

Thanks to the School of Anthropology and the Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology for One Hundred Years of Service

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“Western science believes that the world (other than humans) is inert, that nature can be understood by deciphering the ‘natural laws’ that govern the behavior of non-human ‘things’ and that if those ‘natural laws’ are uncovered through scientific inquiry certain predictions can be made about the existence of plants and animals. The Southern Paiute, however, believe that the universe (and everything in it) is sentient, has power, has a personal history and should be treated with respect....as if you would treat another human being. The occupants of this universe is also able to communicate and have conversations with humans and it is through these conversations that humans learn and get to know what aspects of these sentient beings lives, how they can co-exist with humans and humanity’s responsibilities towards them. These conversations are ones where human and other sentient beings can influence the behaviors of each other..... [scientists] struggle with the acceptance of this understanding of the world because it’s beyond their cultural boundaries of understanding.” Stoffle and Evans, *Notes on Talking with Nature*

When I was asked by the Centennial committee to submit an article describing my experience with the School of Anthropology, I was very honored and excited by the opportunity. How interesting it would be for me to assign meaning to my experience at the UA in a forum such as this.....celebrating 100 years of excellence in the field of Anthropology. And how often does an opportunity such as this come along? Every 100 years I guess. So, obviously, I jumped at the chance to participate in the 100

year celebration of the “School.”

Wow, where do I begin? Some of my first memories go back to my undergraduate and graduate school training, reading publications by Cluckhohn, Haury, Eggan, Weaver, Basso and Deloria. My advisor was William Ayers, James Ayers’ brother. The faculty at the UO knew how important it would be for us to know who these people were and from whence they came despite the fact that I had no immediate idea of just how influential this information would be to



Figure 67: Photograph from Picacho Peak, Arizona, looking towards the southeast on October 8, 2005. Image courtesy of Roderick Kevin Donald.

my future as an anthropologist.

My first trip to the southwest, however, did not come until the early 2000s. I accepted an appointment with the UA Africana Studies program which allowed me an opportunity to forge an indirect relationship with the Department of Anthropology, and especially BARA. I remember meeting Drexel Woodson for the first time at one of the eateries near the bookstore. With his influence, I promoted the “Department” as a destination for AFAS students who desired more of an anthropological approach to their burgeoning research interests.

During one of our discussions on applied anthropology and the meaning of culture, a gentleman walked into Drexel’s office. In the midst of exchanging pleasantries, I realized that Drexel had introduced me to Robert Hackenberg. It was such a pleasure meeting

someone who had spent so much time developing our discipline. Another such scholar was Vine Deloria. I knew Vine Deloria from his writings but was never fortunate enough to have an opportunity to meet him.

In 2008 I left the UA Africana Studies Program to accept a position as the lead archeologist for a new state-level preservation program in North Carolina. Soon after arriving in NC however, I, along with faculty support, ushered in a more professional relationship with the “School” and BARA as a Visiting Scholar. And shortly afterwards I was named the Fall 2013 Residential Scholar.

It was with great pleasure and anticipation that I accepted the terms of the Residential Scholar program. In this role, I had the opportunity to act as steward of the University Indian Ruins (AZ BB: 9:33) and contribute to the

scholarly mission of the “School” through the form of a departmental lecture. This was the first opportunity for me to return to the “old pueblo” and be back strictly as an associate of the “School.” Consequently, I believe my current position in the Trinity College of Arts and Sciences at Duke University is directly related to the continued support from the “School” and BARA.

So, how fitting it is for me to be able, again, to give something back to a place that has given me so much, to have a chance to acknowledge those that came before and those that are here now who constantly provide guidance and assistance as I negotiate my academic existence.

Consequently, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ones that came before, the ones that laid a foundation for a century of anthropology in the “School.” I believe one must thank the ones who came before because they made things easier for us. They fought methodological and intellectual battles that, hopefully, we won’t have to wage again. And I thank those that are here now because they have vision.....they have the ability to see the changes in the history of the ideas within anthropology, and not strictly through the lens of a reader. Because they have lived



Figure 68: Stronghold Trail. Image courtesy of Roderick Kevin Donald.

through the multifaceted nature of change within our discipline, they can provide us with potential glimpses into the future of a discipline constantly on the move. As anthropologists, we must use this knowledge or perish along with other disciplines that were too inexperienced, weak, or irrelevant to survive.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank the graduate students who asked me to participate in this year’s Centennial Celebration. It is through you that we place the weight and value of our discipline, with a firm belief that you will draw from the vast amount of scholarly work at your disposal, respect it and, at the same time, make it your own, then proceed into an unknown future with the confidence necessary to go “beyond your cultural boundaries” to make what we do even more relevant than any of your predecessors ever could.