

GRINNELL COLLEGE ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT



Spring 2012

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[Maria Tapias](#)
Associate Professor, Chair

[Jon Andelson](#)
Professor

[Vicki Bentley-Condit](#)
Professor

[Eric D. Carter](#)
Assistant Professor

[Doug Caulkins](#)
Professor

[Brigittine French](#)
Assistant Professor

[Katya Gibel Mevorach](#)
Professor

[Kathryn Kamp](#)
Professor

[J. Montgomery Roper](#)
Associate Professor

[John Whittaker](#)
Professor

[Sondi Burnell](#)
Academic Support
Assistant



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Anthropology Class of 2012



Spring 2012 Anthropology Senior Majors and Faculty: **First Row:** Max Fulgoni, Noah Fribley, Erin Whalen, **Second Row:** Kat Atcheson, Maddie Gardner, Heather Riggs, Lindsey Challis, Kristen Mumaw, Marie Packard, Rebecca Hughes, Prof. John Whittaker, Elif Karatas, Prof. John Seebach, Brooke Yoder, Cary Speck, Anne Robinson, Charlie Kessner, Elizabeth Behr, Devin Ross, Olivia Wilks, Prof. Monty Roper, Sara Kittleson, Robin Wetherill, Peter Macfarlane, Maya Andelson, Cory Paul, Jessi Addison, Prof. Kathryn Kamp, Prof. Jon Andelson, Prof. Vicki Bentley-Condit, Prof. Cynthia Hansen, Prof. Eric Carter, Toby Cain. **Absent:** Lauren Horn, Collin McCallum-Cook, Austin Redman, Shunji Ukai, Jin Chen Yu, Zoe Zebe, Prof. Brigittine French, Prof. Katya Gibel Mevorach, Prof. Maria Tapias, and Prof. Douglas Caulkins.

2011-12 HONORS, ASRELSKY AND LUEBBEN PRIZE WINNERS

LUEBBEN AWARD

(BEST ALL AROUND STUDENTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY)

**Maya Andelson
Anne Robinson**

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

ASRELSKY AWARD

(BEST PAPER WRITTEN IN ANTHROPOLOGY)

**Elizabeth Behr
Rebecca Hughes
Megan Januska**

The Rachael Asrelsky Anthropology Paper Prize award is given annually to the author of an outstanding paper written for an anthropology class in honor of Rachael Asrelsky ('89) who died in the Lockerbie bombing while returning from an off-campus program.

Senior Thesis Presentations

Spring 2012

Maya Andelson '12

*Collective Memory in Chile:
La historia es nuestra*

Adviser: Brigtinne French

Heather Riggs '12

*"Sometimes you feel like
you're born in the wrong era"
Emotions and Nostalgia in Scottish Heritage Discourse*

Adviser: Maria Tapias

Madelyn Gardner '12

*Soil ain't dirt: The many meanings of soil in the
lives of Iowa farmers.*

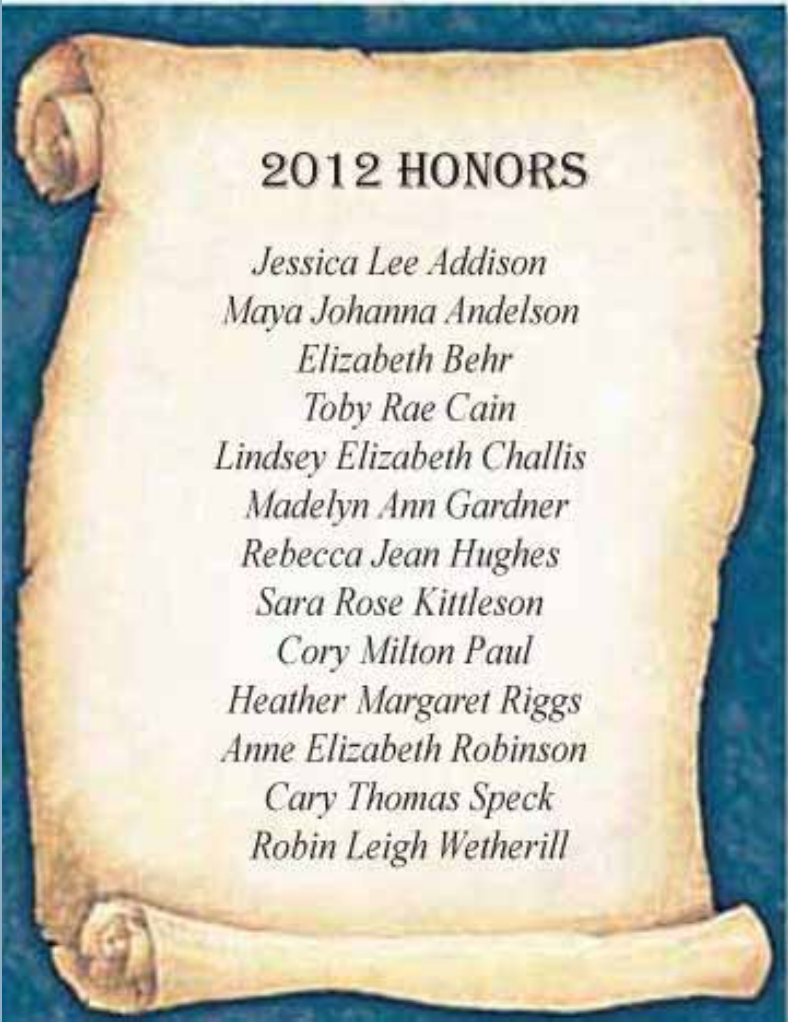
Adviser: Jon Andelson

Robin Wetherill '12

Papa Franz: Franz Boas and Charismatic Authority

Adviser: Brigtinne French

The Senior Thesis is designed to provide students an opportunity to do a piece of research and writing in any area of anthropology under the direction of two members of the anthropology faculty. A senior thesis may be based on original research, library research, or a combination of the two, but in any case should build on a student's previous course work in anthropology. It should include a thorough review of relevant previous literature and develop an original argument on the topic. In addition to a written paper, students are expected to do a public presentation of their thesis.

A scroll with a light beige, aged paper texture, rolled up at both ends, set against a dark blue background. The scroll is centered on a larger light blue background with a white zigzag border. The text on the scroll is as follows:

2012 HONORS

Jessica Lee Addison
Maya Johanna Andelson
Elizabeth Behr
Toby Rae Cain
Lindsey Elizabeth Challis
Madelyn Ann Gardner
Rebecca Jean Hughes
Sara Rose Kittleson
Cory Milton Paul
Heather Margaret Riggs
Anne Elizabeth Robinson
Cary Thomas Speck
Robin Leigh Wetherill

Jessica Lee Addison
Maya Johanna Andelson
Elizabeth Behr
Toby Rae Cain
Lindsey Elizabeth Challis
Madelyn Ann Gardner
Rebecca Jean Hughes
Sara Rose Kittleson
Cory Milton Paul
Heather Margaret Riggs
Anne Elizabeth Robinson
Cary Thomas Speck
Robin Leigh Wetherill

2012 Anthropology T-Shirt



BOAS: THE BIRTH OF A DISCIPLINE



From R to L: Marie Packard, Toby Austin, Ben Shirar, Silvio Curtis, Austin McKenney, Larissa Mottl and Jordan Scheibel listen while Mark Anderson describes the archaeology of CERA.

Hunter-Gatherer course looks for edible resources at CERA

Professor Seebach's Hunter-Gatherer Anthropology and Archaeology students took a field trip to Grinnell College's Conard Environmental Research Area (CERA) as part of the course curriculum. We were looking for wild edible resources that would have been gathered by Native American groups inhabiting the tall-grass prairie ecosystem. Our guides were Larissa Mottl, CERA Manager, and Jordan Scheibel '09, an expert on the edible plants of central Iowa. The unseasonably warm weather has played havoc with the lifecycles of many plants, and so we found little of economic value. Likewise, the animals stayed away from our loud and jovial band. Mark Anderson, State Archaeologist of Iowa, also gave us a tour of the archaeological sites found during his recent survey of the CERA property. Several of the artifacts collected during his work were shown, bringing to life how people made their living here almost 1000 years ago. Mark also speculated on the hunting strategies that would have been used in the area, with hunters taking advantage of the propensity for deer to scan for predators when coming onto the floodplains from the river valleys. This brief pause would have been long enough to shoot any animals targeted by hunters sitting behind blinds. Though we were not able to hunt and gather for ourselves, the beautiful afternoon was enjoyed by all.



From L to R: Elif Karatas, Toby Austin, Ben Shirar, Austin McKenney and Larissa Mottl get hungry while Jordan Scheibel describes the lifecycle of the black raspberry.



A groundstone artifact found during the survey. This tool would have been used to process wild plants or pigments.

Anderson's Commandments of Anthropological Theory

Only two specific courses are required of anthropology majors at Grinnell: ANT 104, Introduction to Anthropology, and ANT 280, Theories of Culture. ANT 104 provides all students, including future majors, with a general introduction to the scope of the discipline and to its four subfields: archeology, biological anthropology, cultural anthropology, and anthropological linguistics. Each department member who teaches Intro develops his or her own syllabus and chooses the readings and assignments they think will work best to convey the field's essence.

In contrast to the somewhat variable content of Intro, the department has felt that it is useful to give majors a generally similar experience in Theories of Culture, a course that is prerequisite to our 300-level seminars. The faculty members who teach the course -- Brittine French, Monty Roper, and myself -- consult with one another about the general approach we want to take and about the text we will use, which recently has been McGee and Warms's *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*, now in its 5th edition. The text includes original essays by prominent anthropologists, supplemented by lengthy and informative footnote commentaries by the editors.

The course begins with Herbert Spencer and Edward B. Tylor in the middle of the 19th century and ends with such contemporary thinkers as Marshall Sahlins, Lila Abu-Lughod, and Arjun Appadurai. In between we consider Franz Boas, Bronislaw Malinowski, Margaret Mead, Leslie White, Claude Levi-Strauss, Eric Wolf, Sherry Ortner, Michel Foucault, and a host of others. The names and the dates fly by, but we try to help students see beyond the particulars to the larger patterns and themes in anthropology's history.

For the last few years, on the last day of class I present my own final thoughts about how I think theory should be used in anthropology. Herewith I share with the readers of the Newsletter the latest iteration of “Andelson’s Commandments of Anthropological Theory:”

1. Thou shalt not put theory before evidence
2. Thou shalt not make an idol of thy theory
3. Thou shalt not confuse theory with Truth
4. Thou shalt exult in a multiplicity of theories
5. Thou shalt honor the memory of Tylor and Boas, of Durkheim and Malinowski
6. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s theory without appropriate citation.
7. Thou shalt not reify or reduce culture, but give it its proper place.
8. And in your studies thou shalt put human before culture, and before human, humane

Prof. Jon Andelson’s *Theories of Culture Course*



Students from Professor French, Roper and Seebach’s Introduction to Anthropology courses traveled to the University of Northern Iowa to attend an exhibit entitled RACE: Are we so Different? This award-winning installation, designed by the American Anthropological Association, exposes viewers to several different facets of “race” in the United States, showing them the many ways in which race is constructed and reified through culture. Another underlying theme is the power the concept has held in American history and politics since the founding of the country in the 18th century. Drawing from Enlightenment-era theorizing about human variation, which were often only thinly veiled attempts to excuse or justify racially based depredations or slavery, students are asked to ponder why the number of racial categories has waxed and waned through history. If race was somehow “real,” shouldn’t the categories we use to describe it remain static? That they do not, and often differ wildly, shows that there is little biological basis to racial categorization. This does not deny, however, the plainly visible reality of the biological variation we see among human populations worldwide. As the exhibit points out, these differences, in skin color for instance, exist along continua and have absolutely no correlation with the capabilities, character or identity of the individuals that possess them. Another display

exhibited historical artifacts from the Civil War era that showed people of African descent in a profoundly negative light, while juxtaposing these with the reportedly positive, yet still insensitive use of Native American names and symbology among college and professional athletic teams. Through such caricatures, our fellow humans are robbed of their humanity, becoming instead ciphers for whatever traits dominant society chooses to place upon them. In concert with the four-field dedication of Grinnell’s anthropology department, the University of Northern Iowa exhibit also delved into biological and linguistic anthropology. One display had viewers track the spread of modern Homo sapiens from Africa across the world beginning 200,000 years before present; and another had viewers guess what race a particular speaker was by listening to snippets of speech from citizens of many different countries. Students and faculty also got to relive their youth by riding to the museum in style—in a yellow Grinnell-Newburg school bus!



Professor John Seebach and the faculty of the Anthropology Department would like to thank the instructional

Support Committee and the Office of Diversity of Inclusion at Grinnell College for supporting the trip to the University of Northern Iowa.

Learn about the major & visit the oldest building on campus!



Anthropology department had an Open House on March 7th, 2012 to learn about the anthropology major, and visit the oldest building on campus.

BORN TO RUN

Article from Grinnell College's website:<http://www.grinnell.edu/news/features/born-run>. May 10, 2012



Photograph by Ben Brewer '11

Last fall's "Born to Run" tutorial attracted several first-year students with a passion for running. And even a few without. That gave Vicki Bentley-Condit, professor of anthropology an idea for bringing them back together again. Students in the course tackled the question "Are humans born to run?"

The class examined anatomical, genetic, evolutionary, and cultural factors, including modern-day endurance runners who run multiple marathons and ultra-marathons. "We talked about basic anatomy; different types of runners like horses, cheetahs, and humans; the little that we know about the importance of running on the African savannah," says Bentley-Condit, "and compared that with today. With the few individuals who run very well and the majority who don't run at all."

The course even included a field trip to the nearby Prairie Meadows racetrack to watch the horses run. Although Bentley-Condit picked winners, she says superior anatomical knowledge wasn't the secret. She used less rigorous criteria, such as one entrant's attractive pink socks.

This May, Bentley-Condit, a marathon runner herself, says she wanted to give her students a chance to "walk the walk having talked the talk." So she tempted the class back to her house for an end-of-year, noncompetitive 5K dubbed the First Annual "Born to Run" Run. As an added bonus, she also provided a home-cooked brunch. Most of the students in the original class made it, even though the run started at 9 a.m. on a Sunday. "Apparently," laughs Bentley-Condit, "that's early for some of them." Bentley-Condit hopes to continue to offer the event each spring until the students graduate in 2015.

Welcome Cynthia Hansen!

Cynthia Hansen began teaching in the Linguistics Concentration at Grinnell in January 2012. Her research focuses on the documentation and linguistic description of Iquito, a highly endangered language of the Peruvian Amazon. She teaches the core courses within the Linguistics Concentration (Introduction to General Linguistics, Syntax, Phonetics and Phonology, and the Seminar in Linguistics) as well as an anthropology course on language contact.

Professor Hansen graduated with a BA in Linguistics from Dartmouth College. From there, she worked as an Associate Speech Science Engineer at SpeechWorks (now Nuance) in Boston, MA, contributing to their international speech recognition projects. After three years with that company, she moved to Cuernavaca, Mexico to work with a local NGO. She returned to the US to pursue graduate study in linguistics at The University of Texas at Austin, where she completed her Master's Degree in 2006 and her PhD in 2011.

Her research on Iquito examines an unusual word order alternation that occurs between the realis and irrealis mood. She is also a contributing member of the Iquito Language Documentation Project and has written about various aspects of Iquito syntax and morphology.



Academic interests: endangered language description and documentation (especially within Amazonia), Iquito and the Zaparoan languages, morphological and syntactic typology (especially word order alternations), and numeral systems.

Courses:

LIN 114 Introduction to General Linguistics
LIN 295 Phonetics and Phonology
LIN 295 Syntax
LIN 395 Seminar in Linguistics
(Spring 2013: Language Change)
ANT 295 Language Contact

Alumni News

Lauren Knapp '06 [Blog's](#) about her adventures in Mongolia as part of her MTV/Fulbright Fellowship.

Marissa Gilman '09 [marissa.gilman@gmail.com] Starting in May, I will be working at Chemonics in Washington D.C.

Hyatt, Susan '76 [<mailto:suhyatt@iupui.edu>] is 2012 recipient of the Chancellor's Faculty Award for Civic Engagement. Susan's current research is about finding former Southsiders and restoring those ties through social events and reciprocal worship services at South Calvary and the Etz Chaim Sephardic synagogue. [Read more..](#)

Retirement Report

Doug Caulkins, Emeritus Professor
of Anthropology



In addition to reading to my cat Sisu (my other cat Sophie is not into literature), I have been practicing retirement by teaching new courses that utilize the expertise and knowledge of the alumni. "Creative Careers: Learning from Alumni," which I teach annually, has been the largest class in the college, with as many as 81 students enrolled in the two credit course. The idea that inspired this course is quite simple: alumni, not the faculty, are the expert practitioners of liberal arts careers outside of academia. The course features as many as 15 alumni speakers during the semester in this Friday afternoon course. In another course, "Managing Enterprise and Innovation," a four credit course, I bring back approximately 10 alumni entrepreneurs, both traditional entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurs, to talk about how they developed their organizations. I offer a plus 2 option which gives the students time to work on an enterprise startup. This course is closely related to applied anthropology, which uses anthropological theory and methods to try to address important social/environmental/political problems. The final project for the course was to do one of the following (a) design a more entrepreneurial Grinnell; (b) design a new enterprise (for-profit or non-profit), or (c) design a program for making the student a more entrepreneurial person. I get to talk about some of these ideas at the Alumni College this year, which will be fun.

Fall semester I am teaching a course on "Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation", devoted specifically to the development of new organizations whose mission is to address some important social/environmental/political problem. If you are a social entrepreneur, please contact me and we can discuss your possible participation in the course, either in person or by skype.

Spring semester I will teach a course and a workshop for the Humanities division called "Creative Careers in the Humanities." The goal is to interest humanities professors in using alumni in their courses, particularly in these difficult economic times when students in the humanities may have a difficult time getting jobs. I want to feature alumni with humanities majors who have developed a rewarding and satisfying career niche. My hope is that more faculty members will learn the excitement of having alumni in class to talk, creating what I call the platinum triangle of current students, alumni, and faculty. It always reinforces our commitment to the liberal arts.

By now all of you have heard about the White House visit of the Social Entrepreneurs of Grinnell, a 501(c)3 charity. Both Monty Roper and I are on the Board of SEG, giving the organization a strong representation from the Anthropology Department. For more information about SEG, see <http://www.segrinnell.org/>

This summer I am taking a student to Northern Ireland to continue my research on the way that various museums, some of them sectarian, portray the historical and recent conflicts within Londonderry.

Meanwhile, my co-edited book, Companion to Organizational Anthropology, will be out this fall.

Anthropology Majors Awarded Funds from the Emeritus Faculty Research Grant

With generous financial support from Grinnell College alumni, friends, and faculty, the Anthropology Department competitively awarded several Emeritus Faculty Research Grants. The Anthropology Emeritus Faculty Research Grant for anthropology majors was established last year on the occasion of Professor Doug Caulkins' retirement to honor his enduring contributions to student research opportunities. The awards are designed to provide funding for students who are engaged in anthropologically-informed research when regular collegiate funds are not available. In the first year of the grant, the department awarded a total of \$2,050.00 for summer research opportunities to the following six students:

- Elena Gartner '14 - Supplement Wilson internship fostering entrepreneurial culture in Grinnell
- Katie Fenster '14 - Preliminary research for future Mentored Advanced Project studying 9/11 memorials in Washington, DC
- Anna Weissman '13 - travel to Montana for service learning and cultural immersion program economically marginalized US communities
- Benjamin Shirar '13 - Supplement research internship with Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City, IA
- Toby Austin '14 - Supplement research internship with the Office of the State Archaeologist, Iowa City, IA
- Toby Cain '12 Supplement archival project on war-time letters at the National Postal Museum in Washington, DC

The faculty was impressed with the wide range of proposals from our students is delighted to have the opportunity to support them. As the need was much higher than anticipated, the department was unable to fund any project fully. In future semesters we hope to continue to increase the amount of funding available for students' innovative and promising research opportunities. Contributions to the Grinnell Anthropology Department Emeritus Faculty Research Fund can be made by: calling the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 866-850-1846 or on-line at <https://loggia.grinnell.edu/anthroemeritus>.

Thank you.....

for your restricted contribution to the Anthropology Department

John Whittaker and Kathryn Kamp

William Green '74

Carol Hunt '80

Andrew Derksen '00

Jonathan Andelson '70