

Grinnell College



Anthropology Department

Spring '17

Vicki Bentley-Condit
Professor, Chair

Jon Andelson
Professor

Douglas Caulkins
Professor Emeritus

Xavier Escandell
Associate Professor

Meghan Ference
Assistant Professor

Brigitte French
Professor

Katya Gibel Mevorach
Professor

Cynthia Hansen
Assistant Professor

Kathryn Kamp
Professor

Tess Kulstad
Assistant Professor

Monty Roper
Associate Professor

Maria Tapias
Professor

John Whittaker
Professor

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Academic Support/
Technical Assistant

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Anthropology Class of 2017

Row 1: Professor Whittaker and Professor Kulstad

Row 2: Rebecca Siglin, Channel Turbides, Professor Kamp, Hazel Batrezchavez, Maxandra Cadet, Bailey Dann, Professor French

Row 3: Lily Galloway, Ariel Lepito, Jean Pharo, Jane Carlson, Polly Car, Professor Bentley-Condit, Eileen Fordham

Row 4: Liz Nelson, Jackie Abing, Professor Andelson, Professor Ference, Professor Escandell

Not pictured: Doug Caulkins, Katya Gibel Mevorach, Cynthia Hansen, Monty Roper, Maria Tapias & Julia Broeker.

An Appreciation: Ralph Luebben (1921-2009) and Janell Luebben (1927-2016)

Historical Note

Ralph and Jan Luebben were a team. From 1947 onward, virtually everything Ralph did directly or indirectly involved Jan. They moved to Grinnell in 1957 when Ralph accepted an appointment in the Department of Sociology where he was hired to establish an anthropology curriculum. Ralph was Grinnell's first faculty member with a degree in anthropology; Jan had typed the dissertation that led to that degree. In 1960, Ralph became Grinnell's first tenured anthropologist and, in 1967, he became first chair of a newly formed three-person Department of Anthropology. He taught more than 20 different courses in cultural, archaeological, and biological anthropology during his Grinnell career. In 1968, Ralph inaugurated the College's first summer archaeological field school in Chihuahua, Mexico and went on to lead field schools in the U.S. Southwest. Jan always accompanied Ralph on these programs as a full participant, digging with the crew during the day and working in the evening to wash and sort pottery fragments and attempt to reconstruct the pots from the fragments. Back in Grinnell, Ralph would write up the site reports and Jan would type and edit them. Theirs was a true collaboration.

Jan and Ralph were well-known around the Grinnell community because of their bicycling. They rode their bicycles almost every day up until 2008. In 2006 alone, they logged more than 3000 miles! They had their favorite routes and developed a waving relationship with many Grinnellians. Ralph also enjoyed model railroading, and Jan enjoyed attending garage sales and singing in the St. John's Lutheran Church choir.

Ralph took the rank of emeritus professor in 1991 but remained active, coming to his office in the Goodnow Hall tower most days throughout the 1990's. In his honor, the Anthropology Department established the Ralph A. Luebben Award, given each year since 1986 to a graduating anthropology major who best exemplifies the ideal Anthropology student including meritorious scholarly work, breadth in the discipline, field experience, and an anthropological viewpoint on life. Ralph Luebben died in 2009. Jan remained in Grinnell at the Mayflower Community until her death in November, 2016.

-Jonathan Andelson '70

A Ralph and Jan Remembrance

Vicki Bentley-Condit

By the time I joined the department in 1995, Ralph had been retired for a number of years. Thus, I didn't get the opportunity to interact with him very often – and Jan even less. However, Ralph did attend my (7:00 p.m.!) job talk on a cold January evening back in 1995 and, once I was ensconced in Goodnow, he always made a point to drop by my office and say hello whenever he was in the building. (Ralph had the enviable Goodnow tower office at that time.) He would never stay long, but we would chat a few minutes and then he'd be on his way. Most of my interactions with Jan were limited to anthropology gatherings, but she was always very warm and welcoming, and they both made an effort to attend everything. My favorite memory of the two of them, though, is from a summer day in 1997. I remember the year because we bought our house in the fall of 1996 and were working diligently on it the following summer. I believe I was up on a ladder painting some window trim when a car I didn't recognize pulled into our driveway. It was, of course, Ralph and Jan and they had come bearing gifts. They gave us what may have been our first Iowa sweet-corn, asked me if I liked flowers, and – when I said yes – handed me a bunch of lily bulbs. I don't believe they told me at that time that the bulbs could not over-winter and would have to be dug-up every fall in order to survive. Twenty years later, we are still digging and replanting every spring our beautiful, white, “feathery” Ralph-Jan lilies. They bloom every summer and every time I look at them I remember the lovely people who gave them to me; they are forever immortalized in my flower garden.

John Whittaker

Jan and Ralph welcomed us to Grinnell and the department many years ago (1982), and their kindly presence was one reason we quickly felt at home. Ralph was extraordinarily gracious about turning over his archaeology program to Kathy and me, and Jan was a sweet and motherly source of advice on the care and feeding of field school students. You can't do field archaeology without a team, and just as Kathy and I worked together co-directing a field school, Jan in an earlier world was Ralph's partner from typing his dissertation in graduate school, midwifing a Navajo woman on the way to the hospital while Ralph drove the winding Colorado road, gluing together shattered pots, and shopping and cooking for the whole field school team. They were both honorary grandparents to our daughter April, sharing a fondness for toads and other critters, and a taste for foods of their Germanic heritage. Our one regret in knowing them was that we were never able to convince them to visit our field school and tour around the SW a bit so we could get some of their stories in situ. When I see them in memory, I picture Ralph's wry grin as he tapped his forehead and said “Kidneys!” after a mistake, and Jan's sweet smile as she hugged April at the door and called us “Dear Ones.”



Photo of the spring break trip that course SST-195-05 Immigration and Refugees took to bordering zones and refuge cities across the globe to interact with officials, aid and NGO workers.

TOP PHOTO

Row 1: Lynn Nguyen, Jin Komerska, Valencia Alvarez, Jade Bezzak, Professors Escandell and Cook-Martin.

Row 2: Karol Holden, Susie McCurry '71, Lily Fitzsimmons, Annabel Higgin-House, Maddy Smith, Laana Farnelli, Imany Noel

Row 3: Taylor Gaskins, Pete Zelles, Brian Haggard, Michael Hewitt, Pratik Karki, Alex Sorosa **Photo credits:** Lynn Nguyen & Jade Bezzak



Inside Higher Ed has an article here: https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/05/08/comparative-class-grinnell-focuses-migration-and-border-policy-us-and-europe?utm_source=Inside+Higher+Ed&utm_campaign=4a3899a4c7_DNU20170508&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1fcbc04421-4a3899a4c7-199645229&mc_cid=4a3899a4c7&mc_eid=35a1e1798b

Then and Now

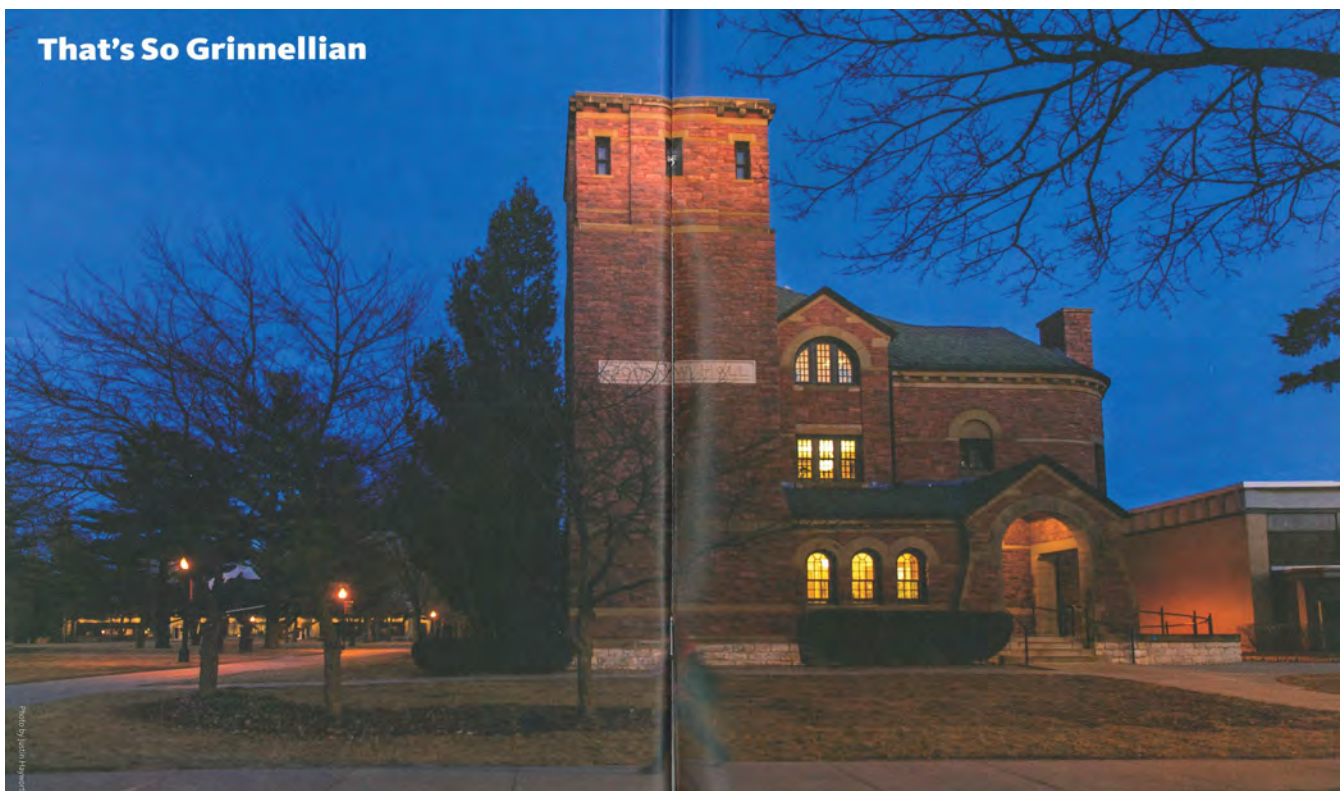


John Whittaker and students featured in the Spring Grinnell Magazine in the “Then and Now” page.

Below a photograph of Goodnow Hall at dusk.

Photo credits: **Justin Hayworth.**

That's So Grinnellian



Jackie Abing '17 has been selected for Teach for America with a fully funded master's degree (MA) AND has been published in the International Association of Asian Studies Monograph series AND has been selected to present at the National Association of Hispanic/Latino Studies 25th Annual conference in February (in Dallas TX) -- and she is also a Mellon Mays senior fellow and a Posse Scholar.... AND TO TOP ALL THIS OFF WITH THE BEST: Jackie has received a recruitment letter from Harvard University which remains the premier institution of the USA.

Vincent Benloch '18 has recently published a paper on-line with the Journal of Politics and Society at Columbia. Vincent wrote a draft of "They Sent Us Home After Turning Us Into Corpses: Disrupting Narratives of Gift and Commodity in the Illegal Organ Trade," in ANT 285: Anthropology, Violence, and Human Rights course last year. He then revised the paper and presented it at the Grinnell Peace and Conflict Studies Conference as well as at the University of Iowa Human Rights Conference with generous financial support from the Dean's office. You can find a copy of his paper here along with a review of it by one of the editors. <http://www.helvidius.org/2016/11/02/disrupting-narratives-of-gift-and-commodity-in-the-illegal-organ-trade/>

Vincent has engaged successfully the research process in impressive ways. Please join us in congratulating him on his first publication!

Peace Rock

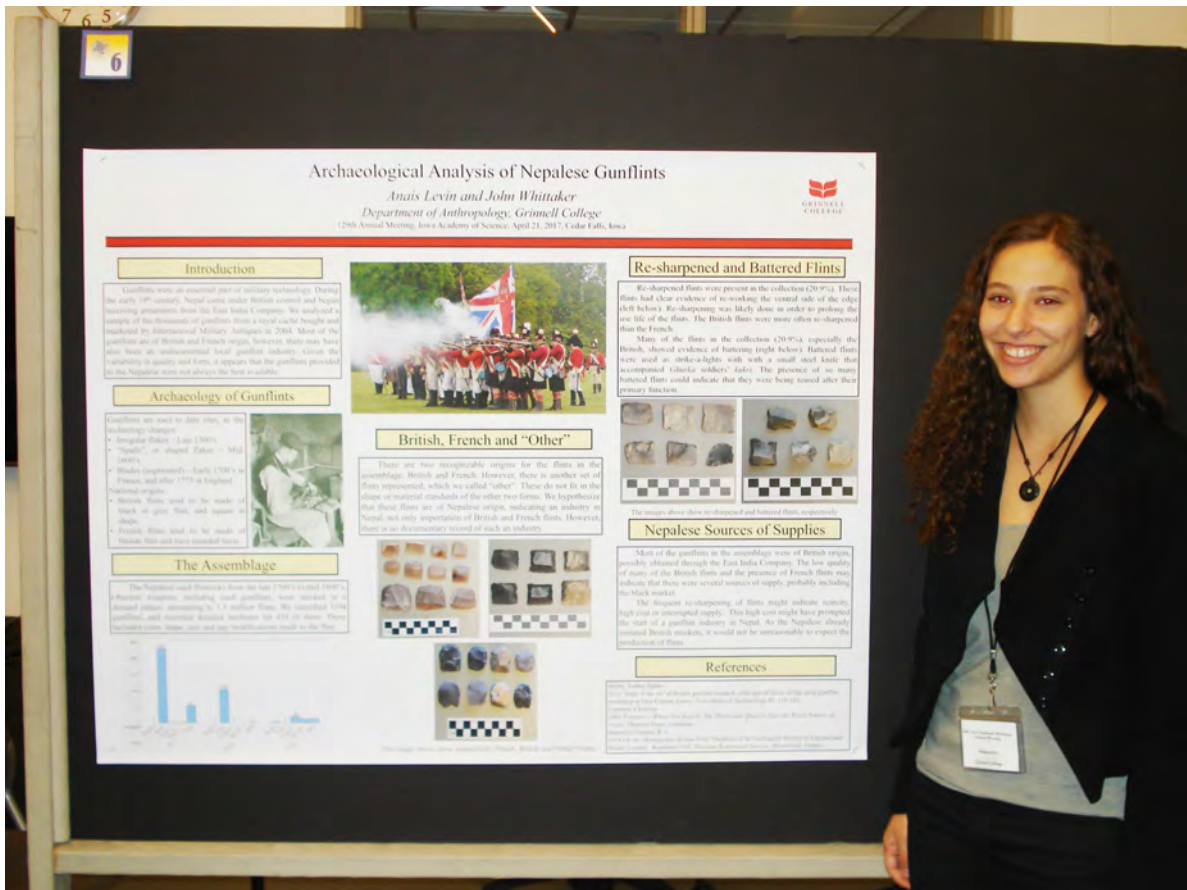
Grinnell College, like many others, had a tradition of hazing and class rivalry, which culminated each year in the "Class Scrap," an organized brawl between Freshmen and Sophomore men. The college authorities disliked the disreputable event, in which serious injuries sometimes occurred, and in September of 1913 President John Main preached an effective sermon against the Class Scrap. When the customary spectators assembled to watch the students fight, they were surprised by a united procession of classmates singing college songs and pulling a wagon with a large rock, which they planted near the men's gym to symbolize the death of the Scrap.

However, some members of the community apparently objected to the loss of this tradition, and in the Spring of 1914, anonymous parties first painted the Peace Rock red, then attempted to blow it up with dynamite, and finally on the night of April 25, dug a deep hole and buried it. Here it rested for 103 years.

Local historian Byron Hueftle-Worley discovered this history and interested Anthropology Professor John Whittaker some years ago. As this area of campus is to be re-landscaped, and Whittaker had an Archaeological Field Methods class in the Spring of 2017, it seemed a good time to restore the Peace Rock. After a scientific excavation to train students (and with the help of many volunteers), the Rock was exposed and evidence of the pit was recorded. McGough Construction and their contractors kindly provided a forklift and on April 25, 2017 we raised the Peace Rock from under 3 feet of soil and a later sidewalk. We hope that it will remain a monument, symbolizing today the continuing spirit of harmonious difference of opinion that we value, and perhaps a wider peace in troubled times. Photo at the top of the next page. →



Byron Hueftle-Worley and John Whittaker with the Peace Rock excavation. Photo credit: Rachel Bly '93



Anais Levin with her poster that she presented at the 129th Annual Meeting of Iowa Academy of Science in Cedar Falls, Iowa



CONGRATULATIONS to **Vicki Bentley-Condit** for her accomplishment of becoming one of very few that have completed a marathon in all 50 states. Above is a photo after the finish in January in Hawaii with her family.

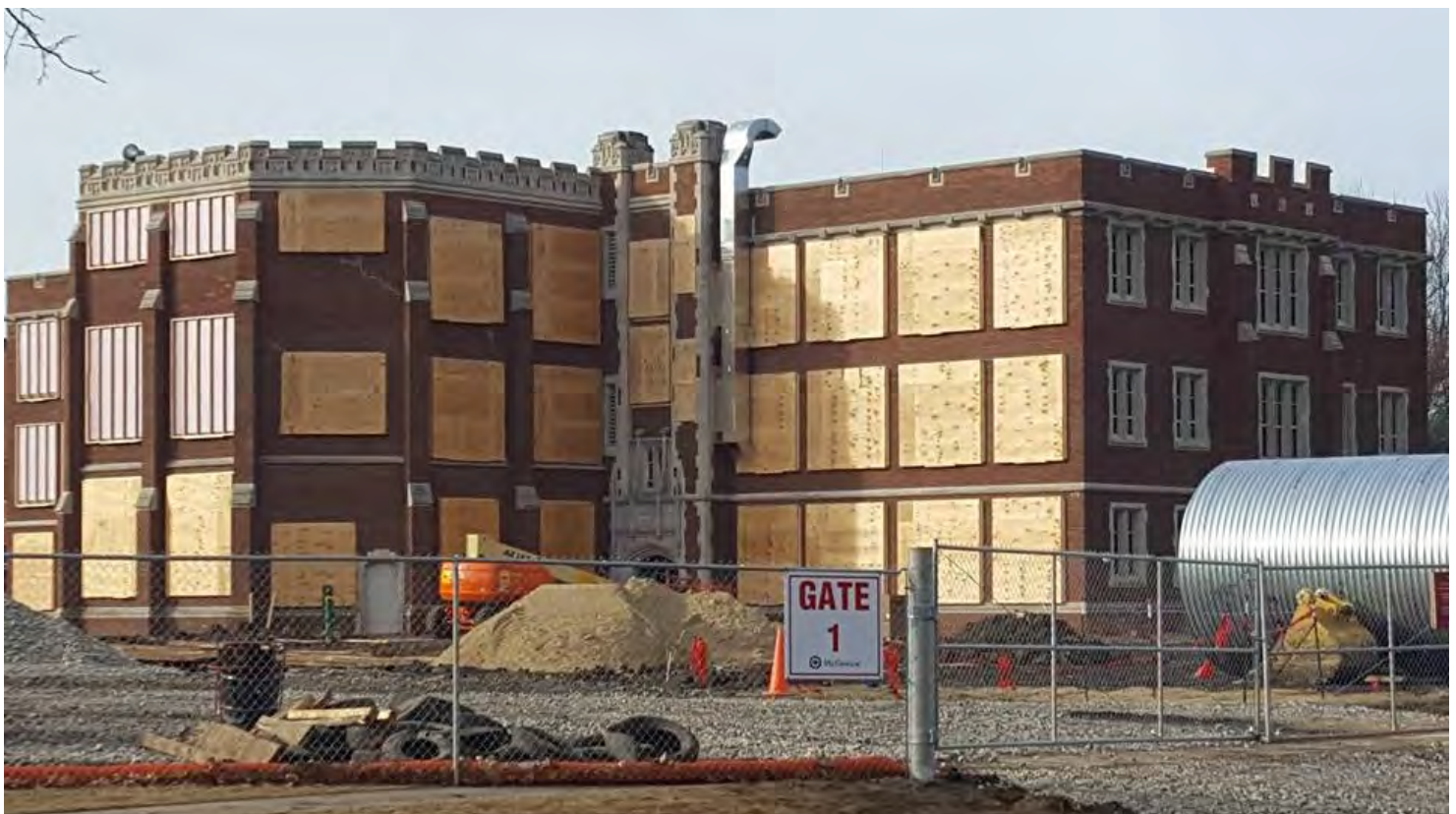
Vicki has also qualified as a 4-star member of the Boston 50 Running Club having completed 41 states in a Boston qualifying time. Vicki had an amazing 9 BQ times in 2014 alone. For the 41 marathons, she beat her BQ time by an average of 17.88 minutes. Very impressive Vicki. Congratulations and welcome to the Club.

Kathy Kamp & John Whittaker are grandparents! Their daughter April and husband Kyle had twin baby boys on Friday, May 5th. The boys have been named Maxwell John and Theodore James Kamp-Teubert. Congratulations to everyone!



Students from Professor Brigittine French's ANT-365-01 Conflict, Discourse & Power attended court at the Jasper County Courthouse.

Liz Nelson, Nathan Ford, Shaun Duncan, Maxandra Cadet, Jackie Abing, Eileen Fordham, Jane Carlson, Ariel Lepito and Julia Broeker.



Construction photos of the ARH/Carnegie building construction—the bookstore has been torn down as well as the addition that had been added to Carnegie. The Anthropology department will be housed in the new construction.

Photo credit to **Rachel Bly '93**



Summer Jones's Anthropology Senior Thesis, "Striving for Eden: Working Towards Equality in Two Virginia Communes," which she completed in December 2016, was awarded the Center for Communal Studies Undergraduate Paper Prize for 2017. The Center for Communal Studies, located at the University of Southern Indiana, annually invites submissions for its prize competition for the best undergraduate and graduate student papers on historic or contemporary communal groups, intentional communities and utopias. Submissions may come from any academic discipline and should be focused on a topic clearly related to communal groups or utopias. The prize carries a cash award of \$250.

In an email to Jones, who graduated in December and is currently studying intensive Spanish and working in Guatemala, USI Professor of history and director of the Center Casey Harison wrote, "The judges thought yours was clearly the outstanding paper among all those we received." Jones also plans to present a version of the paper at the annual conference of the Communal Studies Association in fall of 2017. Congratulations, Summer!

Photo credit: Jon Andelson



Jackie Abing presents her Senior Thesis: "Illegal Alien": Flexible Language and Interpellation under Mexican Repatriation of the 1930s.

2016-2017 Honors, Asrelsky and Luebben Prize Winners

LUEBBEN AWARD

(BEST ALL AROUND STUDENTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY)

JACKIE ABING & LILY GALLOWAY

Ralph Luebben Prize in Anthropology is awarded to graduating seniors who best exemplify the ideal Anthropology student, including meritorious scholarly work, breadth in the discipline, field experience, and an anthropological viewpoint on life.

RACHEL M. ASRELSKY '89 MEMORIAL PRIZE IN ANTHROPOLOGY

(BEST PAPER WRITTEN IN ANTHROPOLOGY)

NADIA GRAESE: "FINDING A VOICE: SPEECH AND VOICE THERAPY FOR FEMALE-TO-MALE INDIVIDUALS"

SUMMER JONES: "STRIVING FOR EDEN: WORKING TOWARDS EQUALITY IN TWO VIRGINIA COMMUNES"



Honors

Jaclyn Abing
Julie Broeker
Jane Carlson
Eileen Fordham
Elizabeth Nelson
Rebecca Siglin

Emeritus Research Fund recipients:

Rhett Lundy—Attend the Midwest Wolf Steward Conference

Annie Levins- Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance field-school.

Mekdes Assefa-Weathering the Storm: Ethnography of Black Youth in post-Katrina New Orleans

Misha Laurence-Washington State legalized medical cannabis

Neil Weintraub '86 was on our second archaeological field school in Flagstaff in 1985, when we 'rescued' him from a Math major. When he graduated, he returned to the SW, interned and worked at the Museum of Northern Arizona, and then got a job doing archaeology at the Coconino National Forest in 1988. In 1990, the Kaibab National Forest offered him a higher position where he advanced through the ranks and remains to this day. He has hosted Grinnell interns there for over 20 years, and was just honored by the Flagstaff newspaper, the Arizona Daily Sun, as "Citizen of the Year," for his years of community service. For the past 15 years, Neil has voluntarily organized running events in Flagstaff, while also serving on the board of Big Brothers/Big Sisters and as a mentor in their school based mentoring program. "As the director and co-founder of the Northern Arizona Trail Runners Association, Neil Weintraub is synonymous with one of Flagstaff's favorite outdoor pastimes. But it's how he uses his passion to help others that makes Weintraub the Arizona Daily Sun's Male Citizen of the Year.... Weintraub has helped raise approximately half a million dollars for the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flagstaff's mentoring programs through the Dave McKay Memorial Half Marathon and the Soulstice Mountain Trail Run." See the full article at http://azdailysun.com/news/local/daily-sun-citizen-of-the-year-neil-weintraub/article_57567809-ec7e-517e-85e3-3b54094008a7.html



John and Kathy were lucky enough to be in town for the occasion, also attended by 3 other couples with Grinnell connections: In the photo left to right, Sandra Lubarsky and Marc Ford (their son **Daniel Lubarsky-Ford '08** graduated from Grinnell in history and religious studies and practices immigration law), Neil, John Whittaker and Kathy Kamp, Mary and Jerry Robertson (daughter Tahnee Robertson lives in Tucson and organizes mediations and social justice events through her company, Southwest Decision Resources; and sons Daron (Anthropology) and Cody (who studied music) also attended Grinnell). Not in photo were former Grinnellians, **Ann '62** and Joe Walka.

Sophie Neems '16 -I am really enjoying my job teaching my high schoolers how to cook in Washington D.C. It has definitely been a transition out of school into the working world. In terms of life things, I have been loving exploring the city! I don't see myself as living in a big city forever, but for now I am embracing it as wholeheartedly as I can. It feels a little bit like Grinnell did in the fact that there is always so much to do! You really have to pick and choose... and, things aren't just a 5 minute walk from each other. The museums are GREAT (and free!), there are always book talks at the coffee shop around the corner, music and art celebrations downtown, classes, clubs and so much more. I started working at the Farmer's Market in addition to my Brainfood job, which has been really fun. It's been so interesting talking with people and observing the differences between urban and rural ag/food systems. It's also a great place to practice my Spanish, as many of the customers are Spanish speakers. LVC in general has its ups and downs. I am so thankful for the program in terms of finding us great and affordable housing and making it possible for me to work at Brainfood. The whole "intentional community" thing has been a really good learning experience for me. My housemates are all very nice people, and functionally we live very well together (keeping a tidy house etc.) The glitch comes in the fact that we have rather different definitions of "community." Personally, I would rather explore outside of the house and not be so tied down to house events (mostly because I don't feel super connected to my housemates), while others would rather spend a lot of time together. We are starting to figure out our balance though, and it has been good for me to learn more about what I want out of a living community.

Ellery Frahm '99 - can announce that he has accepted a job at Yale University. This is a 3–5-year contract (with the possibility of renewal) to be the Director of Yale's Center for the Study of Ancient Pyrotechnology, referring to human technologies from the use of fire onward (ceramics, metals, glass, etc.). Basically the role will be to promote, advance, facilitate, conduct, and teach archaeological science in productive, student-focused ways. He is excited about the potential of this position, especially the opportunities to keep doing the kind of teaching, research, and advocacy that he loves to do.

Robert Schwaller '03 -recently published a book *Generos de Gente in Early Colonial Mexico: Defining Racial Difference* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2016). The book explores the history of race and racial difference in sixteenth century Mexico . This study offers a window into how race is constructed across space. While the situation in early colonial Mexico is different from settlement of the United States or Brazil, Schwaller said it is significant to point to race as a construct and trace how it evolved over time in colonial Mexico. More about the book can be found in the following University of Kansas link:

<http://news.ku.edu/2016/11/07/books-explores-origin-racial-divide-early-colonial-spain>

Erin Marie Williams-Hatala '00 –is very excited about beginning a new phase of research with a group of international collaborators, investigating the anatomy, functional anatomy, and biomechanics of (mainly tool-using) non-human primates. Williams-Hatala was quoted in a recent article “Those Ancient Stone Tools - Did Humans Make them, Or was it Really Monkeys.” A biologist and expert on stone tool use at Chatham University, she notes that the method the capuchins use is admittedly more primitive than what early humans most likely used to make flakes. But it shows a higher level of thinking than usually attributed to monkeys. "We are constantly erecting false barriers between our mental and manipulative abilities and those of other animals," she says. "But the truth is far more blurry." The entire article can be accessed at this link: <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/10/19/498421284/those-ancient-stone-tools-did-humans-make-them-or-was-it-really-monkeys>

Jonathan Till '89 is now the curator at Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum in Bluff, Utah. 'JT' graduated in 1989 after participating in our archaeological field school near Flagstaff in 1986. He returned to the SW, and has been working at a variety of archaeological positions ever since. Edge of the Cedars curates one of the finest collections of prehistoric Anasazi materials in the world. JT's MA dealt with Chacoan roadways, as does his most recent article from 2017, “The road that went up a hill” (*Kiva* 83(1):23-44). Till can be contacted at jtill@utah.gov

Kate Klesner '15 is in the grad program at U of Arizona. “I passed my PhD comps in January and I will be defending my masters thesis at the end of April. It is crazy how fast grad school is going. I have finished all of my coursework in materials science and now I am getting to take my minor classes, which are in anthropology and geoscience. I am still studying ceramics, but mostly from the old world. My research is on Corinthian polychrome ceramics from the archaic period, which is great because I get to work in the field lab on an excavation in the Peloponnese this summer. I really am enjoying grad school, although I fell like I am even busier than I was at Grinnell (if that is possible).

I just got back from a two week trip traveling through the southwest, and I was constantly reminded about the wonderful classes I took at Grinnell. I was on a field trip for my geoarchaeology class, and we visited archaeological sites throughout Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and west Texas. I was so thankful that I took Archaeology of North America, otherwise I would have had no idea what we were seeing. I got to hold some of the type points when we were at Blackwater draw (the Clovis site), which was amazing. We got to throw some darts using *atlatls* when we went to the Lubbock lake site, and everyone was very impressed that I could occasionally hit the target. I also got to go up to the Flagstaff area, which may be my new favorite part of Arizona. I really wanted to go see *Sunset Crater* and some of the *Sinagua* archaeology in the area but didn't get the chance (which is a great excuse to go up there again).”

Robin Cleland '06—Will graduate from law school the week of 5/15/17 and has accepted a job at a civil litigation firm. Not her dream job, but it will be good experience. She interned at the Department of Justice, Environment & Natural Resources Division las fall. She is also getting married 9/30/17!

Contributions to the Anthropology Department

Jeremy Alexander '94

Danielle Long '00

Brien Martin

Steve Alderson '84

Collin Davis-Johnson '15

Dr. Curtis Scribner '73

Dr. Ben & Gay Nefzger

Sarah Casson '11

Julie & Edwin Austin '82

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



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