

# Anthropology Grinnell College



Fall '19



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Professor

**Jon Andelson**  
Professor

**Douglas Caulkins**  
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**Brigitte French**  
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**Katya Gibel Mevorach**  
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**Cynthia Hansen**  
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**Kathryn Kamp**  
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**Tess Kulstad**  
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**Josh Marshack**  
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**Nikolas Sweet**  
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## Alumni News

### *Alumni News*

**John “Fritz” Schwaller ’69** just published *The Fifteenth Month: Aztec History in the Rituals of Panquetzalitzli* (U of OK Press, 2019) which focuses on one of the most important months in the Mexica (Aztec) year, significant for its proximity to the winter solstice and for the fact that it marked the beginning of the season of warfare. Schwaller’s work marks a new methodology in which traditional sources for Mexica culture, rather than being interrogated for their specific content, are read for their insights into the historical development of the people. Fritz also just wrote a short article for the World Atlatl Association newsletter explaining the etymology of the word ‘atlatl’ which is the word American archaeologists and enthusiasts use for the spearthrower.

**Lara Ratzlaff ’01** and Steven Hailey-Dunsheath announced the birth of their third child, a son, Peter Benjamin Dunsheath, Nov. 1, 2018. He follows Linnea Margaret Dunsheath, born in 2010, and Harvey Robert Dunsheath, born in 2015.

**Rachel Dandler Silva ’04** and Ilan Silva announced the birth of their first child, Adela Harriet Silva, on March 14, 2019.

**Mona Ghadiri ’11** and Beth Eby welcomed their first child, Layla Jane Ghadiri, on July 9, 2019.

**Avi Pogel ’06** has changed jobs, moving to California with his wife Dora. “I have a job offer lined up with Bernal Cutlery which is a store in SF. They import Japanese cutlery and vintage European chefs knives among other things. They sharpen knives and plan to create their own line of knives in the future. I am really excited. I put St. John Restaurant [internship while on Grinnell-in-London] on my resume as a culinary experience- They were impressed.” Some time ago Avi donated a collection of glass and other historic fragments from a household dump in his hometown of Fairfield, IA. Dating from the late 1800s to about 1940s, this material is now teaching Grinnellians in Kamp’s Intro class about how archaeology uses material culture to study past foodways.

## Faculty News

### Grinnell In London, Fall 2020

*By Xavier Escandell*

#### **The Politics of Border-Making in Instances of Cultural and Institutional Turmoil**

##### **Course Description:**

“Why do people leave home and risk long and dangerous journeys? Why do we build walls and intercept migrants on land and sea? What do journeys, walls, and government efforts to regulate migration and citizenship mean to the people affected?” These are questions that migration scholars have actively pursued over the past 5 decades but which continue to acquire special relevancy in instances of institutional turmoil. This course explores answers to these questions by focusing on the cultural, symbolic and physical importance of borders for people on either side of them in the context of the global city of London.



The course will examine the larger politics of breaking up with the EU and its effects on neighbors and transnational communities in the UK. This is particularly relevant at this historical conjuncture, as new manifestations of anti-immigrant sentiments and the cultural uncertainty surrounding Brexit are at the center of current contemporary debates of membership and citizenship. These debates are often interpreted as populist reactions to globalization trends and increased immigration flows as well as the aftermath of the 2008 economic crisis. In this class, we will unpack the motivations behind these demands for inclusion or exit from migrant and non-migrant perspectives. On the one hand, we will unpack the constituencies behind these movements using the relevant social scientific literature on migrants modes of incorporation. Who really wants out, who does not, and why? What are the intended and unintended consequences for the different types of members of the polity? On the other hand, we will explore the social movements and strategic opportunities that politicians and other stake holders considered when they put the Brexit referendum on the table. By looking at the different actors behind their movements and their motivations I hope that our discussion will take us beyond broad and conventional understandings of these processes that tend to assume that one explanation fits all.

Themes and the structure of the units that the class may explore will rely on numerous resources available in London. For example, we will critically examine the resources and discussions laid out by the Migration Museum Project (see <https://www.migrationmuseum.org/>). Other opportunities offered by London include the independent film festival known as the “London Migration Film Festival” which would offer great learning opportunities to for students (see <https://www.migrationcollective.com/london-migration-film-festival>).

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### Grinnell In Washington, Fall 2020

*By Vicki Bentley-Condit*

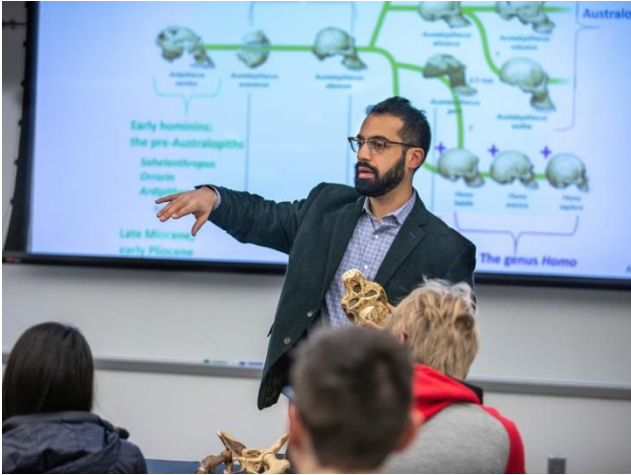


Do you hate the current federal administration? Do you want to actually do something to change the world? Do you want to help your fellow humans? Do you want to be in DC when the upcoming federal election occurs? If you answered yes to any of the above, join Professor Vicki Bentley-Condit next fall on the Grinnell-in-Washington program. There, you will have the opportunity to participate in an 8-credit internship in one of eight concentration choices with an accompanying 4-credit seminar – both via American University in D.C. The eight options are: Public Health Policy, Sustainable Development, Journalism and New Media, International Law and Organizations, Foreign Policy, American Politics, Justice and Law, and Global Economics and Business. Each of these offers you a potential inroad to real-world change – whether that be via human rights, healthcare, politics, sustainable agriculture, or finance. You will also have the opportunity to explore “Human Reproduction: Evolution to Revolution” with Prof. Bentley-Condit and interact with individuals from various constituencies around issues of reproduction, reproductive rights and obligations, and who does or should decide what is “right”. The GIW program will heavily involve local alums, local experts, field trips, provide numerous networking opportunities, and potentially provide you with a “foot in the door” to your future career or calling. Why would you go anywhere else?

## Faculty News

### Joshua Marshack Joins the Anthropology Department

By Kit Perry '22 and Anna Gjoleka '21



A new professor, Joshua Marshack, has joined Grinnell College's Anthropology department. He has come to Grinnell along with his wife Amanda Lee, who is a professor for the French and Arabic department. Professor Marshack is originally from Brooklyn, New York, from a multicultural family. Coming from different backgrounds his parents encouraged him to explore new places and get to know new people. Professor Marshack also states that growing up in New York, he was surrounded by different cultures and traditions, and these influences might have been part of the reason why he eventually

chose to enter anthropology.

His focus is on biological anthropology and primatology. He has conducted field research in Senegal where he studied chimpanzees in the wild, asking questions about why primates are social, and why they're violent, and how much of that behavior is natural versus exacerbated by outside influences, like human impacts. However, his first opportunity to work with primates was in high school, through his uncle, where he had the opportunity to work with macaques at a local hospital. This functioned as an early introduction to primatology, although his interest in anthropology came later.

Like many who enter the field of anthropology, Professor Marshack hadn't planned on majoring when he first went to college. Initially he started as a psychology major, but he soon realized that he wanted more variety, since he loved different cultures, art and the outdoors. However, a number of great professors and a chance to explore anthropology changed his mind. "Whatever you're interested in, there's something here for you," the professor explained when asked about what he likes about anthropology, citing it as a truly interdisciplinary field of study. Professor Marshack says that anthropology meant that he did not have to be one kind of scholar, and he did not feel like his identity as a person, nor his identity as a scholar was constrained by one single vision. For him, anthropology has provided an avenue to understand and counter injustice and prejudice. By studying humans, anthropologists can use science to discredit unscientific and harmful concepts about humanity.

Professor Marshack believes that a liberal arts college is a great place to teach, since students get to be the most anthropological. His classes for next semester will be *Anthropological Inquiries: Human Nature, Primate Behavior and Taxonomy* and an advanced special topic called *War, Peace, and Human Nature*. Professor Marshack plans to have his students do various projects within each class which will require them to be creative and innovative. He enjoys learning new things, and he believes that in small places like Grinnell people do not take things for granted. Here he enjoys using the resources around him like the Blank Park Zoo or the Maker Lab to make his classes more fun and hands-on.

In his spare time Professor Marshack likes to be active outdoors, which is something that his father instilled in him. He enjoys various outdoor activities such as running, hiking, biking and even walking. He also enjoys going to museums of any kind, which is a family tradition of sorts. In

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general, Professor Marshack enjoys getting to know the places he visits and exploring them on foot. According to Professor Marshack walking is a great way of getting acquainted with places and people, as you can really get the feel of an area, whether it is a rural forested area or an urban city. He believes that it is important to explore the spaces that you are in, no matter what you do in them.

Likewise, when stuck indoors, Professor Marshack likes to do some hands-on activities such as cooking. He was mainly taught how to cook by his mother when he was young, and ever since he has found that cooking can be a lot of fun. Professor Marshack also believes that home cooking is very important since it can ameliorate homesickness. In addition to family staples, he likes trying out new things and these past couple of years he has been trying to perfect a pizza recipe. He is not quite there yet but he is close!

Professor Marshack also enjoys photography, and in particular he likes taking pictures of his friends and the places he visits. In college, he was a photography minor which eventually turned out to be useful for his future anthropological research where he had to take photos of animals. In general, Professor Marshack likes to bridge together the arts and the sciences, and he tries to put this passion for varied hands-on experiences into his classes.



### Welcoming Professor Nikolas Sweet to Grinnell

*By Anna Gjoleka '21*

Professor Nikolas Sweet is originally from Virginia, where he grew up with a German upbringing. His German mother insisted that he was surrounded by German children's books. In his household, they even had rules that they could not speak English. This is what got him interested in going abroad and learning about international issues, so when he started college he was trying to find a course of study that would help him gain international perspectives.

Professor Sweet got his Bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech. Virginia Tech did not have an anthropology department, so he was not initially familiar with the field. However, he decided to pursue his interest in international relations by studying Economics and French. Economics seemed to be necessary for understanding a lot of international issues, whereas French was something that he had studied from an early age. Through his French major, Professor Sweet was introduced to West Africa, which is where he conducted a lot of his research. One of his professors in the department was from Senegal and he showed films in his class from various West African directors about the experience of migration and the difference between Western schools compared to schools in West Africa. This triggered Professor Sweet's interest in West Africa so when he finished his degree in Virginia Tech, he joined the Peace Corps.

He worked at the Peace Corps for three years, two in south-east Senegal where he continues to do his anthropological research, and the third year in Saint Louis, a city on the coast of Senegal. After having lived and worked in Africa for several years, he got into anthropology as a way to learn more about this part of the world he had come to love.

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As a linguistic anthropologist, he had to learn different West African languages through host families. Some of these languages proved to be very challenging, like Pular, which has a lot of noun classes. Unlike English that doesn't have gender and French that has two, varieties of Pular can have up to twenty to thirty. Professor Sweet is a big proponent of language studies in colleges even though they can be challenging. He says "In this field it is important to be able to communicate with the people in the communities in which you work without the use of a translator."

Linguistic anthropologists see the importance of not only interview questions and knowledge from surveys or translations, but also the everyday knowledge you get from people casually talking around the fireplace or around a pot of tea. In those everyday moments and in-between there are a lot of important things that happen and he says "you need to remain alive to these moments."

In Grinnell, Professor Sweet will be teaching two classes in both this fall semester and the spring semester. One of his classes is *Language, Culture and Society* which is a fundamental course in linguistic anthropology as it teaches the basic approaches that we have to language. This class looks at language not just as a grammatical system, but also the social work that it does in our lives and the way that gender, race and personhood are articulated through the way we speak.

His second class is *Language and Humor*, which emerged from his background reading in his dissertation work. While doing his dissertation, one of the genres he looked at was what he translates in English as "joking relationships", which brought him into contact with books and anthropological approaches to humor and laughter. This course allows us to see that even though humor is often seen to be universal and present for people of all times and all places, linking laughter to humor and "funniness" in the world is actually a pretty recent phenomenon.

When he is not in the classroom, Professor Sweet tries to stay active. He likes to practice yoga, go for a run and most recently he has come to enjoy pottery. While he really enjoys the work that he does, Professor Sweet has come to realize that he needs to balance his writing and computer work with some more concrete and hands-on experiences. He finds doing things with his hands particularly rewarding since while living in West Africa, he was stabbed in the left arm and ever since he cannot fully open his hand. While he used to play guitar, pottery now gives him a chance to use his hands again, in order to create something. After taking a few pottery classes, Professor Sweet now does his pottery work at the Stew, where he makes bowls, and is currently doing bowls for a fundraiser called Empty Bowl.

Professor Sweet is also enjoying fatherhood with his little 9-month-old son, Rowan, who he considers a gem. He also enjoys cooking for his son, who recently started eating.

After Grinnell, Professor Sweet is thinking about teaching in some other university or college, but in his little time here he has come to love Grinnell. According to him, it would be nice to settle down in a similar environment. He has learned that he really likes to be a part of a liberal arts community, where students are engaging, independent thinkers and faculty life is about community and belonging. However, no matter where his future takes him, Professor Sweet is always willing to return to Grinnell for guest lecturing if possible.

# Meet the Anthro SEPC

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The Anthropology Student Educational Policy Committee (SEPC) is a team of anthropology majors who create ways for students to engage with the department and serve as a liaison between students and faculty.

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Ilana Luther '20



Ilana is an Anthropology major from New York with a concentration in Global Development Studies. She is very excited to be a part of Anthropology SEPC for a second year! Ilana's academic interests include sociocultural anthropology, urban studies, and Jewish studies.

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Malia Wells '21

Malia, from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is a third-year anthropology and biochemistry double major with an interest in pursuing pediatric medicine. She is a part of the Quest Bridge chapter at Grinnell. She works at Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) through the Service-Learning Work Study program. She enjoys working with children and learning about family dynamics, especially those between mother and child. She is also interested in children's abilities to adapt in physiological and psychological ways to changing situations and stressful environments.



Anna Brew '21



Anna is a third year Anthropology major from outside Minneapolis, MN. She is particularly interested in archaeology as a sub field of Anthropology and has spent the past two summers in Pompei, Italy on an excavation of a Roman Garden. Outside of school she works in GCIEL on a Virtual Reality Project that is working to recreate the meadhall in Beowulf through archaeological evidence. She is also on the Women's Cross Country and Track Team and serves on the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC).

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### Ruby Romero '21

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Ruby Romero was born in Inglewood, California and is the daughter of Mexican and Guatemalan immigrants. She hopes to pursue a career in medicine and work with disadvantaged communities and use aspects of holistic medicine to provide care. Ruby is currently a third-year biology and anthropology double major. She is the co-leader for the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students. She also serves as a cabinet member for the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans, and is heavily involved in the Student Organization of Latinxs at Grinnell. Throughout her college career, she has gained a deeper understanding of social determinants of health through her education and extracurricular activities.



### Human Evolution Class Visits Zoo *By Kit Perry '22*



On a beautiful Saturday in late September, around a dozen students from Professor Marshack's Human Evolution class visited the Blank Park Zoo. Students were learning how to conduct field research by observing an animal, recording its behavior, and then analyzing it. As our closest living relatives and a major focus of the class, most students chose one of the four primates on display at the zoo; ring-tailed lemurs, gibbons, Japanese macaques, or golden-headed tamarins.

Research questions asked by students varied, but could include inquiries about things like grooming, playing, or feeding behaviors. When one of the behaviors of interest was observed, students would record the time and length of the activity and detail the behavior. Aside from that, students would record what the individual they were observing was doing every five minutes (such as eating, resting/sleeping, or moving around the enclosure) to establish a baseline of behavior, which could be charted and analyzed afterwards.



### Summer Research Funded by the Emeritus Fund

*By Chloe Wray '21*

In May 2019, thanks to the Emeritus Fund, I was able to continue research I had begun in Fall 2019 during Professor Brigittine French's Ethnography of Communication class. Stemming out of an assignment asking for an analysis of power and violence found in discursive material, I sought out newspaper articles kept in the Drake Community Library archives of crimes which had occurred near Grinnell, Iowa. What I stumbled upon was a series of articles from the Montezuma Republican, Brooklyn Chronicle and Grinnell Herald detailing the December 1886 murder of

Henry, a six-year old African-American boy by his grandfather and a woman named Cloa Robison on the farm of the grandfather, Andrew Brown, outside of Montezuma, Iowa.

The initial assignment asked for an analysis of a text demonstrating power and violence through discourse; I argued that these small-town Iowa newspapers use the linguistic features of entextualization and reference to create a distance between readers and the crime, which in effect legitimizes the newspaper's sensationalist reporting. As a result of the Emeritus Funding I was able to broaden my work from an examination of the articles' linguistic features to look more closely at the time and culture from which the articles spawned, asking further questions about Henry and his family. As an opportunity to gather information, the funding I received allowed me the room to assemble sources and I spent a week at the end of May visiting the Poweshiek County Historical Society and the Iowa State Historical Society along with the Drake Community Library and Grinnell College Library archives. With further newspaper articles, court proceedings, obituaries, records and certificates, census data and maps, I have been able to piece together bits of a picture surrounding Henry, his death, and the life of his family following his death, particularly that of his mother Mary Brown.

While this research is still preliminary, the Emeritus Funds laid a foundation of sources for future work and gave me the space to ask questions which have ultimately lent themselves to reflexive work regarding my tendency to bring morals into the sense-making of human nature in historic sources. Moving forward, I think there are several strands which emerge through the sources and which could be developed through further research. The major themes include Henry and his family's history as they speak to dynamics of familiar violence; African American history in Iowa, specifically framed through representation in newspapers and trials and in contrast with white people accused of committing crimes; tracing the genealogy of Henry's family to connect to the present through familial memory, and an assessment of the archive as political.

## Student News



### Professor Katya Gibel Mevorach takes her Politics of Food and Consumption of Otherness Class on a Culinary Trip in Des Moines

*Written by Anna Gjoleka '21 and Edited by Katya Gibel Mevorach*

On Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of September, Professor Katya and her class took a culinary trip to Des Moines. During their visit they visited the World Food Prize Building and various different restaurants and grocery stores. Their first stop was at the El Buen Sabor, a Latin American themed restaurant which is owned by a family from El Salvador.

While they were there they were joined by Canadian-born Professor Patrick Inglis from the Sociology Department, with whom they discussed their ideas of culture and ethnicity which they had studied in class. They had *papusas* for breakfast, an authentic dish from El Salvador, which is a thick flatbread made with corn flour and stuffed with cheese or cheese and beans.

Afterwards, they visited C Fresh, a supermarket known for having a variety of foods from different parts of the world at good prices. The store is owned by new Americans and includes a Vietnamese restaurant catering to the East and Southeast Asian population. The bulk of produce on the shelves are imports ranging from China to Thailand, however the customers were from various different descents.

Professor Katya then took the class to the World Food Prize Building, which had been converted from Des Moines Public Library built in 1907.

This building now houses the yearly award ceremonies for the World Food Prize, which is the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for food and agriculture. The laureates came from all over the world. The building itself is of great importance and great historical value. It also happened to be the work space of a Grinnell alumni from the class of 2017!

Lunch was spent at the Hibachi Grill & Supreme Buffet, which promotes an Asian influenced interior design and cuisine evoking Asian regions but actually offering a buffet with familiar tastes for working-class Iowans who were – by language and mannerisms – a visually diverse representation of the global south in contrast to the most media images of white North-European Iowans. Finally, the class visited another two grocery stores before returning to Grinnell. The first, an authentic Indian store, had everything from vegetables and spices common in the Indian cuisine, to clothes and Bollywood movies. The second, a Somali-American owned Halal store, surprisingly had a lot of foods products from North-East Africa, the Mediterranean, India and Indonesia.



This trip ended up being both fun and insightful, as the students observed first-hand what they had read about in class. It was also a unique experience which gave everyone a lot to discuss on their bus ride back to campus.

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### Student Comments on the Field Trip



“I thought it was interesting how enriched my increase in level of knowledge was as soon as I reached the Indian grocery store (Namaste), in comparison to Halal grocery store. The level of familiarity made me feel at ease as I could (being a South Asian), recognize all the brand names and food items. I also thought it was interesting how the grocery stores sold non-food items like clothes and statues to tap further and capitalize on the nostalgia from the diaspora.”

“I thought it was interesting to see how much diversity of food there was at Des Moines. Personally, I was expecting to see a lot of food items such as grilled meat with potatoes or meatloaf and hamburgers which is what I relate with a white American population. Instead I was surprised to see that there were a lot of different cuisines represented in Des Moines, such as El Salvadorian, cuisines representative of different parts of Asia and even a Somali-American grocery store. I found this experience to be very instructive and one of a kind.”

“So, we expected to see more American food, but learned that there were many restaurants with ingredients like spices and methods of cooking that came from all the different parts of the globe.”

“We experienced different aspects of diverse food cultures in Des Moines, challenging our pre-conceptual assumptions and expectations. The experience allowed us to witness and apply concepts we learned in class to an atmosphere more dynamic and diverse than the town of Grinnell Iowa.”

“On our trip to Des Moines (I also went alone with Simo, not in the whole group), I half expected to see what I saw in neighboring towns from where I’m from (rural Illinois). That is, white people running grocery stores and token “ethnic items” or Americanized “exotic” foods. Be Iowa (white, English-speaking). The most interesting thing I saw while this was not the case. C-Fresh was kind of the opposite of that (owned by non-white, still had “familiar items” for me).”

“It was very interesting that the cashier at the Namaste Grocery introduced me his favorite perfume packets. He asked me: ‘Do you know how to use them?’ and explained even though I nodded and said ‘yes’. I think he assumed that I am either an international student or an Asian American who’s never seen those perfume packets. He was very aware that his culture was a knowledge only a few people in Iowa understood. He put himself in ‘the Other’ place and us on the opposite.”

## Student News

### Summer MAP - Thomas Hexter '21



“My MAP (Anthropology-499), supervised by Professor Andelson, is entitled “Growing Local Foods Consumption at Grinnell College.” The main goal of the project was to understand our current local consumption at Grinnell College and **provide concrete action steps to grow this amount.**

As the name implies, the major goal of the project is to increase the College’s use of the vast quantity of food produced locally in the Grinnell area and **most importantly, support the growth of even more sustainable production in Southeast Iowa to reclaim the farmland from big corporations.** I interviewed Grinnell College administrators, Dining Services representatives, and local producers: the main purpose of these interviews was to

identify the barriers and benefits perceived by these three groups to incorporating local foods into Grinnell’s institutional foodservice operation. I also conducted a survey of over 160 Grinnell College students to gauge their level of interest in seeing Dining Services increase their use of local foods. All of the information I gathered was analyzed and compiled into a final research paper which culminated in a policy proposal to help Grinnell College better utilize locally-grown foods and **support the Southeast Iowa agricultural community in a meaningful way.**

Since increasing local foods consumption has been a prominent goal with limited success for some time now, Professor Andelson and I decided that the project should identify exactly why Grinnell has been unable to increase its consumption of local foods, as well as why people think it’s important that we do continue to move towards a stronger local foods system.

I’ll also add that the MAP was an “Applied Anthropology” project, as we wanted to understand the current local foods systems and apply our analysis to suggest solutions to improve the situation, namely by making a substantive increase in Sustainable Local Foods production and consumption in Grinnell. Moreover, it is a project that was focused on finding a solution that will strengthen the entire Grinnell community, not just the college. Lastly, in a lot of ways, it was an “Embodied Anthropology” Project, because while I was doing my research, I was operating my own small-scale sustainable vegetable garden at Farm House, where the food I produced contributed to our local foods system! My work has brought out in me a passion for local foods that will guide my life’s work!



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### Summer Excavation

*By Anna Brew '21*

This past summer was my second summer excavating at the Casa Della Regina Carolina in the Pompei Archaeological Park in Italy with the University of Cornell and Reading University. The excavation is of what we hope was a garden space within a house in the 8th region in the old part of the city. The team consisted of three directors Kathryn Gleason, Caitlín E. Barrett and Annalisa Marzano, along with two groups of students, one graduate and the other undergraduate. We opened 5 trenches and dug for 5 weeks and each trench got down about a meter. We were unsure of if we had hit the ancient layer in any of the trenches due to large amounts of modern trash and unmatched fresco painting pieces. With one summer left in the contract the team next summer will reopen all 5 trenches, remove backfill and try to find the ancient layer to reveal some information about the site.



## The Anthropology of West Africa Class Shares a Meal!

*By Anna Gjoleka '21*



Food is one of the best ways of bonding with people and getting to know new cultures. Therefore, it is no surprise that on Friday November 15, Professor Sweet and his West African Anthropology class united in the new Global Kitchen at the HSSC to prepare a West African meal. At this unique class session, the students, along with the help and support of Professor Sweet, cooked four dishes from West Africa: Mafe Yapp (with meat), Mafe Gerte (vegetarian sauce), Yassa Ganaar (with chicken), and plantains.

Once the meal was cooked it was served in the traditional West African style, where the dish is placed on the floor and everyone sits in a circle around it. The students and Professor Sweet also shared this meal with friends and loved ones, including Professor Sweet's wife and son. The food was delicious and there was something for everyone, whether they ate meat or not. All in all, the event was a success and it was worth licking your fingers!

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### Bronze Axes

Bronze was the first metal technology in Europe, reaching Britain around 2000 BC. Metals are complex - they must be mined, smelted, cast, and shaped by individuals and communities with specialized skills. The amount of labor involved made bronze a valuable commodity, suitable for elite display, trade and exchange, and used to make more efficient tools for other areas of life.

To open a window into early metal use, in Prof. Whittaker's Old World Prehistory class (Anthro 261) we were issued bronze axe blades, which we finished and put on handles. We took our axes out to CERA and cut down 3 maples. A timed chopping experiment allowed us to compare our bronze axes to modern steel hatchets. We then built a small monument in front of the HSSC, inspired by the many timber votive structures in Europe from Neolithic to Iron Age times. It is a timber arch with a pair of simple sculptured posts representing the Benevolent Non-Gendered Deities of Academic Success and Pleasant Recreation.





## New anthropology travel fund established

**Paul Simmons '79** and **Michele Clark** share a love for travel and seek out new experiences in different settings to learn more about different cultures. The Paul Simmons '79 and Michele Clark International Research Learning Fund will allow Grinnellians to have similar experiences while they are students.



“It’s designed to improve the quality of students’ understanding of people, cultures, and civilizations, which in turn will improve the quality of their own lives academically and personally,” Simmons says.

The fund will prioritize support for immersive and internationally based student learning and research in the field of anthropology, including mentored research, independent field work, and course-embedded travel. Students with a demonstrated financial need will be eligible for scholarships.

**Michele Clark and Paul Simmons '79**

The couple live in Davis, California, and traveling has been a part of their lives since an early age. Originally from Tarkio, Missouri, Simmons was the first person at his high school to be a foreign exchange student. He visited Colombia, and reading books by Latin American authors gave him a local perspective.

Simmons later graduated from Grinnell with a degree in anthropology while developing an interest in how cultures govern themselves.

“I found it very interesting how communities, families, and villages approached governing,” he says. “That was sort of the spark for me intellectually.”

Simmons ended up going to law school at Cornell and has been an attorney in California for more than 30 years, co-founding the law firm of Somach, Simmons & Dunn. His practice has been in the area of environmental law, specializing in water and natural resources.

Clark, also an eager traveler as a student, is executive director for a nonprofit organization called the Yolo Land Trust. She has been involved with nonprofit work for the last 20 years, after having been an attorney in private practice.

The couple have traveled throughout the Americas and Europe together, with a special fondness for Spain. Simmons says his anthropology background has come in handy while traveling and in his career. He hopes students who receive grants from the Paul Simmons '79 and Michele Clark International Research Learning Fund will enjoy their Grinnell experience as much as he did.

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“An understanding of cultures – including your own – is both interesting and important in thinking about the world,” he says.

From original article by Lisa Shapiro, <https://alumni.grinnell.edu/news/paul-simmons-79-and-michele-clark>



### **New Building Changes Campus** *By Kit Perry '22*

Connected to the Alumni Recitation Hall and Carnegie, the new Humanities and Social Sciences Complex, or HSSC, has become the home for the anthropology department. While ARH and Carnegie are currently under renovation, the new HSSC building is now open.

The anthropology department has found its new home in the southern half of the first and second floors of the three-story building, with professor offices next door to offices for other departments like sociology, linguistics, and political science. Professor Kathy Kamp comments how she sees more students now than she did when her office was on the third floor of Goodnow. Sometimes, Professor Kamp says, students will see her in the halls and stop to ask questions that they might not have otherwise asked in class or during office hours. By having the department in a more central building on campus, students and professors get a chance to interact more, fostering a better dialog between the two.

In addition to professor offices moving, Grinnell’s collections of biological anthropology and archaeology artefacts have found new spaces. The biological anthropology lab has two walls of shelving for Grinnell’s bio anthro collection and heavy wooden tables in the center of the room, often with a few of the college’s many skulls or casts on them. In the main corridor, a display case with glass on both sides allows passersby to see into the collection room. The room is connected to a classroom where many biological anthropology classes meet, as well as some other courses, including some of the introductory courses for the department.

The archaeology lab is in the classroom right next door, lit by two walls of windows looking over the pathways outside the HSSC. Counters along the walls hold a variety of artefacts—stone tools, pottery, and a shelf of historic glass bottles. Pulling out drawers reveals yet more of the collection. Earlier this year, Professor John Whittaker held a stone tool making workshop for a Human Evolution course in this space. Many of the rooms in Anthropology were supported by the generosity of alumni, including the archaeology lab (West family) and a student research room (Kessler family).



While this building is still new—and construction can often be heard from the conjoined, under-construction ARH and Carnegie—the HSSC looks to be a promising new location for the anthropology department for years to come.

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**Thank You!**

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