) program, which I was instrumental in getting started (ok, I was chair of the committee on student/faculty research—I didn't do it single-handedly), was vindicated. Over the next couple of days, anthropologists from research universities were especially solicitous and many asked for copies of the paper.

I was startled two months later to receive a letter from the editorial board of the journal *Mathematical Anthropology and Cultural Theory* (MACT) indicating that they had selected our paper as "best paper in 'applications of theory'" delivered at the Society for Anthropological Sciences 2005 meeting. There would also be a small cash award if we allowed the paper to be published in MACT. This was potentially problematic since I had already promised the paper as a chapter in a proposed book on contributions to Cognitive Anthropology. However (you knew there would be a solution!), I persuaded the book editor to take a different paper so that the Santa Fe paper could be the "prize winning paper," as Molly and I like to refer to it.

Molly is now doing good work in Lesotho, with the Grinnell Corps, and I am launching an expanded Wilson Program in Enterprise and Leadership, which you can read about in the fall issue of the Grinnell Magazine, the one with Bruce Springsteen on the cover.



Doug Caulkins and Molly Offer-Westort '05

In addition I am developing a new (partial) identity as an environmentalist. Here is my profile in the fashion of a drinks ad from a couple of years ago.

Doug Caulkins: Professional Anthropologist

His latest publication: On sedge meadows for Midwest Woodlands and Prairies

His latest conference paper: On landowning for Iowa Prairie Conference.

His latest grant: Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program Grant from the Department of Natural Resources.

His view of Senior Faculty Status: "Working just as much, just getting paid less."

His drink: Green tea

The Grinnell Magazine, Fall 2005 features articles by:

Doug Caulkins,
"Making a Difference"
"Summer of '64"

Jon Andelson,
"Disappearing Barns"

2004-05 Luebben Prize Winners



Back: Prof. Jon Andelson, Prof. Douglas Caulkins; Middle: Prof. Vicki Bentley-Condit; Front: Justin (Teej) A. Anspach '05, Erika Doot '05, Prof. Ralph Luebben

Thank You

for your restricted contribution to the Anthropology Department:

William Buckheit '82
Elizabeth Neerland '00

Alumni News:

McCall, Grant S. '01 An Experimental Examination of the Potential Function of Early Stone Age Tool Technology and Implications for Subsistence Behavior. *Lithic Technology* 30 (1): 29-43. [Grant is finishing his Ph.D. at the University of Iowa]

Anneke Walker Nagao '87 [nagaom-a@yhb.att.ne.jp] writes from Japan: After I contacted you [Whittaker] last year asking about visiting Belize, I also contacted the ambassador. I thought his office could give me a few pointers on seeing everything in a short time. To my surprise he invited us to the embassy for a chat. He was very nice and it was a lovely experience. [The US Ambassador to Belize was Russell Freeman, Grinnell class of '66]. We, of course, also saw the ruins in Belize City. Our guide was great. He was an actual archaeologist not just a tour guide.

The alumni who used to organize the parties for the Grinnell Alumni living in Japan moved away and nobody was organizing a party so I decided it was time to take charge. I organized a bash in September. It was a lot of work but lots of fun. It was great to see everyone. You'd be surprised at how many people there actually are here. There was a man who went to school with Herbie Hancock in the 60s and there was a woman who just came back from Grinnell.

Elizabeth (Liz) Fathman '85 I received my Ph.D. in anthropology from UVA in 2001, while continuing to work as a publisher in St. Louis. People think publishing companies are boring places with lots of frustrated grammarians, but let me tell you, there's plenty of ethnographic research to be done there. I'm sure the price of textbooks doesn't escape the notice of too many students these days (or faculty). Ever wonder how they are determined?

While I was working at my publishing company (most recently owned by Reed Elsevier), I began teaching an introduction to cultural anthropology course at Washington University in their evening program. It was a lot of work, but lots of fun, too. My focus was on an applied approach, demonstrating to the students how anthropology is as applicable in analyzing personal traditions like what everyone eats (differently) on Thanksgiving and how to talk to your boss (a la Deborah Tannen) as it is in analyzing the kula ring and what it tells us about generalized reciprocity (found in virtually any intro to anthro textbook...).

While I was teaching at WU, I made contact with the newly minted anthropologists at St. Louis University to discuss adjunct work, and low and behold, the cultural anthropologist resigned and I was offered his job. So I resigned my position at Elsevier and I've been buried in books and exams and lecture notes ever since! For you 4th year and graduate students reading this: getting a teaching job is not usually so serendipitous. I was lucky. I'm currently teaching intro to anthropology (4 fields), cultural anthropology, and a course on race and ethnicity.

I haven't worked this hard in a long time, but I love it and continue to learn things all the time. Maybe the medical schools are on to something: learn one, do one, teach one. Teaching has been the best way to relearn old material in more depth, so despite the long hours and meager pay, I have my chair to thank for reintroducing me to the joys of anthropology. [lfathman@sbcglobal.net]

John Borden '70 The Board of Directors of the International Institute of Minnesota has appointed John S. Borden Executive Director. John graduated from Grinnell College in 1970 with a B.A.

majoring in Anthropology. He received his Masters in Religious Studies from the Chicago Theological Seminary in 1972. John joined the International Institute in 1979 as a Caseworker. He became Casework Supervisor in 1993 and was appointed Associate Director in 2004. Under his supervision the agency has grown to become the largest sponsoring agency of Hmong and Somali refugees nationally. John assumed his new responsibilities June 1, 2005. He will continue to lead the Casework Department.

Mr. Borden succeeds Robert J. Hoyle who retired in May after serving as Executive Director of the Institute for thirty-five years. The International Institute of Minnesota, located at 1694 Como Avenue in St. Paul, is a non-profit, resettlement and social service agency affiliated with the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) and the Greater Twin Cities United Way. The agency was founded in 1919 and sponsors the annual Festival of Nations.

Jennifer Robinson '04 Hello from one of the most luxurious hotels in San Pedro Sula, Honduras! In June, I attended a weeklong Fulbright Enhancement Seminar for all U.S. Fulbright Scholars currently doing research in Central America. During this visit I went to a national park and a really famous archaeological site called Copan.

The photo is of some of my favorite people I've met in Nicaragua... midwives of rural communities in the municipality next to the one in which I live. In the photo they are singing a song that one of the ladies wrote about using the info they learned at our workshop on pregnancy and childbirth to help others in their communities. [jen.a.robinson@gmail.com]

Megan Drechsel '04

[mdrechsel@gmail.com]

I really enjoyed the Washington State University field school. I learned a lot, and New Mexico was beautiful. We dug at Cox Ranch Pueblo and went out on survey in addition to digging, which I loved! We found all

sorts of stuff on survey from all different time periods, so it was neat to see how the same land has been used (in different ways) by different people throughout prehistory and history. We got to camp at Chaco Canyon and see other sites in the area as well. Anyway, I've decided to apply to graduate school in archaeology, and I think I'm most interested in the archaeology of North America. I've been looking at websites for different schools and checking requirements, and I've just signed up to take the GRE.

Tricia Hadley '03 A brief update on where I have been since May 2003: I went to Oaxaca, Mexico with a medical anthropologist to conduct research on traditional midwives and reproductive health in rural areas. I also took the chance to travel around quite a bit, going down to Costa Rica and back. Last year I was an AmeriCorps volunteer in New York. I worked in the labor and delivery unit as a doula (birth assistant), working primarily with Spanish-speaking immigrants. My back hurts now after so many lower back massages, so I went back to the classroom for Microbiology, Anatomy & Physiology, and Physics so that next fall I can apply for Midwifery and Public Health programs.

[triciajhadley@yahoo.com]



Jon Van Hoose '92 [jev@unm.edu] Things are going OK these days. I'm actually expecting to finish the dissertation next year, which is nice. The last year has been hectic – our daughter Elanor was born just over a year ago. I'm working for SWCA as I finish my dissertation, and Clarissa has been working as a computer programmer, so there's no surplus of free time in our family these days. But it's OK. As for the UNM Anthro department, there's been a bit of upheaval here, with a lot of faculty turnover recently (namely, people leaving – Jane Buikstra, Bob Leonard, and I believe Garth Bawden is also leaving). It's not the richest school around, so it's not the best place to go if you expect financial support from the department, although Frank Hibben recently left some money to the department in his will for grad student support. But I have generally enjoyed my experience here (although it's dragged on far too long – I suspect that I would have mixed feelings about any grad program that took me more than a decade to finish), and I love New Mexico as a place to live and work.

Christine Newkirk '02 was awarded a prize by the Society for Anthropology Sciences for her paper titled: "Social Patterning of

Intracultural Diversity in Food Knowledge in Southern Brazil" Christine completed her Masters degree at the University of Alabama under the direction of Bill Dressler '73.

Ihana Meltzer '05, First year student at Yale: "One thing I found out after getting here is that Malinowski's grave is located in New Haven. He died in 1942, after teaching here for only a year or two. Originally, the grave was unmarked. In the 1960s, a professor (the one who teaches my anthro theory class) went through all the local cemetery records to find Malinowski's plot, and then he raised money to buy a grave-marker. It is now a tradition for the anthro department to make a pilgrimage to his grave every year around Halloween time. I'm excited because we will be going there this afternoon [October 31]. I'm really happy to be here; so far, I have absolutely no regrets about choosing Yale."

Ellery Frahm '99, Doctoral Candidate at the University of Minnesota, Department of Archaeology gave a talk on Grinnell campus sponsored by the Physics Department. "Electron Microprobe Analysis of Artifacts: Where Physics Meets Archaeology"

An Excerpt from the Anthropology Newsletter

Richard Grinker '83

October 2005 • Anthropology News

Studying Autism Cross-Culturally

GRETCHEN BAIKE
AN PROGRAM ASSISTANT



Roy Richard Grinker

Roy Richard Grinker, a professor of anthropology at the George Washington University, recently received a \$120,000 grant from the National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR) to conduct the first ever epidemiological study of autism spectrum disorders in South Korea.

Grinker points out that in recent years the prevalence rates for autism in North America and Europe have risen dramatically. While it was once considered a rare disorder, the current best estimate of the prevalence of autism is 63 per 10,000, which is more common than many well-known childhood onset disorders. "In fact", Grinker says, "the media keep calling autism an epidemic. Yet we know little about autism across cultures. There has never been an epidemiological study of autism in India, South Korea or South Africa (or any African country for that matter), despite the fact that these countries have quite sophisticated medical systems."

It is precisely this lack of cross-cultural research that Grinker's project "The Prevalence of Autistic Spectrum Disorders in Korean School-Aged Children" serves to address. Other members of

the research team include Young-Shin Kim (Yale), Eric Fombonne (McGill), Hee Jeong Yoo (Gyeongsang National U, Korea) and Bennett Leventhal (U Illinois).

In this study, in addition to ascertaining the prevalence of autism in South Korea, the team is interested in how culture (especially parental expectations of child development) affects the age of identification of autism, descriptions of the disorder and treatment. "Children with autism in Korea," Grinker notes, "tend to be diagnosed earlier than many children in other countries, including the US (sometimes as early as 18 months of age), yet many receive little or no treatment. Part of this study looks at why Koreans would identify the illness so early but not seek appropriate services."

Grinker has experience working in Korea, and is the author of *Korea and its Futures: Unification and the Unfinished War* (1998). He became interested in how autism is identified and treated in different cultures after his daughter (now 13) was diagnosed with the disorder. Over the past two years he has conducted research in India, South Africa and South Korea. The results of this work, along with some of his personal memoirs, will be published in his book *Autism in the World*, due out in 2006 from Basic Books. "The book," Grinker says, "ends up back in the US to explain autism not only as a biological and genetic disorder, but also as a group of symptoms that have become especially meaningful in 21st century America." □