

Grinnell College



Anthropology Department

Fall '16

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Lucia Tonachel (Anthropology '18), Ania Chamberlin (Anthropology '19), Naomi Worob (Anthropology '19), and Gwen Holtzman (Chemistry and Spanish '19) at the Des Moines Saturday Farmers Market, Taking a Well-Earned Break from Food and Farming Summer Projects at the College (photo: Jon Andelson)



In a continuation of the project begun in the summer of 2014 with Jozi Chaet '16, Patrick Kinley '16, Andie Semlow '16, and Taylor Watts '16, Vicki Bentley-Condit continued working on a juvenile orangutan's (Rango), adult chimpanzee's (Number One), and a partial chimpanzee's skeletons over the summer of 2016. This multi-year, multi-step process included, as can be seen in these photos, the skeletons sunning themselves in VB-C's backyard. Both Rango and Number One have since moved in to the Biological Anthropology lab in Goodnow where they have made friends with established residents Eric The Chimp and BillyBob The (plastic) Human.

Vicki Bentley-Condit





As we have for 20 years [!!!!] a Grinnell team of atlatlists traveled to Cahokia in September for the World Atlatl Association event there, and to see the World Heritage Site and museum.

Graham Dodd '18, Courtney Birkett '99, Nora Schoenle '19, Coach Whittaker, Rhett Lundy '18, Annais Levin '19, Daniel Lee '17, Aakriti Aryal '20 with Monks Mound in the background.



Carol Myers-Scotton '55 talks with the students from Cynthia Hansen's Language Contact class.

SUMMER FUN WITH FOOD & FARMING

By Jon Andelson

Four students, including anthropology majors Naomi Worob '19, Lucia Tonachel '18, and Ania Chamberlin '19, worked in several capacities on food and farming topics in Grinnell in the summer of 2016. With issues of sustainable agriculture and healthy local food looming ever larger in public consciousness, the students were exposed to many aspects of these topics, learning a lot and having fun in the bargain.

Lucia and Gwen Holtzman '19 (Chemistry and Spanish intended) were the two Grinnell Area Local Foods Alliance (GALFA) apprentices this summer. They prepped and tended the student garden on Park Street, learning about the nuts and bolts of gardening from local farmer and CSA operator, Ann Brau. They also assisted at the Grinnell Thursday Farmers Market, among other things doing a "sweep" of the market at the end of the day to collect any leftover products the vendors would donate to MICA (Mid-Iowa Community Action), which operates a food pantry for low-income families. They also helped with the Grinnell Giving Gardens Program, which encompasses four gardens in the community -- two at churches, one in a city park, and one at Grinnell Regional Medical Center -- from which food goes to community members, including through MICA.

Naomi assisted Rob Cabelli (associate chaplain and rabbi) and Jon Andelson (anthropology and Center for Prairie Studies) in the ongoing effort to prepare a proposal to the College's Innovation Fund to create a college farm. Naomi coordinated visits to other colleges that currently operate farms, including Luther, Carleton, Pomona, Iowa State, Oberlin, and Hampshire, and managed the information gained from visiting them. Various people took part in the visits, including Naomi, Ania, Rob, Jon, Dick Williams (dining services), and John Kalkbrenner (college services). The proposal, which was submitted on September 20, would, if funded, lead to a three-year trial one acre vegetable production farm, the food going mostly to Dining Services. Stay tuned!

Ania, in addition to participating in some of the farm visits, researched and revised the Center's publication, *A Beginner's Guide to Grinnell and Its Environs* (which will be renamed simply, *A Guide to Grinnell*), including the section of the publication about agriculture. Her idea for fresh content on agriculture included a short essay, "The Story of Corn," written from the "perspective" of a corn kernel -- from creation to planting to harvesting and transformation into ethanol and cattle feed. Ania also worked with the ten-year old daughter of a professor who created a cartoon to illustrate the story.

For fun, the group also visited Living History Farms in Des Moines and the Des Moines farmers market, did a pie-making workshop with local farmer and master pie-maker Howard McDonough, and watched some documentary films about food and farming over some delicious local food potluck dinners.

Grinnell Area Local Foods Alliance (GALFA) apprentices Lucia and Gwen tending the student garden on Park Street



Naomi listens to our guide at the Iowa State University student farm



SUMMER FUN WITH FOOD & FARMING (Continued)



Naomi, Lucia, and Ania watching a demonstration at Living History Farms in Des Moines



Lucia and Gwen get pie pointers from local farmer and master pie maker Howard McDonough



Students from the Anthropology 104 course enjoy "Food of our People" feast in Main Dining Hall.



Some of the great tasting food at the “Food of our People” pot luck





John Whittaker and Kathy Kamp traveled to Peru at the beginning of last summer. They saw Machu Picchu and sites in the highlands and around Lima, then went up the north coast to visit the Moche culture sites. The Moche were a pre-Inca culture from about 100-700 AD, living by irrigation agriculture along the major river valleys. They are famous for 'erotic' ceramic art and enormous mud-brick pyramids in which they buried the elite with sacrificial victims and golden treasures. Peru has now built some exceptional museums to house the national treasures from these and other sites. Through the kindness of Jeffrey Quilter of the Harvard Peabody Museum and Regulo Franco, Director of the El Brujo Archaeological Project, we were able to examine and document a bundle of golden atlatls buried with a high status woman known as La Senora de Cao. These were oversized spearthrowers made of hard wood wrapped in gilded sheet copper. Although flashy, they were theatrical rather than functional weapons, rather crudely made, but suitable to symbolize the ritual and political position of the Lady with whom they were buried. The photo shows us with the two directors and their team in front of the Huaca Cao pyramid at El Brujo. Everyone is delighted to play with the atlatls were brought.

University of South Florida students and faculty created "This is Anthropology" presentation that faculty there put together in response to Rick Scott's call to defund Anthropology in Florida. <https://prezi.com/vmvomt3sj3fd/this-is-anthropology/>

Brigitte French, professor of anthropology won a grant from the American Philosophical Society to collect supplementary data in Ireland for her current book project, *After the Trouble Times: Conflict, Discourse and Belonging in Post-War Ireland*. (The Grinnell magazine)



Carol Myers-Scotton '55 presented "Mixing it up in/with Codeswitching: Using two languages in the same conversation" in JRC 101 on Monday, October 10th. Carol is the author of the Multiple Voices textbook that we use in Language Contact (ANT 250). She lectured in that class the week of October 10 on the chapters that are directly relevant to her own research -- the social motivations for code-switching and the grammatical models for code-switching.



John & Kathy also had a short visit in Lima with Angie Isa '10. After graduating, Angie completed an MA in archaeological conservation at Durham University and is now employed in the museum at Pachacamac, one of the important ancient sites near Lima.

**Restricted Contributions to the
Anthropology Department**

Brien & Donna Martin

Benjamin J. Cantor-Stone '07

Collin S. Davis-Johnson '15

Danielle K. Long

Mackenzie L. Shanahan '14

Neil C. Tomson '04

Walt Disney Company foundation

THANK YOU!

Anthropology and Beyond – Jo Krukowski, '08

Some first years arrive on the Grinnell campus knowing exactly what they want to major in, but I was not one of those people. I came to college thinking I'd be an English or a theatre major, but to my delight (and eventual dismay) I discovered there were many other fascinating courses of study I'd never been exposed to before, and I sampled from them. I had known I loved writing and performance, but I soon learned I also loved gender studies, East Asian myth and folk tales, cultural theory, environmental conservation, dance, community development, art history, social justice... The list went on. How is anyone supposed to narrow down their identity to just one major, and one career? It seemed utterly impossible.

Then I took an introductory course with Vicky Bentley-Condit, "discovered" Anthropology, and decided to major. I graduated from Grinnell in Anthropology in 2008. I remember talking to Jon Andelson in his office, worried that all my interests didn't seem to fit neatly into any one of the subjects at college. He told me that Kurt Vonnegut had been an Anthropology major, and he helped me find an unforgettable internship working at a wildlife reserve in Costa Rica for the summer. Anthropology encapsulates so many elements of philosophy, religious studies, sociology, biology, psychology, performance studies, and history... It seemed I could, through Anthro, have it all. Despite my having come to this realization however, I still wasn't completely sure when I declared my second year. I still loved theatre and media. Had I picked the right major? But deciding to study anthropology ended up being one of the best professional decisions I've ever made for myself. Anthropology's strength is that it allows you to navigate between the lines of the academic disciplines, letting you maximize your own self-knowledge in providing the freedom to delve into multiple areas of study under the umbrella of a rich and singular field. But I didn't know that quite yet.

After college, I endeavored to find my place in the world through job opportunities that felt utterly random at the time, cobbled together through friends, acquaintances, and the (blessed) Grinnell alumni network. With my anthropology degree, I was able to work as a fundraiser for Greenpeace, a whale research volunteer, a TV production assistant, an editorial intern at W.W. Norton, a media analyst for Google, a social work intern, a producer for the storytelling non-profit The Moth, and a public school English teacher in South Korea. Throughout this time I stayed active within creative communities, taking improv classes in New York, writing a goofy comedy web series for YouTube, getting involved with the ex-pat performance scene abroad, and producing an international theatre festival while living in Korea.

In retrospect, each of these seemingly random experiences were invaluable stepping-stones in helping me figure out what I wanted (and didn't want) to do with my life. I remember sitting in a South Korean middle school cafeteria in 2013, my mind drifting between planning my week's classes and that evening's play rehearsal for the summer festival our theatre troupe was working on. As I ate my free teacher's lunch that afternoon, I thought about how much I had come to like working in education. That I loved performance, writing, and studying cultures outside my own. And then, as if it was the most obvious thing in the world, I realized: I wanted to pursue graduate work in comparative theatre studies and become a theatre professor. In that moment, everything I had done up to that point suddenly made sense. The reason anthropology had appealed to me more so than theatre in college was that through anthropology, I had been more readily able to study the theory around social belief-structures and aspects of cultural performance from different parts of the world. I thought I was blindly flailing, but I hadn't been at all. I was just feeling my way through and figuring myself out. And sometimes, that can be the same as knowing what you wanted all along.

I have recently finished my Masters in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies under an Advanced Opportunity Fellowship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I wrote my graduate thesis this past spring on the performance of the supernatural in relation to foreign affairs, sexual mores, and class struggle in nineteenth century kabuki plays. If anyone had told me in undergrad that I would be awarded years of academic funding to do cross-cultural research on ghosts, I probably would have called them crazy. And I would have been wrong.

In September of this year, I will be starting my doctorate in Theatre and Dance as a Chancellor's Fellow at the University of California-Santa Barbara, looking to explore the historical performance of ghosts in times of political repression in Japan and Argentina. The courses I took at Grinnell within the Anthropology department in theories of culture, human behavior, and the anthropology of religion, as well as the courses I took outside of Anthro that counted toward my major, such as my classes in East Asian Studies with Edmund Gilday and Modern Latin American History with J. Pablo Silva: all have been instrumental to my graduate work in the humanities. But how could I have wholly known that as an undergraduate? Mine wasn't a path anyone could have prescribed for me, and I probably wouldn't have found it had I not given myself the time to explore, and to be unsure. My advice to you, bright-minded college student, is this: don't be scared about the future, and don't be overwhelmed. Right now, it is your job to be confused. Not all those who wander are lost, right? Trust yourself and your values. Make decisions not out of fear, but out of passion and curiosity. Don't settle. Study what makes you feel the most alive. As lost as you think you might be, I can guarantee that as long as you stay brave and keep moving, you will eventually find your way.

Lane Atmore '16 is the recipient of the 2016 Communal Studies Association Starting Scholar Award for her paper "Death of a Guru: : An Analysis of the Postcharismatic Phase in the Transcendental Meditation Movement " The award was announced at the annual conference of the Communal Studies Association (CSA) in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 6-8, 2016. The award includes a cash prize and publication of the essay in *Communal Societies*, the journal of the CSA. Lane's paper was a slightly modified version of her anthropology senior thesis in Spring 2016, directed by Prof. Jon Andelson. Because Lane is out of the country on a Watson Fellowship, Professor Andelson accepted the award on her behalf.

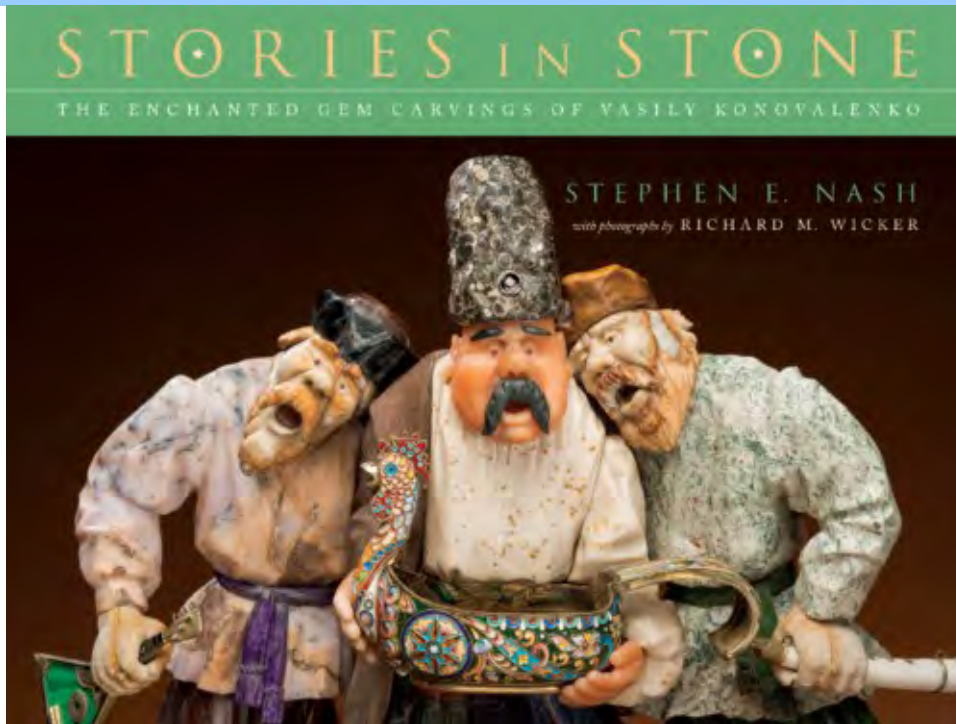
Liliana Bagnoli '15 developed an interest at the intersection of anthropology and economic development. When she returned to Grinnell, she researched informal labor activity in India, presented her work at the Central States Anthropology Society, and won the American India Fellowship for Service, an award that placed her with an Indian nongovernment organization, providing critical analysis of health care, education, and infrastructure for the Indian government.

The Fullbright Specialist Program in February 2016 selected **Amanda Goldbeck '74** as a University of Montana professor, as a specialist to advance the understanding of public and global health research at the University of Latvia in Riga. Goldbeck will spend two weeks sharing her knowledge through a series of lectures and seminars about modern, state-of-the-art statistical research methods to enable more sophisticated and useful public health research at the University of Latvia. (The Grinnell magazine)

When **Caroline Tollefson Owens '62** learned about the work that Grinnell College Innovator for Social Justice Prize winner James Kofi Annan does to support survivors of slavery and child labor, she applauded it, and then she helped. She went to Winneba, Ghana, to catalog more than 8,000 books in a newly-built library for 700 students. (The Grinnell magazine)

Jeremy "Sequoia" Nagamatsu '04 has published his first book, *Where We Go When All We Were Is Gone* (Black Larence Press, 2016). (The Grinnell magazine)

Anu Heather Kramer Anth/Bio '09 was just on campus to give a talk on her work with fire ecology, using LiDAR to measure fuel among other things. Anu was a stalwart member of the Atlatl Team, a Luebben Award winner, archaeological field school participant, GORP leader, and savage DAG swordswoman. She has just finished her PhD at University of California, Berkeley in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management (ESPM), with a dissertation titled: *Not seeing the forest for the points: Novel LiDAR metrics elucidate forest structure and increase LiDAR usability by managers*. Now she begins a 2-year post-doc at U WI, Madison.



Stories in Stone: The Enchanted Gem Carvings of Vasily Konovalenko Part art catalog, part art history, *Stories in Stone* by **Stephen E. Nash '86** offers the first comprehensive treatment of the impressive sculptures of Vasily Konovalenko, a little-known Russian artist, and features almost 300 gorgeous color photographs by Richard M. Wicker. The book was co-published by the University Press of Colorado and Denver Museum of Nature and Science, July 2016. (The Grinnell magazine)

Philip Roth '90 received his Ph.D. in geography (transport) from Indiana University-Bloomington, December 2015. (The Grinnell magazine)

Matthew Pflaum '06 began his studies for a master's of science degree in Africa and international development for African Studies at the University of Edinburgh. "I will focus upon the least developed countries in Africa, particularly Francophone African countries like Niger, Chad, Mali, and Central African Republic. I am interested in barriers to development and issues like women's rights, equality, migration, trade and welfare," he writes. "I hope to conduct a comparative study of domestic/local and international/external nongovernmental organizations in terms of funding, resource provision, capacity building, and sustainability." (The Grinnell magazine)

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



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