

# GGC SLA News: Creativity & Scholarship

## GGC Goes “Back to the Stone Ages” with Anthropologists

Dr. Kate Deeley and her colleagues in anthropology brought GGC students and faculty back to the Stone Age on September 20, 2022. Assisted by Andrew Minnick, founder of a nonprofit called Authentic Primitive Living, anthropology faculty provided an interactive event that included displays and activities associated with Stone Age societies.

The event presented techniques used by every human group before the invention of metal tools. As such, the Stone Age tools and techniques were used for tens to hundreds of thousands of years across the globe. In the Americas, metal tools were not used until after the arrival of Europeans.

Staged on the GGC library quadrangle’s lawn for maximum accessibility, the event included flint knapping, an ancient technique used to fashion stone tools of various sizes and shapes. Using this technique, students learned to make their own pieces out of samples of Mexican obsidian. The rock had exceptionally sharp edges when knapped, as both students and faculty discovered in the (nicked-up!) hands-on activity.

Minnick also demonstrated how to throw the atlatl, a tool used in both the Old World and the Americas for throwing spears to take down large, slow game. Because of safety concerns, students were not allowed to wield the tool or the spears. However, they were allowed to handle a bow (without the arrows, of course). Lastly, Minnick used the bow to demonstrate how to start a friction fire, a bit tougher than “flicking a lighter.”

GGC’s anthropologists not only hoped to educate students and spark their curiosity about primitive lifestyles of the past, but they also wanted to attract more students to their minor.

The crowd was pleased by an event like this in a post-Covid era. “It was a big success”, said Deeley, “and we plan to do it again in the spring, so we look for an even bigger crowd next time.” *By Joseph Henderson; photos by Rod Reilly and David Kirschner*



*GGC anthropologist, Dr. Marybeth Chrostowsky, fashions a tool out of obsidian*



*Students participate in a Stone Age immersive activity.*



*Left, SLA Dean Teresa Winterhalter tries a bow. Right, Andrew Minnick throwing with the atlatl.*