

Grinnell College

Anthropology Department

Vicki Bentley-Condit
Associate Professor
& Chair

Fall 2004 Newsletter

Doug Caulkins
Professor

Jon Andelson
Professor

Kathy Kamp
Professor

John Whittaker
Professor

Katya Gibel Azoulay
Associate Professor

J. Montgomery Roper
Assistant Professor

Maria Tapias
Assistant Professor

Brigitte French
Mellon Post-Doctoral
Fellow and Lecturer



Sondi Burnell
Academic Support
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*Donated by
Dale Furnish '62*



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Seri Ironwood Carvings

Mr. Furnish had the following to say about the Seri carvings:
"I think that the carvings attracted me because the wood was so warm and expressive, and I like representational art. Ironwood really is a special medium, with heft and depth of grain and luster and lots of character. The carvings are great to hold. The Seri carvers did the animals that inhabited their world, and captured the essence of those animals in a way that spoke to me."

Faculty News



Kimberly Jones

"Hello! As the newest addition to the department I am enjoying getting to know everyone and only experiencing a wee bit of culture shock in lovely Grinnell. It is a big change from my past three years in New York City. I sure don't miss the traffic! An exceptional new professor at the college where I was teaching, York College, CUNY, was Tom Zlabinger '96, ethnomusicologist extraordinaire. It was fun to have a colleague who helped me get ready for the move by filling me in on Grinnell culture. I've yet to make the suggested 3 a.m. run to the back door of the bakery, but it's certainly on my list of things to do!

"This past summer I collected oral histories of nineteen ethnically diverse elders who regularly attend a senior center in Jamaica, Queens, N.Y. This qualitative data was gathered to compliment quantitative, longitudinal data collected in Fall 2002 and Spring 2004. The aims of this project are to better understand how various groups of elders use the center and to assist the center administrators in developing programs and activities that meet the needs and desires of the elders. Caroline Logan '05, anthropology major, will be working with me this semester to analyze and write-up the data sets.

"I'm looking forward to a busy and hopefully productive year. I'm teaching Introduction to Anthropology and Anthropology of Tourism this semester and will teach Introduction to Global Development Studies, Statistics and another section of Introduction to Anthropology next semester. This semester Jon Andelson and I are supervising the senior thesis project of Erika Doot '04, who is investigating tourism in the Amana colonies. I also hope to complete revising my manuscript based on life histories of Pittsburgh ex-steelworkers into a book. In addition, I'm planning fieldwork for summer 2005 in Montes Claros, Brazil, where I taught and conducted research in 1995. I will be exploring the role of the city's state university in promoting social development through the training of future workers in health care and education."



Ox-drawn surney bringing tourists to the Amana Colonies, 1908.

-F. William Miller

Katya Gibel Azoulay

"I spent considerable time last year working with Professor Kesho Scott (Sociology), with input from a number of colleagues in other departments, in drafting a proposal to reinstate an American Studies program at the College. The proposal was approved by the faculty in its last meeting of the academic year and I am currently serving as chair. The American Studies Concentration is in the first stage of a three year plan toward reconstituting the program as a Department with a critical internationalist perspective and will absorb the Africana Studies Concentration. This transition will pioneer the first of a number of planned tracks to broaden the scope of American Studies at Grinnell College and allow students an opportunity to create a focus of study that is regional and thematic. Students planning to major in Anthropology and concentrate in American Studies should note that one of the core courses of the Concentration is *Anthropology of American Culture* is offered in the Spring Semester. In fall 2005, anthropologist Professor Craig Howe, a member of the Lakota nation, will be a visiting scholar in residence in the American Studies Concentration and will offer two courses (the core course and a special topics course focused on representations of American Indians in film). Prof. Howe has visited Grinnell twice as a MSIR and offered short courses through the Anthropology Department."



Invited Publications:

"Not an Innocent Pursuit: The Politics of a 'Jewish' Genetic Signature." *Developing World Bioethics* (December 2003), 119-126.

Book Review in *American Ethnologist* Volume 31 Number 3 (August 2004) *Crossroads, Directions, and A New Critical Race Theory*. Francisco Valdes, Jerome McCristal Culp, and Angela Harris. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2002. [Book Reviews On-line, posted August 2004]

Off-Campus Presentations:

"Placing Race at the Center of the Curriculum," 5th *Whiteness and Privilege Conference*. Central College, Pella, Iowa, April 2004.

"Jews, Genes and Race: Exchanging one Trope for Another" Presented to *Panel Session Hierarchical Ethnic Group Relations, Networks and Changing Cultural Representations of Jews and Judaism* (Session in memory of Walter Zenner); American Anthropological Association annual meeting, November 2003

Discussant: *Looking Forward: Anthropologies of Black Experience*, Association of Black Anthropologists (ABA) Invited Session. American Anthropological Association annual meeting, November 2003.

Campus Presentations:

Panelist: *Du Bois Symposium* (closing session chaired by president of the College)

Panelist: *CSMP Conference*

Initiator and Panelist: *Loving Mega-class* (in preparation for Professor Annette Gordon-Reed Noun Convocation)

Panelist: *Lily Convocation*, February 2004

A Note from London....

Faculty news continued....



John Whittaker



Kathy Kamp

John Whittaker and Kathy Kamp spent the summer doing Maya archaeology. "We share a grant from the Luce Foundation with David Campbell in Biology, and this summer it supported two Grinnell students (Kim McLean and Pete Brands) and two Belizean students (Rafael Guerra and Jose Guerra) for six weeks excavation at the site of El Pilar in Belize. El Pilar is a major center with pyramids, and has been the focus of research by Anabel Ford of UC Santa Barbara for a dozen years. We chose to do a project that was relevant to the larger research plan but that allowed us autonomy, and could be managed by a very small team – no pyramids for us.

"We excavated a trench across an area we called *Cahal Tok*, Place of Flint, because it was near a deep deposit of waste from making stone axes. What we found was a small stone platform that was essentially a workshop area, where stone tools were made by the thousands, with the flakes pushed off to one side to keep the work area more or less clear. An unexpected addition was a scatter of 198 broken spindle whorls, which are small limestone disks, often with simple carved line decorations. These would be used on the bottom of spindles for spinning cotton thread, so was this also a work area for cloth production? All the whorls were broken – in fact, only four fragments joined together, and it seemed unlikely that this was just accidental breakage and discard.

"After our six week excavation, our permit allowed us to bring the artefacts home for analysis, and the whole team returned to Grinnell where we spent the next six weeks in the lab, sorting thousands of stone flakes, a pile of poorly preserved pot sherds, and our spindle whorl bits. In order to decide whether they represented normal use and breakage, we made several dozen, and sat out in front of Goodnow dropping them on the sidewalk, hitting them with stone hammers, and otherwise abusing them. They were not hard to make with stone-age tools, and only intentional smashing duplicated the kind of breakage we saw in our specimens. The Maya often buried deposits of artifacts (and occasionally people) as sacrifices, and it seems we have some kind of intentional destruction and burial of spindle whorls, although we can't say exactly what it means, whether to honor a particular deity or to signal the end or beginning of cloth work at the site, or something else.

"As usual, our Belizean expedition gave us a chance to see Belize with the friendly guidance of our Belizean students, and we could show them a bit of Iowa and American archaeology. We visited Tikal in Guatemala, Living History Farms in Des Moines, Guerra and Brands family homes in Belize and Iowa, Cahokia Mounds in Illinois, numerous sites in Belize, excavations at Baking Pot near San Ignacio, and a knap-in near Normal. We received visits in our turn from iridescent mosquitoes, raccoons, a fer-de-lance viper, and the U.S. Ambassador to Belize, Russell Freeman, Grinnell '61.

"As soon as the summer program was over, before we could even eat tomatoes from our garden, we were on the plane for England, where we are spending the semester on the Grinnell in London program. We're teaching British Prehistory, a class on British Identity with Elizabeth Dobbs in English, and a class on Foods. Grinnellians passing through London before January should let us know."

Pictures...



1. Grinnell in London. British Prehistory class visits Avebury. 2. Russell Freeman '61 and John Whittaker screening at Cahal Tok. 3. Russell Freeman '61 and Kathy Kamp digging at Cahal Tok. 4. In the plaza at El Pilar: Anabel Ford, Kathy Kamp, Russell Freeman '61, Kim McLean, Susie Freeman, Pete Brands, Jose Guerra, Rafael Guerra, John Whittaker. 5. Grinnell expedition at Cahal Tok, El Pilar, Belize.

Faculty news continued....

Doug Caulkins



THE ANCESTORS: An Interim Report

"As I approach semi-retirement (or Senior Faculty Status) my mind turns toward those concerns (or "issues" in the language of young folks) that preoccupy the elderly: genealogies. Genealogical research is, indeed, one of the main hobbies, next to golfing and napping, of retirees. I've never been very interested in this kind of research. My distant relatives email me excitedly with their latest results: we are related to Charlemagne. I shrug my shoulders. Isn't everyone? After all, Charlemagne was the father of his country both literally and figuratively.

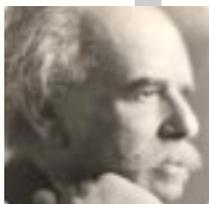
"I've been more interested in teaching/learning genealogies than in ones based on kinship. Instead of who begat whom, who taught whom? Last year's SEPC T-shirt, showing the teaching ancestral lines for the current departmental faculty, was based on just those concerns. I've done a bit more research and have assembled a new version of my genealogy, tracing the lines back to two of the important founders of anthropology, Franz Boas and Bronislaw Malinowski. In this genealogy the link between generations is operationalized as "sat in a class taught by X," not "read a book by X," or "thought that X was cool." Notice that I am not necessarily claiming that any learning occurred in that class, thus, if you alumni were in one of my classes, you too can be in the genealogy. You don't have to claim that you learned anything from me. Thus, Ruth Benedict sat in a class taught by Franz Boas, and Morris Opler sat in a class taught by Ruth Benedict, and I sat in a class taught by Morris Opler (remember, he was the one who was so negative about Leslie White). And some of you sat in a class taught by me, and even if you can't remember what I said that Opler said about White, you too are in the genealogy stretching back to Franz Boas. And Pappa Franz is still a relevant, honorable, and important ancestor (See "A New Boasian Anthropology: Theory for the 21st Century," in the September 2004 *American Anthropologist*). But there is also another route from Boas to me and you. The great linguist, Edward Sapir (yes, I know that you know he was a linguist), was one of Boas' students, and Charles Hockett studied with Sapir and I sat in a class taught by Hockett.

"Bronislaw Malinowski may be a less durable ancestor than Boas, but the lineage for him includes his student E.E. Evans Pritchard, and E.P.'s student Mary Douglas, and her student (me), and my student (you). While we are doing British anthropology, there is also Victor Turner, whose first American teaching position was at Cornell University, my graduate institution. I sat in a class taught by Turner, and so you can legitimately claim to be Turnerites, or Turnerians, or whatever. I've been quizzing my undergraduate professor (from Carleton) about the people who taught him at Harvard, but they are scholars not much read any more. Have you heard of Florence and Clyde Kluckhohn? No? Never mind—back in the 1950s they were hot stuff. My mentor says that he was at Harvard when Clifford Geertz got back from the field, but I don't know whether he sat in a class taught by Geertz, so I haven't added him to the genealogy.

"Obviously one could go on from here. I sat in a class taught by Bert Pelto, but who taught him? Clearly, I have more research to do. Now where did I park my walking frame so that I can safely shuffle over to the library?"

"Sat in a Class" Genealogy

**Franz
Boas**



(1858 – 1942)

**Bronislaw
Malinowski**



(1884- 1942)

Edward Sapir **Ruth Benedict**
(1884-1939) (1887-1948)

E.E. Evans- Pritchard
(1902-1973)

Charles Hockett **Morris Opler** **Mary Douglas** **Victor Turner**
(1914- 2000) (1907-1996) (1921- Present) (1920-1983)

Douglas Caukins



Grinnell Anthropology Students

Faculty news continued....



Maria Tapias

"In January Xavier and I drove out to California from Grinnell for the semester. I spent spring 2004 on leave at the Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies at the University of California, San Diego while Xavier worked on his dissertation at the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies. It was great to immerse myself into my research full time once again and to be around so many people who also work in Latin America. I had the chance to present my work on several occasions to different scholars and got great feedback for a few articles I have been working on. We had lots of visitors in California including Jenn Robinson (04') who stopped by while visiting a friend in San Diego. Now we are back and happy to be home. It's great to be back in the classroom."

Current News



"My name is Veronica Leigh Clark and I am the new Student Secretary here in Goodnow. I was born and raised in Abilene, TX. I am a sophomore and am planning on double majoring in theatre and anthropology. I have been around anthropology and archeology all of my life and it is nice to have a job involved with a life long interest. I am very excited about getting to know everyone here better and become even more involved in the department."

Rachel Miller '06 completed a MAP with Professor Jorge Torres (Music) in Grinnell over the summer. The project was a study of the Latin American bolero, focusing on the historical and cultural context of its development. Rachel wrote a paper on the role of nostalgia and bohemianism in the bolero. She will present the paper in the Spring 2005 semester.



Grinnell College Art Collection **SERI IRONWOOD CARVINGS**

donated by Dale B. Furnish '62

This gallery was created by Egan Lias '05 and Cristina Wood '05 as a part of their MAP summer research project. We worked with the Seri carving collection donated by Dale B. Furnish '62, in order to create physical exhibition cases in Goodnow and a virtual gallery located at www.grinnell.edu, to share Mr. Furnish's generous gift with the public. Our work also included research on the Seri Indians of Sonora, Mexico; focusing on their culture, and the necessities for beginning the art of ironwood carving.

Thanks to: Dale B. Furnish, Lesley Wright, Kathy Kamp, Fred Hagemester, Paula Forbes, Grinnell College Anthropology and Falconer Art Gallery.

Current news continued....

Ilana Rahel Meltzer '05, a Grinnell College junior from Stevens Point, WI, can credit her parents for helping her win a prestigious Beinecke Brothers Memorial Scholarship. Meltzer, one of only 18 students, nationwide, to receive the scholarship, will be given \$15,000 a year-\$30,000 total-in addition to \$2,000 immediately prior to entering graduate school."What a wonderful honor to win a Beinecke Scholarship," Meltzer said. "The scholarship will help me pursue a doctoral degree in anthropology and Chinese.



"My parents moved to China when I was young, and during my six years there, I came to love the Chinese language and culture. I know that China will always be part of my life, and I'm committed to using my education to deepen intercultural understanding between China and the United States," Meltzer said. "That commitment, combined with the strong support of my professors at Grinnell College, and my parents at home, helped me qualify for the scholarship."

The Beinecke Brothers' Memorial Scholarship program, established in 1971, selects about 20 students from a list of participating institutions. Individuals selected tend to be students planning to attend graduate school in a traditional liberal arts discipline. The scholarship program was established by the Board of Directors of the Sperry and Hutchinson Company to honor Edwin, Frederick, and Walter Beinecke. The board created an endowment to provide substantial scholarships for the graduate education of young men and women of exceptional promise. Recipients must have a documented history of receiving need-based financial aid during their undergraduate years.

Darby



"Darby" a Grinnell College legend will continue to live, both in name and spirit, following the construction of a new athletic center on the northern edge of campus.

The performance/basketball/volleyball gymnasium within the athletic center will be named Darby Gymnasium after a Grinnell icon that hosted such speakers as Martin Luther King Jr., who came to campus on October 29, 1967, just six months before his assassination, and musical performances by such legendary rockers as Bruce Springsteen.

The Darby torches will be incorporated into the new building and the floor will be re-used in the auxiliary gym. Current scoreboard and shot clocks will also be moved over to the new facility, as well as preserving some of the bricks and one of the famous, or infamous, wires that volleyballs frequently hit. Other aspects of Darby Gym will be saved and used in the community, including light fixtures, basketball backboards and rim, and lockers being donated to the Grinnell-Newburg Community school district.



The new Joe Rosenfield '25 Center will be constructed in the site where Darby Gym was located.

Alumni News

Ellen Liebman Glatstein '79 writes: "Hi Professor Andelson, You probably don't remember me, but I was an Anthro major who graduated in 1979. You can see my recent photo on www.ideastogo.com, but I had a large afro in 1979! In any case, I'm writing to say that despite my mother's grim predictions, I am finally, actually using my Grinnell anthro degree in my work! After an MBA and early career in marketing, I am combining both my loves—and will be translating American marketing processes into 10 major cultures to facilitate global business growth for large consumer-products companies. So one reason I'm writing is to say thank you for showing me how fun this field really is."

(eglatstein@idea-greenhouse.com)

Bill Green '74 has been teaching Environmental Archaeology and Introduction to Museum Studies in his capacities as director of the Logan Museum of Anthropology, adjunct professor of anthropology, and director of the Museum Studies Program at Beloit College. This summer he began directing an archaeological survey of the city of Beloit with a grant from the Wisconsin Historical Society. He also has a two-year grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services to expand the Logan Museum's educational programs and activities. He has coauthored publications coming out on protohistoric Omaha archaeobotany in northwest Iowa (Plains Anthropologist Memoir), on 1790s Arikara material culture (University of Utah Press), and on W.C. McKern and the history of Wisconsin archaeology (The Wisconsin Archeologist). (greenb@beloit.edu)

Sharon Joy Lite (Kramer) '93 Ari Yitzak Lite was born on May 12, 2004, at 5:42 p.m., weighing 6 lbs 13 oz and measuring 19 inches long! He is now up to 7 lbs. and is nearly crawling, in anticipation of long, meandering hikes in the Escalante canyons and float trips down the San Juan. Ari is a verifiable Tucson native and a Diamondbacks fan. Mother Sharon, who had a natural childbirth, is already back to her early morning runs. (sjoylite@earthlink.net)

Sharon Doerre '89 "I got the anthropology newsletter this week and suddenly realized that I had yet to share my own big news. Yes, miracles do occur. I successfully defended my dissertation in social anthropology at UT in December and will walk across the stage this May. My dissertation is titled, "Children of the Zawiyah: Narratives of Family, Faith, and Transformation among Sufi Communities in Modern Damascus." My committee liked it very much. I was praised for my theoretical perspective and methodology but I must be a writer at heart because the comment that I loved the most was that it was "a good read." Hopefully, (crossing fingers and knocking on wood) it will be published relatively soon. Right now, I am

focusing on publishing it because that is something that I can control rather than the job market! I'll be sure to let you all know when I have a contract. Each of you should be able to see your influence in the text. My concern with community and identity as well as Syria (via archaeology) all began at Grinnell. Kathy Kamp is mentioned in the acknowledgements and I think somewhere in the text as well since she knows one of my main informants and that kind of serendipity is one of the focuses of the dissertation itself.

"I have taught a course titled "Contemporary World Issues: Islam" at St. Edwards University since the fall of 2000. This spring I also taught two more classes as a leave-replacement. Introduction to Global Issues and Senior Seminar in Global Issues. And yes, I still have my syllabus and notes from my own senior seminar in anthropology! (What a geek I am!!) I dug them out when I was preparing for that class. Wow! I learned a lot in that course. I will teach my regular contemporary issues course in the fall as well as supervise a graduate student. I may also teach a religion course on Islam. The pay is very low at St. Edwards but it is just a few blocks from my house and it's nice to keep some academic affiliation while preparing the dissertation for publication. They don't have an anthropology department which breaks my heart but the school suits my purposes for the moment.

"I was planning to return to Syria last spring and then this spring as well when geo-political events intervened. We want to take the whole family back there but if things don't calm down in the region I may be returning for a short stay alone. I have another writing project to start and I'm beginning to explore research possibilities in Africa. We shall see. It sounds like all is well in Grinnell. I'll be thinking of you all with gratitude on Saturday when I walk across the stage and get my hood. Thank you! alf shukran! (sdoerre@mail.utexas.edu)"

Sarah Fee '86 "I received my doctorate in African studies (sub-discipline, anthropology) from the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris, France in spring 2003. Thereafter I helped carry out community projects in the villages in Madagascar where I had done my fieldwork — thanks to a Joseph Wall grant from Grinnell. Most recently I started a job with the public programs division at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. We are developing an exhibit on the life and career of Swiss-born anthropologist Alfred Mettraux, who will also be the vehicle to speak about the history of social/cultural anthropology in the first half of the 20th century." (Fee.Sarah@nsmnh.si.edu)

Alumni news continued....

Allison Brummel '01 "I just wanted to let you know that I've been accepted into the Public Policy and Management program at Carnegie Mellon and I'm receiving a scholarship for over two-thirds of the tuition. Thanks for the (presumably) favorable recommendation!" (allisonbrummel@yahoo.com)

Kate Arnold '01 writes: "I'm working with the Hennepin County Office of Multi-cultural Services in Minneapolis. The position is through AmeriCorps. I'll be able to design and implement my own project to work on half of the time I'm there (must be related to immigrant/refugee services in the county). The other half of the time I'll be assisting in volunteer coordination and general assistance for the 55 workers from all over the world that assist immigrants and refugees (and those that do not neatly fit in those categories) in finding healthcare, education, housing, legal aid, etc. etc."

Kristin Grote '02 writes: "Well here I am in the sunny central valley of California. After basically having a nervous breakdown trying to decide where to go to graduate school, I ended up choosing the International Agriculture Development masters at Davis because of the ag. classes and because its only a 2 year program—leaving the door open for either going directly into the field or going on for a Ph.D. in the social sciences. I'm trying not to have second thoughts and am now in the process of securing funding, finding someone willing to send me to Africa, etc. This first quarter (which starts at the end of September) I'll be taking an international development seminar, agroforestry, agricultural microeconomics and maybe a social science methods course. Anyway, I'll keep you posted as to how things shape up and what sorts of research I get involved in. I imagine Grinnell is nice and busy at the moment—and I hope the semester is getting off to a good start. Thanks for your help with grad school."

(kristingrote@yahoo.com)

A note from **Kirsten Anderson '00** about her new life in rural Japan. "I have been in Nyuzen-machi (New-zen), a small town of about 20,000 people, for just over a month now. It is hard to believe it has already been that long. The first month was quiet and boring as far as work was concerned. The students were on summer holiday the month of August but school just started last week so my life is busier with teaching, meeting hundreds of students, lesson planing and attending "Sport Day" (their version of the Olympics) events at my four schools. But even though I just started teaching, the first month has been packed with new and interesting experiences from a squid harvest festival and public baths in the mountains to Japanese BBQ's with snails and rotating sushi restaurants. When I first arrived in Japan, I spent three days in Tokyo at a JET orienta-

tion. There were about 1,300 new JET's at this training and we took up most of a skyscraper hotel in the heart of the business district in Tokyo, Shinjuku. It was really impressive to see so many English speakers from all over the world gathered with the same goal of living in Japan for the next 1-3 years to teach English. The JET Program claims to be the largest exchange program in the world, with over 6,000 teachers in Japan at any given time (good thing JET doesn't compete with AFS)! After listening to speeches galore, attending endless seminars on the communicative approach and team-teaching and a few nights out in Tokyo, 30 of us boarded a plane for Toyama city, only about four hours from Tokyo by car, but we flew anyway. We were met at the airport with signs and our future students. My Board of Education had brought a big van full of Junior High School students to greet me." sistakaa_pdx@msn.com

Courtney Birkett '99 "I'm pleased to report that on September 28 I successfully defended my master's thesis, "Space and Power in Eighteenth-Century Ephrata, Pennsylvania." I should officially receive my M.A. from the College of William and Mary in December. My experiences at William and Mary have led me to an even greater appreciation of Grinnell professors' dedication and professionalism. In other news, at the beginning of September I took second place for women in the European atlantl competiton at Cahokia. The turnout was smaller than in past years, but there was still good competition. I hope to see the return of the Grinnell team next time."(scratchblue@lycos.com)



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