



the  
grinnell  
magazine

fall 2015

**Rock and Roll and Beyond**

Georgia Dentel, the woman who put Grinnell College on the musical map





Photo by Evan Semón

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## Contributors

**Suzanne Kelsey** is a freelance writer with fond memories of her 16-year companion, Ginger — best shelter dog ever.

**Dana Boone** gets the scoop on the new peeps.

**Jeremy Bulman '15** played defender in varsity soccer, was a three-time intramural dodgeball champion, and ran a half-marathon while at Grinnell.

**Kevin Cannon '02** published a few crudely drawn cartoons in the *Scarlet @ Black* and decided to make a career of it.

**Elise Hadden '14** still doesn't know how to get out of the Noyce Science Center basement.

**Justin Hayworth** likes to push buttons, even if they aren't on his cameras.

**Denton Ketels** has a serious coffee habit.

**Lisa Lacher** contributes more to Grinnell than to her alma mater (Northwestern University).

**Michele Regenold '89** didn't attend a single concert at Grinnell.

## The Grinnell Magazine

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**Mission Statement**  
The Grinnell Magazine is published quarterly for alumni, students, parents, faculty, and friends of the College by the Office of Communications. The contents of this magazine are selected to stimulate thought and discussion, to demonstrate the range of opinions and activities on the campus and in its broader community, and to provide news about the College and its alumni. Views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official policy of Grinnell College.

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**On the cover:**  
Illustration of Louis Armstrong playing at a dance in Darby Gym by Kevin Cannon '02





Photo by Justin Hayworth

## Empowering prisoners

I personally have been very much impacted by the criminal justice system in the United States. So I was very pleased to read the “Liberal Arts in Prison” article in the Summer 2015 *Grinnell Magazine*. I’m impressed to find out that Grinnell staff and students have been interested in being involved with inmates in Iowa prisons and have helped those inmates find something to work toward and some hope for themselves. I’m also pleased to hear that the volunteers who helped with the program allowed their experiences to tutor them and inform their own life choices. It is my belief that most Americans would prefer to think as little as possible about people who are locked up. This article definitely makes me think well of Grinnell.

– **Jeanne Cook Diller ’67**,  
Oakland, Calif.

I read with great interest the article by **Dana Boone**, “Liberal Arts in Prison.” I completely support and applaud the involvement of Grinnell students in making a difference in the lives of incarcerated people. What a wonderful way to empower not only the prisoners involved, but our society as a whole.

For the past 10 years, I have been a facilitator and a part of a group called Developing a Positive Attitude at San Quentin State Prison here in northern California. The group is modeled on Jerry Jampolsky’s teachings of attitudinal healing. The men who put in the work realize that they have a choice about how they think, act, and respond; their peace of mind and way of being is greatly impacted by this program, and the group members who have been paroled

from San Quentin are, to a man, living productive, happy, and healthy lives.

There are also many college programs offered in San Quentin that pave the way for these men to return to society as people who contribute and make a difference. Many of the men in my group have been incarcerated for decades. One such man is a biker, heavily tattooed, and is only recently expressing emotions other than hate. He often stops me after group to discuss his newest passion, physics, and his fascination with string theory. Thanks to my Grinnell education, I at least have some idea of what he is talking about and how exhilarating it is to have the opportunity to learn.

Keep it up!

– **Holly Hoebel Bacuzzi ’66**,  
Sausalito, Calif.

## And the victims?

I really enjoyed the article on liberal arts in prison (Summer 2015). Could you, though, publish an article in your next edition on how Grinnell’s students and faculty show their social activism by offering courses to the victims of those incarcerated at the Newton Correctional Facility?

– **Rich Bohm ’86**, Tega Cay, S.C.



## Attention-grabbing alligator

Although the cover for the summer *Grinnell Magazine* is spectacular, the photo which truly caught and held my attention was the alligator and **Julie Appel Glavin ’74** on Page 37. That is now my all-time favorite photo. Brave or death-defying?

– **Carol Jensen Phelps ’57**,  
Kingsley, Iowa



*The Grinnell Magazine* welcomes letters from readers concerning the contents of the magazine or issues relating to the College. All letters should include the author’s name and address. Anonymous letters will be discarded. Letters selected for publication may be edited for length, content, and style. Address correspondence to: *The Grinnell Magazine*, Office of Communications, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA 50112-1690 or send email to [magazine@grinnell.edu](mailto:magazine@grinnell.edu).

## Ode to the Haines Hall Hellers

Your story about the Read residents who kept their friendship alive via a round-robin letter (Spring 2015) inspired me to recall another gang of devoted Grinnell buddies who lived in Haines Hall when it was still exclusively a women’s residence. They called themselves the Haines Hall Hellers, and though they were graduated in 1949, they still manage to keep in touch, albeit by less formal means. The modern-day Hellers exchange Christmas cards and meet occasionally when the opportunity permits, and I think most will recall the tune they used to sing, with or without provocation, on weekend evenings in the Haines Hall lounge.

Sung to the tune of “Put on Your Old Grey Bonnet,” the lyrics went as follows:

*Oh, we’re the Haines Hall Hellers,  
The pride of all the fellers,  
We’re a hunk of heaven in your arms.*

*Oh, you can’t deny it, boys,  
You’ve got to try it,  
Try a Haines Hall Heller’s charms!*

The most recent get-together of a majority of this charming group — I married one of them — was at **Jeannette Mallison James ’49**’s condo on Sanibel Island, Fla., a few years ago.

– **Dave Leonard ’49**,  
Rochester, Minn.

## Appreciation from fellow veteran

As a 1956 grad whose first career was in the U.S. Air Force, I was pleased to read Lt. Col. **Gail Fisher ’84**’s explanation of why she joined the Army. It was certainly a very different set of circumstances from those I experienced yet the outcomes seem to me to be very similar.

Like Gail, my Grinnell education firmly convinced me that peace was a major human goal. However, this was only a few short years after World War II and Korea and our view of keeping the peace in the midst of a Cold War was very different.

In fact, we males still had a “military obligation,” and many of my classmates were drafted to fulfill that obligation. I and several others

received our commissions as second lieutenants in the Air Force as a result of our time in AFROTC at Grinnell.

Like Lt. Col. Fisher, I have found that all who wore the uniform hate war and were in the profession to keep it from happening. And, this was never more the case than when we sat across the table from a Congressional committee that didn’t have the same ideas we had about how to get the job done.

I join Lt. Col. Fisher in her pride at being an American warrior and, with many others, thank her for her service.

– **Don Cassidy ’56**  
(Col., USAF Ret.), Aurora, Ill.



## The Grinnell Magazine Redesigned

At first glance, this issue of *The Grinnell Magazine* looks very different — intentionally so. Some of the feedback from last spring's alumni communications survey suggested that we reduce the magazine's trim size and use less fancy paper, so we did. The trim size is an industry standard 8 inches by 10.5 inches. The uncoated paper stock uses the same amount of recycled postconsumer waste — 10 percent — as the glossier paper did and costs about the same.

**Larissa Stalcup**, our staff graphic designer and the magazine's new art director, created the design using the fonts and colors recommended by Crane MetaMarketing, the firm the College hired to help craft its institutional identity.

In terms of content, we've added a few new departments — one of which is written by readers. "Prompted" (Page 33) will present a different writing prompt and a deadline in each issue. All writers whose work is selected for publication will receive a T-shirt with a fun image designed by **Kevin Cannon '02**.

Another new department is this one, "Strategy Session." In future issues, President **Raynard S. Kington** and members of his senior staff will write this column to help explain Grinnell's vision and strategy across all areas of campus.

Some of the content changes are modifications to existing sections. For example, "In Memoriam" now includes short obituaries whenever possible rather than bare facts.

What hasn't changed is our interest in telling compelling stories about Grinnellians from all walks of life.

**Brian Vicente '99** was at the forefront of Colorado's legalization of marijuana for adult recreational use. He explains how his work came about in a Q&A with staff writer **Denton Ketels** (Page 18).

Ketels also tells the story of **Michael Kahn '74**, who's mentored many Grinnell College interns at TIAA-CREF since 2000 (Page 28).

Last spring I had the privilege of interviewing a campus legend — **Georgia Dentel**, the woman who brought Bruce Springsteen to campus, among many others (Page 22).

We are always looking for compelling story ideas — quirky or straightforward, serious or funny. Please send your ideas as well as your feedback on this new design to [magazine@grinnell.edu](mailto:magazine@grinnell.edu).

— Michele Regenold '89, editor

## Office for Civil Rights Investigation Initiated

Title IX complaint is filed against the College

In July 2015, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) informed Grinnell College that it was opening an investigation into a Title IX complaint filed against the College. The complaint, which was not shared with the College by OCR, addresses the College's response to cases of reported sexual assault and retaliation. OCR also informed the College that "opening the allegation for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination with regard to its merits." College administrators said they welcome this review and will collaborate with OCR to assure that the College's Title IX policies and procedures are as effective as possible.

Last spring, President **Raynard S. Kington** requested that OCR provide the College with technical assistance under Title IX after being unable to comment on media coverage of student allegations dating back to 2012. Kington noted that the College had made significant improvements in policies and process following new guidance from OCR in April 2011 and sought review by OCR as a neutral and impartial fact-finder.

"Our work should not be judged in the court of public opinion based on incomplete information, but by those responsible for oversight of Title IX, based on comprehensive information about our practices on campus," Kington said in a letter to the campus community in March 2015.

After making the request for assistance, the College learned from media that a number of Grinnell students had filed a Title IX complaint with OCR. A local attorney working with the complainants acknowledged that neither the filing of the complaint, nor the complaint itself had been shared with the College. OCR publicly "commend[ed]" Grinnell College for its commitment to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to learn in an environment free from sexual violence," but later declined to provide technical assistance in light of the pending complaint.

The College continues to proactively develop its sexual respect policies to ensure that its practices are trauma-informed, prompt and equitable, and fair. Recent enhancements include engaging an outside

adjudicator, former Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Marsha Ternus, as well as outside investigators on an as-needed basis. In addition, the College has developed a Title IX training program that has become a national model. Throughout all of its efforts, Grinnell students have been deeply involved in prevention and response work.

The College maintains a Title IX Task Force that directs its resources toward preventing sexual misconduct and responding to student reports. Each member of the task force has a focused area of responsibility:

- **Angela Voos** (chief of staff and Title IX coordinator), oversight of all Title IX matters.
- **Sarah Moschenross** (dean of students), conduct process.
- **Jen Jacobsen '95** (wellness director), prevention.
- **Jeff Pedersen '02** (head football coach), athletics.
- **Deanna Shorb** (dean of religious life), confidential response and support.
- **Bailey Thompson** (strategic planning assistant), case management.

In a July 27, 2015, message to the campus community announcing

the OCR investigation, Voos said, "We are committed to ensuring that we are doing everything possible to prevent and respond appropriately to incidents of sexual violence and will continue to seek improvements that tend to the needs of our community. We support the rights of our students to file a civil rights complaint, and we will continue to provide support and care for all of our community members."

Grinnell's sexual respect policy resources can be found at [www.grinnell.edu/sexualrespect](http://www.grinnell.edu/sexualrespect).

— Elise Hadden '14

## Architects Selected for Campus Projects

ARH/Carnegie renovations, a new admission/visitor center, and a landscaping plan are underway



EYP, an architecture firm in Boston, was selected in February to design the new learning spaces for social studies and humanities — excluding the fine arts. The project will include renovation of Alumni Recitation Hall (ARH) and Carnegie Hall as well as new construction.

In May, EYP visited campus for an open forum with faculty, staff, and students. EYP introduced three preliminary conceptual strategies that showed possible building organizational elements, such as the use of an atrium to link new and old sections of ARH or a courtyard that would remain open to the elements. EYP received a great deal

of feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the three different approaches.

EYP designers are working with members of faculty and staff to develop the list of functions the new spaces must provide and the square footage for them. Additional considerations include how to meet high standards of accessibility and sustainability.

Schematic design work will begin in the fall of 2015. The rest of the design process will likely take a year to 18 months. Based on the College's previous experience with major academic building projects, it may take about two years to build a new building and one year to renovate an existing structure.

"We're fairly sure that we won't be able to build and renovate at the same time," says **Erik Simpson**, professor of English and co-chair of the ARH Carnegie Planning Committee. "We don't even know yet whether ARH and Carnegie can be renovated at the same time."

A tentative target date for final occupancy is June 2020.

The ARH and Carnegie renovation is one part of a larger project that also includes a new admission and visitor center and a comprehensive campus landscaping plan. In June, Ayers Saint Gross, a design firm based in Baltimore, was selected to take on these projects.

Ayers Saint Gross will partner with Confluence, a regional landscaping design firm with an office in Des Moines, Iowa, to ensure the use of building materials and natural elements to reflect Grinnell's prairie location.

For all of these projects, the College's Board of Trustees authorized expenditures of \$100 million — \$20 million to come from gifts and the remaining \$80 million from debt. (See Page 31 for a related story.)

Project updates will be shared at [www.grinnell.edu/learningspaces](http://www.grinnell.edu/learningspaces).

## Chief IT Officer Named

New position oversees academic and administrative information technology services and support

**Dave Robinson** was named the College's chief information technology officer in August. In this newly created position, Robinson will have broad responsibility for academic and administrative information technology support and services.

"He is articulate, engaging, and approachable and has a genuine desire to work collaboratively with faculty, staff, and students in our liberal arts setting," says President **Raynard S. Kington**. "He understands faculty research and is eager to find ways to involve students in ITS that have value and meaning to the students as well as the institution."

Formerly director of computing and telecommunications at the University of Pittsburgh at the Greensburg and Oakland, Pa., main campuses, Robinson ushered in upgrades to network infrastructure and wireless systems and introduced a technology governance model. He also taught courses in computer science and engineering at the two campuses.

"I'm thrilled to be joining the Grinnell community, and I'm excited to meet everyone and to begin contributing to the mission of the College," Robinson says.

A native of the British Isles, Robinson earned a bachelor's in neuroscience from Cardiff



University in Wales and a doctorate in pharmacology and neuroscience from the University of Cambridge in England. Robinson was also a postdoctoral scholar at the University of Iowa.

– Dana Boone

## Innovators in Social Justice to Receive 2015 Grinnell Prize

Winners support children's literature in Africa, train bilingual women for medical interpreting

This year's winners of the Grinnell College Innovator for Social Justice Prize are working creatively to diminish the inequities facing underrepresented populations. The winners are:

- Deborah Ahenkorah, founder of Golden Baobab, an organization that supports the creation and distribution of culturally relevant literature by African writers and illustrators for African children. Through awards with cash prizes, workshops, and an independent publishing company, Golden Baobab seeks to remedy the underrepresentation of relatable African perspectives in children's literature.

- Maria Vertkin, founder of the organization Found in Translation, a program that trains multilingual, low-income and homeless women for jobs in medical interpreting. This program aims not only to provide these women with the means to obtain economic security, but also equips them to address the ethnic, racial, and linguistic disparities in the health care industry.

As the largest prize for social justice awarded by any college, the \$100,000 Grinnell Prize is awarded each year to leaders who create sustainable innovations in social justice.

"Over the past five years since its establishment, the prize has grown increasingly integrated into campus programming," says **Saunia Powell '02**, coordinator of the Grinnell Prize. "Past prizewinners have formed lasting partnerships with faculty, students, and alumni through short courses, workshops, student research, internships, and fellowships."

The 2015 Grinnell Prize medals will be presented at the Grinnell Prize award ceremony and prizewinner talks on Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 4 p.m. in Herrick Chapel. The deadline for submission of 2016 Grinnell Prize nominees is Nov. 9, 2015.



Kara Walker, "The Emancipation Approximation" (det.), 1999–2000. Silkscreen, one of 27 prints: 44 x 34 inches. Amy and Vernon Faulconer. Photo: Kevin Todora.

Sigmar Polke, "Schwarzer Fleck (Eifel)", 1985. Mixed media on fabric, 70 3/4 x 53 inches. The Rachofsky Collection. Photo: Kevin Todora.

## At the Faulconer Gallery

Start by Asking Questions: Contemporary Art from the Faulconer and Rachofsky Collections, Dallas Through Dec. 13, 2015

When the late **Vernon E. Faulconer '61** first began collecting art for his office in 1980, he encountered contemporary art by Donald Judd that made no sense to him. So he started asking questions. Those questions propelled him and his wife, **Amy Hamamoto Faulconer '59**, into a passion for contemporary art.

About five years ago, the Faulconers expanded their collecting to partner with Howard and Cindy Rachofsky, also of Dallas. Together the Rachofskys and Faulconers toured art fairs, galleries, and artist studios, asking questions and getting to know artists, gallery owners, and collectors. As their collections grew, they found they needed a space to store the work, which in turn led to the creation of a space for curated exhibitions from their individual and shared collections. Known now as The Warehouse, this 18,000-square-foot space in north Dallas presents an exhibition each year that is open by appointment to school groups, students, collectors' groups, and others interested in learning to ask their own questions. The Faulconers and Rachofskys support both a curatorial and an education staff and are committed to using their collections to broaden and deepen experiences with challenging and outstanding contemporary art.

*Start by Asking Questions: Contemporary Art from the Faulconer and Rachofsky Collections* includes 46 works drawn from The Warehouse. Painting, sculpture, prints, photography, and video art by artists such as Janine Antoni, Eric Fischl, Mark Grotjahn, William Kentridge, Sigmar Polke, Yinka Shonibare, Kara Walker, and others will be on view in the Faulconer Gallery. The exhibition, curated by Lesley Wright, Faulconer Gallery director, is a sampler or introduction to the collection of Amy and Vernon Faulconer and to the extensive holdings of the Rachofskys. Visit [www.grinnell.edu/faulconergallery](http://www.grinnell.edu/faulconergallery) for more information. ("In Memoriam: Vernon Faulconer '61," see Page 46.)

## At Burling Gallery

A Closer Look at the Iowa Prairie: Photographs by Justin Hayworth Through Oct. 11, 2015

At one time prairie dominated the Iowa landscape. Now, less than 0.1 percent of the original Iowa prairie remains. Campus photographer Justin Hayworth's macro photographs invite viewers to take a closer look at the beauty of prairie plants, celebrate the intricate aesthetics of prairie life, and teach about the unintended consequences of development.

## Current Styles in African Illustration

Oct. 26–Dec. 18, 2015

This exhibition highlights a diverse selection of some of the best talents in children's illustration in Africa. It showcases current and distinctive styles coming from various regions on the continent. The illustrations are submissions to the inaugural Golden Baobab Prize for African Illustrators. Golden Baobab founder Deborah Ahenkorah is a recipient of the 2015 Grinnell College Innovator for Social Justice Prize.



# Reading, Writing, Remembering

Wall Service Awards go to projects in New York City, Minneapolis, and Hudson, N.Y.

by Elise Hadden '14

**Tracy Huling '77** and **Brian Buckley '14**, **Alvin Irby '07**, and **Bryan Boyce '08** are the winners of this year's **Joseph F. Wall '41** Sesquicentennial Service Awards.

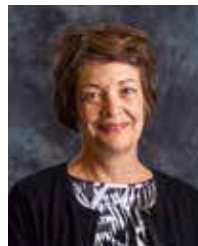
Huling and Buckley will use the award to support their organization, the Prison Public Memory Project (PPMP). In its pilot site in Hudson, N.Y., the program works with community members and collaborating scholars and artists to discover, preserve, interpret, and present the rich and complex history of the prison there, honor the memories of former prisoners and prison workers, and use the past to imagine a new future for the town when its historic prison closes. Funds from the award will be used to 1) fortify the program already in place in Hudson, developing a permanent site of prison memory there, organized and directed by Buckley and 2) support the PPMP's founder, Huling, as she expands the reach of the organization to other rural prison communities in the United States.

Irby, who lives in New York City, will use his award to expand his Barbershop Books program, which places child-friendly reading spaces in barbershops. The program will improve black boys' access to engaging books and increase the amount of time they read for fun. Creating reading spaces in 20 additional barbershops will enable Barbershop Books to reach 800 young male readers in two Brooklyn communities. By providing year-round access to culturally relevant, age-appropriate, gender-responsive children's books in a traditionally male space, Irby hopes to help young black boys identify as readers.

Boyce will fund his project, Cow Tipping Press, a program that teaches creative writing for adults with developmental disabilities and shares their work with a broad audience. The funding will be used to train five additional instructors in strategies for teaching diverse learners, reaching 75 students and publishing their writing for hundreds of readers in the first year. By offering an imaginative outlet, Boyce will provide a platform for people with developmental disabilities to speak for themselves in a medium that is often used to speak about them.

The Wall Service Awards were established by a group of 205 donors during the College's 1996 sesquicentennial celebration, honoring Grinnell's long-standing commitment to social justice and public service. Wall was a professor of history at Grinnell who inspired the ideal of social responsibility in his students. The College gives awards of \$25,000 each to alumni to carry out a service project that is of tangible benefit to others. Projects may be original or supplement existing programs; they may be local, regional, national, or international in scope; and may be carried out domestically or internationally. Since 1999, more than \$1 million has been awarded to 44 alumni.

Applications for next year's awards are due in June 2016. 📧



Tracy Huling '77



Brian Buckley '14



Alvin Irby '07



Bryan Boyce '08

# Financial Future Update

Enrollment strategies and tuition revenue

by Michele Regenold '89

In February 2013, the Grinnell College Board of Trustees voted to keep the College's commitment to need-blind admission and to meeting 100 percent of domestic students' financial need. At that same meeting, the board called for a fall 2015 review of efforts to establish financial sustainability. Trustees noted that a lack of significant progress would mean a discussion of more aggressively managing enrollment strategies or a change to an openly "need-aware" admission strategy effective with the class entering in 2017.

Last year saw a significant increase in tuition revenue. For 2015–16, **Joe Bagnoli**, vice president for enrollment, says, "One question we had was, 'Can we repeat what we did last year?'"

The short answer was yes.

Bagnoli attributes the successful growth in part to a change in how Grinnell College markets itself. "We no longer lead with financial aid information," he says. "We talk more about the actual experience of attending Grinnell. We don't emphasize financial aid in terms of what makes us distinctive."

This year, a higher percentage of students across the board accepted Grinnell's offer of admission. Bagnoli thinks two initiatives contributed to the increase. After admitted students received their financial aid awards, College staff members called each one to review the offers, answer questions, and help overcome objections to enrollment.

Kaitlyn on Twitter:

**"@GrinnellCollege is sending me a personalized Venn diagram. ♥ they know me, they really know me."**

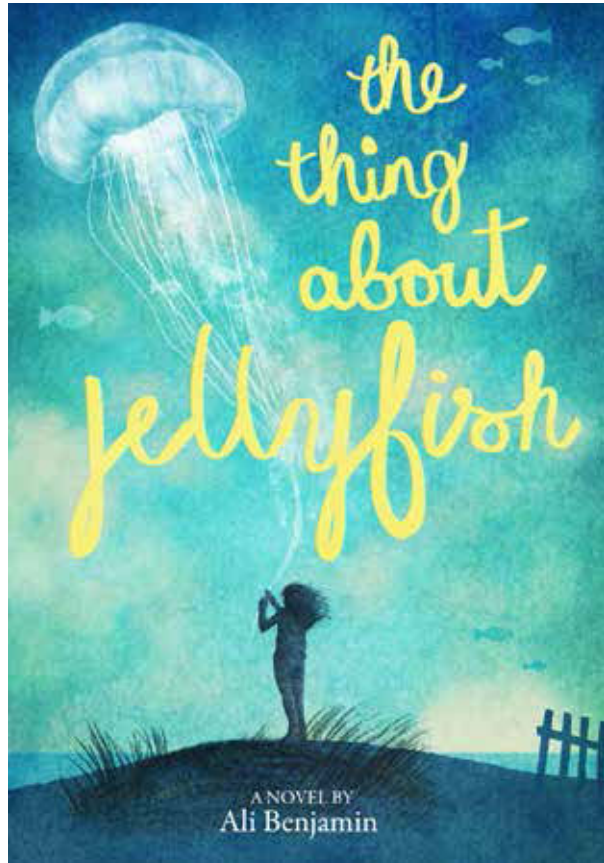
Another tactic was mailing a personalized postcard. "There was social media buzz about that," Bagnoli says. "Admitted students posted about how well the College seemed to know them. Our objective was to convey to admitted students our boldly individualized approach to education, and their responses confirmed the efficacy of the cards to achieve that understanding."

"As pleased as I am about recent increases in net student revenue," Bagnoli continues, "the level of net revenue from students is not yet adequate to underwrite the increasing costs associated with their education."

He and his team are examining additional initiatives. For example, what if the College were to admit a higher percentage of well-qualified international students with the resources to finance a significant share of their Grinnell education? That was one idea Bagnoli described to the trustees in June.

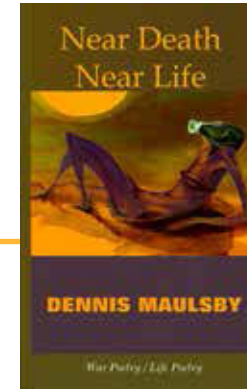
Whatever strategy they choose, Bagnoli says, "We are seeking solutions that will allow the College to maintain its commitments to access and diversity while increasing revenue — a tricky combination of objectives to achieve."

In their October 2015 board meeting, trustees will vote on whether to continue need-blind admission. The College will announce the results of the vote online and in the winter issue of *The Grinnell Magazine*. 📧



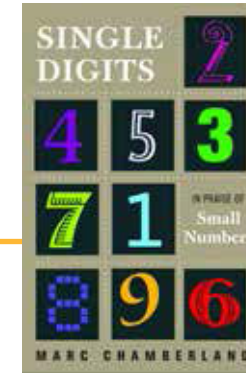
## *The Thing About Jellyfish*

Published by Little, Brown, and Company, this middle-grade novel by **Alison Wade Benjamin '92** earned starred reviews from *Kirkus* and *Publishers Weekly*. The story centers on a science-obsessed 12-year-old girl who becomes convinced that her best friend's death was caused by a rare jellyfish sting and decides to prove it. The coming-of-age story is also about environmental destruction, ecology, the nature of hope and cruelty, family, friendship, and the scientific method.



## *Near Death/Near Life*

**Dennis Maulsby '64** published his third book of poetry, *Near Death/Near Life*, through Prolific Press. The book strikes a meaningful and tender balance between the appreciation of life's poignant memories and the human experience of war, both as a construct and a memory. He also wrote "Little Inca Sister" in *Crossing Lines*, the latest anthology of the Main Street Rag Publishing Co., February 2015. Maulsby's poem depicts an Inca ice maiden, a sacrificed bride of the Andes Mountains still waiting after 500 years on her frozen perch at 20,000 feet for the world to complete its predestined cycles. His website is [www.dennismaulsby.com](http://www.dennismaulsby.com).

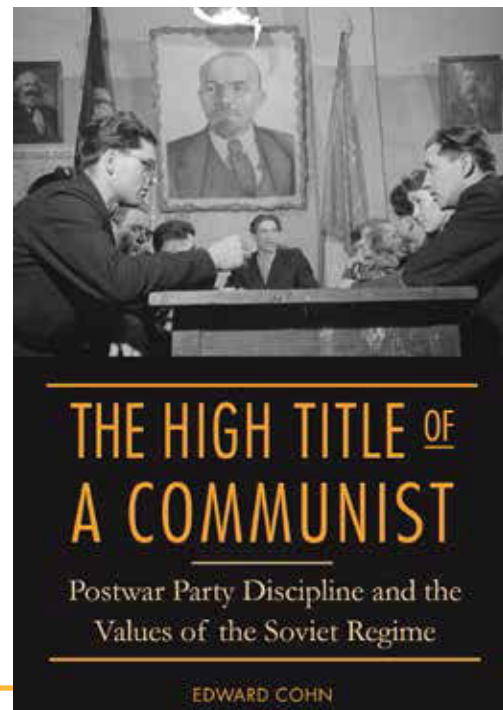


## *Single Digits: In Praise of Small Numbers*

Why do eight perfect card shuffles leave a standard deck of cards unchanged? Are there really "six degrees of separation" between all pairs of people? How can any map need only four colors to ensure that no regions of the same color touch? **Marc Chamberland**, Myra Steele Professor of Natural Science and Mathematics, focuses on a different small number in each chapter. He explores number theory, geometry, chaos theory, numerical analysis, and mathematical physics. Published by Princeton University Press, July 2015.

## *How Communists should behave*

Between 1945 and 1964, more than 6 million members of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union were investigated for misconduct by local party organizations and then reprimanded, demoted from full party membership, or expelled. Party leaders viewed these investigations as a form of moral education and used humiliating public hearings to discipline wrongdoers and send all Soviet citizens a message about how Communists should behave. *The High Title of a Communist* (Northern Illinois University Press, 2015) is the first study of the Communist Party's internal disciplinary system in the decades following World War II. **Edward Cohn**, associate professor of history, uses the practices of expulsion and censure as a window into how the postwar regime defined the ideal Communist and the ideal Soviet citizen.



## More Books

**Skyler Artes '01** translated *Arabic as a Secret Song* (original title, *L'arabe comme unchant secret*) by Leila Sebbar, University of Virginia Press, 2015.

Cornell University Press is scheduled to release **Kenton Clymer '65's** new book, *A Delicate Relationship: The United States and Burma/Myanmar since 1945*, in November 2015.

**Bryan Crockett '76** has written *Love's Alchemy*, a literary and historical novel as well

as a mystery, released in March by Five Star Publishing. "It's about the Elizabethan poet John Donne," Crockett writes. "Set in 1604, *Love's Alchemy* tells the story of Donne's finding himself blackmailed into spying for Robert Cecil, the most powerful man, including King James, in England."

**Jin Feng**, professor of Chinese, will research her book, *Food Nostalgia in the Lower Yangzi Delta*, during her 2015–16 sabbatical. Her project will explore the tension

between China's drive toward modernization and its increasing turn toward cultural conservatism by studying the representations and reinventions of culinary traditions in the lower Yangzi delta. She has been awarded a scholar grant from the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange for this project.

*Leadership and Women in Statistics*, edited by **Amanda L. Golbeck '74**, Ingram Olkin, and Yulia R. Gel, was published by

Chapman and Hall/CRC Press, July 13, 2015.

**Thomas V. Smith '70** self-published *American Nomad: Hitch-hiking in the Sixties*, Infinity Publishing, 2015.

**Claire Wenngren '08**, under the pen name Emma Stein, authored *Into the Void*, Targarr Publishing, released Aug. 12, 2015. The book is historical fiction with a strong focus on social justice.





**Fissures: One Hundred 100-word Stories**

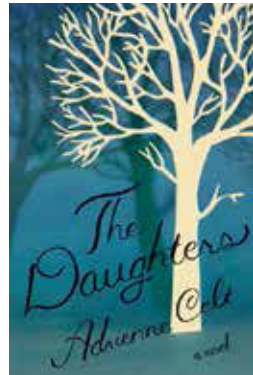
**Grant Faulkner '87**, the executive director of National Novel Writing Month and co-founder of the lit mag *100 Word Story*, has focused on longer narrative forms for most of his writing career. He wondered, however, “What if instead of relying on the words of a story, I relied on the spectral spaces around those words? What if I privileged excision over any notion of comprehensiveness, and formed narratives around caesuras and crevices?” Published by Press 53 in 2015.

**Art and Theatre**

At The Gallery at Community Music School, in Trappe, Pa., **Susan Klein d’Alessio '63** showcased an art exhibit, *Shapes and Sizes*, March–April 2015. Check out her work at [www.susankdalessio.com](http://www.susankdalessio.com).

Three studio art alumnae from the class of 2015 — **Rebecca Garner**, **Abigail Lowe**, and **Martha Orlet** — developed artist portfolios in the spring of 2015 while working with **Lee Running**, associate professor of art, on Mentored Advanced Projects. See:

- [rebecca-garner.com](http://rebecca-garner.com)
- [abigail-lowel.com](http://abigail-lowel.com)
- [martha-orlet.com](http://martha-orlet.com)

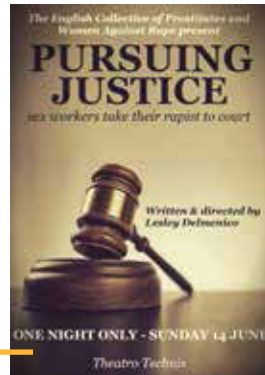


**The Daughters**

Motherhood and music provide focus for this debut novel by **Adrienne Celt '06**, published by W.W. Norton/Liveright, August 2015. Celt has published numerous short stories and essays in literary magazines. She also publishes a web comic about the secret lives of animals. See [adriennecelt.com](http://adriennecelt.com) for more about her work.

**Pursuing Justice**

**Lesley Delmenico**, associate professor of theatre and dance, wrote and directed *Pursuing Justice*, a play based on the transcript of a landmark 1995 trial of a man accused of raping two prostitutes. The play was staged in London in June 2015 in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the English Collective of Prostitutes and Women against Rape.



*Point at Infinity* by **Gregory Miguel Gómez '80** is on display at the Brattleboro (Vt.) Museum and Art Center through October 2015. The exhibition is a compilation of sculpture and charcoal drawings of similar designs. The two approaches share a single visual language that contrasts the illusion of space in two-dimensional drawings with the real space in three-dimensional constructions. The designs reference mathematics, symbology, and other iconography.

*So Much Water So Close to Home*, a video by **Matthew Kluber**, associate professor of art, will occupy the first of 40-some sites that Restoration

Ingersoll, a Des Moines, Iowa, neighborhood group, plans to fill over the next few years. The city’s first animated artwork could help define both the Ingersoll neighborhood and its surroundings.

**Craig Quintero**, associate professor of theatre and dance, will direct his multimedia performance *Dreaming David Lynch* at Taiwan’s National Experimental Theatre in November. During the fall he will also teach a class on site-specific art at Taipei’s National University of the Arts as a Fulbright Scholar. In the spring, Quintero will study filmmaking with Taiwanese director Hung Ya-yen and produce his first short film.

Quote Board

“Grinnell College version of ‘getting hit by a bus’ hypothetical situation – ‘getting mauled by squirrels?’”

– **Becky Yoose**, assistant professor, library, Twitter

“Children who love reading will read anything. The challenge is that many young black boys don’t have that passion for reading, so the books we expose them to are books that will capture their attention and that will engage them.”

– **Alvin Irby '07** in “Tackling children’s literacy in a Harlem barbershop,” *BBC News Magazine*, New York, June 2, 2015

“I like the person I’m becoming here. #grinnellcollege”

– **Katherine Menner '18**, Twitter

“At its best, teaching is an expression of hospitality and healing. I teach my students as I would teach my children.”

– **Ron Dorr '62** in “Professor’s goal: 75 letters of gratitude at age 75,” *Lansing State Journal*, April 7, 2015

“Real Talk. Every time I publish a book, 6 weeks later, I feel all this SHAME about it. Is this an author thing? Or is this a Catholic thing?”

– **Dean Bakopoulos**, assistant professor of English, Twitter





Photo by Justin Hayworth



Isaiah Tyree '15 with the 2014 men's soccer team

“I had a tough previous season, and so my goal for my senior season was to have fun and recreate my love for soccer.”

## Playing for Fun

Isaiah Tyree '15: From goalkeeper to forward and back again

by Jeremy Bulman '15

In spring 2014, **Isaiah Tyree '15** made a name for himself, literally, while trying his luck at soccer forward. Our team affectionately referred to him as “Torres,” after Spanish striker Fernando Torres, Tyree’s favorite player. Coach Jaws (Brian Jaworski) suggested that our team’s Torres make the transition from goalkeeper to forward during his senior season.

“I had a tough previous season, and so my goal for my senior season was to have fun and recreate my love for soccer,” Tyree says.

A full-time goalkeeper during his first three seasons, Tyree eagerly prepared to play forward, leaving goalkeeping duties to teammate **Major May '17**.

Throughout the intense preparation for his final chance at college soccer, Isaiah barely looked at his gloves, much less stepped between the pipes.

With high hopes of a season to remember, we began our campaign with our alumni game. Passes looked crisp and the team was in shape.

Then everything changed in one heart-stopping moment. A ball snuck past our defense. Major May charged in goal and collided with the knee of an opposing forward.

With Major dazed on the sideline, Torres transformed back into our starting goalkeeper. After taking no repetitions in preseason, Tyree became the only healthy goalkeeper on our roster.

“Luckily [my skills] came back naturally,” Tyree says. “It probably helped that I was not overthinking it.”

As the season wore on, the shutouts piled up for Tyree and Grinnell’s defense. One day Coach Jaws announced that Tyree had achieved the best save

percentage in the nation for NCAA Division III goalkeepers.

“It wasn’t something that was even on my mind,” Tyree says. “I thought it would be cool to say I had been No. 1 for a week in my career. I never expected that it could last all season.”

Aware that we had the chance to accomplish something special, the team made it a point of pride to keep the ball out of our net.

Part of this accomplishment can be attributed to two starting defenders, **Joey Saenz '16** and **Rockne DeCoster '15**, who came up with the term “Back Bros” for the unbreakable back line. “It started as a joke, but over the course of the season it became serious,” Saenz says. “Being a Back Bro meant being a good defender and a good teammate. A lot of that success comes from personal accountability. We didn’t want to be the one that made the mistake that gave up the goal.”

Grinnell did not allow a single goal in its final seven matches. In fact, Grinnell’s opponents went scoreless for the final 742 minutes of the season.

While parts of the season felt like a fairy tale, the ending was a harsh blast of reality. Despite losing only three games, and winning or tying our last eight games, Grinnell did not qualify for the conference tournament.

The season was over.

Yet, the team achieved more than it could ever imagine in the record books. Tyree finished first in goals-against average and save percentage, after conceding only three goals all season. His save percentage of .959 was an NCAA Division III record and ranks second all-time among all NCAA divisions.

With the help of the Back Bros, the team set additional records. The Pioneers established a new Midwest Conference record in fewest goals allowed with only eight. Team goals-against average was 0.44, fourth nationally. Grinnell tied the MWC record for shutouts in a season with 11.

The most remarkable aspect of these accomplishments was the team’s process of getting there. From the bench erupting in applause each time the ball landed safely in Tyree’s gloves, to our backs eagerly willing to lunge in for a sliding block, it was apparent how much this meant to us.

“The point of any team sport is that you do things as a team. That’s not necessarily captured by these accolades, but it’s inherent in them,” Tyree says. “These are shared awards, and they represent what we did as a unit.”

### Leading the League in Academics

Grinnell College landed a league-best 286 student-athletes on the Midwest Conference (MWC) All-Academic Team for 2014–15. Grinnell led MWC schools in All-Academic picks during all three sports seasons: 112 selections during the fall, 99 in the winter, and 75 in the spring.

To be eligible, students had to achieve a minimum GPA of 3.33 during the awarded academic year and letter in any of the conference’s fall, winter, or spring sports.



Photo courtesy of Burling Library Archives, Grinnell College



## New Student Orientation

1963 vs. 2015

Photo by John Brady '16



# Making Marijuana Legal

A Q&A with Brian Vicente '99

by Denton Ketels

When **Brian Vicente '99** graduated from law school, some of his professors told him that the field of marijuana policy would be career suicide. Instead, Vicente turned it into a career *path*. After building his nonprofit organization into a force for marijuana policy change, Vicente went on to co-author the law

that would make Colorado the first geographic area in the world to legalize and regulate the possession, sale, production, and distribution of adult-use marijuana.

In November 2012, the Colorado law known as Amendment 64 passed by a 10 percent voter margin. Vicente not only was instrumental in crafting the language and

co-chairing the Amendment 64 campaign, he led the 2013 campaign that shaped the law's tax policy.

Calling itself "the marijuana law firm," Vicente Sederberg LLC is the banner under which Vicente advocated for legalization and now advises marijuana industry clients. In this interview, Vicente talks about his trailblazing journey.

Photo by Evan Semón





**How did you, a psychology major at Grinnell, become interested in law and dedicated to the field of marijuana policy?**

After Grinnell I moved to Colorado to be a snowboard bum and to figure things out. I knew I wanted a job that would allow me to provide a public service and have a positive influence. For me, that broke down into two segments: direct services or broader policy change. Law seemed like a logical way to impact policy, and I ended up getting a full ride to the University of Denver law school.

While there, I began to work on behalf of a medical marijuana patient and was able to assist folks in trying to shift the marijuana laws. That exposed me to individuals who were absolutely receiving medical benefit from using the substance. It led me to rethink all we've been taught about the drug war and that marijuana is a horrible substance. I began to think of it as a possible career path to advocate to change laws I thought were broken, so I founded a nonprofit organization called Sensible Colorado that tried to get funding to work on marijuana policy issues. I ran that organization for the first several years of my professional career and essentially became an expert on marijuana policy.

I started the law firm in 2010 to advocate for these policy shifts as well as to represent marijuana businesses. The nonprofit entity is still around, but it's sort of a unique animal in that we accomplished our mission. In 2004 our mission was to legalize marijuana in Colorado, and in 2012 we actually accomplished that.

My priority now is to make sure that Colorado's marijuana laws continue to be responsible in terms of their implementation. What number does it come to in

**What's the most challenging aspect of your work, the social/legal issues or regulation/taxation details?**

It's all pretty interesting and intellectually stimulating. The challenge was that I essentially advocated for almost a decade to get us to the point where we are now, and I was running into opposition — from government, law enforcement, angry parents, what have you — that was resistant to change. We dealt with a lot of negativity. Ultimately, I think we presented a strong case to the voters that regulation was better than prohibition. Now, a lot of it is just ironing out the details, whether it's taxation or whether local communities should allow these stores or not.

**You have been called “the marijuana industry’s de facto spokesman.” Has that changed your life personally and professionally?**

I wouldn't say it has been a major change. When I graduated from law school and began working in marijuana policy, it was not considered a popular area to go into. Some people, including some of my professors, said it was career suicide and a mistake. But, for me, this is a social justice battle, and I felt like it was worth fighting. Over the years I've been fortunate to work with a great team. We've developed really strong policies here, and part of that involves advising newly licensed marijuana businesses and making sure they are responsible actors. In terms of my speaking on behalf of the industry, it's really about demonstrating that there is a responsible face to this industry and having sustainable businesses being community partners going forward.

**Are you being approached to consult other regions of the country or the world where policies are being changed or about to be changed?**

We *are* being asked, and that is one of the really interesting and gratifying things. Prior to Colorado's vote, I think the idea of marijuana legalization was very abstract for people around the world. When Colorado stepped forward with legalization, regulation, sales, and the licensing of businesses, it became real and it sort of crystallized in people's heads. We get contacted weekly by elected officials and others who are interested in visiting Colorado and learning about our experiences in passing and implementing the law. It's very heartening. We're certainly aware that the eyes of the world are on Colorado.

**How did the law firm come to exist in its current form?**

With Sensible Colorado I got grant funding to do policy work, represent medical marijuana patients, and things like that. I ran the nonprofit — and the law firm for the first couple of years when it was only myself — out of the basement of the house I rented. It was not a glorious time, but again, we were building. In 2010, there were several hundred [medical] marijuana businesses that were not licensed at the state level. Our state legislature had a decision to make that year: Are we going to license these businesses and set up a regulatory framework, or are we going to ban them?

So I got very active in the Capitol to push our legislature toward regulating the medical industry as opposed to banning it. At that point I partnered with a business law attorney, Christian Sederberg, and we carried forth together. For me, that moment in 2012 when we legalized marijuana represented an incredible and somewhat unprecedented coalescing of two things. You have massive social change — that is, the state deciding to legalize marijuana and begin unwinding the war on drugs — butting up against an opportunity for commerce. Colorado didn't just *decriminalize* marijuana; we actually set up a licensing structure for people to *sell* and *grow* and *produce* marijuana. It is an interesting moment where those two exciting prongs are intersecting.

**How does the state stand to benefit from legalization and regulation?**

The way that we wrote Amendment 64 and the tax campaign that passed in 2013 is that the first \$40 million of the excise tax goes to public school

construction every year. Then there is a 15 percent sales tax additionally to fund the regulatory structure, as well as public education around marijuana. So we think there will be about \$70 million of new tax revenue coming into the state coffers every year from these sales. That's remarkable because marijuana had been sold for decades in Colorado, but that money was just going into the hands of the underground market. Now the state is collecting that money and using it for positive purposes.

**How have government and law enforcement officials reacted to Amendment 64?**

There has been acceptance in Colorado among law enforcement and government officials of this voter-approved change. Law enforcement certainly is not arresting people in large numbers for marijuana anymore, so I think we certainly have freed up law enforcement resources to focus on more serious crime.

For years the largest opponent of marijuana legalization was the government, federal and local. We did not have much support for the change that occurred in 2012 from government officials, but I will give them credit. Since we won by a 10 percent margin, every wing of our state government has decided to move forward thoughtfully and responsibly with implementing this law and fulfilling the will of the voters.

Our governor, John Hickenlooper, historically has not been a proponent of marijuana legalization, but to his credit, when this passed he committed to making it work and to push for banking solutions. He talked to the federal government about how to move it forward. It's a very interesting legal shift. We have this dichotomy where marijuana is federally illegal but legal in certain states. Twenty-three states have medical marijuana, and four states (Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Alaska) now have legal marijuana for adult use with Colorado leading the way. It's an interesting moment in time.

**How did your Grinnell experience influence you?**

To a certain extent my time at Grinnell was formative in terms of launching my professional career. I developed some critical thinking skills that led me to analyze policies, such as the drug war, and to think about solutions that maybe hadn't been tried before, such as marijuana legalization, and to not be discouraged from moving forward with them. Also, Grinnell's policy of self-governance had an impact on me and led me to think perhaps there are alternatives to some of the constraints on society and more positive ways to move forward. 🍪







Photo by Eric Dregni

# ROCK AND ROLL AND BEYOND

Georgia Dentel, the woman  
who put Grinnell College on  
the musical map

*by* Michele Regenold '89

At 89, **Georgia Dentel's** recall for conversations with people 50 years ago is clear and eloquent, much like her voice. From her easy chair at the Mayflower Community Health Center in Grinnell, she tells stories about performers and agents and concert promoters. The longer she talks, the stronger her voice becomes.

The Replacements guitarist, Bobby Stinson, smashed his guitar when they played Grinnell in spring 1984. The band gave **Leif Larsen '88** the guitar after the show. **Andy Poland '87** got the neck that flew into the crowd.



In 1960 when President **Howard Bowen** interviewed Dentel for the new position of activities counselor, he said, “I need activities. I need things happening for the students to do. I need to establish some sort of weekend activity, but I don’t know what that should be.”

“He didn’t know what kind of things he wanted,” Dentel says. She arrived on campus that fall not completely certain what her duties were. So she met with various students and formed a committee to oversee new ideas.

One of the early speakers was a local insurance man who talked about marriage. He got the best response, Dentel says.

“It emerged gradually that the only thing students wanted were concerts,” she says. “They wanted rock and roll.” There were a couple of bands in Iowa, but Dentel hated to bring them because they weren’t very good, she says.

“It occurred to me that the best bands of the country were at Fillmore East and Fillmore West,” Dentel says of the music venues in New York City and San Francisco, respectively. So she called Bill Graham, the legendary concert promoter and artist manager who was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1992. “I asked him if he had any bands that would make a trip to the Midwest for the Grinnell College homecoming. For the amount of money we could offer — it was very small — I can’t believe I had the nerve to ask him.

“He said, ‘No, I really don’t.’ But we talked a little while. I told him I wanted only the best. I didn’t want a lot of trashy stuff.

“He said, ‘I don’t have anybody right now, but there’s a band I’m thinking of bringing into the Fillmore. They’re playing in a club.’”

Even though Graham didn’t say so explicitly, Dentel could tell that the band wasn’t making much money, so the College could probably afford them.

“Just as we were about to hang up,” Dentel says, “I said, ‘Oh, by the way, what’s their name?’”

Jefferson Airplane played for Grinnell’s homecoming dance, Oct. 22, 1966.

### The early days

“Music was in my life always,” Dentel says. She played clarinet in the concert band and marching band at the University of Iowa, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in English and history in 1948.

When she arrived at Grinnell in 1960, “music was largely out of a jukebox,” Dentel says. The jukebox was in the Student Union, a former Army barracks in about

the same location as the Forum, which was then in the planning stages.

The Student Union was a “rickety wooden building,” says **John Gleysteen ’63**, “but to us a very lively place.” As chairman of the Student Union his junior year and social coordinator his senior year, Gleysteen worked closely with Dentel.

“She was very helpful to me in making suggestions of who to bring for what time,” Gleysteen says. “She obviously knew her field. We all had our ideas as to what we wanted to do. She didn’t make an effort to intercede and do things her way instead of our way. She was truly there to facilitate.”

**Jack Spence ’64**, concerts chair in 1963–64, agrees. “Georgia asked for suggestions and offered suggestions,” he says. “She played an entrepreneurial role and a mediator role. Her goal, I think, was having events spread throughout the year instead of one big concert. I can remember her sort of cajoling us. She’d say, ‘If we have such and such a group, we can afford this, but it means we’ll have fewer groups.’”

At that time, most colleges were giving one big dance per semester. For the 1963 Christmas Formal at Grinnell, Count Basie played, and for the 1964 Spring Formal, Louis Armstrong played.

### Learning on the job

Dentel says, “There were some students who had wonderful record collections. Students knew more about the artists than I did, but I knew how to get in touch with them.”

Figuring out how to book artists was the main thing she had to learn. “When I was learning about this, it was really self-taught,” she says. “I became acquainted with a couple of bands playing in Cedar Rapids. This fellow turned out to be a pretty good source of people in Chicago, and it kind of gradually developed.”

When it came to negotiating about money, Dentel says, “I just had to work with what I had. Some of these bands became very, very expensive as time went on, but at first they were up against it as far as money was concerned.”

**Gary Giddins ’70**, concerts chair in 1967–68 and social coordinator for 1968–69, says, “What I discovered was any band that tours, they hate a night without a gig. Maybe they’re doing Chicago and St. Louis. We’d get bands for a decent price — Duke Ellington’s 15-piece band for \$4,000, whereas a three-piece rock band was \$12,000.

“Georgia really understood that jazz groups were getting a fraction that rock groups were getting and that

my obligation was to provide something every month,” Giddins says. “Since I loved jazz, she made it very clear to me that I could probably do something every month — B.B. King, the Carter family, Doc Watson. Whereas if you have a rock band, you squander your whole thing on one night.

“Georgia knew every agent, and if she didn’t, she never questioned me — my taste or me. She gave me a lot of leeway that way. And then she’d take over as soon as I gave her the telephone number. She’d make the deal.”

Even when she was able to pull off something fabulous — like a Pete Seeger concert — she sometimes got pushback. “Some faculty didn’t like that Pete Seeger was on a weeknight,” she says. She’d tried to get Seeger “many, many times in the past. He was almost unreachable.” Darby Gym was packed that Tuesday, Oct. 21, 1969. Dentel says, “If the students wanted something, they could usually get it. Pressure on the administration would cause them to give in. I don’t think [students] really understood how much influence they had.”

### Professional reputation

As a result of Dentel’s growing reputation among agents, they eventually started calling her. She recalls an agent calling to see if she was planning to bring Bruce Springsteen to campus.

“He’d mentioned him to me before,” Dentel says, “but I didn’t know who Springsteen was. I said, ‘Yes, I am.’ This was May that he called. He said, ‘If you want him, you should take him now because by fall he’s going to be out of your reach.’ I said, ‘I don’t know. I’ve never booked two years out.’ He talked me into it.”

**Brian Mann ’76** was social coordinator when Springsteen played at Grinnell on Sept. 20, 1975, a month after his album *Born to Run* was released. Springsteen was on the October covers of *Time* and *Newsweek*.

Mann says Springsteen’s people “did everything in their power to get out of the concert because they were playing these big venues then. So they started making all these demands. They started saying, ‘Well, the little gym you have us playing in can’t handle our light show.’ So Georgia worked it out to drain the power from the science building to support it. ‘We’re going to need a big spread of fruit.’ Done. ‘We’re going to need security.’ Done. So I’m sure the cost of the concert doubled. It was a major event. Georgia was amazing in navigating that. I’m told that the Springsteen people joked for years about the private party they played in Grinnell,” Mann says.



Illustration by Kevin Cannon '02



## Job in jeopardy

In 1976, Dentel was at the top of her game. Even so, her position and four others — all but one held by women — were eliminated during an administrative reorganization instituted by President **A. Richard Turner**. The changes were to take effect the next fiscal year.

**Waldo Walker**, professor emeritus of biology, was Turner's executive vice president then. "When Turner came to campus as a newly-appointed president," Walker says, "he mentioned to me early on that he believed that the administration was too large, especially in regard to middle-administration positions, considering the financial stress which the budget was experiencing at that time."

"Georgia was having no problems," Walker adds, "and as far as I could see she was doing a good job getting really big-name entertainers to come to Grinnell College. Her track record there was excellent."

During an open forum in the South Lounge of the Forum Sept. 22, 1976, Turner told several hundred students that he would not reconsider his decision about eliminating Dentel's position.

Dozens of students and alumni wrote Turner letters describing Dentel's expertise and significant impact on campus. Turner sent a standard letter back, writing in part, "We are well aware of the quality of her work in the area of social programming and booking events for college performances. Unfortunately, the College is in a posture of budget reduction that forces us to reduce the number of middle level administration by three positions."

Faculty members were also concerned. **Joseph Wall '41**, professor of history, was on leave in 1976–77 and wrote to Turner: "Part of the difficulty for the faculty and students may lie in the fact that this plan was put into operation during the summer." Students raised this point too.

Wall also addressed another sensitive issue — possible sexism. "The questions of principle that seem to be raised by this reorganization are centered around the issue of women administrative and staff personnel in very visible roles," Wall wrote. "At a time when the faculty is being urged nationally and locally, legally and ethically, to make an all-out effort to bring highly qualified women to the teaching staff, the abrupt lopping off of three administrative and staff women naturally raises serious questions among the faculty and students."

Turner replied, "I think the question, which I realize is not yours personally, as to whether the whole thing was rigged to get rid of women, is despicable." For Turner, the move was about saving money. In his

postscript to Wall, Turner wrote, "As you all too well know, there has not been any serious attempt to tighten up the administration in 15 years. The tendency has been to move people around and not face the issue."

The uproar lasted until fall break, by which time Turner changed his mind. Dentel was offered a half-time position, which she eventually accepted.

**D. A. Smith**, professor emeritus of history and a great friend of Dentel's, says, "They put her on half time, but she found it impossible to reduce her work hours accordingly."

Dentel's job was threatened again in 1984 — and again the issue was budgetary and again students protested vigorously. Smith believes a handful of trustees intervened on her behalf. Dentel doesn't talk about these difficulties, however.

## The voice on the phone

Dentel did not have a typical 8-to-5 job — even when it was full-time. She worked year-round because, she says, "I had to be available to bookers and managers." She often worked late into the evening, making calls to booking agents to line up performers for concerts, much of which she did from home.

After the early 1970s, the students who worked closely with Dentel knew her only on the phone.

"She was sort of mysterious," says **Pat Irwin '77**, concerts co-chair 1976–77. He spoke with her on the phone frequently. "She was the expert. She knew the world, the business. She was the adult in the room."

**Dan Klatz '84** recalls her great voice. "She was animated, engaging, thoughtful on the phone," he says. "She clearly wanted to connect with people in meaningful ways."

"She was always fun to talk to," says **Leif Larsen '88**, concerts chair during his senior year. "She had a good sense of humor. She was always interested in what was happening on campus."

Smith says, "Probably Georgia's greatest enjoyment in the whole job was working with students who found her a sympathetic person." Dentel retired in 2001.

Giddins, who became a major jazz critic, says, "I got to talk with Duke Ellington and meet Louis Armstrong. So I got to learn about [jazz] from the musicians themselves."

Irwin, who became a professional musician, says, "I think of her as one of the more impactful people in my experience at school. As important as it might have been to write a paper or research a project, for me, meeting musicians, making dates work, working with her was unforgettable." 🐾



**Back:** Lawrence Hultgren '66, Steve Buckles '65, Georgia Dentel, George Moose '66, Bruce Kaufmann '66  
**Front:** Keith King '66, Martha Montgomery Frutchey '66, Palmer Hartl '65, Dottie Dosse Metzler '66, David Culver '66

Photo courtesy of Burling Library Archives, Grinnell College



Students dancing in old Student Union

## Impact on Public Events



**Georgia Dentel's** impact on the performing arts at Grinnell included not only student concerts and films, but also

the Public Events Series. **Michael Cavanagh**, professor emeritus of English, served on the Public Events Committee off and on for nearly 30 years. In a letter he wrote to Dentel in 2009, he reflects on her impact:

"I look back on that service I did as a success, and it was a success owing largely to your knowledge of the world of agents and to your ability to negotiate with them. In fact, I don't know what we would have done without you. I am not speaking for myself only but for every faculty member and student who served."

"When I think of you, I think of two visits by I Musici, of two visits by the Prague Chamber Orchestra (one with the pianist Valentina Lisitsa), of one by Orpheus. I know you got The Academy of Ancient Music, with Christopher Hogwood and Emma Kirkby. These visits were more than satisfying to me personally. They were inspiring. They were popular with our audiences, but more important they had, I am sure, a shaping power in all the lives of the people who heard them perform. In this sense you were a faculty member without knowing it."

"I remember one time in the 1990s when I got the quixotic idea of inviting the Mingus Big Band. I called Herbert Barrett and was referred to one of their agents, Mary Jane Fixler. I am sure you remember the formidable Ms. Fixler. She was absolutely ursine! She asked me how much money I could spend on the

Mingus Big Band. Like a fool, I told her what we had in our pockets (you later advised me *never* to do this). Fixler's response: 'Kid, you haven't in your whole budget got half of what it takes to get the Mingus. Forget about it. Save your money for Boy Scout camp.'

"So I went to you, Georgia, and your response was, 'Let me call Ms. Fixler.' One week later, at the cost of obliging ourselves only to one other H.B. performer that next season, we had the Mingus Band at our original asking price. Was it popular? They played in Herrick. Even after the Chapel was mostly filled, people were in line outside all the way down to Fine Arts, where the queue disappeared into the darkness. Who knows what you said to tame the Bear? Whatever it was, I am grateful still today." 🐾





FINANCIAL SERVICES  
FOR THE GREATER GOOD



Photos by Justin Hayworth

Time, Talent, Treasure, Ties

# Faces of Philanthropy

Third of a Four-Part Series:  
Alumnus creates long-term ties mentoring  
Grinnell interns at TIAA-CREF

by Denton Ketels

In the globally competitive job market, quality summer internships markedly differentiate college graduates. Résumés that include student experiences at top companies tend to get the attention of talent acquisition specialists faced with evaluating otherwise similarly qualified candidates.

For Grinnell students, summer internships at TIAA-CREF Financial Services are the gold standard for superior learning opportunities. Since 2000, several Grinnell students have been fortunate to be accepted there each year. Not only do students discover an opportunity to develop their skills and career paths in meaningful ways, they find that much about the experience is distinctly Grinnellian.

## Values that resonate

**Michael Kahn '76** is senior managing director of corporate strategy and development at TIAA-CREF in New York City. He sponsors, mentors, and works closely with the majority of Grinnell interns, whether their student experiences are in midtown Manhattan or at another major TIAA-CREF campus, such as Charlotte, N.C.

“TIAA-CREF is a particularly great environment for Grinnell students,” says Kahn, who was elected to the Grinnell College Board of Trustees in May. “We’re a mission-driven organization. We exist to serve those who serve the greater good, which aligns well with how Grinnellians think about what their role in the world will be.

“We are really good at what we do, whether it’s broad financial services or sophisticated asset management,” Kahn says. “We’re aligned with the interests of all our clients and we produce great outcomes, so TIAA-CREF is a company that has values and capabilities that resonate with Grinnellians.”

## Challenging opportunities

Most important for students is that internships offer real *substance*, and Kahn says TIAA-CREF interns regularly work on assignments that not only are important to the company, but that constitute challenging student learning opportunities.

“Internships at TIAA-CREF typically involve working with senior level staff,” Kahn says. “Students are not buried deep in the organization. They actually get to work with people from whom they can learn a lot and who are really accomplished. I’ve even had students working on launches of new lines of business, which is something that interns would almost never get to do anywhere else.”

## Success stories

**David Jutrsa '15** was a Grinnellink summer intern at TIAA-CREF in 2013. “David worked on a potential major acquisition,” Kahn says. “It was a big deal, and it was complicated. As an intern you’d think you would never get near something that interesting, but he got to work with the core team and was in meetings with our most senior staff.”

Jutrsa recently accepted a research assistant position with the International Monetary Fund. “The TIAA-CREF internship exposed me to the world of business and really solidified my interest in finance,” Jutrsa says. “I would definitely recommend any Grinnellink internship with TIAA-CREF to students looking to break into these fields and connect what they learn in classes to the professional world.”

**Natalie Duncombe '15** also was a Grinnellink intern at TIAA-CREF in 2013. She says building a mentor relationship with Kahn was the most valuable aspect of her internship.

“His advice throughout the summer helped me get the most out of my time at TIAA-CREF, and he continued to help me with recommendation letters, as well as career, résumé, and interview advice,” Duncombe says. “Without him and my time at TIAA-CREF, I don’t know if I would have been as successful in securing my economic research assistant position at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in Washington, D.C.”

## Defining mentorship

**Megan Goering '08**, who interned at TIAA-CREF in 2006, says, “Interning with Michael defined the role and value of a mentor for me. At the time, I was really opening to discovery and my own personal capacity in a new way, and Michael’s example seeded lessons for me that continue to unfold nine years later.







Madeline Gray '16 completed her summer 2015 internship at TIAA-CREF's Manhattan office.

## An Exemplary Model

The Center for Careers, Life, and Service (CLS) plays an integral part in matching students with TIAA-CREF internship opportunities through the Grinnellink program, which builds on alumni connections.

**Megan Crawford**, CLS director of career counseling and exploration, credits Michael Kahn's personal efforts and the quality of the experiences for making TIAA-CREF internships hot commodities among Grinnell students interested in finance.

More than 40 Grinnell students have held summer internships at TIAA-CREF in the past 15 years, a level of involvement that Crawford says puts TIAA-CREF "in a league of its own" among Grinnellink partners.

**Mark Peltz**, Daniel and Patricia Jipp Finkelman Dean at CLS, calls Kahn a "champion" of the Grinnellink program and an "exemplary model" for the kinds of relationships it builds.

"It's fun to look at the list of former interns at TIAA-CREF and see the career paths they are on," Peltz says. "It is just one amazing success story after another."

Achieving a high level of success requires that students learn to apply their unique strengths and abilities in purposeful ways, and Peltz says that's not always easy without guidance from teachers, work-study supervisors, and mentors like Kahn.

"Those people are like your personal board of advisers," Peltz says. "If you have the opportunity to have someone like Michael Kahn along on your journey, you are pretty fortunate."

If you're interested in offering an internship, contact **Nate Dobbels**, assistant director of alumni relations for career programs, 641-269-3204 or [dobbelsn@grinnell.edu](mailto:dobbelsn@grinnell.edu).

"The consciousness, creativity, teacher and learner's spirit, and deep dignity and value Michael has for people shown through his work in a way that continues to light my path," Goering says. "Michael's way is soulful, honest, connective, endlessly creative, accountable for human principles, and just. There are good people in finance, and because of Michael's extension of his work through mentorship, perhaps there will continue to be more."

**Dolan Talukdar '05** was a student intern at TIAA-CREF for two summers, in 2003 and 2004. She says she watched the program evolve into one tailored to develop students' skills for a job in finance. "Having witnessed the partnership's initial progression under Michael, I am not surprised to see that it has become a mainstay at Grinnell," Talukdar says.

"From day one Michael came across as warm, quietly intelligent, and genuine," Talukdar says. "His management style convinced me that it was indeed possible to be an empathetic yet successful leader in finance, and I have tried to emulate his approach in my own career."

Talukdar says she still considers Kahn her "go-to mentor" and tries to renew the connection whenever Kahn's work brings him to London, where she currently lives and works. "We have wonderful conversations about Grinnell and TIAA-CREF's consistent collaboration with the school," she says.

## Alums make the difference

Kahn says he firmly believes that having engaged alumni involved in the internship process makes a big difference in the quality of student work experiences. He typically maintains close contact with students at TIAA-CREF, talking with them about their assignment and helping them think about how the internship can prepare them for a career.

"Having a Grinnell alum as an advocate in an internship situation brings additional value beyond the work assignment itself," Kahn says. "The College already does so much to prepare students for great things in life, and our internships are an excellent example of how Grinnell extends the community beyond the prairie to places like midtown Manhattan.

"I'm passionate about Grinnell, and I'm passionate about giving back to Grinnell in any way I can," Kahn says. "One of the best ways I believe I can do that is by being a resource to current students, as well as to younger alumni who may be early in their careers and looking for that type of guidance." ❧

# Giving



Photo by Justin Hayworth

## Supporting Innovations

### in Teaching in the Humanities, Social Sciences

*Alumni pledge \$1 million for ARH/Carnegie renovation project*

by Lisa Lacher

Undergraduates creating interactive translations of literary classics. Analyzing space, time, and motion as philosophical, as well as physical, phenomena. Discovering new ways of seeing the world by recording and analyzing endangered languages.

Grinnell College students and faculty will gain advanced opportunities to collaborate, create, and use new technologies in their pursuit of a greater understanding of humanity, thanks to a \$1 million pledge from **Karen Van Dusen '77** and **Joel Spiegel '78**. Their commitment will support the College's new humanities and social studies complex.

Van Dusen and Spiegel, a Grinnell College trustee, have made the largest pledge to date to a long-term plan to improve the College's academic spaces. The College expects to launch a public campaign next year to raise \$20 million for the project, which includes a major renovation of Alumni Recitation Hall (ARH) and Carnegie Hall.

Classrooms that accommodate the continuing transformation in

modes of teaching and technology are essential for introducing students to the full range of human ideas, says **Erik Simpson**, professor of English and Grinnell's principal investigator for the collaborative Digital Bridges project with the University of Iowa (Summer 2015, Page 12).

"More and more often," he says, "my students will talk about a novel around a table one hour and move to their computers to collaborate on a digital project the next. Bigger and more flexible classrooms will enable groups and individuals to switch between them seamlessly. Plus, well-designed informal spaces will encourage conversations to extend beyond class time."

The couple's new gift demonstrates their commitment to providing students with connected and relevant experiences, complementing great classroom teaching with direct exposure to different ways of looking at the world.

Van Dusen, who majored in political science, describes how Grinnell's broad-ranging approach expanded her own horizons. "I grew

up in a rural area in the mountains of Wyoming," she says. "I would sit and watch the license plates of cars passing through on their way to Yellowstone and wonder where those places were. Grinnell was my entry point into that larger world. I want to give other students with the same aspirations a chance to encounter the incredible range of human experience."

Spiegel agrees. "As a biology major, the humanities and social sciences opened my eyes to the world," he says. "These new learning spaces are important to us not just as bricks and mortar, but as a way of helping Grinnell pursue its original mission in a new time and context. This is about empowering faculty to help students see the world in new ways, so they can do great things for their own futures and for the common good." ❧

To learn more about the project, please contact **Shane Jacobson**, vice president for development and alumni relations, 641-269-3207.



## Alumni Council News

Grinnell's inaugural Global Day of Service a success

by Angela Onwuachi-Willig '94, Alumni Council president-elect

Thirteen-year-old Bethany Willig has never taken a class at Grinnell College, but as the daughter of a faculty member and an alumni couple, she feels linked to its strong tradition of service. That connection also is in large part due to her participation in the College's inaugural Global Day of Service during June 2015. "You could feel the togetherness in the air," she said. "It felt good to be surrounded by people who wanted to help others. And, we looked good in our matching T-shirts," she joked.

On or close to June 10, Founders' Day, Grinnellians not only looked good in their uniform red T-shirts that read #GCDayofService; they also "did good" by performing individual and group community service projects around the world. More than 365 people volunteered for this joint community effort. They represented 12 countries and 68 cities across 29 states and ranged in age from 4 to 75.

They engaged in Alumni Regional Planning Committee projects that included sorting donated clothing for at-risk youth at Cradles to Crayons in Massachusetts; painting fences for Partnerships for Parks in New York; collecting over 500 pounds of waste before any damage to marine life could occur in the Puget Sound area; clearing weeds and planting trees near the National AIDS Memorial in the San Francisco Bay area; and constructing 1,800 feet of trail to replace flood-damaged areas in Colorado.

Many participants expressed their gratitude for the event. **Kristin**

**Stout '89** from Minneapolis says, "I appreciated the fellowship in volunteering with Grinnellians on behalf of our community and felt fortunate to be able to support Second Harvest's mission by packaging pasta for distribution to their food-insecure clients."

In cities like Cincinnati where there were no regional planning committees, Grinnellians came together to provide key community services such as painting a house for lower income residents. In Guatemala, a small group that included **Jenny Dale '06** and **Lisa Hetzel '00** planted trees as part of a reforestation project called Plantemos 1000 Arboles. Others worked solo, like **Ashorkor Tetteh '04**, who volunteered with a nonprofit fair trade organization in Montreal, Quebec, to educate the public about fair trade, sustainable development, and socially responsible purchases.

Overall, the Global Day of Service was a huge success. Alumni



Grinnellians in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., volunteered at Second Harvest Heartland, a food bank, June 13, 2015.

Council members are eager to partner again with the Office of Development and Alumni Relations to plan the second annual Global Day of Service. Grinnell alumni are also looking forward to the next installment. As **Amanda Keledjian '08**, who helped plant native species to improve water quality in the Anacostia watershed near the District of Columbia, says, "Everyone worked really hard and had huge smiles on their faces at the end. I think it really showed that Grinnellians of all ages still love to give back to their communities, which is a quality we all learned to cherish in our time at the College. Everyone is already excited about next year's event and is inspired to continue doing service projects as a group."

To see more photos from Grinnell's Global Day of Service, visit [bit.ly/1MwX86i](http://bit.ly/1MwX86i).

## Prompted

The prompt: Describe how you randomly met a fellow Grinnellian, one you'd never met before.



### Paperwork

After I got admitted to Grinnell in 2013, I had to go to Chennai, India, for my U.S. student visa appointment. I was waiting for my turn and noticed that the two girls in front of me had been rejected. Naturally, I got extremely nervous and assumed that this officer was very strict and would say no to my application. He called me up to the window and I nervously handed my documents to him.

I stood quietly while he examined them and suddenly he looked straight up at me and said, "You're going to Grinnell?"

I quietly replied, "Yes."

He immediately exclaimed, "MY WIFE WENT TO GRINNELL!"

For the rest of the appointment, my visa officer continued to tell me how amazing Grinnellians are and that I was going to have an amazing time. At that point, I safely assumed that my visa was approved.

– **Meghna Usharani Ravishankar '17**, Bangalore, India

### Film Fans

**Kathryn Buck '68** and I, both German majors at Grinnell, are seen here in Northampton, Mass., as participants at the 2015 DEFA Summer Film Institute (i.e., East German film summer camp). We realized our Grinnell connection when I happened to be saying to fellow participants, "I went to this small college in Iowa, Grinnell ..." and Kathryn happened to pass by right at that moment. She said, "Me too! We should talk." And we did.



– **Evan Torner '04**, Cincinnati, Ohio

### Dream Job

I graduated in 1987; the "Seven Dwarfs" were running for the Democratic nomination. I did not get my dream job with [Michael] Dukakis, so I went to D.C. to visit my father. On a daily run, wearing a Grinnell T-shirt, I was stopped short by a guy saying, "Hey Grinnell!" In brief conversation, I discovered his boss, **Reid Wilson '82**, was running [Al] Gore's Iowa campaign. I took a chance and followed the guy to Reid's apartment. I was offered a job on the spot! Thanks, Reid, for getting me my dream job!

– **Jennifer Bishop '87**, Fairhaven, Mass.

### North Campus or South Campus?

It was the day after the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team won the World Cup, July 6, 2015. I was with my family at a rest stop in western Canada, on our way back to California after witnessing the triumphant victory over Japan. As I was exiting the bathroom, a woman stopped me, asking, "That can't be for Grinnell College in Iowa?" referring to the "Grinnell" emblazoned on my sweatshirt. Excited for the recognition, I assured her that it was, so naturally we stayed for a chat. She and her husband both graduated from Grinnell many years ago, and their children, a few years younger than I, are aspiring Grinnellians. There we were, alumni, current student and future students, at a rest stop, hundreds of miles away from our homes, over a thousand miles away from the prairie that connects us, discussing the age-old question: North Campus or South Campus?

– **Annika Helverson '18**, Venice, Calif.

### Prompt for Winter 2015

In honor of Georgia Dentel (see the story on Page 22), tell us about a memorable musical or theatrical performance at Grinnell — one from any era — that you enjoyed as either a performer or audience member. Submit to [magazine@grinnell.edu](mailto:magazine@grinnell.edu) with "performance" in the subject line. Due date: Oct. 26, 2015 Length: up to 250 words



## 1930S

### Claribel “Claire” Clark Taylor ’36

celebrated her 100th birthday recently; she was born on Oct. 27, 1914. Featured in the photo are her daughter, three granddaughters, and four great-granddaughters. Taylor lives in Atlanta and has been the church musician for several major congregations, including Central Presbyterian across the street from the State Capitol.



## 1940S

**1949**  
**Mary Seise Schnadt and Glenn Schnadt ’50** bought the historic A.D. German Warehouse, designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright, in Richland Center, Wis. The Schnadts purchased the building and made infrastructure improvements prior to gifting the building to the A.D. German Warehouse Conservancy, whose goal is to pursue restoration and reuse of the building. The Schnadts will receive the Save Wright Award from the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy in October 2015.



### Jay A. Bardole ’63

**Jay A. Bardole** received an honorary doctorate degree in science from Vincennes University, Ind., where he is professor emeritus of chemistry, May 2, 2015.

## 1960S

**1966**  
**Nancy Self Lindisfarne** is an editor for the *Sexism Class Violence* blog ([sexismclassviolence.wordpress.com](http://sexismclassviolence.wordpress.com)) and wrote a recent article, “Thinking about Feminism and Islamophobia 6: The Class Basis of the Taliban,” April 22, 2015.

**1967**  
**Richard Anderson** received the American Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery’s Outstanding Contribution award during the Oct. 17, 2014, scientific symposium in Chicago. “I was put in writing lab for no academic credit when I got to Grinnell with a note on my first paper, ‘If English is this man’s first language, he is in real trouble,’” Anderson writes. “Therefore, it is surprising even to me that this farm boy from Kellogg, Iowa, has written over 300 scientific papers, over 100 book chapters, and three books of oculoplastic/facial plastic surgery. I have helped develop this specialty of medicine over the past four decades.” He was professor and chief at the University of Iowa and University of Utah and is now in private practice as the medical director of AO Surgical Arts in Salt Lake City, Utah. He continues to run the training program for oculoplastic/facial plastic surgery.

**Arthur Arnold** writes: “My work revolves around research, writing, editing, teaching, and national service for NIH (National Institutes of Health), and OSSD (Organization for the Study of Sex Differences), my main professional organization. My research aims to understand biological factors (such as genes and hormones) that protect one sex from disease more than the other; the scientific journal that I edit publishes

articles on the same topic. This past year I attended a number of national meetings to promote gender equity in biomedical research, since even today the majority of research is performed on males with the incorrect assumption that females are not much different. One undergraduate course that I co-teach is a multiperspective discussion on what makes the two sexes similar and different, and why that matters (sometimes).”

**Jay Greener** attended the reunion of the 70th Engineer Battalion in Branson, Mo., in June. He writes: “A few years ago I became involved in the American Legion and I am now First Vice Commander of Harbor Post 417, Setauket, N.Y. Most of the time I am chaplain at wakes. I [was] honored as a returning hero at a [Long Island] Ducks game” in August, he says.

**Linda Mary Neal** was invited to participate in a two-week project [last] Christmas with Global Volunteers in China, teaching conversational English to middle school boys and girls in Kunming, Yunnah Province.

**1969**  
“During the last three years or so at the University of the Pacific,” writes **Patrick Cavanaugh**, “I worked on the biggest project of my career: to finance, buy, and renovate a 400,000-square-foot building south of Market in San Francisco for the [University of the Pacific’s] Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry.”

**Michael Domjan** recently created educational videos in which he plays the viola and discusses various issues connecting music with psychology. *The Tertis/Pavlov Project* is a series of videos with Lionel Tertis representing the viola and Pavlov representing psychology. The videos are available at [sites.utexas.edu/tertis/pavlovproject/video/](http://sites.utexas.edu/tertis/pavlovproject/video/).

**Susan Wright Stafursky** and husband Dick “have our own nonprofit, which we solely support,” she writes. “It is called the World Species Forest in Conway, Mass., 86 acres of preserved forest, which is conserved in perpetuity.”

## “Finance Is Cool”

Grinnellink internship led to passion for diversification in work and life

Photo by Joseph V. Labolito



While growing up in Islamabad, boys were encouraged to become engineers and girls to be physicians, recalls **Ahsan Rahim ’11**.

“Everything else was just a waste of time, according to my family.” That’s why he intended to major in physics and math at Grinnell and study engineering through a joint program at Dartmouth College before going to graduate school in engineering.

But as an excuse to live in New York City, he couldn’t resist doing a summer internship in alternative investments for TIAA-CREF through the Grinnellink internship program. The experience surprised him. “I realized I liked the unpredictability of the financial markets.” Even so, he dutifully followed through with his plan to study engineering.

While spending his junior year at Dartmouth “in the cold hills of New Hampshire,” he thought often about how much he preferred the chaos of the trading floor to the order of the instructional machine shop at the Thayer School of Engineering. The following summer in New York, he interned in market risk for securitized products with Deutsche Bank. For him, the experience confirmed that “finance is cool.” He decided to return to Grinnell with a new major: economics. Rahim

currently works as a portfolio analyst at AllianceBernstein in New York, with plans to start his M.B.A. studies this fall at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School.

“Finance isn’t just about numbers and getting the right answers on math problems,” Rahim says about his work. “Finance is as much about the stories as the numbers, and there are often no right answers.”

Take the Japanese auto market, for example. Maybe you see it has a bad day. “People think, ‘Oh, a big part of the auto market is Japanese cars, so demand for cars must be falling, so any supplying car maker will suffer, even a small U.S. auto-parts maker that only supplies U.S. car makers.’ But if you understand the story — that the yen had one poor day, but it was just a one-time event — then you may decide to buy when others are selling.” Emotions and feelings create a story and influence reality; that’s what keeps him hooked.

He credits the interdisciplinary approach at Grinnell with helping him value the interrelation of information, stories, and knowledge. While math skills are a part of his decision-making, principles from sociology and psychology help him factor in the ways fear, greed, and groupthink can dominate fundamentals and logic.

Rahim leads a multidimensional life outside of work — a pattern established at Grinnell. “In Islamabad, nobody cared about cocurricular activities; their future was based on their exam results.” But he quickly realized there was more than academics at Grinnell. Besides working on campus 15 hours a week — washing dishes in the dining hall, “grading students’ chicken scratch” in calculus, and working in the art gallery — Rahim also volunteered at Grinnell Community Daycare, served as vice president of Mortar Board, was president and founder of the Muslim Student Association, played club and intramural soccer, and served on various committees.

His life in New York echoes the same broad scope and fast pace. He mentors children through iMentor and Teak Mentor, organizations that help low-income students achieve their ambitions. Rahim is president of the board for a New York nonprofit that encourages literacy among minority youth. Serving as Grinnell’s regional planning coordinator for alumni volunteers in the New York region is his “selfish pleasure, an excuse to meet Grinnellians in New York.” He otherwise explores the city. “The point of living in New York City is to enjoy what you can only get there.” For Rahim, that means museums, restaurants, and Broadway plays.

Does he second-guess his decision not to be an engineer? Not at all. If not for his experience at Dartmouth, he wouldn’t have known for sure that he didn’t want to be an engineer.

“I had to try it out first. That’s the investor in me that always wants to be diversified.”

— Suzanne Kelsey



## 1970s

1970

**Bruce Nissen** received the 2015 Marilyn Gittell Activist Scholar award from the Urban Affairs Association. The award is given to the academic scholar who has done the most to put his scholarship to work in social justice. Nissen is a faculty member at Florida International University, Miami.

1972

The New York County Lawyers Association, one of the largest local bar associations in the United States, installed **Carol Sigmond** as president June 1, 2015. Her goal is to address both internal changes at the association and external issues affecting the justice system.

1973

**Irma McClaurin's** column entitled "A Black Mother Weeps for America: STOP KILLING OUR BLACK SONS!" won highest honors for *Insight News* of Minneapolis, taking first place, best in nation, Emory O. Jackson Column Writing Award for the Black Press of America. The award was one of 16 categories of merit awards to member publications for stellar, exemplary work in newspaper journalism, presented by the National Newspaper Publishers Association at its annual convention. The award is named after Emory O. Jackson, a civil rights activist and editor of the *Birmingham News* 1941–1975. McClaurin's column is online at [bit.ly/1JDh8lg](http://bit.ly/1JDh8lg). McClaurin is culture and education editor for *Insight News* and an activist anthropologist, writer, and proponent of diversity and inclusiveness leadership. She is chief diversity officer at Teach for America.

1974

**Michael Kump**, a founding partner of Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert LLP, in Santa Monica, Calif., was recently included in the Top 100 Power Lawyers 2015, *Entertainment Industry: The Hollywood Reporter*, April 2015. Kump was also named in *Variety's* "Legal Impact Report 2015," April 2015,

and recognized in *Chambers USA Guide* 2015.

1975

The Brooklyn College Foundation, New York, has elected **Leonard Kurz** trustee.

1976

"I'm on my mission to change the way we eat in America and around the world and rebuild topsoils in the process," writes **David Schafer**. "As president of the American Pastured Poultry Producers Association, [I'm] telling you that is now my job! My most fun job is a live poultry processing demo at each of the *Mother Earth News* fairs across the country. At my side in this demo is the famous lunatic farmer Joel Salatin, hero of [Michael] Pollan's *Omnivore's Dilemma* and *Food, Inc.* Come catch our gig at a town near you."

1977

**David Cantor** wrote "Beyond Humanism, toward a New Animalism" in *Circles of Compassion: Essays Connecting Issues of Justice*, edited by Will Tuttle, published by Vegan Publishers in 2014.

**Jonathan Herman '77** and his family enjoyed a reunion with relatives (and the descendants of relatives) long thought killed during the Holocaust. After doing the historical research, Herman wrote the story and published it in the winter/spring 2014 issue of *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*. The story has many twists and turns — his grandmother surviving a

pogrom while in her early teens, vivid memories of massacres in a Ukrainian shtetl, and a single photograph — thought to have disappeared seventy years ago — facilitating the recovery of lost family. Read the story at [bit.ly/1HYohiG](http://bit.ly/1HYohiG).

**Robert Skolnik** won first place in the best government beat reporting category for midsized non-daily newspapers at the annual Illinois Press Association contest. He also finished third place in the Robert M. Cole Award for school board coverage, larger weekly newspaper category, June 2015. He writes for the *Riverside Brookfield Landmark* newspaper in Riverside and Brookfield, Ill.

1978

**Lee Arnold** and Tijen Arin announced the birth of their second child, a second son, Davis Arin Arnold, May 1, 2015.

**Jack Carpenter** began teaching at University of California-Berkeley in August 2014. "I am a lecturer in the theatre, dance, and performance studies department, teaching two classes in stage lighting design, mentoring up to six advanced students through their own designs, and designing two main stage productions per semester. It all started in Grinnell..." he writes.

**Blake Downes** and Barbara Szurek celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at the end of June. "Life is good," Downes writes.



### Sasha M. Aslanian '90

The radio documentary series *Betrayed by Silence*, reported and produced by Madeleine Baran and **Sasha M. Aslanian** and edited by Mike Edgerly, Minnesota Public Radio News' news director, received more prestigious awards. In May 2015 MPR News won the George Foster Peabody Award. *Betrayed by Silence* received page one awards for story of the year and for best continuing coverage online by the Minnesota chapter of the Society of Professional Journalism. The series received a Radio Television Digital News Association regional Edward R. Murrow Award and awards from the Religion Newswriters Association and the Midwest Broadcast Journalist Association. The documentary is an unflinching, deeply reported story that revealed how leaders of the Minnesota archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis over the decades systematically shielded priests who sexually abused children while claiming the archdiocese was a national leader in prevention.

**Justin Halpern** was appointed chair of the Department of Finance, Accounting, Business Law, and Economics at Northeastern State University, July 1, 2015.

"I am entering my ninth month of this 12-month glorious year in Rwanda," **Ann Lion** reports. "Yes, I have visited the gorillas, gone on a couple safaris, learned a few words of Kinyarwanda, become more informed about the 1994 genocide, read more books, eaten healthy food, and decided it's time to work on the retirement plan."

**Dr. Donald Renfrew** was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Radiology in Washington, D.C., May 2015.

**Cindy Wagner** is now senior editor of *Scrap*, the magazine of the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Washington, D.C.

## 1980s

1985

**Heidi B. Brumbaugh** received her Ph.D. in linguistics from the Senate at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C., Canada, June 2015.

**Bob Stryker** recently completed an e-learning module designed for middle and high school students. The e-learning module demonstrates the extreme effort it took for high school and college-age protesters of the 1960s to nonviolently challenge and reverse the legalized segregation at many public accommodations. The National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tenn., launched Stryker's project, "Standing Up by Sitting Down," to further the museum's mission. The project was initially conceived as a Wall Alumni Award project but did not win finalist status. Verizon sponsored it instead. See [civilrightsmuseum.org](http://civilrightsmuseum.org).

1986

**Kimberly Judis Friedman** has been promoted to senior director of business development at the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) national service

office. She has worked in business development for the past seven years at NFP. As senior director of business development, she supports the national growth and sustainability of its programs across the United States. The partnership is a national, evidence-based home-visiting program serving first-time moms and children living in poverty.

**Claire Verrette Mathias** writes: "I have a new gig at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. This February I joined the institutional advancement team as director of advancement services. I've missed being in an academic setting, because I feel like I can be myself for the first time in a long time. That includes being a Grinnellian, because practically everyone here is familiar with Grinnell College (one colleague's kid graduated from Grinnell in '06). And I can make literary or historical references that people actually get! Also, for the first time in years, I'm working somewhere with actual work-life balance. We are strongly encouraged to keep it to 40 hours, plus there is plenty of vacation. What a notion!" Her husband **David Mathias '85** and son Joseph get to see more of her, she says.

**Kent Staley** was on sabbatical this past academic year, "which is a benefit of having been at the same job in the philosophy department at St. Louis University for 14 years (which seems impossible)," he writes. "This is also the year that we ended our adventure in home-schooling our daughter Nora (at her request) and enrolled her in the St. Michael School of Clayton [Mo.], where she is in the fourth grade. She loves being in school, and I have been able to work at home in relative quiet. My wife Dianne and I have even been able to enjoy some weekday time together doing things like taking walks to the St. Louis Art Museum."

**Neil Weintraub**, a Kaibab National Forest archaeologist, was named 2015 professional archaeologist of the year by the Arizona Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission in June 2015. He was recognized by the commission

for his significant contributions to the protection and preservation of Arizona's nonrenewable archaeological resources. He provides dozens of outreach and interpretive programs annually, reaching out to hundreds of people — including volunteer partners and Grinnell College interns — with his stewardship message. See also "For Love of Running," Page 39.

1987

**Thomas Eissenberg** won the University Distinguished Scholarship Award, the highest honor bestowed on faculty scholars at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond. He is a professor of health psychology and director of the Center for the Study of Tobacco Products, a World Health Organization collaborating center.

Several essays have recently been published by **Grant Faulkner**: "Writing Flash Fiction: Telling a Story with What's Left Out," *Writer's Digest*, May/June 2015, Vol. 95, No. 4.; "Naked (On the Page) and Afraid," *Writer's Digest*, July/August 2015, Vol. 95, No. 5; "More Ideas Faster: Writing with Abandon," *Poets & Writers*, January/February 2015. See his website: [www.grantfaulkner.com](http://www.grantfaulkner.com). Also see "Artists and Scholars," Page 12.

1988

**Toby Ewing** writes: "**Andrew McKean** called out our class to show up in Classnotes. Cheers, Andrew. Carla and I continue to live in Sacramento, Calif., with our daughters Lily (13) and Mallory (10). We are in the midst of all things summer: soccer, swim team, camping, voracious reading, etc. Carla is making a career change as she enters the medical field as a child life specialist helping children cope with the challenges of being hospitalized. I recently moved from working for the California legislature to running a state agency that oversees California's mental health system. Nearly every day I deal with issues that I began to think about at Grinnell — the structural drivers of racial and ethnic disparities, the effectiveness of government programs, the role of research and analysis in



decision-making, and the value of public advocacy and accountability. I owe much to Chris Hunter, Kent McClelland, Ilse Leitingner, Kesho Scott, and the rest of the Grinnell community.”

## 1990s

**1990**  
**David Gerard** presented “Is It Warm in Here? The Intractable Challenge of Climate Change” on May 14, 2015, at Lawrence University’s convocation series finale in Appleton, Wis. He was chosen as speaker and the recipient of Lawrence’s annual Faculty Convocation Award, which honors a faculty member for distinguished professional work.

**1991**  
**Jessica Weisel** wrote the amicus brief cited by Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy on Page 6 of his majority opinion on *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the landmark same-sex marriage ruling, June 2015.

**1994**  
**Heidi Shierholz** was named chief economist to the U.S. Secretary of Labor, August 2014.

**1995**  
**Colleen G. Thomas** and Rodrigo Torres married in Crockett, Calif., April 8, 2015. Created in the style of the Cosmic Mass, the wedding was a community celebration of relationship. The wedding party included *Patricia Elwell Zetelumen*, *Brian Darr*, and *Julie Gard* from the class of 1995.

**1996**  
**Amy Goldmacher** writes she and Joseph Yaker married Jan. 2, 2015, on the Hawaiian island of Kauai. It was a small ceremony on Shipwreck Beach, attended by the officiant, the photographer, and the ukelele player.

**Stephanie K. Hitztaler** and Jani K. Onninen announced the birth of their second child, first daughter, Vera Katherine Onninen, Dec. 5, 2014.

**Yianis Sarafidis** was promoted to vice

president at Charles River Associates, April 2015.

**1997**  
**Amy Scott** directed *Oyler*, a documentary film produced in association with American Public Media’s Marketplace. It tells the story of a dramatic turnaround in one of Cincinnati’s poorest neighborhoods. Based on the award-winning Marketplace radio series *One School, One Year*, *Oyler* takes viewers through a year at Oyler School, focusing on the principal’s mission to transform a community and on a senior’s quest to be the first in her troubled family to finish high school and go to college. For a screening see [www.oylerdocumentary.com](http://www.oylerdocumentary.com).

**1998**  
Three Grinnellians reported finishing times for the 2015 Boston Marathon: **Andrew and Amy Moore '99 Broadmoore** at 2:56:48 and 3:34:09, respectively; and **Sarah Batterman '06** at 3:50:43.

## 2000s

**2000**  
**Andrew Derksen** reports he is “an invasive species biologist with the Florida Department of Agriculture in Miami. In the last five years I have identified a number of incipient invasions and was personally responsible for the successful eradication of at least one, the dread cotton seed bug, *Oxyacarenus hyalinipennis*.” He wrote “Expansion and impact of laurel wilt in the Florida Everglades” with Leroy Rodgers and Tony Pernas, *Florida Entomologist*, Vol. 97, No. 3, September 2014.

**Rachel Edwards Harvith** is associate artistic director of Chicago Dramatists, a theatre focused on nurturing playwrights. Harvith also works around the greater Chicago area as a freelance director, specializing in developing new work and reimagining classics. Her 2014 production of Stephen Sondheim’s *Assassins* was selected as *Time Out Chicago*’s No. 5 pick for Chicago show of 2014.

The final season of television series *Glee* wrapped up in February. For **Sarah Hodges Olivieri**, this marked her fourth year working on the series as second second assistant director. Olivieri headed back to television work in the summer and is looking forward to another new adventure.

**Samuel Sellers**, aka Rabbi Darkside, has been brought onboard as an adjunct professor at the New School in New York City for fall 2015. His seminar Hip-Hop Pedagogy and Practice explores the intersection of the hip-hop elements, hip-hop education, critical pedagogy, and social justice through research, discourse, and performance. He also traveled in June 2015 as a hip-hop music ambassador to Uganda for three weeks as part of the Next Level Initiative, a collaboration between the U.S. State Department and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

**2001**  
**John Aerni-Flessner** writes that he and wife **Lauren Aerni-Flessner '04** sold their house in Cortland, N.Y. and moved to East Lansing, Mich., “where we are now working at Michigan State University. Lauren is a grant writer and I am an assistant professor in the residential college in the arts and humanities.”

**Peter De Kock** and Jennifer De Kock announced the birth of their second child, second son, Peter James Colletti De Kock, March 19, 2014.

**2002**  
**Robert Barron** and Omar Padilla kicked off a new Latino Political Network (LPN), a first-of-its-kind organization focused on an increase in the number of Latino elected officeholders across the state of Iowa through education and empowerment. LPN offers classes focused on all facets of political campaigning and selective service. See [lpniowa.com](http://lpniowa.com).

**Jefferson Mok** traveled to India in Sept. 2014 with colleagues and produced a short documentary on India’s “third gender.” His photos were published

## For Love of Running

Alum builds community through fun, fitness, and charity

**Neil Weintraub '86** is driven by two enduring passions. One is his job at Kaibab National Forest, for which he earned honors as 2015 professional archaeologist of the year from the Arizona Governor’s Archaeology Advisory Commission.

The other is running. Weintraub discovered it at the age of 12 when a neighbor in Scarsdale, N.Y., spurred his interest in the local 15K. “I was one of the few young kids doing distances, and I took pride in that,” Weintraub says. “It was fun because I did it on my own time. I had no interest in being coached.”

Running was not Weintraub’s main athletic interest. Baseball was, and running put him in shape for it. He played four years at Grinnell and was co-captain for two. “We had a great time,” he says, “but my baseball career ended right then and there.”

When Weintraub graduated and moved to Flagstaff, Ariz., he found a runner’s paradise in the Coconino National Forest — “an enormous backyard with endless trail systems.” He learned the benefits of training at higher altitudes (7,000 to 12,000 feet). He also developed a competitive urge.

“I never hit that runner’s high that people talk about,” Weintraub says. “It was the mental part of it — being able to do something, go farther. Eventually a marathon became the goal.”

Weintraub ran the downhill St. George (Utah) Marathon (“I wasn’t going to miss that one!”) and fulfilled his goal of running the New York City Marathon. While training for his “dream” race, the Boston Marathon, he tried to out-burst a friend in a 200-yard sprint. “I heard a pop, and there went the hamstring,” he says. “That is a pain I



Photo by: Northern Arizona Trail Runners Association

do not want to relive.”

After his injury, Weintraub “took a step back” and embraced trail running. In 2001, he ran the Soulstice Mountain Trail Run through Coconino. “I had the time of my life,” he says. Soon after, Weintraub founded the Northern Arizona Trail Runners Association (NATRA.org), in part to revive the Soulstice event that had been drawing only about 30 runners.

Weintraub’s group compiled a Listserv of 500 locals and put a NATRA run on the calendar for every weekend. “We haven’t missed a Saturday in 14 years, except on days with popular charity runs,” he says.

“Every run I attend has this wonderful sense of fun, community, and charity support, and I know that is a reflection of Neil’s spirit and dedication to organizing these events.”

Today, NATRA invites people of all abilities to run, walk, and join in the weekend social activities. “We call ourselves a coffee drinking group with a running problem,” Weintraub says. “We spend more time talking and drinking coffee afterward than

we do on the actual run.”

“Flagstaff has an incredible running community, and Neil is the heart of it all,” says **Missy Ebitz Freshour '92**. “Every run I attend has this wonderful sense of fun, community, and charity support, and I know that is a reflection of Neil’s spirit and dedication to organizing these events.”

As for NATRA’s success with the Soulstice Mountain Trail Run, it has been listed as one of the top 32 trail races in the country by *Runner’s World* magazine. The October event raises \$5,000 annually for Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring programs. An April lottery fills the

field of 225 runners.

“It’s the smallest race on the list,” Weintraub says, “but it’s known for having the best post-race party, inspired by none other than the Grinnell Relays!”

— Denton Ketels



in *The Huffington Post India* entitled “Pictures: A Peek Into the Lives of the ‘Third Gender;’” and the photographs were featured on [NBCNews.com](#), June 2015, entitled “India’s Third Gender.”

**Dr. Dan Olson** completed his fellowship in pediatric infectious diseases at the University of Colorado-Denver Hospital and has secured a faculty position at the university’s Children’s Hospital. He is currently working on a vaccine trial project for dengue fever in Guatemala.

#### 2003

**Leah Cameron Blasiak** and Rob Hagan announced the birth of their first child, a son, Michael Angus Hagan, Feb. 20, 2015.

#### 2004

**Alice Anderson** and Ben Cochran announced the birth of their second child, first daughter, Cleo Josephine Cochran, May 11, 2015.

**Melissa Colon** and Lamar Stagg were married July 26, 2014. She also received her M.B.A. from the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College, New York, May 2015.

**Naomi Bethel Olson** received her Ph.D. in Slavic languages and literatures from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, May 7, 2015.

#### 2007

**Nathan Kimball** and Noemie Hamon announced the birth of their first child, a boy, Fanch Kimball Hamon, Feb. 27, 2015.

**Quenna Lalonde** and Greg Flattich announced the birth of their first child, a daughter, Cleo Lalonde Flattich, Feb. 5, 2015. Maternal grandparents are *Pamela Lalonde '85* and *Christopher Northrop '83*. Gerald Lalonde, professor emeritus of classics, is maternal great-grandparent.

#### 2008

**Deborah Kaiser Doleshal** and **Todd Doleshal** announced the birth of their first child, a son, Zachary David Doleshal, May 15, 2015. Maternal uncle is *Ben Kaiser '02*.

**Shannon Walker-Silvey** and Daniel Silvey announced the birth of their first child, a daughter, Jolene Elizabeth Silvey, Nov. 11, 2014.

#### 2009

**Miranda Paley** received her Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of California, Irvine, December 2014. She has moved to Washington, D.C., and works for the American Chemical Society as the managing editor of a new high-impact, open-access journal called *ACS Central Science*, which launched in March 2015.

## 2010S

#### 2011

**Allison Brinkhorst** received her master’s of nonprofit management with a concentration in equity and social justice and a certificate in intercultural competency from the University of Oregon, Eugene, June 2015. She is now a development coordinator at Ecotrust in Portland, Ore.

**Justin Chang** and **Kelly Helbach '13** were married June 20, 2015.

**Tasha Popkin** received her master’s of health care administration from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, May 2015.

**Tasha Popkin** and **Mark Rosenberg** were married June 13, 2015 in Larkspur, Colo. The wedding party included *Kathryn Hardy '13* and *Pun Winichakul '13*. Attending were *Nora Colter*, *Meredith Decker*, and *Dorothy Sheu*, class of 2010; *Nathan Clubb*, *Sarah Ervin*, *Mona Ghadiri*, *Nate Hoch*, *Cara Rowe Hoch*, *Caroline Kory*, *Elizabeth Maltby*, *Andrew Mullins*, *Ben Offenberger*, *Maia Olsen*, *Tom Rothe*, and *Phil Sletten*, class of 2011; *Daryl Brost*, *Greg Fox*, and *Evan Wright*, class of 2012; and *Kelsey Englehardt Brost*, *Jay Dreier*, *Rachael Koester*, *Ian Luby*, *Alex Marker*, and *Stephanie Rouse*, class of 2013.

#### 2012

**David Cummings** and **Josephine “JoJo” Ju** were married in Iowa City, Iowa, April 18, 2015. The wedding party included, from the class of 2012, *Glenda Lopez Portillo* and *Emma Rellergert*; and from the class of 2013, *Kate Doyle*, *Robert Logan*, and *Mary Rellergert*.

**Max Farrell** and Andrew Kirpalani have been accepted by Straight Shot, an Omaha startup accelerator, in its third class of startups. Farrell and Kirpalani’s new company, WorkHound, has a goal of fixing communication gaps within the trucking industry by allowing drivers to provide feedback while on the road. The accelerator puts startups through 90 days of business development and mentor connections.

#### 2015

**Silvia Foster-Frau** writes in her article, “Student Life: Wiping one whiteboard clean,” for the *The Register-Mail*, Galesburg, Ill., Jan. 29, 2015, about graduating from college and the journey to her first job. See her article at [bit.ly/1LymKiF](#).

**Lea Marolt Sonnenschein** and **Joe Wlos** launched Presevent, a website for an iOS mobile application. Presevent tracks the speeches, fundraisers, and events of the 2016 presidential candidates. The app’s mission is to promote political transparency and involvement by delivering event details to users in an engaging and informative platform.

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Deadlines:  
Winter 2015 Issue: Oct. 10, 2015  
Spring 2016 Issue: Jan. 15, 2016

## Social Justice for Peanuts

Alumna veterinarian advocates for animals

Photo by Jack Mathews



Veterinarian **Sara Mathews '82** landed in jail in May in Vero Beach, Fla. — on behalf of a dog named Peanut.

Mathews and husband Dan Clifton own Dr. Dan’s Animal Hospital in Vero Beach. On a Friday afternoon, an assistant’s pup — an exuberant, 13-month-old shelter adoptee — broke his owner’s fence and went on the lam, startling a woman walking two small dogs. The woman called a city animal control officer, who elected to take the dog to the local Humane Society just as it was closing for the day.

As the dog’s veterinarian who offers free care for animals adopted by her staff, Mathews knew Peanut was microchipped. “In a perfect world, the officer could have checked for the chip and returned the dog to its owner,” she explains, noting that animal control pays \$77 to take an animal to the shelter, causing taxpayers unnecessary expense.

On Saturday morning Mathews’ assistant asked Mathews to accompany her to the Humane Society as a witness. The arresting officer was not on duty, so Mathews phoned him, asking politely for the dog’s release. The officer refused.

“There was no reason whatsoever to keep the dog over the weekend,” says Mathews. “Keeping a dog in a shelter for three days increases its exposure to diseases. Plus it’s just stressful on the animals and on the owners.”

Returning on Monday with her assistant, Mathews sat quietly in the back of the room, but when the control officer saw her, he asked her to leave. She refused, explaining that she was the dog’s veterinarian and wanted to make sure he was healthy after being held all weekend.

The officer cuffed Mathews, arrested her for trespassing, and took her to the jail. She was released a few hours later after posting a small bond. Two days later, charges were dropped — Mathews believes because of backlash from community supporters. Peanut’s owner received a \$115 ticket because the dog was running at large and was charged a \$40 impoundment fee.

“My whole point was just to encourage animal control officers to stop unnecessary holds on animals,” says Mathews.

There’s a larger picture that explains the extra tension that day with the officer — and in that picture are feral cats.

Mathews is known in the community for her preference for spaying and neutering, rather than killing, stray cats. She performs the procedures pro bono when a volunteer team traps the strays in response to community sightings. Before their release, the animals are ear tagged so the public knows they have been fixed and received rabies shots.

Mathews’ goal is the same as that of local animal control officers — to reduce free-roaming cats in the community. “But my method of trying to maintain colonies is upsetting to the officers. I’m interfering in their ability to do their job, which is to trap and euthanize.”

This ongoing conflict was likely what led to Peanut’s disproportionately long sentence in the shelter last May, as well as to Mathews’ own impoundment.

She won’t make a habit of going to jail, says Mathews. “But I would do it again. It is just in my heart to care for animals that don’t have anybody caring for them. I can’t just leave them. It’s my way of carrying on the Grinnell spirit.”

— Suzanne Kelsey





Photo by Justin Hayworth

## Thoughts into Pictures

How one alumna is using drawing as a thinking tool

From a young age, **Brandy Agerbeck '96** knew she was destined to be a visual learner. “When I was a kid I would sit and do these obsessively detailed drawings,” she says. “I was happiest if I could turn an assignment into a craft project.”

And that’s just what she did when she came to Grinnell. Agerbeck initially resisted her First-Year Tutorial on utopian literature because, she says, “I was never really a reader.” But when the time came to complete her final project, she had a moment of inspiration that proved to be a powerful portent of her life to come.

“First, I busied myself turning my paper into a small, hand-bound manifesto of my utopia for each classmate. Then, the night before I had to give my final presentation, I pictured it, and it sort of all came to me in one image. So the next morning when I gave the speech, I switched between facing the class and talking and turning my back and drawing,” she recalls. “I consider that to be the seed of what I now do for a living.”

Not long after graduating, Agerbeck had a job interview with the consulting company Ernst & Young. “I told this man that I could draw, and he instantly lit up,” Agerbeck says. “He pointed across the meeting space where someone was drawing on a white board in front of all these people. And he said, ‘You’re doing that in 20 minutes.’ I said, ‘Well, of course I am!’”

After three years developing her skills at Ernst & Young, Agerbeck began her independent graphic facilitation practice in 1999. “I look at my field and there are a lot of people who think you can just show up with

a roll of paper and some markers and think, ‘I get to draw!’”

Agerbeck says the process is actually much more complicated. “I try to deemphasize the drawing because it’s really more about making people feel listened to and helping to find the connections and patterns in the conversations people are having. I’ve always been a good synthesizer; it’s just the way I was wired.”

Thanks to an intuitive dream, Agerbeck was inspired to write a book about her methods, *The Graphic Facilitator’s Guide: How to use your listening, thinking and drawing skills to make meaning*. Although she felt compelled to write about the professional role she was known for, she has been waiting for the right moment to write about how anyone can use visual thinking on an individual level.

“That’s what excites me. I truly believe that this second book is what I’ve been put on Earth to write,” Agerbeck says. “This is why I’m here.”

Her second book, *The Idea Shapers: The power of putting your thinking into your own hands*, is just one of the ways Agerbeck is working to make her methods accessible to people outside her field. She has presented at numerous conferences as well as a TEDx event and is transitioning into more teaching and speaking roles.

“I have been the one person drawing in the room for a group of people,” Agerbeck says. “Now, it’s about getting everyone to pick up paper and pen and draw out their ideas.”

— Elise Hadden '14

## In Memoriam

**Lyle Pursell**, former Grinnell College professor, Rolla, Mo., June 6, 2015. Pursell taught mathematics at Ohio State University and Grinnell College before joining the faculty of the University of Missouri-Rolla (now Missouri University of Science and Technology) in 1967. Survivors include his sons, *John Pursell '74* and *David Pursell '79*.

### 1930S

**Anna L. Blaul '31**, Minneapolis, May 1, 2015. She attended Grinnell College and Simmons College and worked as a secretary for her grandfather’s business before marrying James Poehler Blaul in 1933. The couple traveled extensively and enjoyed ballroom dancing. She loved gardening, needlework, and bridge and was an enthusiastic golfer up to her 94th year. She was an active member of the Colony Park Church in Edina, Minn., as well as the Edina Women’s Club and the Minneapolis Women’s Club. She is survived by her twin daughters, six grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

### 1940S

**Fran Furry Strome '40**, Naples, Fla., June 16, 2014.

**Helen Potter Webb '41**, Wayzata, Minn., Feb. 6, 2015. She is survived by her sisters *Marian Potter McKeon '43* and *Lois Potter Schmidt '55*.

**Lauren “Larry” York '41**, April 23, 2015, Tulsa, Okla. Larry met his wife of 70 years, *Aggie Morse York '41* (deceased), when they were students at Grinnell. After graduating from the University of Iowa, Larry served in World War II as a Navy lieutenant. In 1947, the Yorks moved to Tulsa where Larry launched a 58-year career as a CPA, also lending his accounting expertise to local nonprofit boards. Larry enjoyed traveling with Aggie, golfing well into his 80s, and singing in the church choir. He is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and

nieces *Nancy Wolf Rosenblum '64* and *Sally Wolf Robinson '65*, and great-niece, *Amy Robinson '92*.

**Halcyon Heline Botkin '42**, Marcus, Iowa, July 6, 2014.

**Marjorie Hewlett Madsen '42**, San Diego, Dec. 29, 2014.

**Aubrey Lester “Les” Buck, Jr. '43**, March 2, 2015, San Antonio, Texas. He attended Grinnell for two years prior to his military service. After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1944, Les served on the *USS Saratoga* and the *USS Remora* (SS487). After resigning his commission in 1948, he joined General Electric Company and later Litton Industries as head of its Washington, D.C., office. Les later led the D.C. office of newly-formed Teledyne, Inc. Upon retirement, Les moved first to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and then relocated to Brownsville, Texas, where he opened the office of AG Edwards and Sons, a regional stock brokerage firm. He was celebrated at a family service at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

**Margaret McCall Halasey '44**, Kilauea, Hawaii, Sept. 22, 2014. She is survived by her husband Tom, four children, seven grandchildren, and a brother.

**June Guhl Dorathy '45**, Naples, Fla., April 12, 2015.

**Sawato John Hatakeda '45**, Visalia, Calif., Jan. 16, 2014. After his release from an internment camp during World War II, John attended Grinnell College for one year before returning to his father’s farm in Ivanhoe, Calif. In 1945, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he studied language intelligence before being honorably discharged in 1946. He returned to his father’s ranch and soon after married Yoshiko Nagata, who was his wife for 64 years. He and his family farmed numerous crops in California for 70 years, and he was a dedicated outdoorsman and fisherman. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

**Wilford L. “Bill” Stone '45**, Coppell, Texas, June 22, 2014. Bill attended Grinnell College and the University of Iowa before joining the Marine Corps in 1942. He served with distinction in both World War II and the Korean War before retiring with the rank of major in 1963. He went on to work for and later own Lola Grant Personnel in Oklahoma City, as well as the State of Oklahoma Employment Commission before his final retirement in 1987. He was an active volunteer for many Oklahoma City organizations and was active in the Masonic Guild. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, one granddaughter, and a great-nephew.

**Anita Franz Mintz '46**, Washington, D.C., March 16, 2015. She is survived by her husband, three children, and 10 grandchildren.

**Walter Eugene Schluter '46**, Minneapolis, Dec. 25, 2014. Walter joined the U.S. Marine Corps when he was 17 and served in World War II. Upon returning from the war, he attended Grinnell College and the University of Iowa, where he met his wife Martha. He was a talented cartoon artist and writer and remained an active baseball player and enthusiast until late in life. Survivors include two children, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

**Barbara Holden Sheridan '46**, Palmyra, Va., Jan. 3, 2015. She is survived by four daughters, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**Nyhla “Beth” Yates Strong '46**, Oneonta, N.Y., March 2, 2015. After graduating from Grinnell College and then Columbia University Library School in New York, Beth worked as a librarian at the University of Wisconsin, Columbia University, and Princeton University. She later worked as a librarian at *The Daily Star* in Oneonta from 1977 until she retired in 1991. She was a founding member and president of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill in Otsego County, an advocacy organization for individuals



with mental illness. Because of her dedication to educating the public about mental illness, she was named a Woman of Distinction by Sen. James Seward in the New York State Senate Women of Distinction Program. She also served as vice president of Country Horizons Otsego, an organization that provides residential and vocational programs for the mentally ill. Survivors include two children, a grandchild, and three great-grandchildren.

**Mary Helen Jackson Goodnight '47**, San Antonio, Feb. 23, 2015. She attended Grinnell College and the University of Texas honors music program in Austin, graduating with a B.A. in music. While in Austin, she worked for Texas author J. Frank Dobie and met her husband Eddie Goodnight, whom she married in 1949. They owned the Goodnight Funeral Home for 30 years, during which time she also taught music at many public schools. She returned to summer school to receive her master's in American studies from Baylor University in 1975. She was an avid reader who enjoyed playing bridge with her friends and traveling around the world. Two daughters, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren survive her.

**Gloria Laurie Wolff '47**, Xenia, Ohio, March 20, 2015. She attended Grinnell College and went on to receive a master's in social work from Columbia University. She worked in various state and county welfare and child services departments and was an active member of numerous community institutions, such as Greene County Court Appointed Special Advocates Program, P.E.O. International, the League of Women Voters, and the Miami Valley Women's Center. She was an experienced traveler, venturing abroad to Turkmenistan, Australia, Ireland, China, and Japan through Friendship Force, an organization that aims to immerse travelers in different cultures through personal connections with local people. Survivors include her sister, *Dorothy Laurie Taylor '53*; six children; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Gene Keltner Cannon '48**, Webster Groves, Mo., April 16, 2015. She is survived by her sister, *Beth Keltner Wiebe '47*; two children; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

**Anne Royal McMurray '48**, Webster, City, Iowa, May, 25, 2015. Surviving are five children, including sons *David McMurray '76* and *Scott McMurray '79*; eight grandchildren, including granddaughter, *Julie McMurray '08*; and three great-grandchildren.

**Virginia Chidlow Wolgemuth '48**, Lombard, Ill., Feb. 1, 2015.

**Barbara Zivi Gardner '49**, Milford, Ohio, Jan. 23, 2015. She is survived by two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**James E. Lincoln '49**, Sunnyvale, Calif., March, 3, 2015. Survivors include his sister, *Roberta Lincoln Greenspon '43*.

**Florence Altshuler Lowenstein '49**, Coral Gables, Fla., April, 29, 2015. She is survived by her husband Harold, two children, and four grandchildren.

**Norma Wood Palmer '49**, Redlands, Calif., April 6, 2015.

**Lawrence E. Silvertson '49**, Encino, Calif., Feb. 5, 2015. Lawrence served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, stationed in Japan during and after World War II. He then attended Grinnell College, where he met *Doris Taubin '50*, his wife of 53 years. He attended law school at the University of Michigan and began a successful practice in California that was known for representing architects and contractors. In later years, he became passionate about real estate development and the preservation of Los Angeles architecture. He was a skilled small-plane pilot, woodworker, calligrapher, chess player, and tango dancer, to name just a few of his interests. He had homes in Los Angeles, Vancouver, San Francisco, New York, and the small town Panicali in Italy, where he was considered an honored citizen. He is survived by his

two daughters, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**John D. Vance Sr. '49**, Leesburg, Fla., May 7, 2015.

## 1950S

**Angeline "Angela" Simak Abramson '50**, Brooksville, Fla., Dec. 10, 2014.

**Virginia Hartung Alexander '50**, Lincoln, Calif., Sept. 16, 2014.

**Paul B. Barker '50**, Fountain Hills, Ariz., May 29, 2015. Paul attended Grinnell College for two years before transferring to Northwestern University, where he graduated with a degree in business in 1951. He then served two years with the Army's 20th Engineering Brigade as a sergeant. He met his wife Joan on a blind date and they remained happily married for 63 years. He is survived by his wife Joan, a daughter, Laura; and one grandson.

**E. William Bouma '50**, Kent, Wash., Feb. 19, 2015.

**Nancy A. Butcher '50**, St. Joseph, Mich., March 12, 2015.

Grinnellians may remember **Robert A. Globus '50** as owner and operator of the White Spot Restaurant near campus and later JD's Restaurant in downtown Grinnell. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict before moving to Grinnell and enrolling at the College. Robert died April 10, 2015, and is survived by one brother.

**Irwin "Tom" Taylor '50**, Mount Dora, Fla., Dec. 5, 2014. He is survived by his wife Jane, four children, and five grandchildren.

**Richard C. Scrymiger '50**, Overland Park, Kan., May 4, 2015. Survivors include his wife *Jean Dawley Scrymiger '52*, three children, and six grandchildren.

**Wilfred Calm '51**, Arvada, Colo., Feb. 6, 2014.

**Donn C. Chatterton '51**, Georgetown, Mass., April 9, 2014. He graduated from Grinnell College with a degree in English. He was a member of Sigma Delta Chi, a professional journalistic fraternity, and was also a DJ at the College radio station. After graduation, he served as a field radio operator in the U.S. Marine Corps aboard the *USS Mount McKinley* during the Korean War. Then he began a 40-year career as marketing manager at Thermal Circuits in Salem, Mass. He was an involved member of the First Congregational Church in Georgetown, where he served as the church moderator for 27 years and ushering coordinator for 30 years. He loved the outdoors, going for walks and picnics with his family and dogs, and big band music. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Joan; two children; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**William A. Idema '51**, Sioux Falls, S.D., July 9, 2015.

**Eleanor James Lagner '51**, Woolwich, Maine, July 8, 2014. She is survived by her husband Richard.

**Mary L. Martin '51**, Duluth, Minn., March 12, 2015. She worked as a clinical psychologist for many years. After retiring, she was an active volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and the Peace United Church of Christ. Surviving are her adopted family, Laurie and Mariah Berner, her daughter and granddaughter.

**Charles "Chuck" W. Williams '51**, Palm Desert, Calif., Dec. 26, 2014. After serving as an Army cryptographer during the Korean War, Chuck graduated from Grinnell College and later obtained a graduate degree in business from the University of Chicago. He and his brother William owned and published Star Publications in Chicago Heights, one of the largest suburban newspapers in the country. After selling the newspaper in 1986, Chuck and his wife Diane split their time between Palm Desert, Calif., and Beaver Creek, Colo. He excelled at handball, racquetball, skiing, and tennis

and worked out at a health club for over 50 years. In retirement, Chuck traveled the world and devoted himself to writing novels and children's books. Surviving are his wife Diane, four children, and five grandchildren.

**Roger T. Cameron '52**, Green Valley, Ariz., died Dec. 23, 2014. He is survived by his wife Sharon, seven children, 11 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and a sister.

**Ethel Janie Whiting Leef '52**, Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif., Jan. 13, 2015.

**Mary Ellen Jensen Lowery '52**, Round Hill, Va., April 16, 2015. She is survived by her husband Kenneth; two sisters, three children, two stepchildren, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**Robert E. Oller '52**, Akron, Ohio, Oct. 8, 2014. Survivors include six children, 17 grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.

**Catherine Ann Cheyne Tate '52**, Lubbock, Texas, April 11, 2015. She is survived by her husband Gene, two children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**Doris Egan Trotter '52**, Howard, Colo., March 24, 2015.

**Katherine Seels Manthey '53**, Richardson, Texas, Aug. 17, 2014. Surviving are her three children and five grandchildren.

**Paul J. Blacketer '54**, Nicholasville, Ky., Jan. 15, 2015. His wife Mary Lynn, three sons, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren survive him.

**Barbara Bratten Lindau '54**, Burnsville, Minn., May 23, 2015. Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.

**Robert W. "Buzz" Ackerman '56**, Phoenix, Dec. 21, 2014. After majoring in business and economics at Grinnell, he married Pat, his grade-school sweetheart. A short experience with the corporate world convinced him to

go to medical school at the University of Minnesota. He served as an anesthesiologist in Vietnam for two years. He is survived by his wife, three children, and seven grandchildren.

**Mary Marston Kennedy '58**, St. Louis, Dec. 8, 2014. Surviving are two children and three grandchildren.

## 1960S

**Martha Dixon Rekrut '65** Oak Ridge, N.J., April 12, 2015.

**Allen L. Peterson '66**, Dewey, Ariz., May 23, 2015.

## 1970S

A tragedy claimed the life of educator **N. Jane West Young '70** and her husband, Sudbury, Mass., on May 1, 2015, while vacationing in the Virgin Islands. She had been a math teacher at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School for 17 years at the time of her death. She is survived by her son and daughter, whom she and her husband adopted from Russia.

**Lisa J. Wentz '73**, Tarzana, Calif., worked for more than 40 years in financial and property management for Los Angeles County, the University of Southern California, and private individuals, after earning a master's degree in architecture from UCLA and an M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Her hobbies and interests were wide-ranging from military history to sewing, quilting and photography to the architectural history of Los Angeles. Lisa died March 27, 2015, and is survived by her sister, brother-in-law, and nieces.

Bookseller and enthusiast **James G. Broaddus '75**, died April 11, 2015, in Boulder, Colo. His love of history, mountains, and books culminated in owning and operating the Aion Bookshop, On the Hill in Boulder, from 1987 to 2002, with his wife Deborah. James was inspired by Colorado's natural beauty, and his



passion for the outdoors drew him to climb the Rocky Mountains' Long's Peak at least 25 times. When the bookstore closed after 15 years, he began a career in real estate that allowed him to further develop his interest in Boulder's architectural history. He is survived by his spouse, two children, mother, stepfather, and two brothers.

## 1980s

**Philip J. Karmin '84**, Highland Park, Ill., May 11, 2015. He is survived by three children.

**Darin R. Kobatake '87**, Kahului, Hawaii, June 9, 2015. He died in a canoe accident while paddling the waters of Sugar Beach in Maui. Darin owned International Beauty Schools in Kahului. Survivors include his wife and brother, *Derol Kobatke '92*.

**Matthew M. Rickett '89**, Indianapolis, Ind., April 11, 2015.

## 1990s

**Phumelele J. Mbalo '93**, Komani, South Africa, June 1, 2015. He is survived by his sister, *Ndileka Mbalo '91*.

### In Memoriam

Some alumni and friends inquire about making a memorial gift. If you would like to do so, please call 866-850-1846 and ask for **Jayn Chaney '05**.



**Vernon E. Faulconer '61**, a life trustee and longtime benefactor of the College, died Aug. 7, 2015, in Dallas at the age of 76.

On campus Vernon was perhaps best known as founder, along with his wife **Amy Hamamoto Faulconer '59**, of Faulconer Gallery in the Bucksbaum Center for the Arts. Faulconer Gallery opened in 1999 and has become an integral part of campus life.

Vernon and Amy were also major donors to several other campus projects, including the Robert N. Noyce '49

Science Center and the Charles Benson Bear '39 Recreation and Athletic Center.

His final Grinnell project was *Start by Asking Questions: Contemporary Art from the Faulconer and Rachofsky Collections*, Dallas, an exhibition of world-class 20th- and 21st-century artworks from The Warehouse, the collection he and Amy built with their friends and collecting partners, Cindy and Howard Rachofsky. Both couples were recently recognized among the world's top 200 art collectors. The exhibition opened in Faulconer Gallery on Sept. 18. (See details of the exhibit on Page 7.)

**Lesley Wright**, director of the gallery, noted, "I have loved working with Vernon over the past 16 years, and with him and Howard on the exhibition drawn from The Warehouse for the Faulconer Gallery at Grinnell College. Spending time with both collectors as we shaped the show was intense and satisfying. I hope the exhibition is a fitting tribute to the man I considered a patron, a mentor, and a friend."

In addition to his leadership at Grinnell, Vernon was deeply involved in work at Tyler Junior College in Texas, where he created the Faulconer Academic Incentive Award for Minority Students. He also served as a board member of the Chinati Foundation in Marfa, Texas, and also as a member of the board of the Dallas Museum of Art, where he was instrumental in helping build the museum's worldwide reputation.

Grinnell awarded Vernon an honorary doctor of laws degree in 2003 in recognition of his lifelong service and broader community impact.

Vernon joined the College's Board of Trustees in 1984 and became a life trustee in 2003. He actively served on numerous committees and ad hoc working groups throughout his tenure. A friend, colleague, and mentor to many, he will be sorely missed.

## Back Talk

# Do Something About It

Helping families deal with a child's autism diagnosis

The rate of autism diagnosis in children has been increasing steadily since 1990, leaving more parents with the challenge of figuring out how to help their children with autism achieve their greatest potential in a society that is full of confusing and often contradictory information about autism. While public knowledge of autism has increased over the past 10 to 20 years, most communities in the United States continue to have needs that outweigh the available resources. That is certainly true for my employer, the Rochester Center for Autism, which has a nine-month waiting list for intensive behavioral therapy.

Getting support and resources for a child with autism in a timely manner is nearly an impossible challenge for parents. Through my work, I have repeatedly heard from parents that when children are diagnosed with autism, families are given very little information about what to do next, how to connect with services, and what to expect when their child starts school, enters adolescence, and eventually becomes a young adult. While raising a child with special needs is hard, navigating a system that is geared toward typically developing children is even harder.

One family in Rochester told me that they had traveled an hour to La Crosse, Wis., to attend a 12-week parent training and support program that begins at the time of the child's diagnosis. Upon hearing about this, I wondered why we didn't have such a program in Rochester.

Lily Tomlin once said, "I always wondered why somebody doesn't

do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody." In the same spirit that led me to become active with student government at Grinnell, I decided that instead of asking why somebody doesn't do something about it, I would just go ahead and do it. So I set out to learn more about the parent training and support program in La Crosse, so I could establish something similar in Rochester.

I felt strongly that our parent training program should be a partnership between multiple community organizations, and should be free of charge for parents. This was in late 2013, the same year I had convened a group of community organizations to share ideas and collaborate on community projects relating to autism. This informal group, called the Southeastern Minnesota Autism Alliance, included representatives from more than a dozen public and private agencies including therapists, social workers, educators, advocates, and parents. So I brought the idea of starting a new 12-week parent training and support program to our autism alliance and asked them for help.

An autism specialist from our school district agreed to help plan and facilitate the parent groups with me. The executive director of a local nonprofit autism awareness organization, the RT Autism Awareness Foundation, suggested I pitch a budget to its board of directors. So that is what I did. The foundation was able to raise funds and commit to fully supporting the first year of the program.

Our first 12-week session of



**James Rechs '97** has been interested in autism since he was a student at Grinnell. He has focused his career on autism and developmental disorders, first as a school social worker and now as a family therapist in Rochester, Minn.

parent training and support, which is to be called RT Autism CARES (Community Autism Resources Education and Support), started in September 2015. We hope to serve 12 to 15 families in the first year, free of charge. The program will be a collaboration between the agency I work for and the RT Autism Awareness Foundation. Parents will attend 12 weekly sessions, where we will provide them with an orientation to their child's diagnosis, teach them how to effectively access community services, and provide information on how to implement evidence-based behavioral and communication skills training techniques with their child. Parents will also develop a support system made up of the four to five other families who will go through the program with them. If nothing else, they will not be alone in facing the challenge of raising a child with an autism spectrum disorder.

As I continue my career as a social worker, I still just want to help people. Sometimes that simply means listening and asking people what they need, seeing who wants to help, and just going out there and doing it! 🌱



# That's So Grinnellian

Students participated in games on Ward Field during the all campus picnic Aug. 26, 2015, the day before classes started.

Photo by Justin Hayworth







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Periodicals

## Iowa View

First-year  
students  
participating  
in Grinnell  
Science  
Project.

