

Grinnell College



Anthropology Department

Fall 2015

Brigittine French
Associate Professor, Chair

Jon Andelson
Professor

Vicki Bentley-Condit
Professor

Douglas Caulkins
Professor Emeritus

Cynthia Hansen
Assistant Professor

Charles Hilton
Assistant Professor

Katya Gibel Mevorach
Professor

Kathryn Kamp
Professor

Tess Kulstad
Assistant Professor

Maria Tapias
Professor

J. Montgomery Roper
Associate Professor

John Whittaker
Professor

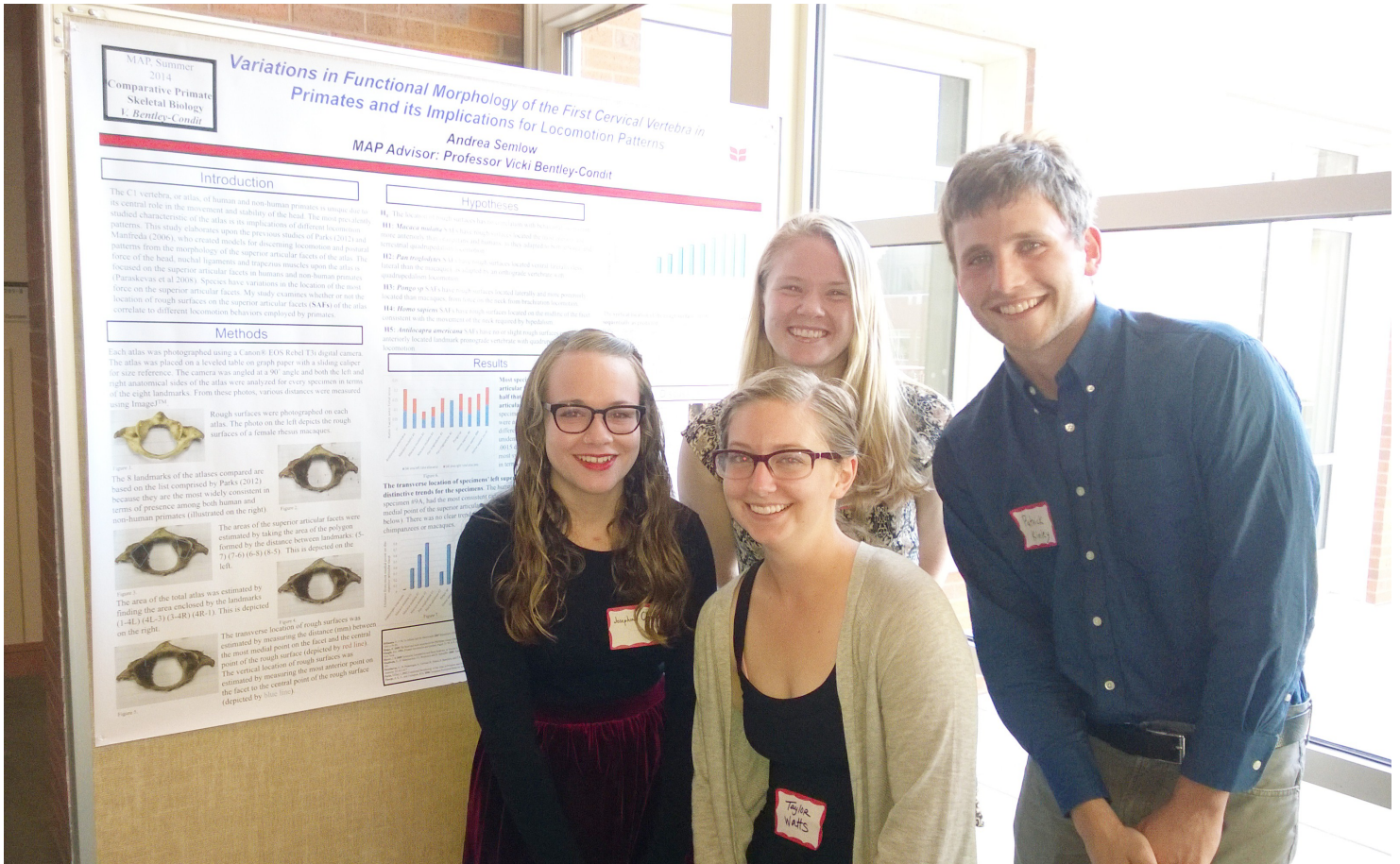
Marna Montgomery
Academic Support/Technical
Assistant

Anthropology Department
Grinnell College
Grinnell Iowa 50112
Tel: 641-269-4343
Fax: 641-269-4330
anthropology@grinnell.edu



Goodnow Hall after a summer storm, 2015

Photo taken by Stephanie Micetich



Professor Vicki Bentley Condit’s MAP students at Family Weekend, September 26th with a poster. L to R: Jozi Chaet, Andrea Semlow, Patrick Kinley and Taylor Watts.



Bronze and stone axes that were created in the Old World Prehistory (Anthro 261) class.



Patrick Kinley, Agustin Molina, Jake Beecher, Erin Callaway, Sophie Neems, Sasha Middledorp, Sunny Zhao, Dana Heilbronner, Carlie Arango, Merlin Matthews, Glenys Hunt. Professor John Whittaker in front.



Monument from Whittaker's class in front of Goodnow Hall.

Student News

Tasting Utopia: My Summer MAP

Lane Atmore '16

I meet up with my guide in the Argiro Student Center. She's a Maharishi Vedic Science (MVS) Ph.D. student at Maharishi University of Management (MUM) in Fairfield, Iowa, and she's agreed to show me one of the meditation domes today. The two domes are where the many hundreds of practitioners of Transcendental Meditation who live in Fairfield come twice a day to meditate. The principles of Vastu architecture, the origins of which date back over a thousand years, require all meditator buildings to be surrounded by a white fence, and as we pass through the gate in the fence surrounding the dome I have a feeling that I've just passed a metaphorical threshold. *There's no going back now, you're really in it this time!* I think as I close the latch behind us and make sure my face is composed to reveal none of my incredulity, excitement, and skepticism. I turn around and face the Bagambhrini Golden Dome for the lady meditators. *Here we go....*

This past summer, I completed a Mentored Advanced Project with Professor Andelson in which I conducted seven weeks of ethnographic research in Fairfield (pop. 9,500), the county seat of Jefferson Co. in southeast Iowa. I engaged in participant-observation and conducted interviews with a focus on the surprisingly numerous sustainability initiatives in Fairfield. Among the questions we addressed were why so many sustainability projects were occurring in Fairfield and whether the community's accomplishments in this area could be models for other communities such as Grinnell. My final report, "A Taste of Utopia: Cultivating a Community of Sustainability in Fairfield, Iowa," is posted on the Center for Prairie Studies website (<http://www.grinnell.edu/documents/165>).

While I was pleased with the outcome of the MAP and the paper, I did not feel as though I was quite finished with Fairfield. In particular, I wanted to explore the spirituality component of the town in greater detail. As part of my MAP research, I learned a lot about the role the Transcendental Meditation Movement has played in fostering sustainability initiatives in Fairfield. However, the role of the Movement is much larger than its impact on sustainability. The story of the Meditators' arrival in Fairfield, their influence on the town's character, the nature of TM (is it a religion, a philosophy, a world view?), divisions within the Movement, and the Movement's response to the death of its founder, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, in 2008 are topics I hope to explore in a senior thesis in the spring semester.



Lane standing in front of the Sustainable Living Center at the Maharishi University of Management, Fairfield

Carlina Arango '16 Dancing with Rabbits

This past summer I interned at Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage (DR), an intentional community of about 50 members in rural northeast Missouri with a focus of living a more ecologically sustainable lifestyle. During my two month internship, I was able to delve into a wide array of research activities, including collecting and weighing the community trash, collecting and compiling water and firewood usage records, and interviewing residents about food interviews. The most rewarding part of the summer was really getting to know community members through participant observation, which although it can be a really informal research method nevertheless yields a lot of valuable knowledge of how a community functions on a day to day basis. At the end of my time at DR, I really got to see the important role that tolerance and collaboration play into creating a more sustainable relationship among members as well as a more sustainable relationship with the environment. As a follow-up to my summer internship I presented my findings on the edible and food landscape of Dancing Rabbit at the Communal Studies Association (CSA) conference in early October, focusing in the presentation on food scenes and the wide range of diets within the ecovillage. I plan to return to Dancing Rabbit over fall break to conduct interviews on quality of life, which will help create a more comprehensive picture of how the ecovillage is doing. Overall, my research at DR has given me an invaluable experience and has showed me how anthropological research methods can be applied to relevant issues, like ecological sustainability, in today's world.



An old bus is now a cozy Rabbit home called Aubergine

Faculty News

John Whittaker and Kathy Kamp

We had a research leave in the Spring semester to work on material from our past archaeological field schools in Arizona, and spent much of our time in Flagstaff. Our first field school site, Lizard Man Village, was fully published long ago, but one of the problems with field school archaeology is that a summer excavation can accumulate a lot of artifacts, but when the summer ends, you rush back to teaching without much opportunity to do the necessary analysis. We have a professional obligation to analyze and publish what we dig up, and our permit for working on public land (the Coconino National Forest) requires that artifacts end up at the Museum of Northern Arizona after analysis. In any case, we made a lot of progress, analyzing thousands of pottery sherds and small artifacts, revisiting some important sites and rethinking local resources and geography, and writing sections of what will be a book on how the Sinagua lived in a land occupied not only by the living, but by the visible traces and memories of ancestors. With Byl Bryce, we submitted an article on the arrowheads and bow remains from a famous burial, the "Magician" excavated near our sites in 1939. The Magician was the most elaborately endowed burial scientifically excavated in the Southwest, and so named because of a set of carved and painted wooden wands that the Hopi recognized as paraphernalia for a particular ritual involving hunt and warfare magic. The Magician has now been destroyed by reburial under the so-called Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, obliterating one of the most informative of all Southwestern finds; this was the last chance to do any analysis and preserve what we can of the story he had to tell. Now we are back on campus for our normal teaching life.

Meanwhile, my atlatl research continues. In a set of experiments using a hog from local organic farmer Barney Bahrenfus (humanely killed and eaten after the experiment), we demonstrated that stone points are extremely effective, and contrary to some claims, could not have served to rotate a flying spear. Another set of experiments measuring the velocity of throws by many different atlatlists using all sorts of equipment shows that atlatls were unlikely to have propelled darts at speeds greater than about 70 mph. This is much slower than an arrow, but reflects the evolutionary trend in weapons to decrease size and increase velocity and range. Although much slower than arrows, atlatl darts are heavier, and can do a lot of damage. They are lighter than a hand-thrown spear, and without the atlatl, could not be propelled fast enough to be effective.

In the course of one atlatl competition I attended, a team of journalists appeared, wanting to film a segment on "primitive hunting." I was one of a number of participants who were interviewed; the interviewer and cameraman asked intelligent questions, tried our atlatls, and in the end produced a pretty good short online piece – for *Playboy*. This is probably the only time I will ever appear in that magazine. However, it appears that the college cannot admit that one of their professors appeared in a professional capacity in *Playboy* – although I forwarded the info to our publicity people and was thanked, the link never appeared in the weekly "Grinnell News Online." So here it is: "Paleo Hunters Bring Hunting Back to Its Primitive Roots" by Dennis Nishi, *Playboy Magazine Online* June 25, 2015, <http://www.playboy.com/videos/paleo-hunters>. Go have a look. *Playboy* is not just soft pornography (and very mild by today's corrupt standards), but also other journalism they feel will interest the manly man, such as primitive hunting. Perhaps not surprisingly, the piece focused partly on an attractive female atlatlist, but it was fairly well done and accurate. And to take a feminist point of view, it showed a competent woman participating in hunting and sport on equal grounds with the men. Two of Grinnell's women alumni remain active in the sport atlatl world: Anne Feltovich '03 (teaching Classics at Hamilton College in New York) is currently ranked 19th among high scoring women in the International Standard Accuracy Competition, and Courtney Birkett '99 (an archaeologist in Williamsburg) is ranked 16th. Courtney has been Secretary of the World Atlatl Association for years and is now President of this small but prestigious organization.

Kamp, Kathryn A., John C. Whittaker, and William Bryce

n.d. The Magician of Ridge Ruin: Insights from Bows, Arrow Points, and Stratigraphy. Submitted to *American Antiquity*.

Whittaker, John C.

2015 The Aztec Atlatl in the British Museum. *Ancient Mesoamerica* 26(1):69-79.

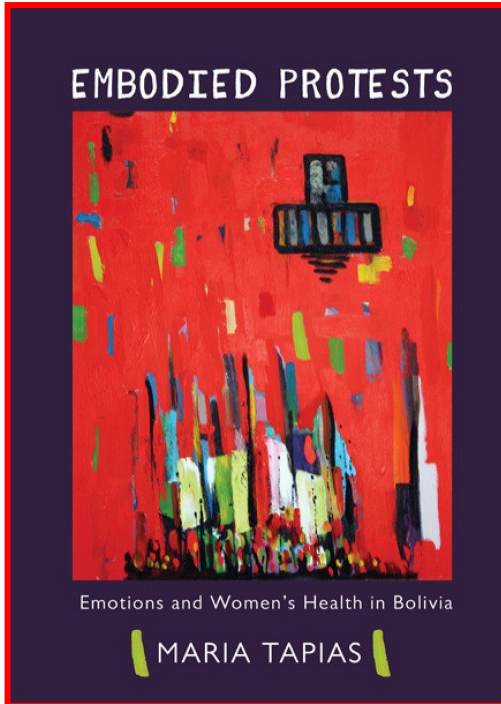
2015 Fire-and-water knapping: Origins of a lithic folk tale. *Lithic Technology* 40(1):40-51.

2014 Atlatls are Levers, Not Springs. *Bulletin of Primitive Technology* 48:68-73.

Pettigrew, Devin B., John C. Whittaker, Justin Garnett, and Patrick Hashman

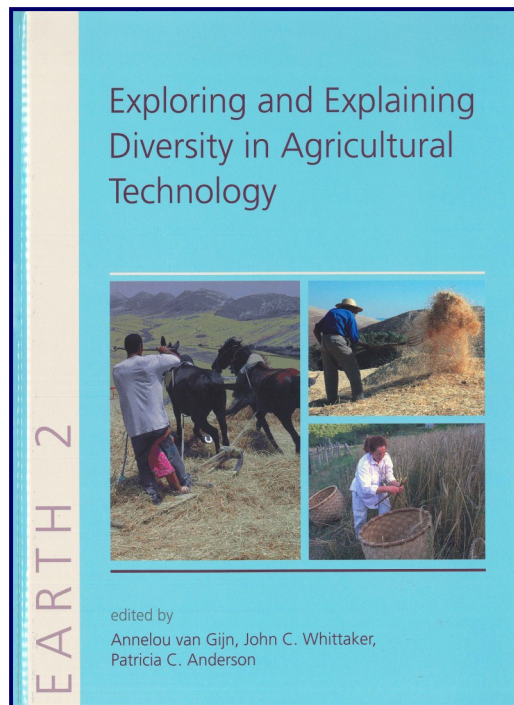
2015 How atlatl darts behave: beveled points and the relevance of controlled experiments. *American Antiquity* 80(3):590-601.

Faculty News



Maria Tapias has published *Embodied Protests: Emotions and Women's Health in Bolivia* (2015, University of Illinois Press). The book draws on 15 years of ethnographic field research among Quechua market- and working-class women to examine the impacts of neoliberal economic reforms on everyday lives in Bolivia. Tapias takes health and the embodied manifestations of distress as a window from which to observe the subtle articulations between the political restructuring of states and the private anxieties women experience under enduring political and economic volatility. Through a detailed analysis of women's narratives, the ethnography sheds light on the cultural parameters of emotion and illness, their entanglement with neoliberalism and explores how individuals navigate, protest and endure distress in their lives.

On October 6th, Associate Professor Briggittine French organized a reading of the ethnography as well as a panel discussion with Professors French, Liz Queathem (Biology) and Carolyn Lewis (History) in the Burling Library.



John Whittaker has been teaching at Grinnell since 1984. Interests in stone tools and their survival into industrial times led to a study of knappers making threshing sledges in Cyprus and Turkey (with Kathy Kamp), and that in turn to an invitation from Patty Anderson, an old friend from undergraduate days, to participate in a European Science Foundation consortium on traditional agriculture, EARTH (Early Agricultural Remnants and Technological Heritage). [Never sneer at the connections you will make as a student! Or the value of a good acronym.] The EARTH project was a wonderful opportunity to make connections, with several years of meetings and field trips, and finally editing a massive volume of many contributors, which itself was a "unique" learning experience.

Alumni News

Williams, Ariz., June 4, 2015—For Immediate Release. A Kaibab National Forest archaeologist was recently recognized with a prestigious statewide award in public archaeology by the Arizona Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission.

Neil Weintraub, zone archaeologist for the Williams and Tusayan ranger districts, was named the 2015 "Professional Archaeologist" of the year by the commission for his significant contributions to the protection and preservation of, and education about, Arizona's non-renewable archaeological resources.

"Neil's commitment to public archaeology and education goes way beyond what is required of a federal archaeologist," said Ann Howard, deputy state historic preservation officer and the person who nominated Weintraub for the award. "His dedication, commitment and enjoyment of sharing the stewardship message and ethic with the public make him stand out."

Weintraub has been an archaeologist with Kaibab National Forest for 25 years. As part of his duties, he surveys National Forest lands for cultural resources, identifies and documents the sites that are discovered, and then ensures they are monitored and protected.

The Kaibab National Forest is particularly rich in historically and culturally significant resources, with more than 10,000 archaeological sites recorded on the forest. These historic properties, which Weintraub has helped locate and manage over his quarter-century-long tenure, are related to a long history of human occupation and use of the Kaibab National Forest dating back at least 12,000 years.

But it was for much more than his standard job duties that Weintraub was singled out by the Arizona Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission for excellence. Weintraub provides dozens of outreach and interpretive programs annually, reaching hundreds of people, including children, with his stewardship message. He also oversees many of Kaibab National Forest's volunteer partners including Grinnell College interns, Arizona Site Stewards, rock art researchers, Passport in Time participants, and individual volunteers, who contribute thousands of hours each year toward the management, protection, documentation and interpretation of heritage resources across the forest.

"Given our challenging multiple use mission, protecting and preserving these sites would be nearly impossible if it were not for the relationships and mutual trust that have been built with our partners over many years," Weintraub said. "We have countless examples in which permittees, seasonal employees, volunteers, local residents or others have told us about previously undiscovered sites. We investigate their discoveries by walking the landscape with them and having them help us with archaeological documentation. Forging these relationships has always brought mutual benefits, as I have often learned more from them than they do from me. Most importantly we have all those extra eyes helping us protect and preserve these ancient, fragile places."

Alumni News

Weintraub's contributions go beyond even cultural resource preservation, though, to a broader commitment to community, which Howard made sure to point out in her nomination of him. Specifically, she included Weintraub's long-term work as a volunteer with the northern Arizona's Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. She described how he always finds ways to get the youth involved in the program interested in Arizona's precious past.

"Neil has a never-ceasing enthusiasm for raising the awareness of the citizens of Arizona, especially the children," Howard said. "Making children sensitive to the fragility of our state's non-renewable heritage resources is absolutely critical to the future protection and preservation of Arizona's cultural resources."

Weintraub was presented with his award in mid-May at an awards luncheon in Flagstaff as part of the 2015 Arizona Historic Preservation Conference.



Archaeologist Neil Weintraub kneels next to a brush shelter discovered on Kaibab National Forest.

It is hard to believe, but 30 years ago I followed a couple of young, energetic professors and their 2 year old daughter out to Flagstaff. Hard to believe what followed. None of this happens without you all and Grinnell.

My Summer intern Toni Androski '16 is AWESOME!!!! I believe you have all met her. She just returned from spending the semester in Costa Rica and I just learned she is quite the artist. I currently have her drawing a reconstruction of life at our Clover Ruin interpretive site. We will get this up on the web and no doubt make mention of Grinnellink. She is getting ideas from some book called *Life in the Pueblo*. Ever heard of it?

I am exceptionally proud of our partnership with Grinnell over the years. Dani Long '00 is a lookout at Mesa Verde. Clare Boerigter '14 is a lookout on Ashley National Forest in Utah, and most recently, Nick Conway '14 took an Archaeology Technician job on the Lincoln National Forest.

Best, Neil

Alumni News

News from Angie Isa '10:

Life in Peru.

I had to do a lot of non-related work just for the money since I arrived in January after graduating (with distinction!) from my MA (at Leicester, England) in conservation, but during my free time I began doing volunteering at my old high school. So I've been supervising some high school girls and novices with the superficial cleaning of the altars at a colonial Monastery in Lima. It's kind of amazing. They have a couple hidden Zurbarans that nobody seems to know about!! Through that, I made some contacts, and I have been offered to teach Philosophy and Art History at a small private university here, which starts in two weeks. I'm pretty nervous about that! They're so horribly organised, as well, that they won't even give me library access until I sign the contract - which they haven't told me a date for - so I'm having to figure out how to prepare my classes all by myself at this point... I've asked several times about an induction or *anything* really but it seems like there won't be one. It looks like I'll just have to show up on the first Monday of class and *go*. They haven't even told me how much they'll be paying me either other than "it's not much.." The things one does for CV, huh?

I have also been volunteering at the Amano Museum for Precolumbian Textiles. The family there was a friend of my mum's. I'm restructuring their organisation (which was a bit all over the place, really, since it's a family-run museum, and nobody there has any experience either with museums or management), and we're trying to present a project for some funding by the US Embassy. I also managed to meet the director of the Pachacamac Site, and she was very keen to offer me a conservator job there that would technically start in October. I have a meeting with her sometime this week to talk about job details, but it's pretty much confirmed I will be starting there. The only thing is the new museum hasn't even been built completely yet. The government said October... but you know...governments... I'm only slightly concerned because the site is a good 20 mile drive away from Lima, the pay is low, and it doesn't look like there will be anything extra given for transport, so I'll probably end up subsidizing that myself for the sake of the experience. Apart from that, I've been taking a 9-month specialisation course on Cultural Management here as well, which is helping a lot!

Another little bit of good news is that I have been invited to present one of the sections from my MA thesis at the V Latin American Symposium on Physics and Chemistry in Art, Archaeology and Conservation (LASMACH), which will be taking place in October this year in Quito, Ecuador. I'm pretty excited/nervous about this!

I also got a call from another contact recently for a private conservation practice. They wanted an estimate budget for the conservation of some precolumbian pieces. So I'm waiting to see if that goes through.

Oh!! And I decided that I would very much like to do my PhD on Museum, Gallery and Heritage Practice at Leicester in 2017. I'm trying to figure out how exactly to go about it, but I'm thinking something about development and running of small museums in line with the type of volunteering I'm doing at the Amano now. Or something... It will cost like £40k just in tuition for the three years (according to this year's prices) which makes me feel a bit ill haha, so I will also be needing to do some serious research into funding because I just won't be able to afford it otherwise. Hopefully, if I work for the state, they might help out...

I think that's all the exciting news for now! It took the whole 6 months since I got back in January to get to this point, so boy am I glad to finally be getting somewhere!! I don't know about the US, but it's all about the networking over here! I've been pretty lucky and made some excellent contacts, so I'm very grateful.

Alumni news

Photos by Ellery Frahm '99 graduate from article entitled "Dig Reveals Stone-Age Weapons Industry With Staggering Output" that was published in the National Geographic, April 13, 2015.



Under a cloudy winter sky, the eastern slope of Mount Arteni has the dull monotone of a barren wasteland. At 6,715 feet, its spare crest is dwarfed by the snow-capped 13,419-foot summit of nearby Mount Aragats, the highest point in the Republic of Armenia. The only signs of life are ragged clumps of wild grass, bent horizontal in a frigid wind from the high Caucasus.



Obsidian—a glasslike, volcanic rock—is abundant on the slopes of Mount Arteni, an extinct volcano.

Benji Cantor-Stone '07 is headed to New Hampshire, having just got a job as a “shovel-bum” doing contract archaeology for the Louis Berger Group.

Britt McNamarra '10 is also doing contract archaeology working for Tetra Tech, and just presented a poster with co-workers at the 73rd Annual Plains Anthropological Conference in Iowa City. **Holven, Adam** (Tetra Tech), Britt McNamara, Jason Reichel [Poster Session 11]. **BREAKING THE SOD: A CALL FOR SUBSURFACE TESTING ON HIGH PLAINS UPLANDS.** High-Plains cultural resource management has often relied on pedestrian surveys to identify Native American archaeological resources. While pedestrian surveys are useful in determining the presence of artifacts and stone features in areas with good surface visibility, these surveys are less conclusive in areas with poor surface visibility. Recent surveys conducted in western North Dakota employed pedestrian surveys at 7.5-meter intervals coupled with shovel probing at 20-meter intervals in areas with poor surface visibility. Pedestrian surveys conducted in grasslands identified very few artifacts on landforms considered to have a moderate to high potential to contain archaeological resources. However, shovel probing on these landforms identified the presence of several isolated finds and artifact scatters. Most artifacts were located well below the surface and would not be visible even with excellent surface visibility, indicating that shovel probing may be more appropriate to assess the presence of archaeological resources on these landforms. [Britt says that much of her work consists of evaluating sites of future wind farms and telecom towers.]

Morgan Robertson '93



Realities of Workable Policy—According to Robertson, associate professor of geography at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, landmark pieces of environmental legislation passed between 1965 and 1980—such as the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Endangered Species Act—were designed to be aggressive yet limited at the same time.

“None of them promised to stop pollution period. Each of them includes some kind of provision or allowance for pollution to continue in a regulated way,” Robertson says. “So if you come to these major landmark pieces with the expectation that pollution is going to simply stop, then yes, you’re going to be disappointed, because the Clean Water Act contains provisions for allowing impacts to the waters of the United States to continue, even from point sources.

“What I try to tell my students is that in terms of point-source control of pollutants and slowing down or halting the filling of wetlands, there have been remarkable successes,” Robertson says. Some of that success comes in the form on compensation sites to offset unavoidable pollution, usually a condition of receiving a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to impact water of the United States. While 30 years of debate have not settled the issue of whether such remedies are adequate, it’s worth noting that nearly 50,000 acres of wetland and stream compensation per year result from such requirements.

The idea of offsetting losses in exchange for exceeding pollution limitations is inherent in the culture of American environmental regulation, according to Robertson. “You can see it as a failure, but I have had it explained to me by people who were on the scene in the 1970s that if we had passed (landmark environmental laws) and provided no relief value where there was incredible pressure to permit a certain amount of pollution, it would have guaranteed the overturning of these laws within about five to 10 years.

“So, it’s interesting to me that this is one of the things that really gets students interested but also kind of depressed,” Robertson says. “People who are in their college years tend to view the law as failed because it compromised the goal of environmental quality.”

The above was an article in the Grinnell Magazine—Summer 2015.

Chole Sikes '10

I’d like to report that I’m presenting a graduate paper at the International Conference on Gender and Education in Bloomington, IN, on May 29, 2015. The paper is entitled “Speaking about the Unspoken: The Ramifications of Zero-Tolerance Policies on Women of Color”, and brings together anthropology, education policy and critical race and feminism frameworks.

Restricted Contributions to the Anthropology Department

Steven Hingtgen '88

Andrew Derksen '00

Kelly Eldridge '07

THANK YOU!

~Alumni news~

Lauren Knapp '06

www.lauren-knapp.com

An observation of how four women in their eighties have embraced aging and solitude. A look at two young men in southern California who have created a DIY biotech lab in their garage where they experiment on themselves and wax poetic about a utopian scientific community. A visual essay examining the emotional impact of lockdown drills in elementary schools. And, the story of how rock music reflects a rapidly changing urban Mongolia. These are the subjects of the documentary films I've directed beginning in 2012.

While the topics may seem unrelated, they were all created using the kind of participant observation I learned as an anthropology student at Grinnell College. After working as a broadcast journalist at the PBS NewsHour for several years, I yearned for a medium that would allow me to synthesize my technical skills in multimedia production with my intellectual interest in more complex cultural movements. It was with that in mind, that I moved to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia with the support of a Fulbright-mtvU Fellowship to make my first documentary film.

Over the course of a year, I relied heavily on my backgrounds in both journalism and anthropology to film what would become "Live From UB". I learned the Mongolian language, went to concerts, talked to strangers, asked questions, quietly observed, and even played music at a regular open night mic event. I recorded dozens of interviews and hundreds of hours of footage, which I spent the next two years synthesizing into a coherent story that tells the tale of modern Mongolia through the eyes of its rock stars. "Live From UB" premiered last spring in Chicago and has played in several cities since. With each screening, I feel a strong sense that I am continuing the work I began when I arrived in Mongolia -- sharing a rich musical culture with new audiences.

Last fall, I entered a Masters of Fine Arts in Documentary Film and Video program at Stanford University. In that time, art has emerged alongside journalism and anthropology as a third guiding force in my interdisciplinary approach to documentary filmmaking. I have begun to understand that my work is fundamentally about communicating human experiences in as honest a way possible. Just like understanding cultural norms and practices, crafting a great film involves going beneath the tertiary and understanding the human story of why we do the things we do. As I continue to develop my filmmaking practice, I am confident that this fundamental desire to understand and translate experiences and ideas will continue to drive my work.

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



Anthropology Department
Grinnell College
Grinnell IA 50112-1690
Tel: 641-269-4343
Fax: 641-269-4330

GRINNELL COLLEGE



