

ARTICLES

Dennis Griffin: Unplugged*An Interview by Carolyn Holthoff*

I had long wondered how some of our most senior and well accomplished archaeologists in Oregon began their careers. I wondered whether their path was calculated and planned, or if they stumbled upon their careers like so many of us do. What are the things they see as challenges, as obstacles to the profession? And I wondered, what would be their advice for those just entering the field? I wanted to know the answer to these questions and thought perhaps others would as



well. So, I contacted Dennis Griffin, State Archaeologist with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. He agreed to an interview- that was September of 2016. We met at Block 15 South, in Corvallis, not far from Dennis' home. It was a bright sunny day and we relaxed into the interview at one of the picnic tables on their veranda. Over the course of an hour, Dennis shared his story and his advice. I left with the idea that we would publish this article and then attempt interviews with other long time Oregon archaeologists. Well, life took over and almost three years later I was finally able to work on the article I so passionately wanted to pursue. In reviewing the transcripts, I remembered how I felt that afternoon- inspired and full of hope, that the messages Dennis relayed would make a difference in the cultural resources community.

Carolyn- All right. Interview with Dennis Griffin. So, Dennis, can you state your name, title and how long you've been in your current position?

DG- Sure. Dennis Griffin, state archaeologist, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. And I've been in this job for 14 years.

Carolyn- So how did you get started in this profession?

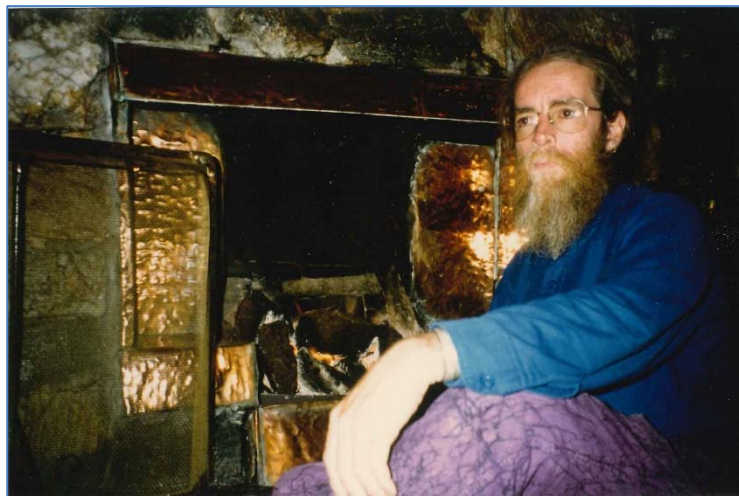
DG- Well, originally, I first heard about archaeology indirectly because my girlfriend was taking a field school class near a limestone quarry site in Pennsylvania and I went to hang out with her and go skinny dipping back about 45 some years ago. Being a psychology major, I hadn't taken any archaeology classes at the time, but it looked like fun. Professionally, my interests in archaeology did not begin until after I had spent several years in the mid-1970s traveling in Asia and living in villages in non-Western societies where I became interested in other cultures. So, when I came back to the U.S., Anthropology and Archaeology was a natural direction for me to take. I had dropped out of school in the mid-1970s but after moving to Oregon I came back and started at OSU.

Carolyn- So I'm guessing that's what inspired you. Was it the opportunity to travel abroad?

DG- The traveling abroad definitely did. I spent over five years traveling abroad, mostly in non-Western nations and living with people, trying to learn different languages. You know, learn the culture and see how it's similar and how different it is from ours. That was fascinating. My college education was half archaeology,

half cultural anthropology, but I have always found archaeology is anthropology. I've always considered that as a mantra and that you can't separate one from the other.

Carolyn- I completely agree. So can you outline your career path for up and coming archaeologists? How your career path evolved, etc.



DG- My career path? Ok, sure. I mean it's different from what archaeology is and opportunities available today. 2016 is very different than where I found myself in the 70s and 80s. But having come off the road, you know, traveling etc, I went to college in the early 70s wanting to be a high school psychologist. I finished majors in Psychology, English and Philosophy and ended up dropping out of school; I couldn't do a foreign language which was required for such a degree program. I had no memory given the time. So, I decided to take off and

began traveling extensively. After returning from several years on the road, I settled in Corvallis, Oregon and discovered that at OSU, students didn't need to take a foreign language for the MAIS – the Masters of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies degree. So, I realized that not needing to complete a language requirement I could return to school and complete my degree, this time in Anthropology. I never considered that I needed to learn a language other than English until I began travelling abroad. Two years living mostly in Asian countries can really change one's perspective. So, I enrolled at OSU in Anthropology and I was extremely fortunate to be attending OSU when I did. I recall walking into the department in the late spring and meeting the Anthropology department chair, Tom Hogg. When I walked in the department's office and said, "Hi, I'm thinking about going to school here." He said, "Into what?" I said "Archaeology, but I'm really interested in culture anthropology as well." Hearing I was interested in archaeology I was offered a job on the spot and left his office with guaranteed employment for the summer – assisting with a pedestrian survey along the Kalapuya divide in Douglas County. I was out in the field six days a week for the entire summer. How lucky was that?

I was just thrown into the field with no real background experience with some really good people. And I have been lucky to have been offered nonstop, great projects ever since. The time I first started studying archaeology was before archaeologists began talking to tribes, and my mentor in the department was Dr. Dick Ross, and he was the first archaeologist in Oregon, to actually seek out opportunities to talk and collaborate with tribes. And he was ridiculed for it. But, you know, he took me under his wing and I kind of learned about Oregon archaeology under him, and I immediately started working with some of the state's tribes. I didn't have much money back then and the department offered me a research assistantship helping some of the professors with their research contracts, several of which dealt with Oregon's tribes. I did an internship with the Grand Ronde Tribe, an ethnobotany class where we worked with the Coquille Tribe and spent time attending a number of ceremonies with the Warm Springs. I was able to do a lot of work with different tribes there. And that really taught me the importance of working with Native American communities. I got to interview a lot of elders through OSU, and I continued this practice during my Master's program. For work I did what everyone did back then, spend a year working with the Forest Service, then the BLM. The seasonal work thing, you know, working nine months a year for the feds and taking three months off and going to Central America and hanging out in Belize and Guatemala and so on. I found that I really enjoyed archaeology but to go anywhere with it I first needed to get a master's degree and write a thesis.

When I started my master's program, I was bullheaded enough to have my thesis topic already picked out, and I was willing to go to OSU only if they accepted my topic. If they weren't interested in my topic I would have gone somewhere else. I wasn't interested in having to change it and spend a year working on someone's old collection that had been sitting in the tunnel for the past 20 years. And even I recognized that my topic was rather a bizarre one. It was focused on trying to discover the Indian use and importance of Hot Springs. Very, not the norm. And Dick Ross, my professor, told me that "if, you can convince me it's important, I'll agree you can go for it." So, I gave him my ideas of what I wanted to do, he liked them, and I just went off and ran with it for the next four years. Lots of field research, which is what a Masters is supposed to be. A lot of research. A lot of writing. Learning how to put things together. So, I think that started me off. And then the best thing that ever happened to me was I got a job in Alaska with the BIA. At that time, the BIA had a really bad name, reputation, in the Northwest and actually throughout the lower 48. But in Alaska I worked for a group focused on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. And my job was pretty much for four years to go up and work with elders throughout Alaska. We were able to spend most of the year working out in the bush, and then spend our winters writing our reports in Anchorage. We flew around in helicopters every day and we were hired to assist elders to find and document important sites to their communities, so when we went to the elders and said, "What sites are important to you?" they told us. We were trying to find these sites first through maps and home interviews and then we brought the elders out into the field and we showed them what we found, and with interpreters they shared their history with us and we had the interviews translated and data compiled into reports for their communities.

It was right there that I realized I had truly found my calling. The job was so culturally rich. For four years I worked with elders and that opportunity solidified my direction in life. I didn't leave that job in Alaska until I became a tribal archaeologist with the Yakama Nation. So, I went from there right into working directly with the Yakama. They were wonderful. They opened up their arms to me and really taught me a lot. I learned about tribal politics and about doing archaeology with a tribe that was trying to see how they could use archaeology to work for them when working with the federal government. You learn how to step back and see archaeology from a tribal perspective and I really appreciated that. And then from there, I started my own consulting firm and later I went back for a PhD. I felt that a Ph.D. program was intended for those interested in following a teaching career or conducting research that would not otherwise ever get funded. For me it was the latter. Again, I had a topic in mind before returning to school, this time at the University of Oregon. I wanted to do a special project in Alaska. One of the first years I was up in Alaska, I had the good fortune to be able to work on Nunivak Island with elders from a village that was believed to be the last place in Alaska to have been directly affected by Euro-Americans. The island remained relatively isolated until the early twentieth century and was 50 years behind that of the mainland regarding contact with Euro-Americans. The first Euro-American to move out to the island wasn't until 1923; very, very late.

On Nunivak I had had the opportunity to work with elder men who grew up living in the men's house, the women in the women's house, and they had great memories of traditional lifeways before schools and year-round trading posts were established on the island. I had worked with them one year with the BIA and I wanted to return and use that as my introduction in following up with them for a doctoral project. I subsequently spent four or five years working with them in completing my dissertation. And I am still working with them or volunteering on projects to do work that can assist their community. It's the living with the community, working with community, gaining that trust that is why I went into anthropology.

So that got me going. And that's been the focus of my life ever since.

Carolyn- So after that, did you go right on to the SHPO office from there?

DG- No, I had my own consulting business already, long before I came to the SHPO. I'm one of those people that hate owing anyone money. So, I worked full time through school in order to pay off school loans, bills, and to keep travelling. I worked all the way through my studies and travelled any chance I could. When I

was a PhD student, I had my business and I worked full time, every weekend, every evening when I wasn't doing papers for school, I was writing reports for my own contracts. And while I wasn't writing my dissertation, I was writing contracts. So, I graduated not owing one dollar from my studies. So, I kept the business going. I graduated in '99' and kept it going until 2002 when I was again looking for a change. It was at that point in time, I heard that Le was retiring and I was able to move into this SHPO job.

So, I came to SHPO having tasted what it's like to work for the BLM, and the Forest Service and the BIA, and tribes and as a private consultant. I'm really lucky to have had all those little windows and they're all very, very different, but yet somewhat similar in the theme of preservation. So, when I came to SHPO, I thought I could learn something new here too, and it' was a good perspective for me.

Carolyn- I think having just that well-rounded background, having had all those experiences really helps inform all decisions that you make now.

DG- It really does. I think it's regretful when an individual gets a job right out of college with, let's say the Forest Service or someone and then that becomes their whole career. It could be a great job, but I think that archaeology, anthropology is so varied that we need to broaden our perspective. We can learn a lot from our peers and other experts in the field and the more we travel, the more we work in different venues, the better we become and the more open we are to asking the right kinds of questions or being aware there are questions to ask. And when you've only been in one job, you tend to get jaded after a while, like "I know it all..." And we never know it all.

Carolyn- It's amazing all that you've done so far. So far, I say, because there's more.

DG- A lot more. You bet, I'm still quite young.



Carolyn- I think we kind of talked about this a little bit, but kind of looking back on your career, can you point to a particular job or some specific field experience that really kind of shaped your way of thinking?

DG- Working with the tribes! I got very, very lucky from the very start of my career. I had early work opportunities, and work study at OSU back then as a research assistant, where they hired me to work with the Grand Ronde Tribe. They hired me to do research on tribal medical history. So, it involved lots of research. So, from that and my subsequent work with the BIA and the Yakama Nation I was blessed. One of my loves and one of the most important tools that we can use today is oral history and I think that's rarely done these days. And it's something I cannot encourage someone enough to do or to think about because.... It is important to do it right. When I do see oral history done today, I often see people not knowing what they're doing, but directing the interview rather than letting the interviewee share their memories. The interviewer comes off really cold, analytical. Your job is to sit back and, you know, ask questions, shut up and just listen and let it go. And it's hard sometimes for us to become listeners and passive and not want to keep things moving in the direction we want a conversation to go. People go into an interview wanting to collect all of the information on their written questions in the first four or five minutes and can't understand when answers are not immediately forthcoming. And that silence is just part of the process. Of course, non-native people, when there's a pause, that doesn't mean you have to fill in the gap. Just sit there and they'll get on the next thought. So, yeah, oral history is one of the best things I ever tapped into. And I'm still a novice at it. But it's something I want to do till I die.

Carolyn- So what do you consider to be the most important aspect of your role as a State Archeologist?

DG- Well, I can tell you what it should be. It should be public education. That's really what I think the SHPOs role should excel at. We don't currently have enough time to do as much as we would like, but it should excel in public education. I think SHPO often gets a bad rap for archaeology because this is often the first time that people hear of our office when they are attempting to complete a project and receive a letter from our office telling them they need to do a survey or testing. People don't trust the government and they don't understand the role of archaeology in order for their project to be approved, whether due to their project needing a permit or receiving money from federal entities, or the need for landowners to provide permission to allow archaeologists onto their property to conduct a survey, whatever. We have to let people know that neither SHPO nor archaeology is the big bad boogeyman they think it is. We're not interested in stealing things. It's still their land. So that's where the trouble is. SHPOs don't have sufficient time for public outreach and education. Our time is largely spent on review and compliance. I mean, we are buried up to the hilt with reviewing projects. And yeah, I can focus on this individual and try to educate that person and that person. But what we don't have time for are more of the groups. We don't provide enough outreach to land planners, landowners, off-road recreation groups, wind surfers, logging companies, and so on. We don't get out in the community and give enough talks. And this is not just something I feel that SHPO is poor in doing, this is a fault of archaeologists as a profession. We tend to use obscure jargon and write gray literature reports that no one can understand unless you're an archaeologist. Then it goes into a library that we can't release to the public.

And we don't know how or take the time to translate our work into a newspaper article for the common person on the street and make it both informative and exciting. And I think archaeology is definitely exciting. When I started in the field, we were told to keep our writing all in the 3rd person. That's not how we are now. Now, it should be first person. Archaeologists write as if we know it all while in truth we are piecing our narrative together based on very limited information. We should be admitting that much of the story we are telling is based on hypotheses that later could be refined or proven wrong entirely. However, they are the best we have to explain what we are finding at the moment. But we don't take the opportunity to make archaeology relevant to people on the street. So, in our job as archaeologists, we need to participate more with events like the Archaeology Roadshow, that Virginia Butler puts on with PSU, those are great venues, or the Oregon Archaeology Celebration. Those are the kinds of venues we need more of; however, we need to incorporate more talks or in-depth discussions about local history and project's effects. Perhaps a focus on working with local reporters who are receptive to exploring local history would be a good approach?

You know, I think everyone who owns a consulting firm should find in their town or in their area, a reporter who is more open to those kinds of questions, those kinds of projects. And then start tossing them good ideas. “Hey, got a project going on over here. Want to come up and see what we are finding?” and have them share this breakthrough and use them as your conduit to the public. Because if we don't make historic preservation relevant, we're not doing our job. And I think at the SHPO, that's what we're talking about a lot in our office and we're asking how can we be more proactive? You know the SHPO office is a lot more than archaeology. That's what our archaeologists usually focus on, but we have built environment resources – historic structures. We have survey and inventory, the National Register, a whole public outreach branch, you know, giving grants, working with homeowners. But that's not something that many archaeologists in Oregon are really aware of or make use of. And that's something we all need to integrate more and promote. So that's why I think the best part of the SHPO office should be and will be if we could only find the time, to make historic preservation more relevant and meaningful to the public.

I imagine a time when the workload at SHPO will allow us to focus on things other than reviewing project applications; time to focus some of our attention on educating people so that they will reach out to us when they find artifacts on their property. Recently, John Pouley, the Assistant State Archaeologist here at SHPO, was contacted by a schoolteacher who found a biface cache on his property and wanted to know what he should do. John embraced the opportunity to work with the landowner, contacted archaeologists that he knew who were willing to volunteer their time, he called a number of consulting firms to see if they were interested in helping. And they all said “Great, John, we'd love to volunteer.” Bingo! An opportunity for public outreach and someone's asking for assistance. John found a lot of people happy to offer a wide variety of skills. He was able to spread the word of the discovery and their recovery project on the radio, TV, and in the newspaper. Public Outreach! That's the kind of thing we all, not just at SHPO, we all should be doing more often. And we're not. Not because archaeologists don't want to. John's project showed that there are archaeologists out there willing and able to assist with such projects, but that everyone is so busy with the day-to-day project reports that help us to keep food on the table that we don't often have sufficient time to bring our work back to the public so that they can appreciate and support its continuance. And it's really to our shame that we're not doing more of that. So that's where I would like to see our office take the lead. The SHPO's supposed to be the leader, at the state level at least, that focuses attention on dealing with archaeology in a State and Nationwide context. And we're not doing that enough. When we should be doing a lot more of it, especially when our state is having to address the effects of climate change, predictions of future coastal subsidence and earthquake events, and increased development of green energy projects in areas where we know little about the state's prehistory.

Carolyn- I think it'd be a welcome thing for more public outreach and education opportunities for training. You know, whether it's local governments especially, or just other folks out there....

DG- I agree, I think more and more of us are giving talks. You know, I have recently given talks to the Maritime Archaeological Society, at coastal museums, and at the Oregon Archaeological Society. And those were great opportunities. But still, they're to a limited audience. When you present at most meetings, you might have 30 or 40 people. At a large venue, perhaps, eighty people. But if you can write a column for a newspaper or get a television station to come out to film at an ongoing project, you can reach thousands of people. You know, I'm a bit of a Luddite, so I don't go into Facebook and all the newest social media venues, but I like what Rick Pettigrew is trying to do with the Archeology Channel. That's where I think the future is-making archaeology something you can take into the classroom. The kids take home what they learn in the schools. They tell their parents about it and get them interested and not fearful. That's where we need to go. Make it more accessible.

Carolyn- So from your perspective, what do you see as current gaps in Oregon, archaeology? Places for development...etc.

DG- Current gaps in Oregon archaeology? Well, that could be a lot of things. I mean, gaps in our knowledge, of course, but gaps in our techniques, methodology. For instance, I don't think universities as a whole offer much regarding CRM these days. That was really big in the '70s and '80s. It's not now and it's too bad. I think that online degrees have become very popular these days, and most provide little to no hands-on opportunities. I'm not saying they're not competent people. I'm not saying that at all. But I learned more than half my knowledge from my fellow students sitting there talking about the text we had to read or lectures we listened to rather than in that actual lecture. Researchers today often don't focus on what I think people should focus on, such as background research. You know, that's one of the most important things we should be doing before any project. Because if you aren't aware of the history of an area you're going to do work in, if you don't know what you're likely to find or how to interpret your findings, your results could be pretty useless. So really learn to do good background research. Don't cite Wikipedia as being your primary source. You need to go back and search for original source material, consider incorporating local oral histories, talking to members of the local community or area tribe, looking at Sanborn maps, other historic maps and aerial photos, original documents.

That's so important and it's not being done enough. And it's really the schools who need to start stressing this and how to read a map and use a compass, and they're currently not, not one of them.

What we need is more archaeology programs focused on Oregon to get students excited about work. Now we currently don't have one Oregon graduate program that offers fieldwork in Oregon. Not one. All the faculty members are working out of state such as in the South Pacific, California, Alaska or somewhere further away. They're not doing work in Oregon. We've got some great projects here in Oregon to hopefully entice people to concentrate their research efforts here at home. I came to my graduate programs already having a topic for both my degrees before I enrolled, but a lot of people do not, they come in and ask their professor, what can I do? And they're really relying on their professors for opportunities and ideas. I think if students knew there's some topics that are really interesting, that they hear about... "Oh, that's fun. I like that. And I can get some funding there and maybe a part time job." Or "I can get an assistant to help me in the lab work" then they might be willing to focus their research that way.

Carolyn- So you kind of touched on a particular issue that really needs to be addressed. I mean, you're right.

DG- Well, for me, definitely public education. More Oregon archeology.

There's a lot more we can learn, whether it's about the change in larger land use patterns over time or how a certain tribe, band, or ethnic group, was affected over time. We have Mark Tveskov working on the Rogue River War, a very narrow period of time just a half dozen years, but one important to our state's history. He's working in a variety of sites, including military fort sites, areas where local residents fought and held off attackers, and military battlefield sites, you know, a variety of site types to try to figure out what really happened during this period of the state's history. Those are great opportunities to touch on a whole variety of topics and we need a lot more of such windows. And I know consulting firms do some interesting projects, but you rarely hear about most of their research. They are given no time to write about their research efforts other than what is required for the project's final compliance report. It's not "yell it from the rooftops," which is where it belongs.

Carolyn- Now you can take a pass, but where do you see Oregon archaeology in 20 years?

DG- Where do I want to see archaeology in Oregon in 20 years? So '36, 2036? Well, where do I want to see it? That's a good question. Well, I'm hoping that we have established curriculum in all the schools so that archeology is not a scare word. I think our laws should be modified that everyone understands why they're there. Currently, most people don't know about the laws we do have. Oregon already has laws to protect sites on private, public, and federal lands and they're just starting to be better understood and appreciated by some of the public, so that we have increased stewardship, and we actually have more and more people coming out

and saying, what can I do to help preserve our heritage? I mean, not just Indian heritage. We know very little about African Americans in Oregon or the influence in Oregon of the Chinese, the Japanese. There are many different ethnic groups that have played a key role here, and their history is virtually unknown. We have prisoner of war camps, ones for conscientious objectors, the Japanese internment camps in California and in Idaho; you've got some temporary ones in Oregon, but not permanent. But we don't know much about these many camps. In the archaeological record where we have documented the "Italian" ovens, which really aren't Italian, but they're often related to the early period of railroad construction in the state. In my dream, I see a future where we will have a lot more Oregon oriented research that will discover a lot more about the variety of ethnic people that once lived and worked in Oregon, whether it's Basque or Irish shepherders or whoever, and their degree of influence on local Oregon communities. So, where we will go from there is more fine tuning the research questions. Right now, we don't have enough information on the various camp locations and histories to understand what their role is.

You know, much of what Dave Brauner has done for the French Prairie area, let's take that and multiply it many times over for all the different areas of the state. There would be the Chinese gold mining Chelsea is trying to do that in the Jacksonville area, and Don Hann is working on up in the northeast. You know, if we look at it, there's a lot of different kinds of activities that concentrated in parts of the state, whether they were confined to a particular ethnic group or not. And we don't have anyone researching such occupations.

Archaeologists also need to become more active in collaborating with Oregon tribes. In 20 years, I think all nine Oregon tribes will have established THPOs. We only have six tribal THPOs right now, but all nine will have eventually established their own THPO office and run their own cultural resource programs. By that time, I hope that archaeologists will be actively working cooperatively with such offices and recognize that they are a valuable asset and knowledge base that all archaeologists will seek out. With six such programs today, I do not see enough professional archaeologists consulting with tribes as I think they should but that's where I think we should be in 20 years.

Carolyn- I think some of the things that you mentioned, the gaps, especially in ethnic research, I mean, that would be an excellent thing for the symposium you're talking about for the NWAC. It would bring in the students.

DG- You know, I think you just touched on something there, too. I'm hoping that there are funding opportunities that students can take advantage of to assist with such research. We have a number of grants available today and our office actually set a few aside a couple years ago just for archaeology to encourage it and year after year almost no one ever applies. We need to become better at advertising such opportunities and people need to realize there's funding out here if you want to choose to follow up on some independent research. So, in 20 years I expect that there'll be more grant cycles out there for different projects. More higher funding and that teachers and students will be actively involved in Oregon-based projects and working with our other archaeologists, local communities, and knowledgeable elders.

One thing that I see has become more common recently is that more and more students are choosing to stay at a single university for their bachelors, masters, and Ph.D., working under a single professor. I do not feel that such limited exposure to our discipline is providing them the broad perspective they need in order to get a fair shot in the future job market if they hope to teach, and limits their range in skills if they choose to enter the contract world. My professors graduated in the 1960s. If I would have stayed with the same one throughout my graduate work, I would more likely be teaching processual archaeology and miss out on all that has developed after. Not good for me and worse for my students, and then worse yet if they have students of their own.

Carolyn- So given all the recent technological advances in the last 15 years and more, can you see a need for archaeologists in the future?

DG- More so than ever. However, while I agree we have had many new technological advances in our discipline, most archaeologists don't know what they are. Or they're expensive right now or they're out working for the federal government- who has no money. And they don't have an opportunity to understand what they are and how they can be applied. You know, I think Loren Davis is a great example of a proponent of up-and-coming technologies. He is young. He's innovative. He gets money. He gets grants. He brings all these tools in so students at OSU are blessed. They don't know how lucky they are to have the opportunity to tap into all of these new cutting- edge techniques. I go down to OSU to visit with Loren a couple of times a year and we talk just about archaeology and I come away feeling great, with so many new ideas. I have tapped into the videos that Loren and his students do once a week during his field schools when he's out in Idaho. He had a student doing weekly little video clips; wonderful PR. It's great. We all should be doing that. We should be doing that for everything we do, whether it's a contract or personal research.

You know, put a little blurb out, you don't need to say where you are, but talk about what you're doing, why it's important. We just have to think it's important. I sometimes go out into the field and meet archaeologists that don't have a GPS. They don't use one and I am surprised since they are so cheap these days and pretty essential. I recall going out to the field with my paper USGS quad maps and having to draw lines across the map to discover my UTM locations. Now no one even uses UTMs anymore. Look at the Topo maps, there are no UTM blue tics anymore, the latest USGS topo maps don't even have sections. The things we relied on so much in my day are becoming obsolete. Relying on Latitudes and Longitudes are really seen as important now. They weren't big when we were growing up in the profession, but they are now. And remote sensing has become more popular; GPR, XRF, Lidar. Use of these technologies should be widespread, but they're not. They're just starting to be. But we're moving way beyond that now, you know, with the work that Loren's doing and other people off shore, whether it's trying to rediscover the Paleo-landforms out in the ocean or locate historic shipwrecks or plot the probability for locating older prehistoric sites that have long been inundated through subsidence events, but may still retain important information regarding early human land use along the coastal region. That's going to really open up new opportunities in the future.

New technologies are available today that could revolutionize how we learn more about the history of our state. There is talk of establishing sensors in some State Parks where you will be able to wave your phone or tablet over them and learn so much more about the local history, past landforms and changes that have taken place over the millennia. So that those families will say in the future, well, let's go to this State Park. Not for the beach, but for the history. The beaches are indeed neat, but our parks could also provide so much history that will attract us to an area. That could become a motivating factor to drive us. I think that's where we need to go. And that's indeed where we're going, slowly but surely.

Carolyn- It seems like there's actually an opportunity for a really good workshop at NWAC on just public outreach opportunities and just showcasing how that might work.

DG- Public outreach, and one on new techniques. I mean, we can offer a whole lot of different things; there's a lot of opportunity. We need to find people who want to offer workshops and advertise it because at NWAC, the unfortunate part with any conference is you have a limited time. Three days and you've got lots of speakers and there's lots happening at the same time. And in order to cover research topics or new techniques, you need a large block of time. You can't do it in 15 minutes. It's gotta be something that everyone says, whoa, we want to do this and hope to hell your paper is not opposite it, because everyone will want to go check this out. So if you said, hey, I've got a symposium here. I'm offering opportunities to learn about and use new techniques and I need three graduate students and I'm going to pay your way. People will be there, but we don't have those opportunities. So how can we entice them to come to do this? AOA workshops?

Carolyn- That kind of put us into the next question, you talked about this a little bit already, but do you feel like we need cultural anthropologists?

DG- Well, yes, I do. However, first of all I think that all archaeologists should be trained to have a cultural anthropology bent and we're not. We're not at all. So, yes, we do need cultural anthropologists and in addition we all should be able to serve in that capacity, somewhat. I think that for a lot of small CRM firms or government agencies, there's not enough work right now to keep a cultural anthropologist actively employed. There should be but it's a process we have to solve. In the meantime, I think archaeologists should be culturally trained to help address cultural concerns while doing their job; however, to make people aware of what they can and can't do well, an anthropologist is really necessary to do this. So, for larger projects, you need an anthropologist big time, but that's not really what most of us get to work on. ODOT doesn't get a chance to do that very often. Federal agencies don't really do that very often either. The National Park Service had a regional cultural anthropologist. One person for the whole Western U.S. I think he has since moved back to D.C. Right now, a large cultural resource firm, contract firm, could perhaps employ a full-time cultural anthropologist if they start working closely with tribes and other groups, not just tribes, other ethnic groups or other political, social, economic groups, whatever.

I had an opportunity to serve on a panel a while ago with a cultural anthropologist from the University of Idaho, Rodney Frey. He was one of Deward Walker's students and he now teaches in Idaho but getting close to retiring. He worked with some of the Idaho tribes and, talking to him was like really seeing the value that could come from having a cultural anthropologist on staff, I know that he has a bunch of grad students and they're all working with Idaho tribes so I expect that there will soon be a few trained professionals available in our region. We don't have a whole lot of anthropologists in Oregon at present. Willamette CRA has a good one. AINW used to have two cultural anthropologists, Yvonne Haida and Kay French, but they're both gone. Except for Willamette, I don't know of any contract firms in Oregon that have a cultural anthropologist. I believe there are tribes who would hire a cultural anthropologist if they knew who they were. So that's where I think that culturally trained archaeologists and budding anthropologists need to develop a relationship with the tribes and agencies in their area. So cultural anthropology, yes. I do think we need such jobs. But we need to sell the need for it first and the small federal agencies and consulting firms can't afford one at present.

However, I don't think a cultural anthropologist can necessarily do archaeology. Most likely, they didn't take the necessary classes and learn the skills that are needed to really do archaeology. And an archaeologist doesn't generally do good cultural anthropology. I mean we can do a little bit, if we are trained, but most archaeologists really lack such training. We generally don't have the language skills and we don't take the time to develop a close relationship with a particular tribe or group, and that is really what cultural anthropology is about. You know, to be a good cultural anthropologist you pick a group and you work with them. You need to understand their history and concerns while the tribe learns to trust your ethics and heart. But when you're a consultant, you're working with whoever generally hires you, and you don't have the leeway to linger in any one area for a length of time. And that's too bad.

Carolyn- You've highlighted, definitely, a gap for sure, especially with education, say for a Masters student, then just that ability to try and get more education and dealing with cultural anthropology and how to absorb that, execute it on some kind of level.

DG- Well, one of the best things I saw about OSU in the time I was there was the MAIS program, the Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies where you could pick your program, your major and two minors, and you could develop the program that met the needs or skills that you were seeking. That is one of the reasons that I went there. I majored in archaeology while taking minors in cultural anthropology and historic preservation. You could tap into the culture anthropologists' skill set and find job opportunities working with tribes or other groups to learn more about the discipline while getting paid. I liked this and was fortunate to have been there when it was being offered. There are jobs out there to do that. You've got to look for them, though. They don't come to you. You have to find them. You need to go out, you know, knock on doors, call people, the social approach. I think now there's a lot more jobs available for contract archeologists. Such jobs often

seek folks willing to accept low pay and who don't necessarily have a master's degree or a lot of work experience, but I don't see all that many quality jobs for graduate trained staff except perhaps with the federal system. If you get one of those jobs, you've got to get lucky. I think that the best part of archeology... is getting a variety of experiences in different environments working with different peoples.

Carolyn- So I think you kind of segued nicely into one of the last questions. What are the three pieces of advice, you have for young folks just entering the profession of archaeology?

DG- Hmmm, three pieces of advice.

Carolyn- or four, or five.

DG- Well, let's see. As a SHPO archaeologist, one piece of advice to up and coming students would be to realize that the most important part of any project they get involved in, is the background research, don't sell it short.

It's not something you can get online, zip it out in five minutes and move on. So that is the most important thing you can do. Not the field work, you know, or the report writing. Those are all very important. But if you don't have the background research, the rest is not really worth much at all because you often can't recognize what you have.

And it doesn't mean simply checking the SHPO database. Yes, that's important, but folks should be doing a lot more than just that. So, from a SHPO perspective, learning to seek and collect adequate background research is priceless and please learn how to write.

Another piece of advice? Let's see. Remember that no matter what degrees you have, or work that you have done, there are a lot of things that you don't know. And that people working next to you, whether they're your peers, your boss or the neighbor down the street, have done things that you haven't done before and may have something that you can learn from them. You just don't know everything so don't be cocky and listen up. Be inquisitive. We all have a lot more we need to learn.

Ask questions of everyone and you'd be surprised how roundabout things might click. I often learned more about a subject I was interested in from a neighbor or by talking to folks at the local retirement homes than I ever thought possible. I have been working in the Northwest for about 40 years and I learn something new just about every day. People call me up about a project; I learn from them. That's great. So we all have to admit that we don't know. We know a little bit and we're glad to impart what we know to other people. But we need to be a sponge to soak up new information as well. The biggest thing I think that everyone needs to have is to maintain their curiosity. We have to always be willing to ask questions. If we're not curious, we shouldn't be in this job.

If you don't love your job get out of it. Find a job you love. I know many, many people in many professions and very few of my friends that I watched growing up loved what they did. For many, their work was just a job. Many had kids to raise and they needed a job and stayed with it for the security, benefits, or it was just easier working with a known than looking for an unknown. I consider myself very fortunate. I love my profession and my job; every facet of it all the way through. So, I hope that folks will get lucky, and find something, some little niche, whether it's cultural anthropology, or archaeology or any topic, but find some niche that really just whets their appetite and gets that spark to go for it. Don't be satisfied until every day is a new challenge. That's a big thing. I find that I am never bored or have far to look for topics that catch my interest. I get ideas from so many things that I read about that it's not difficult to find topics to write about, it's filtering through them to find the best ones worth really focusing on. I hope everyone can be excited so easily and challenge themselves to learn more about a topic of their choice because there's so much we don't know. So really, you know, if you like archaeology, you won't make much money, but you could have a great deal of fun while doing it. When first coming into the profession you'll often have to travel quite a bit. Not

staying put in one town. If you get lucky with a job with a federal agency you may be able to stay in one place, but otherwise you often find yourself on the road. It's hard on relationships but you get to work on great jobs everywhere. I've been lucky to have worked in many areas of the Pacific Northwest. You know, Idaho, Washington, Alaska, Oregon, as well as in Belize, Tasmania, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea. All different places. It's been fun.

So, you know at SHPO we have a student internship program and we get students from local universities, mostly OSU students. I'm not saying we have a great internship, but we try to provide an opportunity for people to learn what SHPO does, to read and learn about the range and quality of current reporting and the wide spectrum of research that occurs around us. So during the 10-12 week internship you see what's happening throughout the state, learn about the permitting process, state laws and how their classroom lessons relate to everyday projects. I think those opportunities that are applied archeology type things, internships, etc., is a big thing that is not currently offered very much. I know OSU offers an applied anthropology program, but I don't know about other places that do. Everyone should do an internship. Everyone. I don't care where or with whom, but you should do an internship. Get out of your comfort zone. Learn something new and be blown away by the skills people can offer you. You know, if they don't have the skills you are seeking, you'll need to learn them somewhere else. Find someone who does, there's lots of people out there to work with. Just don't be content. You know, keep looking. Keep your curiosity up. Keep perfecting and love what you do.

Carolyn- So do you have some other thoughts or how did this feel? Did it feel good to talk about this?

DG- It does. I try to talk to folks when working about some of these issues, but some people appear more afraid of SHPO. There's still this negative image of the SHPO office and it's an image we want to dispel. I do think that it's good to talk about things. That is why we are starting to organize a SHPOLooza – an opportunity for everyone to get together in the same room and talk about some of the issues that we all deal with every day.

I think that this whole series you're doing is great; talking to different people, getting their individual perspective of the changes that have occurred in our profession over the years. Everyone's got a different background. Everyone's got a different road that took them to where they are today. Maybe a lot of us have similar paths now, but with way different backgrounds, we have a lot of different things, different interests and different skills that have helped us in becoming who we are today. So, we will have to see where our profession goes from here. It will be interesting to see what happens when some of my generation retire with so many of us falling within the same age range.

We're all getting into our mid 60s or older. And I fear with such a mass retirement we need to have more people trained to take over those jobs.

Carolyn- Now that you've outlined it like that, there's really so many people.

DG- I think it is important that universities need to start teaching young budding archaeologists skills they can use in the field. They need to teach them how to survey, how to read a map, how to use a compass, how to look at soils, historic artifact ID, lithic analysis, use wear, map making. You know, I've seen students graduate with two different field schools under their belt who don't know what a compass is, who never heard of a lat/long or a UTM or a township, range and section; totally alien to them. But they're getting jobs and often working alone so they are unlikely to have someone teach them the skills that they didn't earlier pick up.

You know one thing I want to encourage students to do, write a thesis. I think this is a very important component of any master's program. Write a thesis. Yes. It's a lot of work. But it will prepare you so much for the writing and research that you will need on the job. You'll be proud of your abilities to research a topic, and pool your thoughts through to a conclusion, and you won't be afraid of writing anything anymore. That's

one of my top things for new students. Choose to write a thesis because it shows you can think of an idea, you can follow all the way to the end. You can try all these concepts and then bring it back home to focus. And learn how to write. The thesis does that, a paper doesn't - a project doesn't. And you know, for Oregon archeology, for getting a permit, people don't realize your master's thesis has to deal with field research. So while it might be easy to do a research topic, talking about talking to people, or something about looting, or about what you think about archaeology for a Master's topic- that's like shooting yourself in the foot. You can't do archaeology in the state without a focus on archaeological field research in your thesis. Look for the non-field research topics for papers after your master's thesis. Given our state's statutes, think about what you have to do to survive in our profession and make sure that your thesis does that.

Now, do I think the definition of who can apply for a permit should be changed? No. I think it should stay in the law. If you're going to apply for a permit that means you're doing excavation So learn the skills in order to do the work and understand when it's not being done right.

Me- This is fantastic Dennis.

