Andy Hatch, Class of 2003

I am a dairy farmer and cheese maker in southwestern Wisconsin, not far from where I grew up.

My interest in agriculture grew while I studied anthropology at Trinity, particularly through Nadel-Klein's classes on place and geography and through Errington's classes on food. These and other classes equipped me to pursue that interest after graduation by teaching me how to gather and make use of different types of information.

This sounds like generic praise, but when, after graduating, I spent several years in Europe apprenticing with cheese makers, I was basically conducting fieldwork. Living with strangers, learning new languages, practicing new skills, taking notes at night. I learned how to do this from Trostle's methodology class, from assisting Notar with her Hartford Artisan Center research, and especially from doing fieldwork in Hartford's community gardens with Nadel-Klein.

These days the cows and the cheese keep me close to home, but in the winter I usually manage to sneak away to do more fieldwork. Keeps me curious, which I suppose is the most enduring legacy of an anthropological education.