



Front row: Professor Tess Kulstad, Sunny Zhao, Sasha Middeldorp, Lucia Tonachel, Hannah Drake, Misha Laurence.

Back row: Michael Cummings, Professor Jon Andelson, Professor John Whittaker, Professor Xavier Escandell, Professor Vicki Bentley-Condit, Professor Monty Roper, Professor Kathy Kamp, Professor Brigittine French, Professor Maria Tapias and Emily Ricker.

Not pictured: Doug Caulkins, Katya Gibel Mevorach, Cynthia Hansen, Mekdes Assefa, Rosa Duncan, Kaitlin Kaczmarek, Rhett Lundy

Vicki Bentley-Condit
Professor, Chair

Jon Andelson
Professor

Douglas Caulkins
Professor Emeritus

Xavier Escandell
Associate Professor

Brigittine French
Professor

Katya Gibel Mevorach
Professor

Cynthia Hansen
Assistant Professor

Kathryn Kamp
Professor

Tess Kulstad
Assistant Professor

Monty Roper
Associate Professor

Maria Tapias
Professor, Associate
Dean

John Whittaker
Professor

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Ania Chamberlin '19, Professor Monty Roper, Richard Tanimoto '19, Hannah Drake '18 and Sunny Zhao '18 presented at the Central States Anthropological Association meeting in Bloomington, Indiana. Students presented their research from their Practicing Anthropology class, as well as were part of a panel.

Below: Ania Chamberlin '19 and Hannah Drake '18 present their findings.



No More Hot Air? Grinnell Decides Whether to Divest from Fossil Fuels

By Kent D. Messer '94

“No More Hot Air.” That was the Newsweek Magazine cover story twenty-six years ago before the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Earth Summit was one of the first international conferences to discuss global warming and added the term “sustainable development” to the public discourse.

As a sophomore anthropology student at Grinnell College, I traveled to this historic meeting seeking change and international agreements to protect the environment. At the Earth Summit, I protested against the lack of action by the United States and President George Bush Sr., and wrote as a journalist that despite high hopes and symbolic gestures, the world leaders did not make meaningful progress at the meeting. Unlike the previous international environmental conferences, such as the one that established the Montreal Protocols that solved the problem of the Ozone Hole, the Earth Summit’s promises around global warming, were likely just ‘hot air’. Unfortunately, in the past quarter-century has shown that my prediction was unfortunately correct. Thus after decades of failures by the United States government and international community to effectively combat climate change, individuals and institutions, such as Grinnell College, are contemplating voluntary actions.

This past year, I have had the pleasure of serving on Grinnell’s Task Force considering whether to divest from the fossil fuel industry. As a group, we held a series of workshops in the fall of 2017 and prepared a report for the Board of Trustees meeting at the end of April 2018.

As a Task Force member, I faced a fundamental question that tapped upon my educational training in both anthropology and economics. Is divestment a symbolic gesture full of hot air?

Throughout the Task Force meetings and discussions, I found no compelling evidence that by divesting its relatively small investments in the fossil fuels industry would Grinnell College could make a measurable reduction in global greenhouse gases. Furthermore, there was scant evidence that divestment by an even broader coalition of universities could force significant behavioral change in the fossil fuel industry.

Not only are there large numbers of other people and institutions ready to purchase these shares and permit the fossil fuel industry to continue its historic activities, but Grinnell College’s real contribution to global warming is not its investments in the fossil fuel industry, but the energy resources it uses to function.

Grinnell contributes to climate change every time it heats the dorms; turns on the lights in the library; or attracts students from around the country and the world travel to the middle of Iowa to attend college.

Divesting from the fossil fuel industry is a symbolic statement about the identity of the Grinnell College community. Divestment may inspire Grinnell’s students, faculty, staff, and alumni to take additional actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It may also inspire the growth of a broader coalition of universities and institutions making similar divestment decisions—thus, mobilizing a broader community.



However, as an economist I am quick to point out that Grinnell's Board of Trustees' divestment decision is likely to involve some costs. It may limit Grinnell's future financial resources to pursue other important goals, such as keeping 'need blind' admissions, recruiting and retaining top faculty scholars, and fostering new educational opportunities for students.

As a student of anthropology, I recognize that symbols, such as divestment, are important and valuable as they define our culture and provide key guideposts for which our community can strive. However, the post-Earth Summit history shows that symbols are not enough. Grinnell should take that lead to material changes. Thus, Trustees' divestment decision should be accompanied by a robust engagement effort across the campus that designs and test programs that try to directly reduce Grinnell's carbon footprint. As anthropology professor, Jon Andelson, advocated in one of the public forums organized by our Task Force, Grinnell College could set the goal of becoming the first "carbon positive" college campus. Achieving this goal would certainly not be costless, but would be the type of symbolic and material commitment that ensure that Grinnell's commitment to preventing climate change will not just be more hot air.

Kent Messer majored in anthropology and graduated from Grinnell College in 1994. He currently is a Professor and the Unidel H. Cosgrove Chair for the Environment at the University of Delaware. Kent is the co-director of the USDA national Center for Behavioral & Experimental Agri-Environmental Research. His recent book is entitled "The Science of Strategic Conservation: Protecting More for Less" published by Cambridge University Press (2018).

Brandi (Petersen) Janssen '98 completed a PhD in anthropology at the University of Iowa in 2014. Her dissertation research focused on the production and marketing strategies of local food farmers in Iowa. Immediately following graduation, she took a position as a clinical assistant professor in the department of Occupational and Environmental Health at the University of Iowa and Director of Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH). I-CASH is a state-funded center that aims to reduce injuries and illnesses related to agriculture in Iowa. She continues to research local food systems, recently beginning a project examining factors that facilitate and impede biodiversity in local food systems. Her book, *Making Local Food Work: The Challenges and Opportunities of Today's Small Farmers* was published by the University of Iowa Press in 2017. In her spare time, she plays banjo, bass, and guitar in several Iowa City area bands with her husband **Marc Janssen,'97** (Economics).

Editor's Note: Brandi Janssen was back on campus on April 23rd as the Spring 2018 Anthropology Alumni Speaker. Her talk, "Local Food in Iowa: Good Jobs and Healthy People?" examined "the fastest growing segment of the natural food industry" including methods, markets, sustainability, and the unexpected safety issues on small-scale vegetable and alternative farms.



Kathy Kamp and Xavier Escandell get their hard hats and reflective vests on to go into the new building to see the faculty offices. **Photo courtesy of Monty Roper.**



Construction touring of faculty office in new HSST building. **Photo courtesy of Monty Roper.**

2017-2018 Honors, Asrelsky and Luebben Prize Winners

LUEBBEN AWARD (BEST ALL AROUND STUDENTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY)

Mekdes Assefa and Sasha Middeldrop

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

Rachel M. Asrelsky '89 Memorial Prize in Anthropology (Best Paper Written in Anthropology)

Anna Chamberlin & Hannah Drake

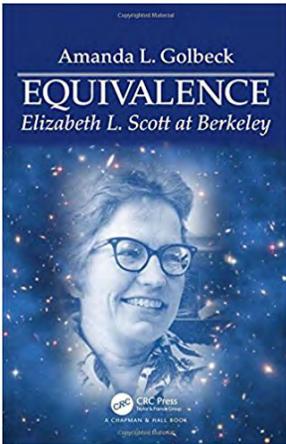
"Lunchtime Language Learners Program Evaluation"

Julia Schafer

"State of Exception: The FBI and the Surveillance of American Muslims"



Alumni news



Amanda Golbeck '74 is the compelling story of one pioneering statistician's mammoth and relentless 20-year effort to promote the status of women in academia and science. Part biography and part micro history, the book provides the context and background to understand Scott's penchant for, and masterfulness at, using statistics to help solve societal problems.

Erin Whalen '12 was featured in an article in the Grinnell Magazine about Posse, this article can be found at this link: <http://magazine.grinnell.edu/news/rising-high>

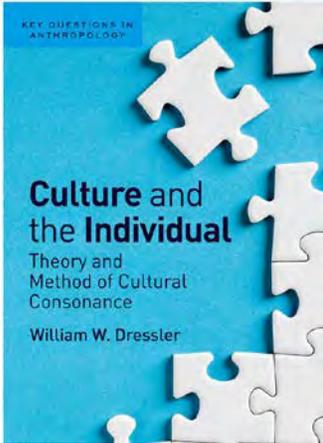
Tina Popson '97 joined Grinnell College as associate director of annual giving for parents' programs in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations

Nora Bloch '92 a senior loan officer with Boston Community Capital (BCC), was named a Fulcrum Fellow by the Center for Community investment. This is the inaugural year for the program, which offers leadership development for 12 rising executives. During the 15-month program Nora will focus on developing strategies to add a racial equity lens to the implementation of BCC's five-year plan to double both the size of the Boston Community Loan Fund portfolio and its impact.

Julienne Ehre '92 director of Pivot Arts, received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to fund a fall performance that takes place in the form of a site-specific tour in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood and highlights the stories of diverse residents.

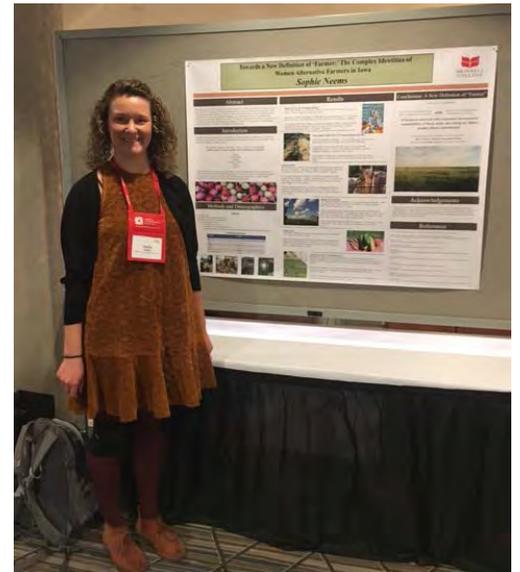
Matthew Pflaum '06 completed his postgraduate degree in Africa/international development at the University of Edinburgh. He writes, "For my thesis, I spent two months conducting fieldwork with nomads and pastoralists in the East Region of Cameroon, one of the poorest regions on earth. I worked with a group called the Mbororo, who number about 2 million in central and west African nations. These people have been severely marginalized in Cameroon, particularly when it comes to land access and security. I lived with an Mbororo family and conducted interviews regarding these insecurities with about 10 different groups"

Alumni news



William W. Dressler '73 professor of anthropology at the University of Alabama, published *Culture and the Individual: Theory and Method of Cultural Consonance* (Routledge, 2017). His work focuses on the intersection of culture, the individual and health; and his research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

Sophie Neems '16 presented a paper at the American Anthropological Association conference in Washington DC in December. Her presentation was entitled: “Towards a New Definition of ‘Farmer:’ The Complex Identities of Women Alternative Farmers in Iowa” and was based on her anthropology Senior Thesis



Spring has finally sprung on campus!
Flowers and budding trees outside of
Burling.

Spring Anthropology Open House



Students and faculty gathered on the 2nd floor to enjoy food, conversation and hopefully recruiting some 2nd year students. **Photos courtesy of Lucia Tonachel '18**





Katie Hess '19 at the Ashoka U Changemaker Conference.



Faculty & students in line for the annual pot luck.

DONORS:

Kristen Mumaw '12

Brien Martin

Dr. Curtis Scribner '73

Danielle Long '00

Steve Alderson '84

Julie & Edwin Austin '82

Hannah Ney '11

Madelyn Garnder '12

William Buckheit '82

Sasha Middeldorp '18

Catherine Klesner '15

Dr. Sarah Gottschalk '92



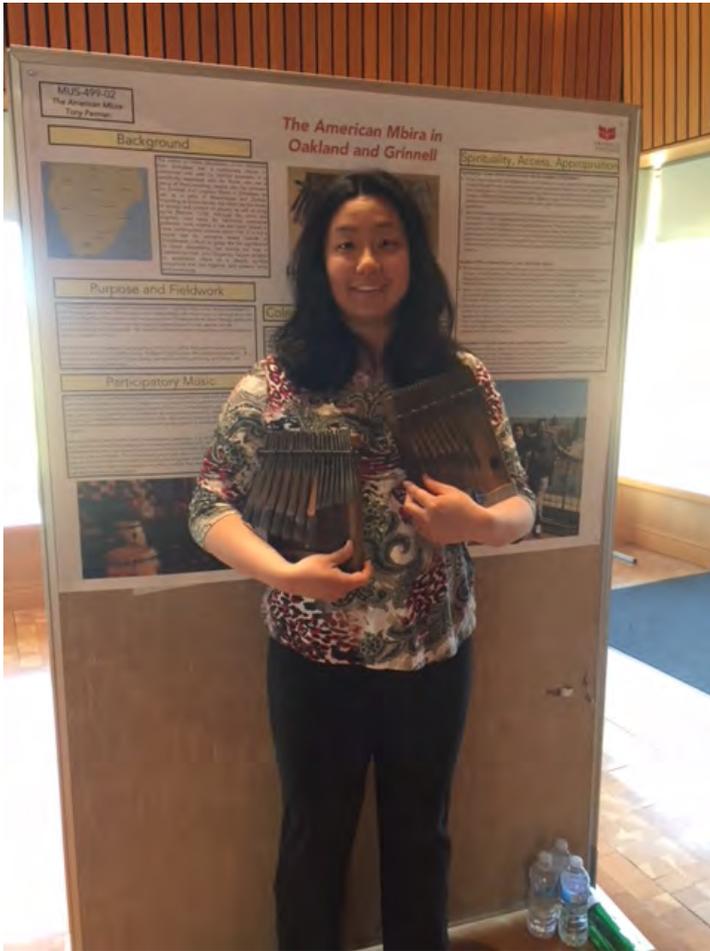
Thank you!



Students working on their spoon carvings that Professor Andelson and Chris Bair are teaching them. In the basement of Goodnow Hall.



Student Research Symposium Spring '18

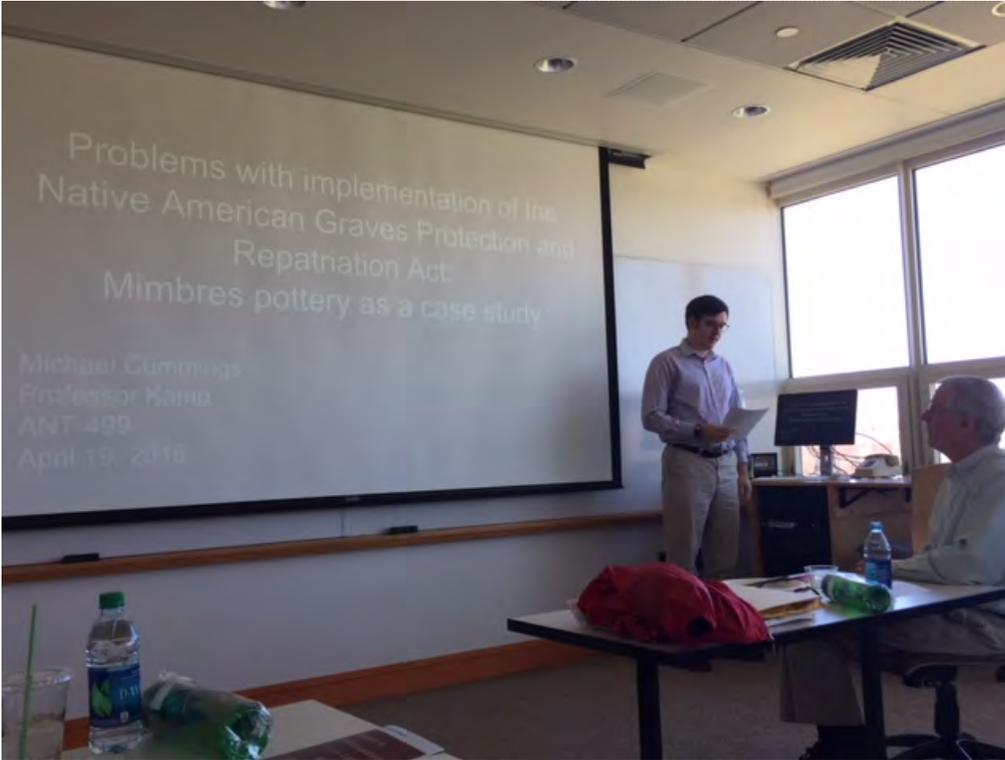


Sunny Zhao '18 presents her research entitled "The American Mbira in Oakland and Grinnell"

Tiffany Matzas '19 presents her research entitled "Casting a Shadow: Whiteness in Hollywood Casting Practices"



Student Research Symposium Spring '18



Michael Cummings '18 presents his research entitled "Problems with implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act; Mimbres pottery as a case study"

We had a good representation of Anthropology students presenting at the Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Symposium April 16 -19th. Unfortunately, many of these were presented at the same time, so it was not possible to get a photo of everyone. Those that presented, but are not featured here were **Misha Laurence '18, Emily Ricker '18 and Mekdes Assefa '18.**

Grinnell at the Society for American Archaeology meetings, Washington DC April 11-15, 2018

John Whittaker and Kathy Kamp attended the DC meetings, where the flowers were out in warm sun, while it was snowing back in Grinnell. Kathy presented a paper on 'Parents, Infants, and Material Culture' a topic on her mind not just as part of her long-term research interests, but as a new grandparent. Anais Levin '19 presented 'Lithic Tool Use and Production in a Maya Neighborhood' co-authored with John Walden and Jaime Awe, results from work they are doing at the site of Lower Dover in Belize. We had dinner with a few other Grinnellians, and more were encountered in the halls, including:

Ellery Frahm '99, now at Yale U, '*Pack Your Boots, Trowel, and Ray Gun: Advances in Portable XRF for Archaeological Science,*' and wife Penny Schaumberg Frahm '99.

Mike Galaty '91, is now Director of the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology.

Bill Green '74, Director of the Logan Museum at Beloit, '*Geophysical Survey and Remote Sensing at Gast Farm, Southeast Iowa: Hidden Mounds and Middle and Late Woodland Community Plans.*'

Alex Woods '03 was a discussant in the forum 'Archaeological Research Contributions from CRM on Military Lands.'

Mike Neeley '84 at Montana State U., '*Assessing Lithic Cortex at the Late Prehistoric Beaucoup Site in Northern Montana.*'

Aksel Casson '96, Slippery Rock University, PA, '*A Return to Wolf Creek, PA*'.

Grant McCall '01, Tulane U and Center for Human-Environmental Research, '*Beer in the Desert: Archaeological, Ethnohistoric, and Experimental Perspectives on Early Beer Brewing in the Central Namib Desert, Namibia.*'

****Reminder – If you as an Anthropology alum have any updates, we would love to get them published in our newsletter!****