

# GRINNELL COLLEGE ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT



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## 2006 Anthropology Senior Majors



**Back:** Prof. Monty Roper, Adam Gourdin, Leslie Spring, Jessie Palmer, Avi Pogel, Aven Frey,, Lauren Knapp, Prof. Jon Andelson **Front Row:** Matt Pflaum, Laura Levon, Kimme Rovin, Kaitlyn Zimmerman, Erin Sinogba, Prof. Kathy Kamp, Prof. Vicki Bentley-Condit, Prof. John Whittaker  
**Not Pictured:** Rachel Miller, Lauren Page, Kat Pickens, Professors Doug Caulkins, Katya Gibel Azoulay, Maria Tapias, and Brigittine French.

## Faculty Research Presentations and Visiting Anthropologist



**Professor John Whittaker and Professor Kathy Kamp** gave a talk on the summer archaeological field school excavation in Arizona this summer.



**Professor Caulkins** gave a talk on “Applied Medical Anthropology: Developing New Technology for Managing Diabetes on Lakota Reservations” this spring. The talk describes the development and successful deployment of the “Keya Health Tracker,” named after the turtle, a sacred animal of the Lakota. Grinnell college donated some of the computers used by the diabetics in this program.



**Professor Monty Roper's** talk “Decentralization and Development in Bolivia’s Multiethnic Indigenous Territory,” described his research on how a series of major legal reforms, among other things, affected development in Bolivia’s lowland Multiethnic Indigenous Territory.

**William F. Fowler**, Mesoamerican Archaeologist, Vanderbilt University, and father of current student Sarah Fowler '08, gave a talk “Ciudad Vieja, El Salvador: A Multiethnic Town of the Spanish Conquest.” Fowler focused his talk on his on-going excavations of an early Spanish settlement in El Salvador.



**Professors Kathy Kamp, John Whittaker, Sarah Fowler '08 and Professor William Fowler.**

**Jane Eva Baxter**, assistant professor of Anthropology, DePaul University in Chicago gave a talk “What Happens When You Lose a Revolution?: The Historical Archaeology of British Loyalists and their Slaves on San Salvador, Bahamas.”



**Professors Jane Eva Baxter, Kathy Kamp, and John Whittaker**

# Current Student News:

## Senior Thesis Presentations

### Kimme Rovin

“¿Qué va a llevar?” or “¿Qué te doy?” : Class Influence on Social and Economic Interactions in Pharmacies in Managua, Nicaragua



Kimme Rovin '06 and Avi Pogel '06

### Avi Pogel

“Amerindian Rituals and the New Age: The Concept of Traditions in Syncretism”

## MAP Presentation

“Primates in the Human Psyche: Patterns in Cultural Representations”



Robin Cleland '06 and Prof. Vicki Bentley-Condit

**Jordan Lee '08** My summer plan is to attend archaeological field school with professors John Whittaker and Kathy Kamp.

**Robin Cleland '06 and Mrinalini Watsa '07** After taking Primate Behavior and Taxonomy in Fall 2004 we were both hooked on primates. On hearing about the Great Ape Trust of Iowa, we decided that we would do anything to get involved, shameless begging not excluded. Fortunately, it didn't come to that. Dr. Sue Savage-Rumbaugh, head researcher and matriarch, was happy to accept a couple of eager volunteers. And so began our foray into the field of primatology.

Every Saturday, we make the long trek to the Trust, which is located in Des Moines. Our day begins with cleaning the enclosures, a task that is far less unpleasant than it sounds. The morning is spent preparing the afternoon meal and snacks, such as spring onions, lettuce and fruit juice. The afternoons are somewhat less hectic and generally include activities involving

the lexigrams – a set of over 300 non-representative symbols organized into three panels. The apes, especially Kanzi (aka the ‘Mick Jagger’ of the Bonobos, according to Prof. Vicki Bentley-Condit), and his sister Panbanisha, use laminated versions of these panels to communicate with humans. After almost 6 weeks of volunteering, we have finally acquired some proficiency at using the keyboards, although our first attempt was less than stellar...

One lazy afternoon, a few weeks ago, we were preparing a snack in the kitchen, when one of the younger Bonobos appeared at the window. . .with a keyboard. . .

Robin: Oh my God! Mini, I think he's trying to sign to us!

Mini: What's he trying to say?

Robin: I don't know! Where's a keyboard when you need one?!

[ Scramble to find keyboard ]

Robin: It's a green symbol!

Mini: Yeah, but there are a LOT of green symbols!

Robin: Alright , lets just ask her. Wait, who is this anyway?

## Current Student News continued:

[Pause]

Mini: Nyota?

Robin: No wait. It's a girl...Elikya?

Mini: That's right. But what's she saying?

[Enter Dan – full-time employee]

Robin and Mini: Dan! Guess what? Elikya just talked to us! We didn't really get what she said. We just don't know all the lexigrams yet.

Dan: Well, actually, neither does she. She's not supposed to. She's part of the control group.

We've been getting better at the lexigrams and, as the weeks go by, we are allowed closer contact with the Bonobos. We look forward to each new week, with its surprises and challenges, and we know we are lucky to be a part of this unique project.

**Kelly Eldridge '07** will be attending an archaeological field school up in Knik, Alaska, this summer, from June 12-July 7th. It's through the University of Alaska Anchorage.

**Daniel Musgrave '07** In December of '04 I attended a presentation in the Forum South lounge by Dr. Duane Rumbaugh and others from the Great Ape Trust. I was feeling crummy and it was a dismal day but as soon as the talk began, I forgot about all my troubles. The computer-animated aerial tour of the campus entwined with Dr. Rumbaugh's stories of their work to ensnared my mind into thinking one simple thought: I have to be a part of that. In August I contacted the Trust and was given the green light to volunteer every Saturday. The majority of my duties involve cooking and cleaning but I wouldn't trade a second of it for anything. I love working there so much that I volunteered my entire winter break. There is no way that I can explain the experience of working at the Trust. It is a truly magical place and words very seldom do it justice. I can, however, tell you about a small event that occurred in December that was the most amazing Christmas experience I've ever had. There were only three of us working on Christmas Eve, not counting the head scientist, Dr. Sue Savage-Rumbaugh, so things were a little hectic. We all went through the daily motions of clean, cook, clean, repeat in a somewhat rushed fashion. Once we were sure everything was in order, we decided to tell Kanzi about the evening plans. Kanzi is a 25-year-old male bonobo, a close relative to chimpanzees. The special thing about Kanzi, the thing that got the entire Great Ape Trust started, is the fact that Kanzi appears to be the first ape to show true comprehension of language. He uses combinations of a keyboard of over 200 symbols, gestures, and vocalizations to communicate and he understands spoken English, as far as I can tell, completely. Judy used a mix of symbols and talking to tell Kanzi that in the evening, someone was going to come. His name was Santa Claus and he wore a red hat and shirt. We could see that Kanzi was intrigued because he vocalized in a very excited manner. This was the first time he had heard of Santa. Judy proceeded to tell him the kicker: that Santa was going to bring surprises in boxes if everyone was good. After that, Kanzi and his sister Panbanisha, another language competent ape, waited in the outdoor play yards, huddled under blankets waiting for just one glimpse of this mysterious Santa character. All throughout the day, Kanzi used the keyboard to tell us "good," trying to convince us that everyone was behaving and betraying his excitement at the prospect of presents. Christmas Eve had turned

into one of the easiest days I've worked since that morning chat with Kanzi and happy little "whoops" were heard throughout the building. After an entire day of waiting and watching, Kanzi came inside to ask Judy a question. Judy was passing out the evening snack of onions and tomatoes and he got her attention with a quick whoop. She asked him what it was he wanted and he pointed. When Judy followed his finger, she saw two of Kanzi's flint knapping rocks were behind her (Kanzi happens to be an adept flint knapper as well). She asked Kanzi if he would like to make a stone tool and he agreed with excited calls. After a couple of seconds of thought, Judy asked if Kanzi wanted to make a stone tool for Santa since he was coming to bring everyone presents. Kanzi erupted in vigorous whoops and all the rest of the apes joined in. He was planning on leaving his equivalent of milk and cookies for St. Nick. Finally, Santa, Judy in a costume, came and placed all the presents under the faux Christmas tree that had been set up in the lobby. All eight bonobos pressed their faces against the glass to watch him and cries of happiness were heard throughout the presentation. With his childlike excitement and his caring, selfless behavior Kanzi gave me an amazing Christmas gift. His small gesture to make Santa a rock tool was my miracle on 34th street. I forgot about all the things that had seemed to characterize Christmas lately like the long lines of disgruntled parents at Wal-Mart, the children screaming, the impatient drivers and horrific holiday traffic. On that day, an ape named Kanzi showed me the purest display of Christmas spirit I've ever seen and for that I will be forever indebted to him and the Trust.

**Matthew Pflaum '06** This summer I will be settling into my future home, Atlanta (also known as "Hotlanta"). I will only get a few days to settle in before I have to start working to afford the rent and my tuition for the next two years. In the Fall I will begin pursuing a Masters in Public Health (MPH) at Emory University, alma mater of the Anthropology department's beloved Professor, Vicki Bentley-Condit. I will be a candidate in the Global Health department and my concentration will focus upon emerging pathogens and infectious diseases. I plan to specialize in lassa fever and the other hemorrhagic fevers (ebola, Marburg, etc.) but also the big three - malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. I am interested in the dynamics of infection as a function of human development and the role of infrastructure, migration, rural versus urban milieus, etc. on the diffusion and proliferation of diseases. As part of the curriculum for the MPH degree at Emory the department is "forcing" me to complete a practicum abroad. This will occur during the summer between my first and second years of the program, and I'd like to work in Brazil, Vietnam, or somewhere in Central or Western Africa where there is a severe disparity between urban and rural areas in terms of susceptibility and prevalence of infectious diseases. Ultimately I would like to elucidate whether rural or urban areas harbor a wider range of diseases and make susceptibility to infection greater and what can be done to ameliorate the scourge of maladies around the world. Following the MPH program I would like to pursue an MD/Ph.D at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in England or alternatively at Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health. After those degrees I would like to work abroad (either in Southeast Asia or Africa) for the WHO, CDC (as an EIS officer - Epidemiology Intelligence Service), or a similar organization studying and monitoring epidemics and pandemics in the field and hopefully surviving a horrible infection (just kidding).

# Photos:

Holistically Awesome

Grinnell College Anthropology  
2006



**Raging Cow Atlatl  
Competition  
April 22, 2006  
Grinnell Campus**



Students in Evolution of Technology striking sparks with flint and steel.



Gary Kahn's '09  
tinder bursts into flame.



The annual Raging Cow Atlatl Competition was a roaring success and the largest ever. The weather, always chancy in an Iowa Spring, was perfect. About 40 throwers registered, mostly our students, but including 12 students from the University of Iowa, led by Grinnell alumni Alex Woods '03 and Grant McCall '01, plus two atlatlists from Wisconsin, three from Missouri, and several others from around Iowa. Another 40-50 students, townsfolk, families, visiting parents, and athletes from the other campus events stopped to watch, get an explanation of atlatl archaeology or learn how to throw, and some even ended up participating in the competition. The track was being used for more mundane athletic events, but our location on the soccer field along 10th Ave and north of Norris dorm made the fearsome Raging Cow target quite visible and attracted a lot of attention. The expected Luther College team failed to appear, and Grinnell narrowly outshot the U of Iowa team to return the Raging Cow trophy to its home.



### **Moving to Senior Faculty Status *Doug Caulkins***

This is the first of five years of Senior Faculty Status during which I will be teaching/researching part time. With my departure from the ranks of the full-time faculty we have reshaped the department as a genuine four-fields department with a new Anthropological Linguist, Brigittine

French, hired after an exhaustive national search.

Along with my new status I have surrendered my old title, “Earl D. Strong Professor of Social Studies” and acquired a new one “Donald L. Wilson Professor of Enterprise and Leadership.” My old title had the virtue of easy parody (“Earl Grey Professor of Tea Breaks” or “Jarl the Strong Professor of Post-Viking Studies”). Unfortunately, I have not worked out a parody of the new title yet, but suggestions would be most welcome!

The new title carries some new duties and challenges since I am devoting most of my attention to strengthening the Wilson Program in Enterprise and Leadership. Many of you have already heard from me in this capacity since I emailed all anthropology majors from 1970 to 2000 to see if they would be willing to participate in my Organizational Culture course by allowing my students to interview them. I will be teaching that course again in the fall semester and am hoping that alumni will once again be willing to be interviewed by current students. I also hope to have alumni come back to Grinnell to talk to the class. If you would be interested in talking about the culture of your organization, please email me at [caulkins@grinnell.edu](mailto:caulkins@grinnell.edu).

This semester I served as Program Chair for the Society for Anthropological Sciences second annual meeting in Savannah, GA, in February. Among others we had paper presentations by two current students, Molly Lewis '06 and Kat Pickens '07, and by alums Kristy Lewis '03 and Nikki Tannenbaum '73. Over 100 scholars participated in the meeting and enjoyed the delights of Savannah as well as the intellectual stimulation of the papers and discussion.

I will be a program chair again next year, this time for the Society for Cross-Cultural Research since I didn't manage to avoid becoming President-elect for that organization.

This year I also served as an external reviewer for two anthropology departments, at Pomona College and Colorado College. This was an excellent experience and a good way of employing some of the insights gained in teaching in the Grinnell Anthropology Department for 35 years.

I also reviewed manuscripts for the following journals: *Current Anthropology*, *American Anthropologist*, *Cross-Cultural Research*, and *Field Methods*.

#### **Publications:**

Douglas Caulkins, Molly Offer-Westort, Carol Trosset **Perceiving Ethnic Differences: Consensus Analysis and Personhood in Welsh-American Populations**. *Mathematical Anthropology and Cultural Theory*, November 2005. This paper received MACT Paper Prize for “best application of theory” at the meetings of the Society for Anthropological Sciences, 2005. Jason Arends also collected some of the data reported in this paper.

Douglas Caulkins December, 2005 **Norwegian Religious Practices in Worldmark Encyclopedia of Religious Practices**. Gale Publications Group

Douglas Caulkins Summer of '64 *Grinnell Magazine*, Fall, 2005, pp 30-31. [An invited publication describing my experience as a civil rights worker in the “Mississippi Summer” 1964.]

#### **Presentations:**

2006 Douglas Caulkins, **Applied Medical Anthropology: Developing New Technology for Managing Diabetes on Lakota Reservations**. Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, Grinnell College (Invited presentation).

2005 Douglas Caulkins, **Bridging Three Perspectives on Organizational Culture: An Application of Consensus Analysis**. Panel on “Anthropological Methods: Models for the New Century,” American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings, December 3, 2005, Washington, D.C. (Peer-reviewed presentation; Reviewed by General Anthropology Division of American Anthropological Association).

2006 Douglas Caulkins, **Connecting with Alumni: The Wilson Program and the Transition from College to Careers**. Presentation at Pew Midstates Science and Mathematics Consortium conference “Capstone Experiences: Transitioning Students Beyond College. March 2-5, Chicago. (Invited presentation).



**John Whittaker  
and  
Kathy Kamp**



After a gap of some years, Kathy Kamp and John Whittaker are returning to the Southwest with a field school, to work another summer at New Caves, near Flagstaff. We have tested 3 different areas of this large Sinagua site, and now intend to finally work on the very top of the crater. Grinnellians are welcome to visit - contact us by email for further information.

Steve is Head of Collections in Anthropology at the Field Museum in Chicago.

- Alex Woods '03 (with J. Enloe) *Sorting It All Out: Consistent Spatial Patterning in Funal Exploitation at Pincevent*. Alex is a graduate student in Anthropology at the University of Iowa.

- Timothy Hare (taught at Grinnell 2001-2003) (with others) *The Spatial and Social Organization of the Postclassic Maya City of Mayapan*. Timothy is now at Morehead State University.

- Also present were Carl Drexler '01 (graduate program at William and Mary) and Erin Marie Williams '99 (graduate program George Washington U), John Whittaker, Kathy Kamp.



**Grinnellians at SAA meeting in Puerto Rico: John Whittaker, Kathryn Kamp, Erin Marie Williams '00, Mike Galaty '91, Carl Drexler '02, and Grant McCall '01.**

As usual, Grinnellians attending the Society for American Archaeology meetings, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, got together for dinner and tearful reminiscences of ancient days at Grinnell. Papers presented (at the meeting, not at dinner), included:

- Lesley Kadish '99 *Striking it to the Corn: Artifacts of Minnesota's Earliest Baseball Clubs*. Lesley is in Minnesota, working on the state mapping project and the only female player in an 1860s ball club.

- Mike Galaty '91 (and others) *Highland Northern Albania, "Ecotourism" and the Shala Valley Project*. Mike teaches in the Anthropology and Sociology Department at Millsaps College, Mississippi.

- Grant McCall '01 *Comparative Perspectives on Lithics Refitting Studies: Limitations and New Directions Focusing on Refitting Rate*. Grant just defended his PhD dissertation "Lithic Technological Perspectives on Early Hominid Site Use and Mobility Strategies" at the University of Iowa. John Whittaker served on his committee.

- Steve Nash '86 *Paul Sidney Martin, Vernon, Arizona, and the New Archaeology: Tales from the Archives*.

### *Brigitte French*

Grinnell-Oberlin Linguistic  
Anthropology Faculty  
Collaboration



Professor French of Grinnell College and Professor Valentina Pagliai of Oberlin College have received a Mellon Grant for Grinnell/Oberlin Faculty Collaboration. French and Pagliai are developing a new course, "Language and Nationalism," that examines the ways in which national identity is constructed through discourse. Drawing upon recent work in linguistic and cultural anthropology, the class focuses on: 1) How language used in conventional ways maps onto social groups organized around notions of race, ethnicity, kinship and peoplehood; 2) How language operates as an index of allegiance, distance, solidarity, and power among social groups within the nation; and 3) How some modes of language use privilege some social groups while excluding others from national belonging. French and Pagliai met and constructed a syllabus during the summer and fall of 2005. Pagliai is currently teaching a version of the course at Oberlin. As part of their collaboration, French will present a lecture in the class, "The Cultural Politics of Essentialism," on April 12<sup>th</sup>. French hopes to teach a version of the course at Grinnell during the 2007-08 academic year, during which Pagliai will present her NSF-funded research on race, language ideologies, and nationalism in Italy.



**Maria Tapias**

The fall/winter was a very productive one in many senses. I co-organized an invited panel with Elisa Sobo for the AAA meetings entitled “The Intergenerational Implications of Child Health and Illness: The Embodiment of Family Ties”, and another panel for the Latin American Studies Association with Jason Pribilsky on “The Cultural Politics of Health and Healing in the Neoliberal Andes”. I published a paper in the journal *Body and Society*. This was one of the pieces I worked on while on my research leave in San Diego. The paper is entitled: “Always Ready, Always Clean?": Competing Discourses of Breast-feeding, Infant Illness and the Politics of Mother-Blame in Bolivia”.

I have been on maternity leave this spring semester as Xavier and I were very happy to welcome a baby girl into our family on January 4th. Her name is Marina and she is a joy. She will conduct her first stint of fieldwork this summer when we take her to Bolivia for three weeks!



**Monty Roper**

Well, the most exciting news of the spring is the arrival of my second daughter. Kaia Palmer Chang Roper was born on March 3rd, 2006. She was 7lbs and 20 inches. She is a joy, of course. As a result, I cancelled plans to attend a conference in Puerto Rico this spring, and family has occupied most of my “free” time. I also spent a good amount of time working on a new version of my seminar, Grassroots Rural Development. This summer, I will be making a brief trip to Spain, but otherwise plan to be in Grinnell. My goals are gardening, spending time with my family and friends, and writing. I am still working with a large amount of data collected during my two-month field trip to Bolivia in 2004 and my shorter visit last summer. Finally, I have been granted tenure, which is nice. Thanks to all those who responded to the Dean’s survey.



**Katya Gibel Azoulay**



Professor Katya Gibel Azoulay is very pleased to announce that two alumni with whom she worked closely at the beginning of her tenure at the College, and who trusted her recommendation to pursue a PhD in the African Diaspora Graduate Program in Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin, have both accepted tenure track positions in anthropology departments. In the Fall, Dr. Amanda Walker Johnson '98 and Dr. Shaka McGlotten '97 will begin their appointments respectively, at University of Mass at Amherst and Purchase College at SUNY.”

### **Invited Lectures and Presentations:**

“Just Between Ourselves: Black Female Students and the Challenge of American Racism.” Presentation to *The African Woman in Perspective*, UMOJA Conference sponsored by Grinnell College and African Student Union, Grinnell College, 8 April 2006.

“The History of Affirmative Action.” *Affirmative Action in College Admission*, sponsored by Rosenfeld Program, Grinnell College, 30 November 2005.

Plenary Panelist, *Jewish Women Changing America: Cross Generational Conversations*, Barnard College, 29 October 2005

“Education as a Weapon against Racism: Strategic Self-empowerment in the Liberal Arts Environment.” *Concerned Black Students (CBS) Awareness Week*, Grinnell College. Oct 6, 2005.

“Omissions and Oversights: The Politics of Race-ing Jews and Blacks.” *Faculty Lecture*, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 27, September 2005.

“Black/Jewish/Interracial: Placing Difference(s) at the Center of the Liberal Arts Curriculum.” *Pedagogy Workshop*, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, 27 September 2005.



# Alumni News:

**Rob Brubaker, Class of 1985** will be the Singh Lecturer in South Asian Studies for the 2006-2007 academic year at Yale University. Congratulations on this prestigious appointment, Rob!

**Emily Craig Zabor '03** served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ghana, West Africa from September 2003 to November 2005. I just got back to the U.S. for the first time in over two years and I'm still reeling. It is so different! Not from what I remember, but from what I'm used to now. Luckily I'm from a small town, where the buildings and faces don't change too quickly. My time in the Peace Corps affected me in many ways. But I do often wonder if I wouldn't have undergone the same number of changes regardless of what I had done my first few years out of college. Because those must be formative years no matter where one lives or what kind of work one does. Certainly the types of changes vary by experience. For me, living in a rural town in Ghana taught me how to maintain good posture while sitting on a wooden bench 6 hours a day, how to wait patiently when 2 of those 6 hours on the bench are spent waiting for people to show up to a meeting, and that I will never, ever be as patient or upright as the women who I worked with! I only have them to thank for the positive experience I had. After leaving Ghana in November, I took an extended vacation with fellow Grinnell alum and Peace Corps/Ghana graduate Aleia McCord '03. We spent three months traveling east from Ghana to Uganda, Tanzania, India, and China before we were finally forced by our less expensive plane tickets to turn around and head back the opposite direction! After flying for three straight days and ingesting enough cold and flu germs to last a lifetime I arrived home to the land of bagels, pizza, and shoe x-rays. I'm currently living the Returned Peace Corps Volunteer dream--unemployed at my parent's house! [emilyzabor@alumni.grinnell.edu](mailto:emilyzabor@alumni.grinnell.edu)

**Adam Burck '85** Got his Masters in Urban Planning and Public Policy at the Univ. of Illinois in 1991. Since then, I have been working in the Community Development Field, mostly in Chicago and for 4 years in West Africa with both the Peace Corps and then a U.N. Development Program project. In Chicago, I have worked for community agencies dealing with Community Development issues. Since 2003, I have been working as the Executive Director of the Edgewater Development Corporation. The mission of our organization is to help develop the commercial assets of the area to better serve the needs of the community. This has proven to be a very challenging task despite the booming development economy of the past decade or so. The residents of the community are fearful of some of the new development, despite the positive additions it will bring to the community, including the replacement of old, obsolete, and deteriorated structures. The biggest fear is the density of buildings and population. We are in the middle of one of the densest cities in our country, with

an abundance of public transit and transportation resources, and folks fear density. It's an emotional debate as opposed to an academic or logical debate, and it is a difficult climate in which to have an informed discussion. Just consider the lack of informed discussion after the 9/11 attacks. The national climate was whipped into a frenzy using fear. This prevents level-headed, informed discussion and leads to rash choices. Nonetheless, our work is essential to the economic future of our community, so we carry on and try to break through all the craziness.

I sometimes wonder how my Anthropology studies prepared me for my current work. The focus on cultural structures and norms that I studied in Anthro was a great groundwork for my current work. Urban Planning and Community Development are about making the built environment best serve the population inhabiting that space. How that is achieved is, of course, open to debate, and debate is something never far from any issue in Edgewater. The challenge is how you negotiate the choppy waters of community process. If I were doing the ethnography course now, I would have a field day in Edgewater. There is so much material here I think it would take, at minimum, a doctoral thesis to explore the topic. It keeps life interesting! If anyone would like to reach me, you can call me at work 773-506-4016 or e-mail [adamburck@edgewaterdev.org](mailto:adamburck@edgewaterdev.org).

**Bill Eichmann '97** and Timea Berger Eichmann '97 welcome first child, a son, Csongor August Eichmann Aug 8, 2005.

**Megan Drechsel '04** has been accepted to the graduate program in Anthropology at Arizona State University. [mdrechsel@gmail.com](mailto:mdrechsel@gmail.com)

**Jodine Perkins '96** was accepted into the Masters of Art in Folklore at Indiana University for next Fall. "As always, life here in Bloomington has been busy. I am currently taking a course on Vernacular Architecture in Folklore and it has already caused me to look at houses in an entirely different way... I keep looking where chimneys and doors are to try to identify different house types." [jodmperk@indiana.edu](mailto:jodmperk@indiana.edu)

**Tricia Hadley '03** received a Fulbright Grant to go to Colombia to study tropical infectious diseases and perinatal epidemiology. [triciajhadley@yahoo.com](mailto:triciajhadley@yahoo.com)

## Alumni News Continued...:



**Gautam Ghosh '83** Assistant Professor of Anthropology, South Asian Studies, History and International Studies at the University of Pennsylvania recently appeared on a National Geographic Television series entitled "Taboo," which has aired several times. I have spoken about the Karni Mata temple in India where rats are revered, people in the Philippines who

have set up communities -- living, working -- in cemeteries, and nudism in the U.S. With the first, for example, I explained (among other things) how in certain Hindu traditions beings or things which come into contact with each other leave traces of themselves in the other, including human-to-human contact, human-to-divinity contact, human-to-food contact, god-to-food contact etc. This is part of the story of how rats came to be revered at this temple, which is in Rajasthan, India. I have been quoted in the past few years on various topics by the San Jose Mercury News, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Baltimore Sun, the Christian Science Monitor and National Geographic On-Line (separate matter from the TV stuff). I have given invited presentations recently at Bryn Mawr College and the University of Iowa and will be doing two more this spring at Princeton University and the University of Chicago.

**Travis Ormsby '02** I'm finishing up my master's degree in teaching at the University of St. Thomas here in St. Paul and I'm applying for a spot on a trip to rural Africa (destination as yet undetermined) with NY Times columnist Nick Kristof.

### From Nadia Manning '02:

I had such a wonderful time on my Namibia fellowship year, that I managed to stay for another year and half- which added invaluable learning and experience to my life.

I finally decided to bid my new 'home' goodbye in September 2004 to undertake my Masters study at University of Reading in Environment and Development. I continued to do consultancy work for DRFN and spend time in Namibia. I even spent two months this summer in Namibia doing research and writing my dissertation - and other things for Mary Seely (head of DRFN).

The Masters study was interesting and challenging in its own right. I still felt that the on site experience I gained in Namibia was so much better. but you always need these letters behind your name to even get noticed it seems. So the year went by and I finished my dissertation at the end of August.

After some unsuccessful attempts of trying to get a job in London, I finally got lucky with a job in Sri Lanka. I applied for a job which required a PhD, they said I couldn't get it but liked me and my gumption so gave me another one. So within two weeks of finishing my masters I was on a plane for Sri Lanka to start a new job and life.

I work for the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). It is an international research organization which focuses on research into water, food and the environment with an aim at improving management of water resources for food production and the environment as well as enhancing livelihoods of the poor around the world. Our HQ is here but

we have offices all over the world. My contract is for two years



Nadia, Lakmali, Sushilla, Dawn, Alex, Sharmani

and after that we will have to see. Maybe I can re-new but I also want to do my PhD before I get too old.

My research project is on water poverty and examining the many linkages between poverty and water and try to develop suggestions for interventions which will alleviate poverty through changes in water conditions, whether it is quality, availability, access or whatever.

I am also coordinator for communications and knowledge sharing in research, dealing with strategic communication for the institute and its projects as well as promoting knowledge sharing towards greater impact of our research results within the wider development framework.

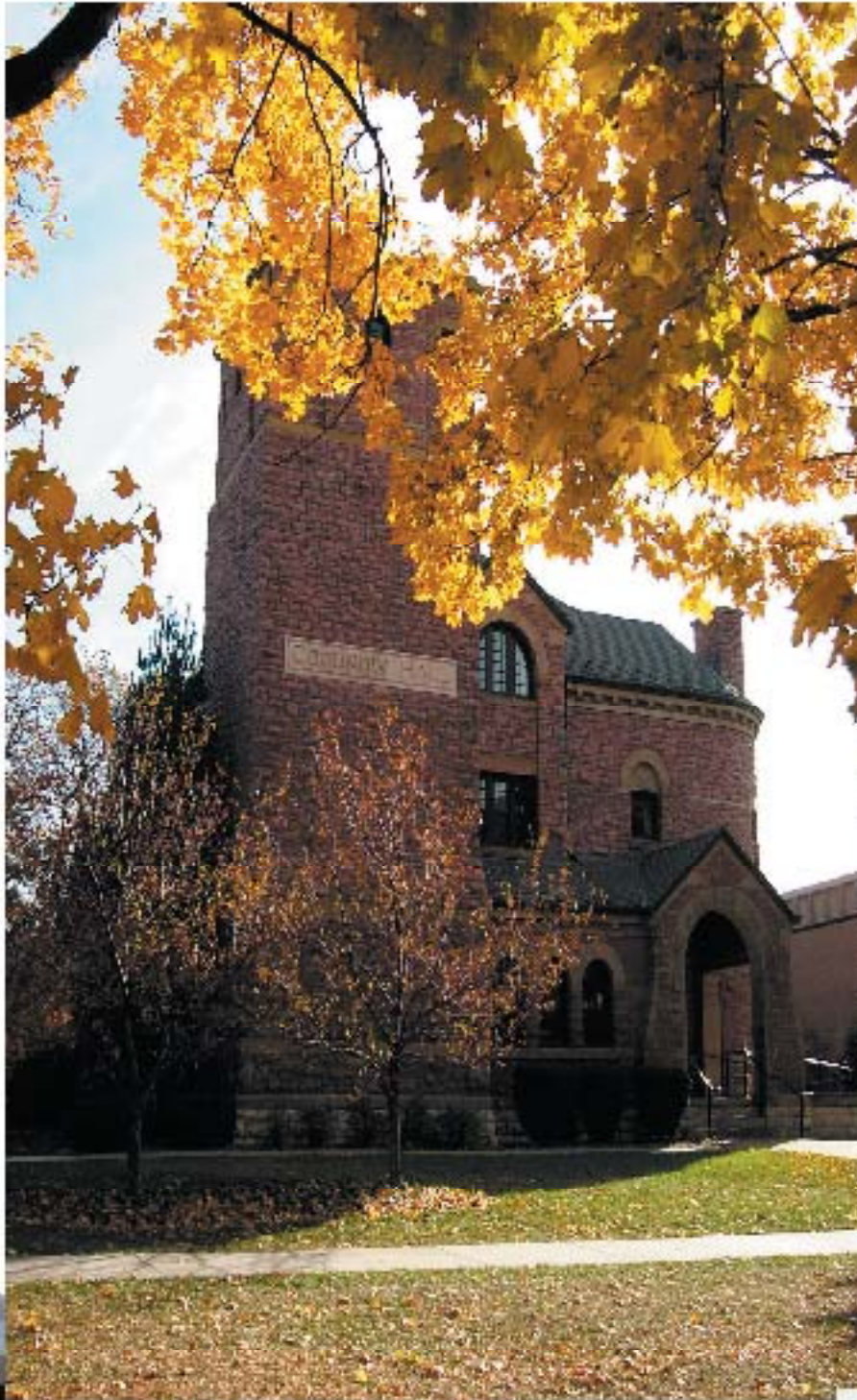
I have moved here with my boyfriend David who works for a local NGO called the Foundation for Co-existence which works on peaceful negotiations and early warning systems for violence and war. He is setting up microfinance in Tamil and war torn areas in the east. We have our own house here and soon hopefully a car. My office and the house where we live are both in a suburb of Colombo (the capital)- called Battaramulla. a quiet place really a bit out in the sticks compared

to the city but is without the pollution. It is a bit of a drive into the city for us though but right now without a car we are using trishaws which seem to be able to weave through the traffic very well. We have the Parliament out here, which is about the only claim to fame for this little suburb. I like it though and it is close to get to work for me so I usually walk to and from work- exercise for which I am grateful.

Sri Lanka is very beautiful but in a bit of a mess due to the long standing civil war and then having been hit by the tsunami this year.

There is much diversity here due to a varied colonial history which can be seen in people, buildings and cultural events and food. There is religious diversity although most people here are Buddhist. It is nice to drive throughout the country and see the wonderful buddhist statues and temples.

Life is going well and can't complain other than the fact that it never seems to stop raining here and so every inch of furniture is covered with laundry trying to dry as we can't do it outside. Email: nadialucia@yahoo.com International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Email: n.manning@cgiar.org Website: www.iwmi.org



If you do not wish to receive the Anthropology Newsletter, please email Sondi Burnell at burnell@grinnell.edu or write to Grinnell College, Anthropology Department, Grinnell, Iowa 50112-1690.

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