More Violence for Northern Ireland?

By Doug Caulkins, Anya Vanecek ’15 and Mackenzie Shanahan ’14

Doug Caulkins, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, is leading a multiyear study of regeneration of Derry-Londonderry Northern Ireland. Anya Vanecek and Mackenzie Shanahan are senior anthropology majors supported with summer funding from Grinnell’s Mentored Advance Project research funds.

Several nights of conflict between the police and Protestant loyalist demonstrators erupted in North Belfast when Protestant Orange Order marchers were prevented from entering a Catholic area. Four hundred police from other parts of the United Kingdom were drafted in to help Belfast police contain the violence in which more than 30 police and an unknown number of demonstrators were injured.

President Obama visited Belfast, Northern Ireland, on his way to the G8 summit and congratulated residents on the success of the peace process that has created relative calm between the Catholic and the Protestant communities who battled each other during “The Troubles” in the last part of the 20th century. With the reemergence of tensions between communities, a violent demonstration erupted in Belfast on the evening of July 12, during the annual Protestant marches of the Orange Order, celebrating the triumph of William of Orange in 1690 over the deposed Catholic King James in the Battle of the Boyne. Conflict broke out Friday between the police and loyalist Protestant demonstrators when the police prevented the marchers from entering the Catholic area of Ardoyne in Belfast, a traditional route that was put off-limits by officials this year. Demonstrators, mainly teenage boys, hurled fire bombs, bricks, stones, bottles, and flashed laser pens while police replied with plastic bullets and water cannons. People on both sides were injured, including a Protestant Minister of Parliament who was attempting to calm the protestors.

In contrast to Belfast’s violence, the Orange Order marches of the 12th in Derry-Londonderry, Northern Ireland’s second largest city, were peaceful. The Catholic residents prefer the name “Derry” which resonates with the old Irish name of the settlement on the site. Protestants prefer “Londonderry” which draws attention to the founding of the 17th century walled city by the merchant guilds of London upon the urging of the King of England. The official name of the town combines the two names to show that the best peaceful compromise is to have it both ways. Derry-Londonderry is celebrating its selection as the UK City of Culture 2013 and the Orange parades were particularly impressive, with 5,000 marchers in over 60 Orange Order lodges and 40 bands parading from the Protestant neighborhoods across the bridge over the river Foyle into the walled city, which is predominantly Catholic. It took over two hours for the marchers to pass the war memorial in the center of town.
To mark 41 years since the enactment of Title IX, the Rosenfield Center is holding a symposium to discuss how far equality for women has come in both areas of education and athletics. This symposium not only addresses the successes Title IX has achieved in equality for women, but also the challenges women still face today in academics, athletics, and sexual respect issues. The “Legacy of Title IX Symposium” is working closely with the Grinnell Athletics department to demonstrate the difficulties of holding administrative positions in the field of athletics and how that has changed over time. The symposium also aims to connect with Alumni, encouraging them to share their experiences and stories about the advantages and challenges of being a woman athlete at Grinnell College.

The photo for The Legacy of Title IX Symposium is a photo of the Grinnell College women’s basketball team in 1907 set alongside a reenactment by today’s women athletes, representing their diverse involvement in all sports and disciplines at Grinnell College.
More Violence for Northern Ireland? - continued

At midnight of the previous day, huge bonfires of tires and wooden pallets were lit to begin the celebration of the Orange Order marching season. This year, as usual, a tricolor flag of Ireland was flown from the top of the 35 foot high pyre. Some Protestants annually incinerate the Irish tricolor to emphasize their loyalty to British rule and their rejection of the possibility that the six counties of Northern Ireland will ever become part of the Irish Republic.

The Londonderry police were out in force, with armored Land Rovers parked strategically in the streets, while a police helicopter flew overhead, keeping a lookout for gatherings of potential troublemakers. The senior police officers constantly circled through the city in unmarked cars to make sure that all remained peaceful. Those of us who were lining the streets to watch the parade were cautioned sternly by the police not to say or do anything provocative. Police were careful to disperse any groups of teenagers that might have created a problem. Dozens of police stood watching the onlookers as the parade started, with a horse-drawn carriage with a costumed “King Billy” (William of Orange) and his wife waving to the audience. Then came thousands of marchers and the bands, which come in three varieties: bagpipe, accordion, and flute. All bands have massed drums that stir the appreciative crowds and sometime intimidate the people of the Catholic neighborhoods, according to their critics.

This year the two communities in Derry-Londonderry were peaceful for the beginning of the summer parades. Police were overheard talking to tourists about the importance of the UK City of Culture award that brought many events and visitors to the city. Along with a series of infrastructure and entrepreneurial developments funded by the government, the year-long City of Culture event is intended to bring regeneration to the city’s economy. Both the Police Chief and the Mayor remarked that the City of Culture is setting a good example for Northern Ireland as a peaceful host for the Orange Order marches. Significantly, the new Orange Order banner leading the parade into the city features the city’s new Peace Bridge, which connects the two communities which live on opposite sides of the river Foyle.

While most of the residents seem enthusiastic about Derry-Londonderry’s selection as UK City of Culture for this year, with the attendant funding by the UK central government, a clandestine paramilitary group, RAAD, or Republican Action Against Drugs, pledged to resist the program. RAAD had gained notoriety by first threatening drug dealers and then kneecapping or killing them if they persisted in dealing drugs. Thus far RAAD has done little to disrupt the City of Culture Celebrations, apart from some small bombs set off near City of Culture offices.

During the five weeks of our field study of the impact of the City of Culture regeneration of Derry-Londonderry we encountered a great deal of positive energy in the dozens of events and programs in which we participated. Caulkins will return again next year to assess the long-term legacy of the program, along with another team of students.
The Stories We Tell

Early this past June, I departed London Heathrow Airport en route from Colombo, the capital city of Sri Lanka. As the plane launched itself up into the air, I turned away from the small window on my left, and looked about the economy class cabin. People around me read magazines and watched movies from small screens wedged into headrests. To my right a family from the London suburbs asked, "Where is your final destination?" In a blend of excitement and fear (for often the one accompanies the other), I too asked myself, "Where is my final destination?" I still wonder.

Two days later, I found myself back in Grinnell, unpacking bags, heavy from months of travel, pinning kitschy artwork on my bedroom walls. I moved slowly from sticky summer heat to the cool air of Goodnow Hall, my recent study abroad experiences trapped beneath layers of sweat. Those first weeks back were difficult; I felt incapable of carrying my story back with me to Grinnell. I was a new person in a place that felt so very old.

I was here for a summer MAP (Reflections on the Past: Land, Memory, and Meaning on the Iowan Farm) in the Anthropology department. During this project, I, along with Rachel Van Court '15 (under the mentorship of Professor Kamp), talked with families that have farmed in the Grinnell area for multiple generations. The agricultural practices of these farmers range from conventional and industrialized methods to alternative and organic forms. During these interviews we asked questions about the experience of growing up and living on the farm, memories of the past.

Through these memories, every farmer with whom we spoke (both those practicing industrialized and alternative forms of agriculture) expressed a deep appreciation and stewardship for the land. Often childhood experiences with both family and community on the farm fostered this relationship to the earth. Despite claims from popular (but misleading) environmentalist and agrarian mythology about farming, this love of the earth is not directly connected to the way in which one farms.

Towards the end of each interview I asked, "What was your favorite place on the farm growing up?" The answers to this question were my favorite part of nearly every interview. Farmers responded, retelling stories from their youth, pausing to recall those tiny details of the nearby farms on which they grew up, the farms on which they still live. They mentioned the tractors they once owned, the names of friendly neighbors and brawny horses. They repeated phrases like, "When I was just a kid on the farm..." and "Back then, I remember..." They articulated all those memories that I could not. And for that I was jealous. But I was also captured by the vividness with which they remembered and by the emotional potency of their stories. For moments, as they spoke, they recreated the personal experiences of their past. Memories existed, shared, alive in the space between us, over tabletops, through densely planted corn.

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Our strongest memories don’t just slip away. They live within us and between us. There is so much value in holding onto to them, and, at times, allowing them into the world, allowing these narratives of the past to be experienced in the present. They speak to the overwhelming greatness of the natural world. Of love and protection. Of hope and fear. Of journey to that final destination. In all their complexity and infinite variability they are human stories. They let us feel and know and believe.

I will remember the stories of these farmers, just as I will remember Sri Lanka. I will remember the sadness of selling the family farm, the childhood thrill of catching rabbits in the snow. I will remember walking along a rocky Sri Lankan shoreline and the feeling of reckless anticipation as the sun began to rise above the ocean.
At first glance, Grinnell, a rural town dropped smack in the middle of the cornfields of southeastern Iowa, about halfway between Des Moines and Iowa City, suffers from what you might call a lack of activity.

A town of 9,218 people; three grocery stores; one Walmart; maybe 20 restaurants, cafes and bakeries; about eight banks; and no more than a half-dozen bars -- a newcomer wouldn't be entirely unfair in assuming that there's not a whole lot going on.

This was certainly my perception when I first arrived to attend Grinnell College, a small liberal arts school with 1,600 students, 27 majors and a historical commitment to social justice.

Not that I was unhappy to be there. Any chance to attend school away from my home state of Minnesota was welcome, and I've always had equally soft spots for the metropolitan and the pastoral.

I probably had visions of a bucolic, slow-paced life on the prairie, one spent in appreciation of the simple beauty of the Iowa landscape and the salt-of-the-earth sensibility of the rural working class that inhabited it.

Ultimately, though, I think I just decided a college was a college, wherever it happened to be located and resigned myself to four years spent focusing on just that: my life on campus.

During my first year, I rarely left the approximately two-by-four-block rectangle within which my life, as a nonathlete student with a meal plan and dorm room, entirely took place. With a movie theater, concert venue, art gallery, parties, a cafe, plenty of study spots and all of my friends on campus, there frankly wasn't much incentive to leave.

While I liked to bike in the areas near campus and occasionally ate out at restaurants in town, my interaction with the "other Grinnell" remained fairly superficial throughout most of that first year. Eventually, though, this began to change.

The first thing to bring me off campus was the pursuit of a personal passion: rugby, which I had played in high school. I walked out of my dorm one day that first November and discovered a rugby game underway on the adjacent field.

I ended up playing with the Griffins for the following spring and fall seasons, the only Grinnell College student on a team of natives, ranging from high school students to fathers well into their 40s. While I had to quit the sport after the fall 2011 season for health reasons, I made my first true acquaintances outside of the immediate college community while on the team.

Starting the first week of my second year, I also began to write stories for the school newspaper. I found myself gravitating to the community section, which covers the off-campus community. Through my work as a student journalist, the town began to blossom before my eyes.

I discovered a community that -- if not as exciting or sophisticated as a bigger city in terms of nightlife, culture or cuisine -- was truly vibrant and engaging in its own right.

I discovered a local arts council, with regular art shows and concerts. I discovered a town that honors its rich heritage and history.

Since my second year, I've been doing my best to continue to engage with the off-campus community. Whether it's attending the weekly community meals free to all "Grinnellians," helping organize a newspaper club at the middle school or simply stopping by the local bakery toward the end of an all-nighter, I try to make sure I continue to treat Grinnell as more than the location of my college.

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Everyone’s context is different. I wouldn’t have to tell someone at New York University or UCLA that there’s more to life than what’s happening on campus.

But for those of us who do find ourselves in a place like Grinnell, I’d say:

Do what I did; give it a chance.

Get off campus, explore, talk to people who are not immediately connected to your academic career, find the excellent restaurants, funky neighborhoods (even if they’re only two or three square blocks), and quirky characters that make a place not just your home for four years, but someone else’s for a lifetime. It will be worth your while.

Sarah Burnell ’14, Moira Donovan ’14 and Adriyel Mondloch ’14, also presented their summer 2012 Blank Park Zoo MAP research, mentored by Vicki Bentley-Condit, at the Midwest Primate Interest Group Meetings on October 20, 2013 at Iowa State University.

Lee Purvey ’14 talks about his summer experience at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette at the poster session Family Weekend, Sept. 2013.
This summer, I worked as a research assistant in Dr. Kay Holekamp's Hyena Lab at Michigan State University through the International Research Experience for Students, an NSF grant which supports undergraduates to experience fieldwork. For nine weeks, I lived in a tented camp in the Masai Mara National Reserve in southern Kenya and helped Julie Turner, '11 collect data for her dissertation. For the most part, I rode in the back of a research vehicle with "Target," a life-size styrofoam model of a hyena (made by a company that manufactures archery targets—hence his name) and waited to deploy him. Julie uses Target to test hyena "boldness." Her research focuses on social intelligence (how well a hyena interacts with others in a group environment) and personality aspects that might contribute to it. We measure boldness by observing whether a hyena approaches Target and when the hyena realizes Target is not an actual hyena. To conduct a Target trial, we found a lone hyena traveling a predictable path, placed Target on that path ahead of the hyena, and video recorded the interaction for later analysis. Although we went on observations twice a day, we came across conditions for a Target trial only once in a blue moon, so I also helped collect general behavioral data.

This summer, I truly realized my interest in animal behavior, and also learned that living in the field is rigorous and often unrewarding: waking up in pitch darkness for observations at 5am, analyzing data back at camp during the day, observations again at 5pm, then passing out in my tent before 10pm. What it lacks in glamor, though, it makes up in a multitude of ways for people who are passionate about behavioral research. Fieldwork is not for everyone but this experience will definitely inform my decisions of what to do after graduation.

For more information about the Holekamp Hyena Lab and the IRES program:
http://hyenas.zoology.msu.edu/index.html
http://msuhyenas.blogspot.com/
I spent my summer doing an apprenticeship with the Grinnell Area Local Foods Alliance. My job included a range of activities which all related to learning about and supporting local foods efforts. Along with my co-apprentice, Eliza Honan ’14, I worked at the student garden, apprenticed with three local farmers, collected food from vendors at the farmer’s market to donate to the MICA food pantry, helped teach gardening programs for two children’s summer camps, and helped to coordinate for the Local Foods Coop. The apprenticeship was funded through the Center for Prairie Studies and guided by Professor Andelson. Professor Andelson organized a variety of field trips for us to learn more about agriculture and other local foods efforts. For one of our field trips we travelled to Decorah, Iowa, where we visited Seed Savers Exchange, the Oneota Coop (a very cool coop grocery store), and Luther College, which has a number of really interesting local foods initiatives and a full-time local foods coordinator to manage them. We also visited Fairfield, Iowa, home of the Maharishi University and a Transcendental Meditation community. Fairfield is very progressive in its food system, and the university has a major on Sustainable Living that we all wished we could do. The fieldtrips allowed us to see examples of successful sustainable foods efforts, which was really inspiring. We also helped organize a GALFA meeting, which brought together various people involved in food-related projects. I really loved how diverse and varied the apprenticeship was. I got to spend a lot of time outside, getting hands-on experience with farming. However, I also got experience with the community outreach and education side of the local foods movement. This made for an interesting job that never got old and a great Grinnell summer overall.
Toby Austin at Crow Canyon Archaeological Cortez, Colorado

In 2007, while looking for a way to fill the summer, Toby Austin, from Cedarburg, Wisconsin, found Crow Canyon’s website and was attracted by what Crow Canyon had to offer—and he liked the idea of traveling to a different area of the country. He approached Crow Canyon’s High School Field School as a way “to see what archaeology really was.”

“I really enjoyed High School Field School and the area. It was nice to have the mix of classroom and experiential activities,” he said. “It helped me decide that archaeology was what I really wanted to do.”

Not only did Toby end up enjoying High School Field School, he was impressed by Crow Canyon’s mission—the research as well as the education element. “I liked that sharing of knowledge,” he noted. “Lots of places do research; not many have that education component. That’s really special and really valuable in where I see my career going. I want to be doing something that engages the public.”

As a lab intern this year, Toby processed and analyzed a variety of artifacts, worked on flotation analysis (retrieving organic and inorganic materials from sediment samples using a water-separation technique), and instructed program participants in the lab. He also helped out the PBS archaeology reality show, Time Team America, by researching different types of artifacts, such as projectile points and scrapers, that are present in Paleoindian archaeological assemblages. In 2014, Time Team America will air an episode filmed at Crow Canyon and the Dillard site.

Toby said, as an intern, he had many opportunities to do more-detailed work than he did in High School Field School, and he was often able to work independently. And he noted that, with three years of college under his belt, he was able to build on what he had learned in school.

Toby’s internship lasted more than two months. During that time, he also tuned in to something that might have escaped a high school student: the reach of Crow Canyon’s influence. “Crow Canyon isn’t just about a single group,” he said. “Researchers come here from all over. They can do their work somewhere else, but they come here. That’s awesome.”

Toby is beginning his senior year at Grinnell this fall. He is considering taking his education to a higher level in the future, but first he would like to join the workforce for a while, perhaps as an employee of the National Park Service. We know that any employer would be lucky to have him!

from Crow Canyon enewsletter at http://www.crowcanyon.org/e-newsletter/2013/October/2013_toby_austin.html
Claire Tindal '07 is working as Historic Conservator at the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research.

"I run the conservation lab down here...so if anything's deteriorating, I handle it. Definitely learning a lot, but also have to deal some with the complexities of shipwreck salvage. But that aside, it's wonderful experience. Also thinking about dabbling more in the 3D imaging/printing realm, and associated applications in cultural heritage. May be headed back over to Australia to pursue those interests, but that's still up in the air.

...on the subject of shipwrecks, Florida has a rather complicated relationship with treasure hunters. At this point the system is very antiquated, and just generally difficult to deal with. Since the 60s or so, Florida has been issuing permits and contracts to treasure salvors for specific wrecks. My position involves negotiating with the salvors for the state's share of what they recover, which can be ... interesting.

My more normal conservation efforts include a wooden canoe excavated from Lake Munson, dated by C14 to around 1500ad, or just prior to Spanish contact. Conservation involved a slow dry (wrapped in plastic), followed by surface consolidation (Photo). Another was a copper eagle sculpture removed from atop the Natural Bridge Civil War Monument. The monument was erected in 1920, but over the years sustained numerous areas of loss -- primarily as a result of drunks with rifles and shotguns. I used a chisel to remove old copper powder/epoxy patch work that had been used to fill the holes. We then had the eagle scanned in 3d with a close range laser scanner -- and are now waiting on money from the State Park Service to have a replica constructed from its digital file. The replica will be cast in bronze; the conserved original will be placed on display in the education center they plan to construct out there."
Kelly Eldridge, finished her MA 2012 (Thesis on the blog), blogging on Artic Archaeology.

“I am an Alaskan archaeologist who focuses on zooarchaeology, but also has an interest in organic technologies (primarily harpoons), ethnozoology, archaeological ethics, and cultural resource management. I worked in the CRM world for about six years, and I recently acquired an MA from the University of Alaska Anchorage with a thesis on Western Thule archaeofauna from the Seward Peninsula. I am currently a PhD student at the University of California Davis.

This blog will hopefully be a good resource for other zooarchaeologists or archaeologists who want to brush up on the skeleton and life histories of Arctic vertebrates… I will continually be listing resources and links useful for faunal analysis as I find them.

As a member of the Alaska Consortium of Zooarchaeologists, I am always looking for new skeletal specimens for our comparative collection (housed at the University of Alaska Anchorage)... I am very interested in getting in contact with any hunters who may not use all of the bones from their kills and would be willing to donate the skeleton to the ACZ collection.”

http://OssiferousArctic.wordpress.com/

Ellery Frahm ‘99 now does archaeological analysis

“I am currently a Marie Curie Experienced Research Fellow in the University of Sheffield’s Department of Archaeology as part of the New Archaeological Research Network for Integrating Approaches to Ancient Material Studies in the Eastern Mediterranean (or NARNIA) project. I earned a doctorate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Minnesota, where I was subsequently a lecturer in the Department of Anthropology and a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Earth Sciences.

I am particularly interested in natural resource access, exchange, and use at varied scales (from the supra-regional to household levels) as well as organization of space, context of production, and human-environment-landscape interactions. My interests also include the development of early cities and states; the origins of human culture; archaic and modern human expansions; hunter-gatherer mobility, interactions, and behavioral ecology; technological choice and change; landscape, environmental and experimental archaeology; and ceramic analysis; and material culture in general. My primary geographical focus is Southwest Asia, including Northern Mesopotamia, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the South Caucasus, spanning from the Lower Palaeolithic Period to the Late Bronze Age.”


Andy Nelson ‘00

After nine years of grad school, I finally completed my PhD in Anthropology at the University of Virginia. My dissertation, Four Ana of Land and One Modern House: A Spatial Ethnography of Kathmandu Valley’s Urbanizing Periphery, was based on 14 months of fieldwork in which I studied the migration patterns, land transactions, house architecture, and local politics of the rapidly growing peri-urban settlements of Kathmandu, Nepal. The theoretical objective of my dissertation was to reverse the standard assumption that space and place reflect social practices and categories to ask how an urbanizing society might be considered a product of material and symbolic spatial processes.

Although ten years removed from my undergraduate days, my research was rooted in two experiences from my time at Grinnell. The first was as a study abroad student in Nepal in 1999; the second as a Grinnell Corps fellow (alongside fellow anthro-alum, Molly Davis ‘01) teaching at Lalitpur Secondary School (run by the elder brother of Grinnell alum, Sunil Sitaula ’99). In both cases I lived in the Kathmandu Valley’s urbanizing periphery and witnessed first-hand the encroachment of residential development into farmland.

After finishing the Grinnell Corps program in 2002, I went to London to earn a M.A. in the Anthropology of Media from the School of Oriental & African Studies. A few years later in 2005, I started the doctorate course at UV. I am currently employed as a Lecturer at the University of North Texas where I teach a variety of introductory (4-field and socio-cultural) courses and several upper level courses on the topics of South Asia, urban anthropology and qualitative methods.

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Ali Wade Benjamin ’92 is a writer in Williamstown, Mass. Friendly and approachable, she’s passionate about food issues without being dogmatic. Last year, she published The Cleaner Plate Club a guide for parents struggling to find healthful meals their children will actually eat. She also was the lead researcher and casting director for an Emmy-winning Sesame Street special on food insecurity in the United States.

For Benjamin, helping consumers engage with agriculture in practical ways is a vital component for change in the agricultural sector. Upon moving to Williamstown—home to many family farms—she says “I had these ideas; and then, particularly as my daughter got older, I found them bumping against reality of modern family life. There was a lot I didn’t know. I’d get these bags of vegetables from the CSA that were so beautiful, and there are no directions; it’s not coming out of a box. When consumers are able to connect with food issues, they wield a powerful voice.”

Full article printed in the Summer 2013 The Grinnell Magazine issue

Elizabeth Archerd ’76 has noticed a dramatic shift in public consciousness during her 30-plus years in the Minneapolis food co-op world. Archerd is director of community relations at Wedge Co-op, which turns 39 years old this fall. With 15,600 active members, Wedge was the first retailer of certified meat and seafood in the United States and the first certified organic retailer in Minnesota. “Wedge was a food source for people who distrusted mainstream agriculture. People don’t trust what’s out there, they want assurance that this is something they’d want to feed their children. Wedge is more than just a grocery store. It’s carrying all these hopes people have.”

Full article printed in the Summer 2013 The Grinnell Magazine issue

THANK YOU!

Restricted Contributions to the Anthropology Department

Jonathan Cox ‘86
William Dressler ‘73
William Eichmann ‘97
Jennifer Ross ‘83

THANK YOU!
If you do not wish to receive the Anthropology Newsletter, please e-mail Manra Montgomery at montgomm@grinnell.edu or write to Grinnell College, Anthropology Department, Grinnell, IA 50112-1690.