

GRINNELL COLLEGE

ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT



Fall 2011

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Anthropology Celebrates Mexico's Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)

October 31st- November 2nd



Mexico's Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), celebrated from October 31 to November 2, is a time for family and friends to remember and honor their deceased loved ones, in part by visiting them at the cemetery or by building ofrendas (dedicatory altars) in their homes. Large community-wide ofrendas are also constructed. This may sound overly morbid; however, think again. The holiday is vibrant, colorful and festive.

It was in this spirit that Visiting Assistant Professor, John Seebach and the Anthropology Department SEPC sponsored a small gathering for Dia de los Muertos on October 31, 2011. An ofrenda was created in the first-floor lobby of Goodnow Hall, and students, staff and faculty were invited to bring pictures and mementos of their departed friends and family for remembrance and display. These reminders shared the altar with marigolds (donated by Associate Professor Eric Carter), sugar skulls and candles, while the altar itself was watched over by one of Anthropology's teaching skeletons (and several skulls of our hominin ancestors!). The lobby was decorated with traditional papel picado, brightly colored paper banners depicting skulls, flowers and other themes. During the gathering, offerings of hot chocolate and pan de muerto were provided. "Dia de los Muertos, which corresponds to All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day in the Christian calendar, is a time when the World of the Living and the World of the Dead merge," Seebach said. "We commemorate our ancestor's lives, their love and their influence by inviting them to join us in celebration, while at the same time recognizing that we will join them all too soon."

Day at the Races

V. Bentley-Condit



Class of 2015: Evan Griffith, Connie Lee, Evan Johnson, Florian Perret, Chris Graves, Yu Zhang, Colin Davis-Johnson, Dabney Hofmann, Sarah Jensen (Not Pictured: Harry Maher, Richard Renteria, Isaiah Tyree)

During the fall semester, I taught a tutorial entitled “Born to Run?” which focused on the question of what role running may have played in human evolution and, ultimately, whether humans are born to run. Over the course of the semester, we explored a wide range of topics – from basic anatomy to human evolution to modern ultra-runners. One of the topics along the way was the comparative anatomy of various running species, including cheetahs and horses. While there aren’t a lot of cheetahs running about Iowa, there are running horses. So, on a Friday evening in September (all in the name of science and liberal arts education, of course), we went off to [Prairie Meadows](#) to see the quarter-horses running. It was exciting to see up-close-and-personal the things we had been discussing. I was lucky enough to pick the winner in both races that we watched but, unfortunately, had made no wagers. Too bad – they were both long shots and could have meant a boon to the Anthro budget!



Of Dragons, Lizard Man and Cornmeal Offerings

Clare Boerigter '14

BLOG SPOT

Arizona, You're Breaking My Heart

Day 28: Of Dragons, Lizard Man, and Cornmeal Offerings

....Before bearing off into the dusty rez, we stopped at Lizard Man, an infamous site for any Grinnellian with ANT 104: Introduction to Anthropology under their belt. So, not Yelena or me, but definitely anthro major Noah. Kathryn Kamp and John Whitaker, two anthropology professors at Grinnell, had focused extensively on the Lizard Man site, running a Grinnell Archaeology Field School around excavations of the site. Home to the Sinagua people and abandoned in A.D. 1100, artifacts such as axe-heads, obsidian projectiles, hoes, turquoise beads, mutates, manos and a fire hearth were found at the site.

You May Now Call Me Indiana

On March 11, 2011, I received an innocuous little envelope in my campus mailbox. Inside, a letter informed me that I had been selected for my GRINNELLINK—that during my summer break, I would be interning with Neil Weintraub '86, and the South Zone Archaeologist in the Kaibab National Forest in Arizona.

In the span of time it took me to read the content of that letter, I experienced no small number of emotional surges. There was elation, there was curiosity, and yes, there was fear. I pictured a lot of different scenarios for what was ahead of me, but the intense, transformative, and ultimately beautiful experience that I had was never one of them.

In my blog, I have tried to recreate the people, the places and the moments of my summer in a readable and interesting manner. To do this, I strove to integrate information about the Kaibab National Forest with my own distinct experiences and reflections.

The above excerpt details my adventure to the Hopi Tribe's Taawa Park, a sandstone amphitheater inscribed with some 5,000 petroglyphs, and the infamous Lizard Man. During a summer filled with fascinating glyphs and breathtaking vistas, the stunning Taawa Park and history-rich Lizard Man are both high on the list of contenders for “Most Stunning Archaeological Site.”

Kaibab National Forest: Linking College Students To Forest Service Culture Since 1996, the Kaibab National Forest heritage program has hosted student volunteers from Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa. Supervised and mentored by South Kaibab zone archaeologists Neil Weintraub (Grinnell '86) and Erin Woodard, these 13 volunteers have contributed over 5,000 hours to the Kaibab National Forest.

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/kaibab/home/?cid=STELPRDB5348131>



Come celebrate life by honoring those who have gone before us

*a gathering for
Dia de los Muertos*

*October 31, 2011
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Goodnow Hall*

*Warm your bones
with hot chocolate
and pan de muerto*

*Please bring pictures of
your departed loved ones
to place on the altar.*

*The ofrenda (altar) will remain standing in the Goodnow Lobby
from October 31 through November 2*

Sponsored by the Grinnell College Department of Anthropology and the Anthropology SEPC



Brigittine French



***Maya Ethnolinguistic Identity:
Violence, Cultural Rights, and Modernity in
Highland Guatemala***

by Brigittine M. French

[Book Review](#): *American Anthropologist*
Volume 113, Issue 3, pages 518–519, September 2011

University of Iowa Presentation

November 11, 2011

***See, Hear, and Report No Evil: Anthropology
and Violence in the Irish Free State***

This paper offers a new analysis of discursive data from Conrad Arensberg and Solon Kimball's (1937, 1940) canonical ethnographies of rural Ireland conducted under the auspices of the Harvard Irish Study that the ethnographers never mentioned or discussed in their published work. It does so in order to show how disciplinary reflexive histories of anthropological scholarship situated in larger fields of inequality may inform current anthropological contributions to the study of post-conflict nation-states. The analysis is borne out through a focus on the nascent district court system that developed following the Irish Civil War to argue that the courts and its participants were key agents in establishing and contesting the legitimacy of the post-war political system at the local level.

Jon Andelson '70 recognized for support of Iowa's rural communities and family farmers.



Jon Andelson was recognized for his educational efforts over the last 12 years on behalf of sustainable agriculture in and around Grinnell. The award "Friend of the Family Farmer Education" was presented at the ceremony sponsored by the Iowa Farmers Union and co-sponsored by ISU's Sustainable Agriculture Student Association, held Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Iowa State University Memorial Union. Close to 100 Iowans gathered to discuss the state and federal policies that affect their farm operations and rural communities.

The Iowa Farmers Union is a grassroots organization, founded in 1915, that empowers family farms through education, cooperation and legislation.





Anthropology

Fall 2011
Potluck



NEW STUDENT RESEARCH FUND TO HONOR EMERITUS PROFESSORS 2011

Since its founding, the Grinnell Anthropology Department has striven to create fieldwork opportunities for majors. This student research emphasis helps to explain why Grinnell has ranked 3rd in the nation, proportionate to enrollment, as the undergraduate origin of Ph.D.s in Anthropology. In some cases these research opportunities have been funded by external sources, such as the National Science Foundation Grants won by Professor Ralph Luebben or, more recently, by Doug Caulkins. In other cases the funding has come from the college, through the summer archaeology program or the Mentored Advanced Project (MAP) program that enables students to do fieldwork under the close supervision of a faculty member.

However, college funding is not always adequate or available for departmental student research needs. In some cases, research opportunities arise after the deadline for funding applications or there are no mechanisms of support for external field schools. In addition, college funding requires the faculty sponsor to be in the field with the student. Sometimes the student does not need to have a faculty mentor in the field, either because the local mentoring support is adequate or the student has already had field experience in the location.

Doug Caulkins history of extensive research with students provides many examples, one of which includes recent work Caulkins undertook with Maja Gamble '10 and Tom Elliott '10. Caulkins, Gamble, and Elliott examined the construction of social memory through differing presentations by sectarian museums in Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Their research was supported by a MAP grant for the summer of 2009. Caulkins could not send them back in the summer of 2010 to continue the research because he had to stay in Grinnell while editing a book. In the late spring, however, the Saville Report on the causes of the "Bloody Sunday" violence was issued, and it seemed imperative to return to Derry to see how the display plans of the sectarian museums were influenced by the polemic Report. No college funding was available since the deadline had passed and Caulkins was committed to being in Grinnell for the summer. Because this research opportunity was so important and timely, Caulkins wrote a personal check for \$2,000 for the expenses to send Maja Gamble

back to Derry for three weeks of research.

Maja had a successful research trip. Maja and Caulkins presented their paper at this years meetings at the Central States Anthropological Society meeting and the Society for Applied Anthropology.

The Department of Anthropology has established "The Emeritus Professors' Student Research Fund" to expand student research opportunities like these when normal college funds are not available. Starting with Doug Caulkins, the awards will honor the most recent retiree of the department. See below if you would like to make a contribution.

The Emeritus Professors' Student Research Fund

The Anthropology Department has established competitive grants fostering student research experiences in Doug Caulkins honor. These grants will support outstanding students in research and travel to meetings to present research results when there are not sufficient or appropriate Collegiate funds available.

Your annual gift to the Pioneer Fund provides essential support to all areas of the Grinnell's academic program, including Anthropology. In addition to your regular support of the Pioneer Fund, we invite you to support our project to honor Doug and support future students by sending your tax-deductible contribution to the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, 733 Broad Street, Grinnell, IA 50112. Specify its designation for the Anthropology Emeritus Professors Fund, and identify Doug as the faculty member you wish to honor. Or, you can call 866-850-1846. To make a gift on-line, go through <http://loggia.grinnell.edu>, and add the fund name and Doug's name in the comment box.

Thank you to the following who have provided us with the opportunity to start these grants in the Spring of 2012.

Sandra Edwards '80
Christina Peters '00
Donna Dralus '89

Sydney McQuoid '73
Lisa Feldberg '75
Curtis Scribner '73