

February 2007

**George H. Vrtis**  
*Curriculum Vitae*

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Department of History  
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**Education:**

Ph.D., History, Georgetown University, 2006  
Major Field: United States Environmental History  
Minor Field: Latin America  
Dissertation: "The Front Range of the Rocky Mountains: An Environmental History, 1700-1900"  
Dissertation awarded distinction, and selected best in the Georgetown History Department, 2005-06.

M.A., Northwestern University, 1993

B.S. *cum laude*, Marquette University, 1987

**Teaching Positions:**

**Assistant Professor**, Department of History and Environmental Studies Since 2006  
Carleton College, Northfield, MN

**Lecturer**, Department of History Periodically 1997-2006  
Georgetown University, Washington, DC

**Visiting Lecturer**, Department of History 2001-02  
Washington College, Chestertown, MD

**Visiting Lecturer**, Department of History Summer Sessions 1995-2000  
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

**Courses Taught:**

United States History to 1865  
United States History since 1865  
History of the Atlantic World  
American Indian History  
History of the American West  
American Environmental History  
Environmental History of North America  
Environmental History of the Americas  
Topics in Environmental History: The World's Water  
Environment and Society: Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## **Administrative Positions:**

**Acting Director**, Georgetown Center for the Environment Fall 2000  
Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Managed all aspects of the Center's activities. Responsibilities included advising students in the Environmental Studies Program, organizing an environmental lecture series, developing the Center's website, and serving as the faculty advisor to the *Georgetown University Journal of the Environment*.

**Academic Advisor**, Georgetown Public Policy Institute 1993-97  
Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Advised Public Policy graduate students on their academic programs and assisted in the administrative governance of the Institute. Responsibilities included monitoring students' academic progress, serving on the admissions and scholarship committees, recruiting students, ensuring graduation requirements, and developing an exchange program with Queen's University, Ontario, Canada.

**Academic Advisor**, College of Continuing Studies 1990-93  
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Advised undergraduate students in more than 25 majors in the arts and sciences and assisted in developing and implementing the College's academic policies and curricula. Responsibilities included monitoring students' academic progress, approving transfer credit, ensuring graduation requirements, and serving on the admissions committee and Dean's Advisory Council.

## **Research Positions:**

**Research Fellow**, Georgetown Center for Food and Nutrition Policy 1997-98  
Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Researched complex ecological issues, including *Pfiesteria piscicida* and agricultural biotechnology. Assisted in organizing a conference entitled "*Pfiesteria* and the Environment: Convergence of Science and Policy," and served as a rapporteur for center-sponsored conferences.

**Field Research Assistant**, Mayan Geoarchaeology 1996  
Programme for Belize, La Milpa Archaeology Site, Belize

Investigated the local environmental archaeology and geomorphology (landscape evolution) of the La Milpa site in the southern Maya Lowlands. This research focused on linking changes in Ancient Maya society with environmentally triggered adaptations in the subsistence systems that supported it.

**Field Research Assistant**, Mayan Geoarchaeology 1995  
Chunchukmil Regional Economy Project, Yucatan, Mexico

Investigated the regional environmental archaeology and geomorphology of two sites in the northern Maya Lowlands: Canbalam, a peripatetic coastal site, and Chunchukmil, a nearby inland city-state. This research examined the extent to which these sites were connected by resource exchange.

## **Publications:**

“Thrift and Waste in American History: An Ecological View,” in *Capitalism and Moral Order: A Cultural History of Thrift in America* [working title], ed. TBA (Publisher TBA; Forthcoming 2007). (Co-authored with J. R. McNeill)

“Botanists and Naturalists,” in *The Encyclopedia of New York State*, ed. Peter Eisenstadt (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2005), 200-1.

“Colorado River,” in *Encyclopedia of World Environmental History*, eds. Shepard Krech III, J. R. McNeill, and Carolyn Merchant, vol. 1 (New York: Routledge, 2004), 248-9.

“Rocky Mountains,” in *Encyclopedia of World Environmental History*, eds. Shepard Krech III, J. R. McNeill, and Carolyn Merchant, vol. 3 (New York: Routledge, 2004), 1059.

Review of David Igler, *Industrial Cowboys: Miller & Lux and the Transformation of the Far West, 1850-1920* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001), in *American Nineteenth Century History* 3:1 (Spring 2002): 121-3.

## **Manuscripts in Progress:**

*Refashioning the Mountains: An Environmental History of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains, 1700-1900* (Book manuscript in progress).

“‘Gold! Gold!! Gold!!!’: Mining and Environmental Change in the Colorado Rockies, 1858-1900” (Article manuscript in progress).

“Mining and Smelting,” “Rocky Mountains,” and “Mercury,” in *Encyclopedia of American Environmental History*, ed. Kathleen A. Brosnan (New York: Facts on File, Anticipated 2008). (Entries under contract).

## **Conference Papers and Public Lectures:**

“‘Gold! Gold!! Gold!!!’: Mining and Environmental Change in Gold-Rush Colorado,” A Joint Meeting of the American Society for Environmental History and the Forest History Society, St. Paul, Minnesota, March, 2006.

“Thrift and Waste in American History: An Ecological View,” Thrift and American Culture Project Conference, Prouts Neck, Maine, October 2005.

“Changing the Face of the Mountains: The Colorado Gold Rush, Industrialization, and the Environmental Transformation of the Front Range of the Rockies,” Young Scholars Forum on Environment, Culture and Politics, German Historical Institute, Washington, DC, May 2004.

“Refashioning the Colorado Front Range: Mining and Environmental Change in the Nineteenth-Century Rocky Mountains,” Western History Association Conference, Colorado Springs, Colorado, October 2002.

“Placering, Blasting, and Crushing the Mountains: Mining the Nineteenth-Century Rocky Mountain Front Range,” American Society for Environmental History Conference, Denver, Colorado, March 2002.

“Through a Scientific Prism: The Front Range and the Field Notes of the 1820 Long Expedition,” A Joint Meeting of the American Society for Environmental History and the Forest History Society, Durham, North Carolina, March 2001.

“Coming into the Mountains: The Stephen H. Long Expedition, Indians, and the Ecology of the Front Range,” Summit County Historical Society, Breckenridge, Colorado, March 2001.

“Of Indians and the Front Range: Towards an Environmental History of the Front Range Prior to Euro-American Settlement,” Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference, Boulder, Colorado, September 2000.

“Furs, Forts, and Environment: The Front Range Fur Trade, 1820-1845,” American Society for Environmental History Conference, Tucson, Arizona, April 1999.

## **Fellowships, Grants and Awards:**

### **Open Competitions:**

Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Fellowship at Columbia University, 2000  
American Philosophical Society Resident Research Fellowship, 1999  
Newberry Library Resident Research Fellowship, 1999

### **Georgetown University Awards:**

John Ruedy Prize for Teaching Excellence, 2005  
University Scholarship, 1994-2000, 2003-05  
Department of History Piepho Fund Research Support Grant, 2000  
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Research Travel Grant, 1999  
Mellon Foundation Fellowship, Seminar on Issues in Interpretation, 1998  
Writing Center Fellowship, 1997  
Graduate Student Organization Conference/Research Travel Grant, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002  
Summer Session Scholarship, 1994