

GRINNELL COLLEGE ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT



Fall 2008

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Bronze Age Monument



This post setting in front of Goodnow is the result of an experiment in Bronze Age technology with Professor John Whittaker's Anthro 261 Old World Prehistory class.

The monument is not a replica of anything, but an "art installation" inspired by prehistoric features, and incorporating some design elements, such as spirals, simple faces, and post arrangements that might have appealed to Bronze Age ritualists, and wood working techniques that were performed with Bronze Age tools such as hewing, splitting, and mortise and tenon joints.

After the early Bronze Age in Britain (ca 2000 BC) the use of monuments like Stonehenge ended and ritual focused around watery places like rivers, lakes and fens, where wooden structures and pathways have been preserved. At the same time, bronze tools developed more sophisticated forms and became more common, often being deposited as offerings in the water.

....more on page 3

ANTHROPOLOGISTS IN LONDON'S COVENT GARDEN, 1974 and 2008.

Anthropology majors in Doug Caulkins' "Semiotic City" course in Grinnell-in-London are studying the gentrification of Covent Garden, previously the central fruit, vegetable and flower market in London, where upper-class opera goers rubbed shoulders with market porters and other workers. This all changed in November of 1974, when the market operation was moved south of the Thames and the market buildings were converted into trendy boutique shops and restaurants. Caulkins' "British Urban Society" class in 1974, the first year of Grinnell-in-London, studied the last days of the old market and the beginning of gentrification.

Thirty-four years later, the tourist-oriented market has been a great financial success while preserving the old market buildings, erected in 1830 by the Duke of Bedford. As is often the case with gentrification, the earlier working-class residents have moved on to less expensive neighborhoods, and gone too are the homeless who gathered under the portico of St. Paul's church where they could keep warm around fires fueled by debris from the market.

Covent Garden has a media tie-in: it was the location for several scenes from "My Fair Lady" where Eliza Doolittle was discovered by Professor Henry Higgins, who taught her to speak upper-class English so that she could escape her humble origins and destiny.

The Semiotic City class has also had field trips to Welwyn Garden City, the Boundary Street Estate, Bethnal Green, Brick Lane, the setting for a novel and film by that name, and the new financial district in



Docklands. This is the sixth and final semester of teaching on the Grinnell-in-London Program for Doug Caulkins who, along with Vic Verrette, Professor Emeritus of French, established the program in 1974. At least 2 of the students on the 1974 Grinnell-in-London Program went on to earn Ph.D.s in Anthropology, including Chris Jirikowic '76 and Sue Hyatt '76.



Preparation for the King's Cross Field Trip (above) and students viewing a model of the future Olympic village in London.

Family Weekend Poster Session September 19 - 21, 2008 Primate Behavior Summer MAP



Four students conducted research this past summer examining Japanese macaque behavior at the Blank Park Zoo under the guidance of Prof. Bentley-Condit. The students began preparation for their summer projects immediately following spring break by learning to

identify behaviors and estimate distances, establishing data collection protocols, and identifying a research question. They then spent 10 weeks over the course of the summer collecting and analyzing data on primate social relationships. Three of these students presented their research at the Family Weekend poster session in September and are pictured above. The students and their projects were: (first from left) Heather Craig '09 *Female Social Networks in a Troop of Captive Japanese Macaques (Macaca fuscata): Influences of Kinship and Dominance*; Maddie Allen '10 (middle) *The Impact of Kinship and Dominance on Grooming Distribution among Captive, Female Japanese Macaques (Macaca fuscata)*; Colin Thompson '09 (right) *Dominance and Aggression among Adult Males in a Captive Group of Japanese Macaques (Macaca fuscata) Troop*; Ryan Carlino '10 (not pictured, Grinnell-in-London) *Male-Female Friendships within a Captive Japanese Macaque (Macaca fuscata)*



Looking westward from the 26 floor of Canary Wharf (there are another 17 floors above), toward "The City," London's old financial and banking center. Canary Wharf is the iconic center of the new banking center built in Docklands, and 8 square mile of disused docks now

being converted to new office buildings. Doug Caulkins' class received a briefing by the head of the Canary Wharf Strategic Planning Committee and were the first outsiders to see models of new buildings being planned.



The old dockworkers communities have been gentrified and most of the working class families have moved out of the area since it is now unaffordable. In the past, students in Doug Caulkins' Grinnell-in-London courses used to have tea with one of these families living in the 19th century terrace houses on Cyprus Street (pictured), in the Docklands area. Now one of these small, 4 bedroom flats is selling for \$750,000. Ironically, many of the financial service workers living in the area will be looking for new jobs and cheaper homes as a result of the crash of the world banking system. Urban space is always contested

BRONZE AGE MONUMENT

Old World Prehistory Class

Professor John Whittaker



Class list in alphabetic order: Sam Calisch '10, Michael Gallagher '10, Maddie Hart-Andersen '10, Lindsay Hunter '11, Wonwoong Jeong '10, Cassey Koid '11, Sam Levy '11, Elizabeth Maltby '11, Susan Marietta '11, Britt McNamara '09, Tasha Popkin '11, Rick Pumilia '11, John Rassenfoss '10, Dena Rennard '10, Tom Rothe '11, Allison Rydell '10, Ali Sargent '10, Ali Smith '11, Charlie White '09, Charlie Zimmerman '11, and Prof. Whittaker. (Photo by Sarah DeLong.)

For this class, we had two types of bronze axes cast, early Bronze Age flat axes, and Middle Bronze Age palstaves. The class built handles for the axes, and we cut down three walnut trees with the kind permission of Karl and Sarah DeLong on their property. We did a series of "timed chops" comparing a modern steel hatchet to our different axes. They were somewhat less efficient, but quite effective tools. The experiment stimulates us to think about the design of archaeological experiments, issues of skill and knowledge in a technology, and the complicated relations between the parts of even a simple technological system.



John Rassenfoss '10



Dena Rennard '10

Convocation Speaker: Roy Grinker '83 Professor of Anthropology George Washington University

Roy Richard Grinker graduated from Grinnell in 1983 with a major in anthropology. He went on to the “Grinnell of the East” (a.k.a. Harvard University), where he earned both his Masters and Doctoral degrees, the latter in 1989 with a dissertation on ethnicity and identity among farmers and foragers in the Ituri forest area in Central Africa.

After earning his doctorate, Rich taught for two years at the “Grinnell of the North” (a.k.a. Carleton College) before joining the anthropology faculty at George Washington University, where he rose through the ranks and since 2001 has been Professor of Anthropology, Human Sciences, and International Affairs.

Following his work in Africa, Rich trained his anthropological sights on another part of the world, Korea, where he studied Korean nationalism, north-south dialogue, and reunification, research funded in part through the United States Institute of Peace. He published some of his findings in *Korea and Its Futures: Unification and the Unfinished War*, in 1998.

Rich turned to biography for his next book, *In the Arms of Africa: the Life of Colin M. Turnbull*. Turnbull was an eminent Africanist anthropologist at George Washington University, the author of several very well-known books about African cultures, among them *The Forest People* about the Pygmies of the Ituri Forest. When Colin Turnbull retired from GWU his place in the anthropology department was taken by Grinker. Rich's biography of Turnbull was a finalist in 2000 for the “Victor Turner Prize for Innovative Ethnographic Writing” from the American Anthropological Association.

Most recently Rich has turned his considerable analytical skills in yet a different direction, disability studies. The father of an autistic child, Rich has done path-breaking cross-cultural analysis of autism, reported in his 2007 book, *Unstrange Minds: Remapping the World of Autism*, which has



Professor Jon Andelson and Roy Grinker '83

been translated into Dutch, Korean, and Japanese and was named one of the “30 Best Books of 2007” by *Library Journal*.

Rich serves as editor-in-chief of *Anthropological Quarterly*, a leading journal in the field; as jury member of the “Science in the Media Award” committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and as Exhibition Reviews Editor for *Museum Anthropology*.

-excerpts from the Convocation introduction by Jon Andelson

2008 Summer MAP Thirteen Stories: My Summer Interviewing Iowan Women Farmers Andrea Rissing '09

Turns out, a lot of food is made of not-food. Farmers market food, however, is decidedly food. This simple realization last year when I was learning to cook, coupled with reading about the American food system, prompted me to approach Professor Andelson about designing a summer MAP about food and Iowa agriculture. Professor Andelson directed me towards the Women Food & Agriculture Network, which helped me get in touch with thirteen women farmers around the state to interview. Every woman I spoke with had a unique story, but, at the end of summer, I was able to identify some common themes in answer to my questions.

Most women mentioned the damaging nature of monocultures and chemicals as top problems with big agriculture. Conversely, diverse vegetable gardens focus on plants that are naturally suited to the Iowa climate, thus minimizing the need for chemicals. The small-scale farmers I interviewed also all agreed that spirituality plays an important part in their farming. Individual interpretations of spirituality spanned a broad spectrum, but physical engagement with the land seemed to foster a sense of oneness with nature and make alternative farming more fulfilling. Alternative farming's advantages extend to

customers as well; the health and taste benefits of locally grown food are well known, but the farmers I met emphasized social benefits since talking with the person who grows your food fosters community bonds. My last major focus – gender's influence on these opinions – was the topic with the least agreement. Some told me that women are naturally more attuned to the earth, but others pointed to their education as the primary influence on how they farm.

Looking towards the future of agriculture, I turned to the classic materialist/idealist debate to conceptualize what the women told me about how they see agriculture changing. Some said they thought more media attention and education were needed to inform customers about the benefits of buying locally, but others were more skeptical and believed significant change wouldn't happen until “catastrophic” events force a redesign of the food system. Regardless of how the system changes, however, the women I was lucky enough to meet are an integral force in Iowa's agriculture movement, and should be looked to as a model as we transition to more sustainable methods. The complete paper is available at <http://www.wfan.org/newsletter.html> and on www.wfan.org.

Anthropology Potluck:





Eric Carter
Assistant Professor

My first year at Grinnell has gone by so quickly. I've settled into my position as the only geographer at the College, and I'm thankful to the anthropology department for their outstanding support of my interdisciplinary teaching and research endeavors. In the past year I've taught courses in Geography (Health Geography, Introduction to Geographic Information Systems, and a tutorial, The Power of Maps), Anthropology (Latin American Cultures), Global Development Studies (Introduction to GDS), and Environmental Studies (Environmental Issues of the Developing World, cross-listed with GDS). I have advised one independent major (Eric Nost '09, Human Geography), several GDS concentrators, and a MAP (Mentored Advanced Project) with Eric Husted '09 on food and agricultural policy in the European Union. It's my hope that interest in geography on campus will continue to grow. Within the last year, I have presented research at the Association of American Geographers conference in Boston and at Macalester College, and published a few articles and chapters (see "recent publications"). Meanwhile, I've been working on a book, entitled *Enemy in the Blood: Malaria, Nationalism, and Development in Argentina*. I continue serving on the editorial board of the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, and I also serve as assistant co-editor for the Nature-Society section of the same journal. I'm also active in the Medical Geography Specialty Group of the AAG. My wife, Neela Nandyal, now works at Grinnell's Off-Campus Study office. Together and separately, we aim to continue promoting the college's strong international focus.

Recent publications:

Carter, Eric D. 2008. "God Bless General Perón: DDT and the Endgame of Malaria Eradication in Argentina in the 1940s." *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*. Advance copy published online (doi: 10.1094/jhmas/jrn057).

Carter, Eric D. 2008. "State Visions, Landscape, and Disease: Discovering Malaria in Argentina, 1890-1920." *Geoforum* 39: 278-293.

Carter, Eric D. 2008. "Malaria, Landscape, and Society in Northwest Argentina in the Early Twentieth Century." *Journal of Latin American Geography* 7 (1): 7-38.

Carter, Eric D. forthcoming. "Misiones Province, Argentina: How Borders Shape Political Identity." Chapter in edited volume, *Border Anomalies and Contemporary Dilemmas in World Politics*, Alexander C. Diener and Joshua Hagen (eds.). Rowman & Littlefield, planned 2009.

Carter, Eric D. forthcoming. "Malaria, Geography of." In *Encyclopedia of Geography*, Barney Warf, et al. (eds.). Sage Press, planned 2009.



Katya Gibel Mevorach
Associate Professor

Reflections from sabbatical:

During my extended sabbatical, I moved my home residence to Paris, France and quite unexpectedly -- though delightfully -- broadened my research focus to consider the transformative ways the fashion industry informs and is informed by -- reflects and mirrors -- identities which are literally and metaphorically local, national and global: the choreography of vocabulary is amusing and serious business. Fashion statements and runways are translated into images projected on and from visual displays which we see without noticing, or look at without seeing. As academic analyses historicize, contextualize and theorize around the grid of outworn concepts like race and ethnicity, these linguistic monsters (race/ethnicity/nationality) resist dissolution even though the only question that matters is citizenship. Around academic walls and halls of rigid ideologies, the seamless and comfortable fluidity of metissage and ambiguity no longer wait for recognition from racial purists and splitters. The political signifiers of racial and ethnic identities remain -- the French loved Obama but wonder when, in France, the parliament and head of state would reflect the demographic shift which anticipates a material realization of the ideal of "liberte, egalite, fraternite." Part of the catalyst for my interest in fashion (aside from more obvious pleasure in window shopping - - cuisine and couture) came from a casual and then serious realization that the young women in designer clothing hidden under their burqa cut from exquisite material were shopping on the luxury avenue of Avenue Montaigne, dining in the upscale restaurants surrounding Avenue Champs Elysee, and sometimes but not always accompanied by chauffeured shiny black limousines parked near-by. All this was news to me, and therefore intriguing. Fashion designers, with their own diverse geographical origins, create for luxury brands whose boutiques and consumers are located around the world from Beirut and Buenos Aires to Kuwait and Q'atar, from Manhattan and Mumbai to Singapore and Saudi Arabia. And at the other end of upscale, are significantly less expensive ready-to-wear attire arranged on hangers or table-tops in the bi-weekly open-market in our neighborhood and throughout European small towns where "native" and "new immigrant" youth emulate the latest hip hop styles they see on music-videos on television and the visual displays of electronic stores. Everyday people, with and without money, are navigating through one or many worlds -- another multi-layered signifier -- giving saliency to the obvious process in which globalization is a phenomenon that is both inside "the home" and determines "home"; not as a metaphor but as material accomodation and commodity, lifestyle and -- a most important reminder that identities are multifaceted, multilingual and multicultural. How exciting, then, to have an American President in the White House whose biography places intersectionality as the obvious point of departure for pedagogy and scholarship.

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 Spirit: 2006 African American Women's Leadership Conference*, Cedar Rapids, IA, 29 September 2006

The Lab Rat Newbie Chronicles V. Bentley-Condit, Associate Professor



I've actually spent very little time in a "real" laboratory over the course of my lifetime. I never took a chemistry class and never had a biology course with a lab (not something that I would recommend, by the way). I did a bit of work in a lab as a grad student but, again, very little. Yet, here I am working many hours of my sabbatical in the Smithsonian National Zoo Nutrition Lab in Washington, DC. I've decided that some of what I'm doing is just like cooking in my kitchen. For example, I just spent three weeks mixing, boiling, straining, and baking things. Of course, one of the ingredients was a type of acid which is not something I generally include in things that I bake. The orderliness of it all, though, really is like cooking. You make your dough correctly and bake it for the right amount of time and it becomes cookies. You follow the many steps involved in your particular protocol and, if you follow the steps correctly, you get numbers. You then record the numbers in your nifty lab notebook and they have meaning. I like that. I like numbers and meaningful results. I also like wearing lab coats and plastic goggles. For that matter, I also really like cookies. I don't think I'd want to be a full-time lab rat but it is an interesting experience. Check back next semester for more details...

Maria Tapias Associate Professor



Greetings from the increasingly cold temperatures of Iowa. The summer seems like ages ago and it was a busy one! I am happy to report that I earned tenure last spring and immediately after left for Spain to continue collaborative research on Bolivian migrants in Spain. My husband Xavier and I have interviewed over 60 members of transnational households (in both Bolivia and Spain) on the impacts that migration has on families, the strains of transnational parenting and the ways emotions are reconfigured, challenged or contested in the context of immigration. We have an article forthcoming in the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* on transnational healing and emotions. I'm looking forward to a sabbatical next year during which I plan to continue writing and wrapping up several projects.

On the homefront, my daughter Marina turns three in January. Amazingly, she is becoming fluent in Spanish, Catalan and English and knows what language to speak with whom. We have also been preparing her for the arrival of another baby sister whom is due in late January. She is very excited but when we told her that it might be a little while before the baby would be a great playmate she asked: "Can the next baby be an older sister?" By the time the next newsletter comes out we should have another little one filling the house with joy.

Professor Douglas Caulkins

SEEING THE ELECTION FROM ABROAD: Good News for the World



Arriving in London in early August, I expected to see less about the U.S. election campaign in the British media than at home in Iowa. The amount of coverage of the election campaign, however, seem almost as great here as in the U.S. I should have remembered how intensely interested Europeans are in American politics. As was endlessly proclaimed in the media, what the U.S. president does has a huge impact globally.

The British, who prefer leaders who can speak in complete sentences, were immediately impressed with Barack Obama, although they consistently mispronounced his first name as "Bearick." In contrast, veteran TV presenters at first had difficulty keeping a straight face when discussing Sarah Palin, although they became increasingly sober-faced when they realized that some (many?) Americans prefer their candidates ignorant and ideological. As the campaign season went on, British interest intensified and became more worried. Obama was everyone's favorite here, or if not, people wouldn't admit it. Yet there was concern that if Europe was too noisy about its preference for Obama, the American electorate might vote against him for that reason.

All of the TV organizations had extensive election night coverage, with many British glued to their TVs until the outcome was clear, about 3:30 a.m. London time. I found it too stomach-churning to sit in front of the TV that long and went to bed intending to get up at 6:00 a.m. to get the news. About 4:00 I was awakened by groups of people shouting in the streets: "Obama, Obama!" It was safe to get up.

After the election was certain, I went to my neighborhood newsagent and bought a copy of *The Guardian*. A picture of the triumphant Obama, now President-elect, graced the front page of this and every other newspaper that day. Placing the newspaper on the counter and carefully stacking my coins next to the photo of Obama, I said to my South Asian-born newsagent, "It is a good day today!" "It is a good day for the World!" he replied. It was, of course, a common sentiment globally. "Now perhaps it will be possible for the U.S. to become respected again," he concluded, smiling broadly.

Let us do our best to earn that respect. Anthropology and the anthropological perspective can help.

Tribute to Mary Douglas

Students and colleagues of Mary Douglas, a highly influential British anthropologist, contributed to a special issue of *Innovations: The European Journal of Social Science Research* (Vol 21: 3) as a tribute to Mary Douglas and her influence on many disciplines, not just anthropology. My contribution, "Re-theorizing Jim Collins's culture of discipline in 'Good to Great'" provides an anthropological re-interpretation of management guru Jim Collins' best selling book on creating sustainable organizations. Anyone interested in looking at this article can download it from our website at <http://web.grinnell.edu/anthropology/Faculty/doug/dougarticles.html> I first became aware of Collins' work through Bill Lazier, a college trustee and a colleague of Collins at Stanford. In a sense my article is also a tribute to Bill Lazier, who, like Mary Douglas, broadened my interests and inspired my enthusiasm. But it hasn't just an older, now departed, generation that has inspired me. Over the years the interests and enthusiasms of students have often led me in new directions too. It has been a wonderful journey thus far and I am looking forward to the next steps.

Anthropology Alumnus Najwa Adra '69 Visits Campus

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

**Literacy, Poetry
and Empowerment in Yemen**

Najwa Adra '69
Ph.D. Temple University, Philadelphia

Monday, October 27
ARH 102
12:00 Noon

Dr. Adra is an anthropologist and development consultant with extensive experience in Yemen. She has worked on projects with numerous organizations, including UNESCO, UNDP, the World Bank, The Ford Foundation, and UNICEF. She has carried out participatory rural assessments and worked on such issues as women in development and literacy education. She will discuss an innovative World Bank funded project that works at the grassroots to empower women by using their own oral poetic traditions to teach literacy skills.

Sponsored by Global Development Studies Concentration and the Center for the Humanities



Dr. Najwa Adra '69, an anthropologist and development consultant with extensive experience in Yemen, gave a public talk entitled "Literacy, Poetry and Empowerment in Yemen," on campus in late October. Adra who has worked on projects with numerous organizations, including UNESCO, UNDP, the World Bank, The Ford Foundation, and UNICEF. She has carried out participatory rural assessments, and worked on such issues as women in development, and literacy education. Dr. Adra discussed an innovative World Bank funded project that works at the grassroots to empower women by using their own oral poetic traditions to teach literacy skills. Dr. Adra also participated in two class visits, during her visit to campus.

Najwa Adra ('69)
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First of all, it was a lovely and, for me, healing experience to be back at Grinnell after a 40-year absence. (Makes me feel very old to write this.) I'm impressed with the new buildings and renovations in the old buildings. Also glad that the quad looks pretty much the same and is not crowded with new buildings. It was good to see my old friends, the Forum (it looks so small) and Burling. And the students are so interested and full of questions.

In 1965, I fell in love with anthropology in Ron Kurtz's "Social and Cultural Change" class, and I've been romancing with this field ever since. As a Ph.D. candidate at Temple University, I conducted dissertation fieldwork in a small highland community in Yemen for 18 months in 1978-79. With me was my anthropologist husband, Daniel Varisco, whose interest was in traditional irrigation and agriculture. I was studying dancing and culture: specifically, exploring the kinds of cultural information that we can get from dancing and, by extension, other arts. I first thought of this topic when ethnomusicologist, Alan Merriam, came to speak at Grinnell. After two days of lecture demonstrations, we heard a concert of Congolese music. Fascinated, I later asked Prof. Merriam if he thought one could do the same sort of work with dancing, and he was very encouraging.

In the field, I combined participant observation with a study of dancing in this community – who danced, when, where, in whose presence? Which dances were performed? What did people say or think about dancing? I noted proverbs that mentioned dancing. I learned the dances to the best of my ability – some are quite difficult. Dan and I also wrote down everything we saw and heard, sorting it all out by topic at night. This was important to do because we don't know ahead of time which connections are culturally significant. For example, I had been in the field for over a year when I realized that a dance performed only by men is not only considered a tribal marker, but its performance represents

what tribe means in this society where most of the population self-identifies as tribal. Consequently, my dissertation includes a detailed discussion of tribalism and tribal customary law as well as my dance data.

I loved fieldwork. We lived a beautiful agricultural basin, fed with a legendary 360 springs. People were hospitable and curious about us, although there was a fair amount of suspicion – e.g., "Why do you need to know x?" So we treaded lightly with questions that seemed sensitive to them. These were primarily questions dealing with personal property or political issues. My most fascinating experience was probably also our hosts'. Television arrived to this community for the first time about mid-way through my fieldwork. For most members of the community, this was their first visual exposure to other countries and to high tech - airplanes, banks, electric kitchen appliances. What my friends saw on television shattered many of their assumptions about themselves and the world. And the questions they asked me about my country changed radically. (I describe this in an article published in 1996, The 'Other' as Viewer: Reception of Western and Arab Televised Representations in Rural Yemen.)

Immediately after completing my doctorate, I followed my other interest – development anthropology. To get development agencies interested in me, I applied for, and received a post-doctoral fellowship to study reproductive health issues in my original field site. This led me to get consultancies in Yemen. FAO, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the U.N., asked me to conduct research on the changing roles of women in agriculture. I held several short-term consultancies with USAID in reproductive health and agriculture. I conducted project evaluations. The way I, and other anthropologists, approach evaluations later became known as "participatory monitoring and evaluation". In 1984-86, I established the Women in Development position in UNICEF, Sanaa. In addition to exploring women's development needs in Yemen, I recruited, and we hired a Yemeni national to take over this job.

When my son, Jihan, was born in 1985, he failed to thrive at 5-6 months, so we all returned to the U.S. in June 1986. It took some time to diagnose

his problems as related to serious food allergies. It was a relief that he did not have a dread disease, but I spent the next 10 years in the kitchen cooking alternatives to wheat, dairy and corn. During this time, I wrote articles on my dance research and tribalism in Yemen, and did some consulting in New York, but I did not publish my dissertation.

As Jihan grew older and healthier, I re-joined the labor force. By now, I realized that I could combine my interests in the arts with development. I first worked as Outreach Coordinator at the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA). My charge was to diversify the applicant pool for NYFA fellowships. This required fieldwork among artists in upstate New York as well as New York City. During this period, and with the support and encouragement of friends in Yemen, I developed a pilot literacy project for adult women, in which their own oral poetry and proverbs provided the text from which they learn to read and write. The project, eventually funded by the World Bank, was very successful, both in terms of learners' acquisition of literacy skills and in indicators of empowerment. This is the project I spoke about at Grinnell in late October.

Meanwhile, I still had not published my dissertation. In 2005, with a grant from the American Institute for Yemeni Studies, I returned to my original field site for four months to update my earlier research. (This was not my first return to the community, but my first extended stay with the intention to conduct research.) This too, was a rewarding experience. It was great to see old friends, and sad to mourn the passing of others. People I had known as children were now parents. A few women had been named after me. I realized then that I had two books – a dance ethnography and a separate book on what it means to self-identify as tribal in Yemen's Northern Highlands.

In between consultancies, I am currently completing my dance ethnography, which I hope to send to a publisher by Spring. Next Fall, I will tackle the book on tribe, which will probably take a full academic year. My other project is to seek funding to pilot the literacy through poetry project in other countries that have rich oral traditions.



for your restricted contribution to the Anthropology Department:

Colleen Mahar-Piersma '91

Tanya Newkirk '91

Nate Lange '95 [nclvt73@yahoo.com]

It has been 13 years since I left Grinnell, and I have experienced many things in this time. Many of these have been related to computer chip manufacturing, a field in which I've been working since coming to IBM 11 years ago. I began as an equipment operator, primarily carrying out the Chemical Mechanical Planarization (CMP) process, and working on the night shift. After returning to school for an MS in Computer Science, I became a programmer, and as such have coded primarily in SAS (a language and application focused on data processing; the name originally stood for Statistical Analysis System- though it is no longer officially an acronym) to produce internal applications which report factory logistics information. More recently I've begun working with Dispatching Rules, programs governing the dispatching of product to the 'Tools' (processing equipment) of the 'Fab' (Fabrication plant).

I take a lot of enjoyment from going to the movies, and have also taken several courses in aspects of movie making over the past years. I love spending time in New York City, as well as trips to the mountains for hiking (so far climbing seven 3500' peaks in the Catskills this year). Having previously studied karate for six years, I've this year taken up learning swing dancing, which I've found to be quite a bit of fun. I live and work in the Hudson Valley in New York.

This Spring ('08), my brother Tom and I took an outstanding trip to the Southwest, including visits to Flagstaff, the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Los Angeles (staying in Venice), and a drive up the coast to San Francisco. Thanks to Professors Kamp and Whittaker for providing me with the directions needed to revisit the Field School site at New Caves, where I fondly recalled my summer there in 1992, and enjoyed the chance to again consider my daily life in the relief provided by scenes I imagined for the site's past Sinagua residents.

Jennifer Thornton '02 [thornjenton@yahoo.com]

Living in Silver City, NM and working for the Gila National Forest.

Jenny E. Haggart '02

I finished my thesis at the University of Nevada, Reno in May (thank goodness!). My thesis title was "A Comparison of Subsistence Patterns at Two Eastern Alaska WAMCATS Stations." Basically I compared the consumer artifact assemblages (food, alcohol, tobacco) at two Alaskan military telegraph stations from the Gold Rush era. The Alaska Journal of Anthropology might publish an article this spring. Right now I'm working for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (temporary), and looking for something more permanent while my boyfriend finishes his dissertation. Mainly I'm surveying burn units, open range land, and abandoned mine sites, but sometimes things get exciting. If you go to www.ktvn.com and type "Bones found appear to be tribal woman" in the search window, you can watch a story on a Washoe burial I helped excavate in Carson City in July. The newspaper and some TV stations got in a lot of trouble for publishing photos of the bones, which is against state law down here.

Jonathan Van Hoose '92 [jevvh@unm.edu]

I finally defended the dissertation this Spring, and graduated officially this month (August). The title is Learning Lineages as Reflected in Ceramic Production in Early Historic Northwest New Mexico. As you can see, I went for a snappy title. No more grad school! I've also just started a job as an archaeologist with the Environmental section at the Army Corps of Engineers here in Albuquerque, which is going well so far.

Anneke Walker '87 [hrhlynnne@ybb.ne.jp]

At the end of May, Yokohama welcomed representatives from 51 African countries, including 40 Heads of State, for The Tokyo International Conference on African Development. This three-day summit-level event has become a major global framework for Asia and Africa to collaborate in promoting Africa's development. I was honored to participate in events

sponsored by ONE, ME TOO, OXFAM, and MTV, to raise public awareness of the disasters occurring every day in Africa and to remind governments of the promises made to send aid. These events included an anti-poverty "One for All" demonstration in which hundreds of individuals joined hands to form a human chain in the shape of a man. Several celebrities participated including Bono and Juanes. It was an apt symbol of the change that people can inspire by joining together, and I am happy to have played a part, however small.

Annie Evans Cooper '98

Had a daughter on May 22 – Ivy Shy Cooper. All are doing well. Annie will be starting in an Asst Prof position at San Juan College in Farmington, NM in the fall.



Claire Tindall '07 working on conservation of the Confederate submarine Hunley.

Sam Hammer (and Janet Shuldiner Hammer) '75.

cladonia@bu.edu So, there we were in London a couple of summers ago. I had just finished teaching in a brand new Boston University abroad program. Uncanny. Last time Janet and I were in London was when Doug Caulkins brought the first group of Grinnellians there in 1974. It was a different city then. London was a gray place, sunk in an economic recession. And 1974 was the last year before the vibrant Covent Garden Market was closed down. (Later it would be transformed into a tourist destination but its closure in 1974 was just another sign of urban decay). Our assignment as junior anthropologists was to document the comings and goings of the old vegetable and flower market. We had to stay up all night because most of the action of London's central wholesale market took place between one and four AM. None of us had movie cameras, but Doug was teaching us about the importance of ethnographic film. He was just a bit ahead of his time...only 30 years later we would all use YouTube in our teaching and learning venues... Back to the near present. Classes were over. I had a couple of free days in London. One warm evening I found myself at the Tate London, where they were showing films related to gardens and gardening. First there was a '50s documentary on taxonomic research behind the scenes at the Royal Botanical Garden at Kew. Interesting to me as a taxonomist (I finished my PhD in botany at Harvard in 1993 and have been teaching at BU since then). But my interest was really piqued by the next film, "Every Day Except Christmas," a 1957 black and white short that documented the Covent Garden of its time, already considered a threatened national treasure. Amazed, I thought back to the dark wee hours of the morning we had spent there. Lindsay Anderson's film made the place alive in the same electrified, impressionistic way we had observed it. Our time in London in the '70s seemed rooted in a new dimension now, a cultural dimension that fell outside of personal experience into a shared intellectual space. I wondered to myself, had this film inspired Doug to teach us about ethnographic film? Had it informed his decision to steer us toward studying the Covent Garden Market?

Was I watching a cultural artifact that had somehow influenced the culture of learning at Grinnell? It was a rare moment for me, wondering about the path ideas take, thankful to Doug for the inspiration he gave us, and thankful for the opportunity to have experienced this.

Katie Casas '04, has been solo traveling in SE Asia since mid-April and will start medical school at University of Vermont (UVM) in Burlington, in August.

Steve Nash '86 at Denver Museum of Nature and Science talks about tree ring archaeology. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CixtnZOha70>

Michael Stern '75 [mailto:mstern@stradalle.com]

In a recent visit back to Grinnell – my first in over 30 years – I had the wonderful opportunity to spend some time catching up with Professor Jon Andelson, one of my professors from my time as a student. Aside from trying to catch up on 30 years – and doing what my son referred to as “intellectual bonding” over ideas as varied as sustainability, the concept of place and slow food – I mentioned to him how valuable I feel my training in Anthropology is to me, even though I have never been directly involved in the field professionally.

As it turned out, I eventually acquired a masters degree in landscape architecture and, after practicing in New York and teaching at the University of Virginia, ended up in Pittsburgh, PA, where I am a landscape architect and partner in a design firm, which practices architecture, landscape architecture, interior design and urban design. Much of my practice is centered on the design of cities, public places and landscapes, as well as the relationship between architecture and the landscape setting – whether urban or rural. Although I am responsible for landscape architecture, planning and urban design within the firm, I often “meddle” in the design of the architecture, because I think the relationship between the inside and outside of a building is so critical. Our firm’s focus is on what we like to refer to as “making places for people”, which might seem like an obvious goal for our professions, but is not always the case.

Specifically, what I think an intellectual training in Anthropology has helped me to develop is an appreciation for the importance of human culture, relationships and interactions in the design of public and private places. Thinking about how people will inhabit and use the spaces we design is integral to our design process. Direct observation of how people occupy an urban plaza or city street – where they like to sit, what kind of space feels good, or uncomfortable, how do people like to socialize within a particular environment, what is visually stimulating to them – these are all questions that define the quality and success of a place.

Similarly, an understanding of the historical context of places is critical to my thinking and practice. The historical patterns of urban or landscape development, and the social and cultural context that shaped them, lead to the specific character of a place; considering how new interventions interact with those touchstones typically informs how I approach a design problem. The anthropological perspective has provided a compelling intellectual viewpoint that I use to look at the world on a daily basis.

Kelly Anne Eldridge'07 askael14@uaa.alaska.edu

Things are going well here at U of Alaska, though I have to say I miss the style of teaching at Grinnell a lot!!! I have one more semester of classes after this, and then I can start working on my MA thesis. This will be my third semester working as a Teaching Assistant for the department... I really enjoy it.

I spent this past summer working for the Chugach National Forest as an arch tech out of Moose Pass, Alaska, and am currently helping them tidy up a few projects before moving on to another job. We did get to run a Ground Penetrating Radar survey over a early historic cemetery at the abandoned village of Kijik in Lake Clark National Park. All of the grave markers (wooden Russian Orthodox crosses) had either distinegrated or

been removed, and the Kijik Native Corporation requested that we try and locate some of the burials. It was my first time using GPR, and it was awesome! And then I was the one who analyzed all of the collected data (with GPR-SLICE) and wrote up the report. My first government report lol :) I'm currently in the process of hiring on with the Army Corps of Engineers - they've dangled a paid thesis in front of me and I can't resist the bait! I was originally going to do a faunal analysis of a site (Zapadni) on St. Paul island in the Pribilofs, but the current collection is only about 2,000 bones, and 95% of those are from ONE test pit, so I was trying to figure out how to get out to the site next summer to do some more excavation and get a better representative sample, and the expenses just became ridiculous... and to cover those, the grants and fellowships I was having to apply to were getting in the way of classwork. And then my friend who works as an archaeologist for the Corps told me they were desperately searching for a graduate student to work on one of their sites in Nome, and I caved. So, instead of studying the early historic Aleut who were brought to the Pribilof Islands by the Russians, I'm going to write my thesis on a Late Western Thule prehistoric site in Nome. I think I'll focus my thesis on the faunal remains (there's an estimated 9,000), but there is a ton of worked bone and ivory and lithics and pottery as well. It was a salvage excavation...they were opening the channel of the harbor at Nome in 2005 and bulldozed through a house pit! So the site is gone, but the artifacts remain :) The local Natives are excited about the project, because the site is the first evidence of prehistoric Native occupation of Nome... before it was found everyone thought that the Gold Rush Europeans were the first people in the area.

I showed off my atlatl to my TA class this semester when we were talking about Native subsistence. I'm also brushing up my senior thesis [on changes in harpoons] and adding some climate change aspects to get it ready to be submitted to a student volume being produced by the Alaska Journal of Anthropology...

Neil Gipson '99 [neilgipson@gmail.com]

I've been through a few career-related events in the last couple of years. I finished my master's degrees at Indiana University in 2006 (an MPA in public affairs and an MA in Russian studies). After that I spent a year on fellowship in St. Petersburg studying Russian, and then in 2007 I came back to DC to work on post-Soviet programs for the National Democratic Institute. NDI is a non-profit (and officially non-partisan) NGO that does democracy development around the world, and it was a great fit for me after my background in Russia and grad study in government and policy. Then in May I moved over from the NGO world to the government side when I took up a job as a foreign service officer with the Department of State. After several months of training, I'm now on the cusp of my first overseas embassy posting. I leave on Tuesday for a two-year tour in sunny Monrovia, Liberia. While most people are surprised that the vagaries of the Department's assignments process would send someone with my Russian background to Africa, personally I'm thrilled with the assignment. Liberia will certainly be night-and-day different from Tanzania, but I'm still really, really excited to get to go back to Africa. I'll spend two years as a logistics officer doing embassy operations, or, as my colleagues joke, “keeping the lights on.” I expect, though, that keeping the lights on will be more than enough of a challenge in one of the poorest countries in the world, and I'm looking forward to learning a lot.