# GRINNELL COLLEGE ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT



Vicki Bentley-Condit Associate Professor & Chair May 16, 2008 Spring 2008

Jon Andelson Professor

Eric D. Carter Assistant Professor

Doug Caulkins Professor

Brigittine French Assistant Professor

Katya S. Gibel Mevorach Associate Professor

Kathryn Kamp Professor

J. Montgomery Roper Associate Professor

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## Anthropology Class of 2008



Spring 2008 Anthropology Faculty and Senior Majors - Front: Prof John Whittaker, Meredith Groves, Amanda Keledjian Second Row: Prof. Vicki Bentley-Condit, Prof. Brigittine French, Prof. Kathy Kamp, Renee Lynch, Deborah Kaiser, Ericca Reavis, Alexis Stern, Prof. Maria Tapias, Rosie Perez Back: Mathew Allen, Prof. Eric Carter, Benjamin Wagman, Benjamin Remington, Sim Wimbush, Ryan Lyerla. Not Pictured: Johanna P ("Jo") Krukowski, Robert LaFollette, Jordan Lee, Suzanne Polivy, Emily Read, Professors Jon Andelson, Douglas Caulkins, and J. Montgomery Roper.

## **Current News**

Laura Cathey '09 I'm studying abroad in Egypt at the American University in Cairo this spring semester ('08) and being overwhelmed by how much of the Arabic language there is to learn and how complicated it would be to do an ethnography on contemporary Egyptian culture (particularly the urban, in my opinion). My grasp on Fatimid architecture feels manageable, though, thanks to a great professor who takes us on field trips around the city. I finagled a homestay for spring break, so I'm getting to see some domestic life. I had to tear myself out of the 'ahawi or coffee houses here, which are just glorified holes in the wall where older men while away the hours "drinking" cheap hookah and savory Turkish coffee--the old men are nice enough, but going there with friends from school was so sweet a pleasure, it was getting to be sinful.

#### **Class Photos**

# ANT 375: Experimental Archaeology and Ethnoarchaeology









#### **ANT 290: Archaeological Field Methods**



# "We're Watching You..." 2008 Anthropology T-Shirt



# Goodnow Classroom Converted to Run on Solar Energy



Prof. Gamble hooks up the solar panels to Goodnow Hall with the students help.

Prof. Lawrence (Lonnie) A. Gamble, Assistant Professor of Sustainable Living at the Maharishi University of Management taught a short course sponsored by Center for Prairie Studies,"Renewable Energy: The Energy Basis of Humans and Nature" in the early spring of 2008. The course explored the basic concepts of energy and how these concepts apply to energy flows in nature. Renewable energy flows in nature were contrasted with fossil fuel energy flows in the human economy. The course looked at the cultural, economic, and public policy issues involved in the widespread use of renewables coupled with drastic improvements in energy efficiency.

# Anthropology SEPC Roundtable Discussions

The Anthropology SEPC (Student Educational Policy Committee) hosted two noon Roundtable discussions. The first discussion in late Fall

centered around two NY Times articles; "Army Enlists Anthropology in War Zones" October 5th, 2008 by David Rohde, and "A True Culture War," October 27, 2008 by University of Chicago professor Richard A. Shweder, as well as the distribution of



the "Pledge of Non-participation in Counter-insurgency," by Network of Concerned Anthropologists.http://concerned.anthropologist.googlepages.com/. The discussion was on Anthropology's relationship with military activities, with a particular emphasis on the two articles concerning the war in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Anthropology SEPC organized a two-part lunchtime discussion/presentation centered around "Careers in Anthropology," and "Process of Pursuing Graduate Work" in mid-April. Prof. Douglas Caulkins presented a presentation "Careers in Anthropology," and Prof. Vicki Bentley-Condit, Kathryn Kamp, and John Whittaker discussed the application process their and experience in Graduate school.



## **Senior Thesis Presentations**

The Senior Thesis is designed to provide students an opportunity to do a piece of research and writing in any area of anthropology under the direction of two members of the anthropology faculty. A senior thesis may be based on original research, library research, or a combination of the two, but in any case should build on a student's previous course work in anthropology. It should include a thorough review of relevant previous literature and develop an original argument on the topic. In addition to a written paper, students are expected to do a public presentation of their thesis.

## Spring 2008

#### Amanda Keledjian

The Life and Death of the Moon: Cross-Cultural Similarities in Lunar Myths



Prof. Jon Andelson and Amanda Keledjian

## Fall 2007

#### Ann McCullough

It Just Isn't Home: How Boundaries Shape Relations of Power in a Nursing Home



Ann McCullough and Prof.Maria Tapias

## 2007-08 HONORS, ASRELSKY AND LUEBBEN PRIZE WINNERS

### HONORS

Renee Lynch, Amanda Keledjian, Meredith Groves, Johanna Krukowski, Ryan Lyerla, Suzanne Polivy

## LUEBBEN AWARD

(BEST ALL AROUND STUDENTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY)

#### Amanda Keledjian

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



### **ASRELSKY PRIZE**

(BEST PAPERS WRITTEN IN ANTHROPOLOGY)

#### **Molly Kratz**

Space and Identity: Language, Politic, and Nationalism in Wales

### Benjamin Wagman

The Evolution of Language and the Gestural Hypothesis

#### Robert LaFollette

Transnational Crimescapes: Tracing the Global Evolution of Criminal Syndicates

The Rachael Asrelsky Anthropology Paper Prize is given annually to the author of an outstanding paper written for an anthropology class. The award is in honor of Rachael Asrelsky ('89) who died in the Lockerbie bombing while returning from an off-campus program.

# **Anthropology Potluck**



# **Raging Cow Atlatl Competition**

April 26th, 2008 Grinnell College







# Faculty News during Spring Break 2008

During Spring Break, Assistant Professor Brigittine French presented a paper at the conference "Europe and Islam" held in Marseille and Arles, France. The Center for International Studies selected Brigittine along with Susan Ireland, Tim Dobe, Bob Grey, and David Harrision to represent Grinnell College in building more relationships with European faculty associated with several IES study abroad programs. International faculty from IES programs in Rome, Berlin, Nantes, Paris, Granada, and Rabat joined Grinnell faculty for five days of lively and polemic discussion about collective identities, the role of Islam, and immigration in Europe. Brigittine presented, "Representing Muslim Women and The Problem of Culture: Pedagogical Approaches," that discussed how notions of culture can be used in problematic ways to represent essentialized notions of difference. French's presentation drew upon course modules she has developed for Introduction to Anthropology and Anthropology of Europe. Highlights of the trip included a surprise meeting and discussion with the Marseille Obama Committee. There are preliminary plans to invite several of the IES faculty to campus next year to further the possibilities for faculty and student collaboration.

Associate Professor Vicki Bentley-Condit writes from Kenya.... Tues, 25MAR08 - I don't like beer. Call me crazy but I've never liked beer. It just doesn't "speak" to me. However, I'm currently having a beer – a Tusker®, to be exact. I just finished an approximately 6-hr bus ride. Not just any bus ride, mind you, but a long, hot, sweaty, 6-hr bus ride and I'm having a beer. I was actually fantasizing about what I would have at the end of the bus ride as it was occurring. I knew it had to be something cold. Very cold. I thought, "a coke would be nice", but I can have a coke any day. Alternatively, "iced coffee would be lovely", but, again, I have iced coffees all of the time. Then, it hit me. A beer! I never drink beer so that makes it "special". It will be a reward, a treat, a monumental celebration of having withstood the trials and tribulations of this 6-hr bus ride. Now, you need to realize, first of all, that I am in Kenya (thus, the Tusker®). Not only am in Kenya but I started the day in a relatively remote part of Kenya with the need to travel to Mombasa. I've spent all of spring break in Kenya – about equally divided between Nairobi, Mombasa, and the Tana Reserve out on the Tana River. The latter is from where I've been traveling on this day. I've been in Kenya setting-up some baboon research for my upcoming sabbatical year. My plan, back in the wee hours of this morning, was to catch the "early bus" from Garissa to Mombasa. I knew it would be a long ride. However, I figured that on the "early" bus there wouldn't be too many other travelers, I'd get a seat by a window, and I'd probably nap much of the way. Did I mention that the rains have begun and that today is the first day following a 4-day Easter holiday in Kenya? Hmmm. I was mistaken. First, the early bus was quite late and I was getting very concerned as to whether it was going to show at all. The road between Garissa and Garsen is not paved. So a little bit of rain goes a long way towards making it impassable. Second, it was a holiday weekend. Many people in the US travel when they have a long, holiday weekend and people in Kenya do the same. So, the bus was late and full. I mean REALLY full. Somehow, though, I managed to squeeze aboard. My bag with all my equipment that I had planned to keep by my feet at all costs disappeared towards the front of the bus. I, meanwhile, was

squeezed into a standing spot in the aisle, hanging on to a luggage rack above, and trying not to infringe too much on the personal space of the seated person by whom I was standing. At this point, I'm thinking "it's going to be a really long day". Oh, did I mention that I have to be drugged to the gills (i.e., Dramamine or Scopolamine) in order to travel due to motion sickness issues? So, there I am, drugged, dopey, squeezed in, standing, sweating (but not yet profusely), and not really looking forward to the remainder of the day. After about an hour or so, we reach our first real stop – Garsen. We have a bit of a lay-over here while people get off to tend to various business. It's at this point that I got incredibly lucky. The ticket taker on the bus, bless his heart, offered me, the "mama mazungu", his seat. I love this young man! His seat was a cushion on the floor right next to the driver. It was the best seat I've ever had anywhere in my entire life! It meant sitting, as opposed to standing, for the next 5 hrs. It was still hot (actually, somewhat more so as the cushion seems to have been right over top of some heat-generating part of the engine) but I was sitting. By the time we reached Mombasa, I was very hot and very dirty and very tired but I was in Mombasa (and on my way back to Nairobi and, ultimately, Grinnell). As I sit here and consume my cold beer in my drugged-out and empty-stomach state, I realize how much I love Kenya, Kenyans, and what I do (possibly influenced by the Dramamine and empty stomach??). The bus ride was actually the perfect way to leave the Tana. Field work is not easy. It's not supposed to be easy; that's why it's called work. This trip has been wonderful in that I've accomplished all that I had hoped and things are looking good for the upcoming year. So, as I sit here and drink my Tusker®, I offer a toast to all of you current and past anthropology-types who have had similar experiences as my bus ride and who realize that these experiences are part of who we are, what we do, and to some extent why we do what we do.

Professor John Whittaker and Kathy Kamp attended the Society for American Archaeology annual meeting in Vancouver, and as usual, a number of Grinnellians presented papers and some joined us for dinner. Among those attending: Aksel Casson '96 (U Washington) coauthored a poster on "Exploring Applications of Luminescence Dating: Case Studies from Europe, Asia, and the Near East." Erin Marie Williams '00, (George Washington U) with others presented a poster "Upper Limb Motion During Stone Tool Production" in the Paleoanthropology Society meetings that preceded the SAAs. Grant McCall '01 in his first year teaching at Tulane, also had a poster "Artifact Trampling and Taphonomic Implications of a Namibian Early Stone Age Assembly in an Elephant Wallow" in the Paleoanthropology meetings, and for the SAA meetings coauthored a paper "A Wide View of Hominid Faunal Exploitation Strategies: Early and Middle Pleistocene," as well as organizing a symposium on Experimental Approaches to the Archaeology of Stone Tools and chairing another session on butchery patterns in Early Stone Age sites. Alex Woods '03 (U of I) could not attend, but presented a paper on "Problems in Studying the Origins of European Blade Technologies." Mike Galaty '91, teaching at Millsaps College, presented a paper with colleagues on The Shala Valley Project, Northern Albania 2007, Results from the Prehistoric Site of Grunas." Ellery Frahm '99 (U Minnesota) with others presented his work "Investigating Ceramic Technology at Urkesh (Tell Mozan, Syria) Using Image Analysis Software to Correlate Sherd Scans in the Field and X-ray Element Maps in the Lab." Bill Green '74, (Logan Museum Director, Beloit College) coauthored a paper on "The Logan Museum of Anthropology's Collections Accessibility Project: A Multi-phase Approach to Improving Preservation and Access." Steve Nash '86, (Denver Museum of Nature and Science) is due shortly to enlarge his family by twins and could not attend, but coauthored a paper on "Unintended Consequences of Archaeological Heritage Law".

Also attending was Robin Cleland '06, in her first year of the graduate program at Arizona State University. Kathy Kamp was elected to the Board

of the SAA last year, and she and John Whittaker presented two papers, "Axes and Pyramids: Stone Tool Industry at El Pilar, Belize," and "Simple Tools, Complex Concepts: Mobility and Ethnicity in the Southwest," and John was a commentator for a session on Lithic Morphometrics.



#### **Recent Publications**

#### Whittaker, John

2008 Atlatl Artifacts at Indian Knoll. The Atlatl 21(2):1-3.

2008 Review: Poison Arrows: North American Indian Hunting and Warfare, by David E. Jones. The Atlatl 21(1):13.

2007 Introduction. In *Primitive Methods of Making Stone Tools According to the Experiments of Halvor L. Skavlem*, by Alonzo Pond. Logan Museum Bulletin Vol II No.1 (1930). Reprinted 2007 Gustav's Library Vintage Reprints.

2007 Late Survival of Atlatls in the American Southwest? *The Atlatl* 20(1):10-12.

2007 Clovis Atlatls? Hemmings' Evidence from Florida Rivers. *The Atlatl* 20(3):14.

#### McCall, Grant S., and John Whittaker

2007 Handaxes Still Don't Fly. Lithic Technology 32(2):195-202.

#### **Douglas Caulkins**

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

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

#### **Presentations:**

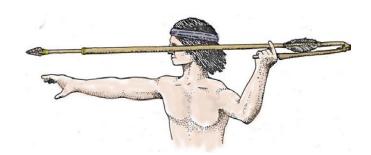
2008 Douglas Caulkins, "Consensus, Clines, and Edges Revisited." In SASci/SCCR joint Session 2: "From Ethnography to Ethnology and Back Again" February 21, Society for Cross-Cultural Research 37th annual meetings, New Orleans.

2008 Douglas Caulkins, Discussant, SCCR Symposium "Community Subcultures & Informal Social Structures. February 21, Society for Cross-Cultural Research 37th annual meetings, New Orleans.

2008 Douglas Caulkins, Moderator, SCCR/SASci Keynote Session, "Cross-Cultural Research Models & Methods for Understanding Others." February 22 Society for Cross-Cultural Research 37th annual meetings, New Orleans.

2008 Douglas Caulkins, "Elitism and the Risk of Radical Relativism," Society for Scientific Anthropology Session 24, "The Irrelevance of Anthropology." February 23, Society for Scientific Anthropology 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, jointly with SCCR, New Orleans.

2008 Douglas Caulkins, "Identity, Hybridity and Social Capital in the Irish Diaspora" The Global Irish: Conflict, Coexistence and Community, American Conference on Irish Studies annual meeting, Davenport, IA, April 19.



### Alumni News

Brigid Naughton '01 [mailto:brigid.naughton@gmail.com] (in an email to Prof. Roper.) "...I have set up my internship for my second year of my studies here; I will be doing it at Château Guiraud in Sauternes (the Bordeaux region of France). It is very exciting. I am going to be in charge of their microvinification and their green house. Though of course I will be involved in the normal production work of the vineyard as well. I hope you are having a good time at Grinnell! I do miss anthropology. The courses at Grinnell were so much fun. The debate that you had us do on international legislation and on GMOs turns out to be great background information for my studies here of wine, where we have heated discussions about GMOs, and international agricultural law.

Sydney McQuoid '73 [mailto:smcquoid@tx.rr.com] 2007 was a year of doors closing and opening to make way for the new. With the sale of The Oxygen Network to NBCU in November and the subsequent closing of the Dallas office after 8 years, I am retiring from cable. It has been an amazing 27 years of travels and travails. It was an honor to have been instrumental in building four (4) start-up national cable networks (MTV, Lifetime, Game Show Network and Oxygen) and three (3) affiliate sales teams in Dallas. It is fitting that Oxygen, which fueled my passion for women and leadership, is the pinnacle the privilege of hiring, developing and leading sales teams. Looking back at my career, I see both parents' core influence. Dad's sports' teams and individual coaching experience taught me how to build a winning team by cultivating both the team as an entity and coaching individuals. Mom, my life librarian, guided me to become a prolific reader of leadership books while mailing numerous articles to assist me as I moved into a leadership role. Both parents encouraged me to find experts/mentors who could provide coaching through the tough times. Their inspiration was at the heart of everything I accomplished. I also see the strong influence that a liberal arts education from Grinnell College played. I recall the writing tutorial that raised the level of my writing skills exponentially and led me to become skilled at writing business "prose". As a cultural anthropology major with the requirement of an original thesis, I integrated much of that early learning into developing a small office culture with values of excellence, openness, continuous learning, teaching and teaming as we cared for our customers and each other. Much of my learning was from poor role models which taught me what not to do which instilled in me the desire to lead by example. I continue my coaching role with former Oxygen team members as they enter a new company or seek employment. Over my career, coaching and mentoring became the most enjoyable part of being a

I have time now to explore in depth my political side. In 2007 I was invited to attend a reception for Terry McAuliffe, Chair of Hillary's Campaign, lunch with Bill Clinton and 150 of his TX friends for Hillary, lunch with John Dean and 150 of his friends and a reception fundraiser at my home for Emily's List with Ellen Malcolm, President, speaking. To top if off, I traveled to Des Moines IA the week end of 12/9-11 campaigning with women leaders in IA for Hillary. Gerry Laybourne, former CEO of Oxygen Media invited me to join her in an amazing experience canvassing for Hillary by phone and in person. I continue to campaign for Hillary by volunteering my time in making telephone calls on her behalf. Making history by electing an experienced leader as president of the US, who happens to be a woman is something I would like to see in my lifetime. I am beginning to be more active locally in the Democratic Party primarily assisting other women running for office.

As an active member of Central Congregational Church (UCC), Dallas, TX and during my tenure as Mission Board Chair in 2005,

I initiated the development of Exploring Contemporary Values Forum with the assistance of our minister, at the time, Reverend Chip Hastings. We determined there was a need to educate and inform primarily our congregation and secondarily the community at large, on issues of our day. The first program premiered the documentary Wal-mart: The High Cost of Low Price by Robert Greenwald followed by a lively discussion moderated by a noted SMU sociology professor. Subsequent programs with knowledgeable speakers were on immigration, Darfur, Elder Care and Global Climate Change. I continue to chair this Forum committee today.

As a supporter of Planned Parenthood of North Texas, I have purchased a table at their annual luncheon for years and hosted like-minded friends to enjoy the award presentations and noted authors including David McCullough, Michael Beschloss and Bill Bradley to name a few. In 2008 I will become a member of the host committee that organizes this major fundraising effort.

Vacation travel also is on the agenda. Tim Reichard, my husband and I are avid hikers and together in September, 2007 we vacationed in Alaska hiking and listening to nature in Denali National Park. We enjoyed a flyby tour of Mt. McKinley and other natural wonders in a small five (5) seat plane. We are planning a trip to the Sequoia National Park in California this fall. Long before that I will be traveling down the Rhine River in Germany on a cruise with my 84 year old mother, April, 2008. I remain open to "wild" possibilities as I explore this new life course. Yoga, meditation, writing and reading add to the pleasures of a more relaxed time.

Kirsten Anderson '00 [mailto:sistakaa@gmail.com] Greetings from Birmingham, England!! I'm plugging away at my studies and hoping to finish my MA within the year! I volunteered for GBT last summer doing some trail building near Lake Baikal in Siberia. It was absolutely fabulous! We camped in tents for two weeks, cooked all our meals over a campfire and bathed in a mountain spring everyday! The group of volunteers was a wonderful mix of Russians, Germans, two girls from Oberlin and myself and a few friends. I would really recommend it for anyone interested in environmental issues, Russia & Russian or for someone who is looking for a summer study-abroad type experience!

Dana (Winsley) Greenwood '95 mailto:bingerboo@yahoo.com I still don't know what I want to be when I grow up and I'm pretty sure I'm supposed to be grown up already! I figure a Grinnellian would understand. I currently teach high school math - which I enjoy, but I'm starting to think I should've made some money first. I'd love to do something with eco-architecture. I currently live/teach in the Navajo Nation and I love the hogans... so there is some Anthro going on there. Are there any alums doing eco architecture?

**Richard Grinker '84** [mailto:rgrink@gwu.edu] Rich Grinker's book, UNSTRANGE MINDS: REMAPPING THE WORLD OF AUTISM, was named one of the "Best Books for 2007" by LIBRARY JOURNAL.

Mrinalini Watsa '05 miniwatsa@gmail.com (Bio Major) I'm finishing up the second year of a Ph.D. program at Washington University in Saint Louis in Physical Anthropology. I study germ-cell chimerism in Callitrichids. After my Masters' requirements are done, in a couple of months, I will spend the summer traveling to various field sites in Latin America to pick one for my dissertation research. I'm looking at places in Peru and Guyana at the moment. Primatology is a great option for those of you who don't want to do laboratory biology but don't want to study social theory either- it combines labwork and fieldwork and there are great perks like being in the rainforest three months of the year and getting really close to some fascinating creatures. If you have questions, contact me at <a href="mailto:mwatsa@wustl.edu">mwatsa@wustl.edu</a> and I'll be happy to answer questions. Did I mention they pay you to do all this?:)

Megan Bryant '91 [MeganB@jfk.org] A few weeks ago I was promoted to Director of Collections and Intellectual Property [at the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza (memorializing the JFK assassination)]. Quite a mouthful, I know, but it gets the point across I suppose! The last thing I expected when I moved to Dallas was that I'd still be here almost 12 years later, but here I remain quite happily.

**Michael L Galaty '91** In May 2008 *Anthropology News.* (Millsaps C) received a Collaborative Research Award for "The Shala Valley Project," which aims to produce a diachronic record of Shala Valley cultural resources and to contribute to theoretical discussions regarding cultural isolation versus incorporation. This effort will help preserve knowledge on a unique and quickly changing landscape and way of life.

#### **Alumni Publication**

Carl Drexler ('02)

2008 Monuments and Memory at San Juan Hill: Archaeology of the Spanish-Cuban-American War. *The SAA Archaeological Record* 8(1):26-28.

Matthew Hedman ('96)

2007 The Age of Everything: How Science Explores the Past. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. ISBN 0-226-32292-0

When Matt was a student here, he spent a summer on the archaeological field school, but we still weren't able to distract him from a life in hard science. He is now a Research Associate in the Dept of Astronomy at Cornell University, but fortunately continues his interests in archaeology and ancient writing systems.

In *The Age of Everything*, he explains the physical science bases of dating techniques. He begins with Maya calendars and transports us chapter by chapter deeper into time. After an extensive discussion of radiocarbon dating, calibration, and archaeological problems, he describes Potassium-Argon dating and its place in paleoanthropology, followed by molecular dating and evolutionary issues, meteorites and the age of the solar system, and finally light, stars, and the age of the universe. *The Age of Everything* is enjoyable partly because Hedman's writing style is clear, non-technical, and engaging. He gives about the best explanation of the physics of carbon dating I have seen, but the book is not really about explaining dating techniques. In each case, Hedman tells a story of discovery and science, and uses the interpretation of dates and their scientific bases to explore larger questions about the nature of the universe, our place in it, and how we understand it. Recommended!

If you want more Grinnellians' work on dating, see also Stephen Nash ('86) *It's About Time: A History of Archaeological Dating in North America.* (2000, University of Utah Press).



for your restricted contribution to the Anthropology Department.

Jeremy Alexander '94 Gary Oppenheim '01