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Ape Research

Vicki Bentley-Condit



Four anthropology majors (L-R in picture 1: Andie Semlow '16, Jozi Chaet '16, Patrick Kinley '16, Taylor Watts '16) spent their summers working with Professor Bentley-Condit on comparative primate skeletal analyses MAPs – with foci ranging from long bones to hands and feet to the atlas. After many weeks spent both processing an orangutan specimen (“before” pictures not appropriate for you, the reader but see the “after” picture included here) and delving into all the landmarks, tubercles, foramina, and processes of the bones, the group decided to apply their knowledge to some “primate” locomotory behavior. Ultimately, all rejoiced in discovering yet another place in the real world where anthropological knowledge can be applied.

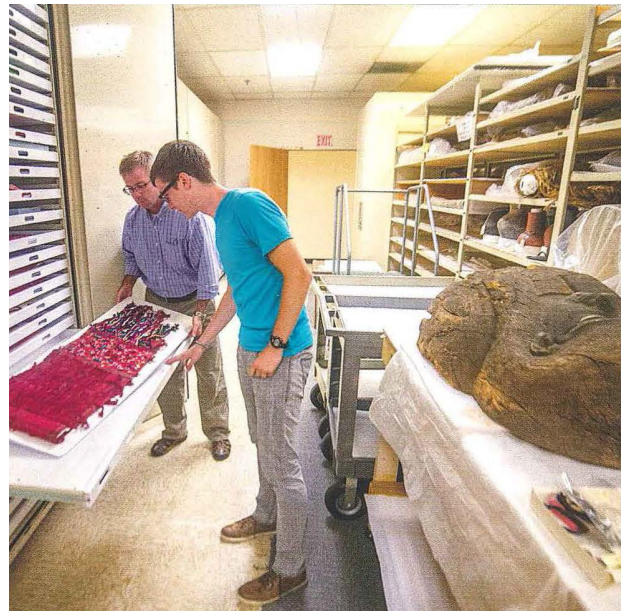
Summer MAP



They spent an evening at a local screening of the “Dawn of the Planet of the Apes” movie. Amidst the consumption of copious (free on Tuesday nights!) popcorn, Professor and students determined that the portrayal of bipedalism by the subjects was, in general, well done; however, there were some details lacking and others (such as the apes’ development of the ability to successfully vocalize human speech in a mere 10 years) left unexplained.

Student summer internships

At the Denver Museum of Nature and Science with **Steve Nash '86 - Collin Davis-Johnson '15** split his time between managing anthropological and archaeological collections and more independent work. "For the July Science Lounge at the Museum, I developed a presentation of select musical instruments in our collections from around the world to show to the public; in addition, I also gathered recordings of each instrument in order to provide the public with a holistic musical experience," Davis-Johnson says. (Photo and text from Grinnellink Summer Internships webpage)



Jordan Schellinger '15 spent her summer at the Kaibab National Forest in Arizona with **Neil Weintraub '86** surveying and recording archaeological sites. She says that the responsibilities that she has been given make her feel that she's "really contributing to the organization and not just learning about what it means to be a part of such an organization."



Class News



Photo: Standing: Jean Pharo, Sophie Neems, Jordan Schellinger, Zhi Chen, Lily Galloway, John Whittaker

Seated: Ellen Schneider, Clare Roberts, Olivia Caro, Emma Wendt, Kathy Kamp

The week before classes began, a small team of Grinnellians, sweating under the summer sun and moistened by occasional showers, conducted test excavations at the former Westfield schoolhouse. We were invited by the current resident, Robert Schultz, to see if there were interesting materials in a row of possible outhouse pits. As one of Kathy's areas of expertise is in the archaeology of children, these would have been interesting as a series of datable deposits, with child and school related artifacts that changed through time. The excavations were partly to see if there was a site worth further investigation, and also to give a group of student's basic archaeological training. As part of the 2-credit class, they will conduct background research and artifact analysis to write an archaeological report.

As it happened, we did not find any latrine pits, and not many artifacts either. We did identify a playground surface, bits of gravel and coal slag, with occasional minute glass fragments, nails, and other debris stamped into a thin layer (visible in the photo as a line of pebbles in the profile). The only artifacts that reflected school life were a number of fragments of slate pencils, from before about 1900 when students wrote their lessons on small slate boards instead of paper.

Grinnell-in-Washington group from Senator Harkin's personal balcony at the Capitol.

Eight Grinnell students are spending the fall semester in Washington, DC on the Grinnell-in-Washington program with Prof Bentley-Condit. In addition to their 4-day-per-week internships and other courses, the students are examining Animal Rights, Animal Welfare, Animal Policy with VB-C. Here, the group gathered for a photo-op on Senator Harkin's (D-IA) personal balcony at the Capitol. Other activities for the semester include meeting with the curator of Great Apes and researchers at the Smithsonian National Zoo and meeting with officials at the National Science Foundation.



Pictured from L to R are (front row): Yanling Xu, Veethi Vyas, Chloe Williams and VB-C; (backrow): Rouchong Liu, Jesse McNealy, Angela Liu, Misha Rindisbacher, and Kevin Charette

A piece of anthropologically informed wisdom from fantasy writer Terry Pratchett, *The Carpet People*:

They called themselves the Munrungs. It meant The People, or The True Human Beings.

It's what most people call themselves, to begin with. And then one day the tribe meets some other people, and gives them a name like The Other People or, if it's not been a good day, The Enemy. If only they'd think up a name like Some More True Human Beings, it'd save a lot of trouble later on.

Student News



Gloria Magege '16, Melissa Rogers '17, Lily Galloway '17, Bailey Dann '17, Prof Chuck Hilton, Alumnus Avi Pogel '06, Coach John Whittaker

The Grinnell College Raging Cows Atlatl Team made its more-or-less annual pilgrimage to Cahokia Mounds World Heritage Site near St Louis to participate in an event there.

Alexis Castro '09

Major: anthropology

Position: head foreign teacher, Best Learning, She yang, China

Posse city: Los Angeles



From Los Angeles to Grinnell, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and now China, Alexis Castro uses talents polished by Grinnell College and Posse to teach children across the globe. "In high school, I dreamed of traveling the world, helping people, and impacting lives," says Castro. "Posse put me on my first plane ride to Prospie Weekend at Grinnell, and now all I do is fly." Castro's ascent from introvert to head foreign teacher at Best Learning in Shenyang, China, began with a nudge from a high school peer to consider Posse. Though her high school lacked money for books, its teachers were "overworked and overwhelmed," and the threat of gang violence loomed, Castro exemplified the drive, leadership, and determination Posse recruiters seek. After graduating from Grinnell in 2009, Castro worked with youth in Iowa, conducted research in Louisiana, developed a passion for nonprofits and health and wellness, and worked on President Barack Obama's 2012 reelection campaign. These days, she teaches English to 36 students in China and manages 10 teachers from the United States and Canada. "Posse has afforded me with the opportunity to live the full life I've always wanted, and for that I'm forever grateful and humble to have been given such a prestigious award," she says.

Grinnell Magazine Fall 2014



Students in the LIN 395 seminar (Documenting Endangered Languages) working with Anthro major Lydia Mills '14 on simultaneously audio-recording and transcribing words from Tlingit, Lydia's first language. Tlingit is an endangered language of Alaska.



Courtney Martin and Allie Walker did a MAP with Professor Doug Caulkins over the summer and presented at the Family Weekend poster session.



Jen-Ai Notman presents her poster at the Family Weekend poster session.

Derry-Londonderry “City of Culture” as a Model for Post-Conflict Development.

Douglas Caulkins

This is a brief report on our continuing research on Derry-Londonderry, Northern Ireland, and continuing developments in the Peace Process. In the summer of 2013 the team, including Anya Vanecek '13 and Mackenzie Shanahan '13, focused on the “UK City of Culture 2013” programs and celebrations, which involved large subsidies from central government for programming and infrastructure development that would enhance tourism and local economic development. In the summer of 2014 an expanded research team focused on the legacy of the 2013 developments. Our team included Courtney Martin '14, Emma Falley '14, Allison Walker '14, Jen Ai Notman '15, and Emma Andelson, a Macalester student on loan for the summer.

Organizers of many of the events of 2013 actively recruited participants from both the Republican (Catholic) and the Loyalist (Protestant) communities. The planning and organization was delivered by a team of media experts and planners who were universally praised for their inclusive and imaginative programming. Unfortunately, this team was largely disbanded by April 2014, a few months earlier than originally anticipated, because of a funding shortfall which undermined some of the legacy plans.

For example, the funding shortages curtailed the expansiveness of the economic development plans, focused primarily on the encouragement of digital innovations and new firms in media production and digital learning. Some of the new firms that came into existence in the heady days after Derry won the U.K. City of Culture award are now out of business. Others, such as The Learning Pool, which has specialized in digital learning for local authorities in the UK, have grown and hired additional young, tech-savvy workers.

In spite of some disappointments in the legacy, it appears that the two communities are getting along even better than in the recent past. There were no riots in either Derry or Belfast during the 2014 Marching Season, and the new police chief in Belfast praised Derry for showing the way toward cooperative planning of the heritage celebrations of both communities. One of the benefits of the City of Culture is that Derry residents have more pride in their city as a cultural center rather than a center of violence.

The “Fab5,” as I call them, will be reporting on our findings in a panel at the American Council of Irish Studies meetings in November and at the Central States Anthropological Society Meetings in the Twin Cities in April.

Restricted Contributions to the Anthropology Department

William H. Buckheit '82

Madelyn A. Gardner '12

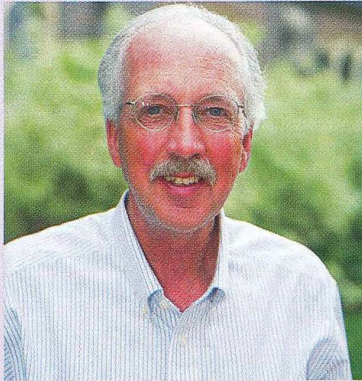
Jessica Roff '93

Don A. Smith

THANK YOU!

Alumni news

2014 ALUMNI AWARD

**G. Peter Ferrell III '74**

Beaumont, Kan.

Ferrell has shown excellent leadership in sustainability – both through his work with wind energy and through his service on the boards of the Land Institute and other organizations.

An anthropology major at Grinnell, Ferrell now manages the family's ranch in Beaumont. He was featured on Showtime's documentary *Years of Living Dangerously*, which examines climate change.

Rachel Haile

She has taken her passion and knowledge about cultural Anthropology to an unconventional field -- being a travel agent. More a travel designer, she creates immersive, customized trips for clients passionate about getting more out of their travel experience. She been in the travel industry since 2007, and just this year, started her own company -- The Trip Studio (www.thetripstudio.com) -- dedicated to immersive, experiential travel experiences for higher-end clients. Those who have the typical American vacation time for travel (1-2 weeks) but who want to feel integrated with their destination in a way most travelers on that timeframe never are. "As neat as some of these places are, they're empty without the people who live and work nearby," by Zach Zaslow, also class of 2004.

She would love to network to Grinnell faculty and alums who are interested in traveling in a more meaningful way. Please encourage folks to explore my website, company Facebook page, and my other presence on social media and reach out to me to plan their trip! I'm also open to talking to anyone at Grinnell about my experience incorporating an Anthropology degree with the business of travel.

Lydia Mills '14

I had a summer internship with the Forest Service through the Student Conservation Association. I was able to get out and about and within my second to last week, I helped discover an old village site on Admiralty Island. I have to say finding a burnt shell midden, petroglyphs, and culturally modified landscape is so much more exciting than reading about it, but without knowing what to look for I would have just walked on by. One of my biggest projects was trying to find paleo shore line. In Northern SE Alaska, the amount of glaciation makes it very difficult to tell where the shore line at that time was at, however we've been hiking mountains (up to 700m in elevation) and digging for glacial marine sediment. So far so good, its back breaking work but we're hoping to get some modeling done and start figuring out where human habitation sites are from that time period to fill in some blanks about that time period.

The summer was full of field work! I loved it, also made getting the office work done a little more bearable. I'm currently doing edits for an article that's going in the FS newspaper so I'll be sure to send you the link when its published.

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



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