



the
grinnell
magazine

spring 2016

The Essence of Inquiry

Grinnell students engaged in research make serious contributions to bodies of knowledge while shaping their own futures



Illustration by Kevin Cannon '02

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Contributors

Kevin Cannon '02 has always wanted to be a neuroscientist because he's fascinated by this great mystery that sits between our ears.

Denton Ketels has never dirtied a test tube, but he has conducted thousands of hours of interviews.

Luke Saunders '12 tries to get a Hitchcock reference in every story he writes.

Ed Senn '79 takes every opportunity to wear a kilt and talk about Grinnell.

Multicareerist **Anne Stein '84** is an Evanston, Ill.-based journalist who has bike raced, coached triathlon, and currently teaches martial arts to law enforcement and personal safety to the general public.

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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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Photo by Justin Hayworth

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Georgia Dentel's integral role

I was the SGA [Student Government Association] social coordinator my senior year starting in the fall of 1976. **Pat Irwin '77** and the late **Dan Hexter '77** were concert chairmen, and we managed a robust budget of \$37,500 for the year to book bands for South Lounge parties, cultural weekends, and in Roberts Theatre.

Georgia Dentel was an absolute genius at stretching that budget and getting acts at incredible prices. If Dan and Pat wanted a band, Georgia would not only book that concert for Grinnell, she would create a mini-tour for the band at two other colleges, get a reduced price for us, and of course mandate that our show would be on Saturday night. Her strategy for booking groups when they were on the cusp of stardom was legendary, and her network of former Grinnell students in the business, agents, and people she charmed provided her edge.

But that is not even half of the story. I spent hours and hours on the phone with Georgia discussing politics, classes, music, and my family. She remembered every detail, and at graduation time I really wanted her to meet my dad. Georgia rarely met with us in person but finally agreed on her terms, sitting behind the wheel in her vintage 1964 Ford Falcon for a fast getaway.

I remember the open forum in September of 1976 well, as I spoke on her behalf representing the SGA. I said, "Georgia Dentel plays an integral role in shaping the 'Grinnell Experience.' Her dedication to the College and its students' education cannot be distilled to a line item in a budget."

— **Robert Render '77**, Skokie, Ill.

Could someone compile a chronology of everyone Georgia Dentel brought to Grinnell and publish it in the magazine? I loved the story about her, although my faith in humanity took another hit when I learned she was almost fired once and was reduced to part-time once.

— **Liz Rosen Kroin '80**, Blue Ash, Ohio

The warm-up band

I enjoyed the **Bob Greenberg '80** memory in the "Prompted" section of your Winter 2015 *Grinnell Magazine* edition about The Police playing in the old Darby as the "hottest band in New Wave" at that time. Little remembered is that The Police that night were a mere warm-up band for another New Wave band, Ultravox, a band still in place today. Great times!

— **Mark McAllister '81**, Johnston, Iowa



Iowa caucuses

As a political junkie, I was excited to read the article in the [Winter 2015] magazine about the development of the Iowa caucuses as a force to be reckoned with and the participation by Grinnellians in them over the years. I remember being encouraged to attend the 1984 caucus by my political science professor and delighted in seeing democracy in action, as well as several of my instructors all gravitating toward the candidates I had hunches they would.

The magazine article seemed to focus preponderantly on Republican candidates and activists, which seemed a mite strange to me, as I recall the campus, even during the Reagan landslide reelection year, as being overwhelmingly Democratic. I realize that such was not always the case, and it warmed my heart to see President Jimmy Carter adorning the cover of the magazine, and to my recollection much of the recent political history of the scarlet and black has been solidly blue. Were there no alumni actively involved in Democratic politics? I shudder to think of the Grinnell Left as abandoning its verve.

— **John Wetterholt '86**

Tempe, Ariz.

I cannot believe your photo of a very disliked person [Jimmy Carter] on the front cover. How disgusting!

— **Diana Bentley Brown '58**

Rock Port, Mo.

Engaging Students

Embedding philanthropy as part of the educational experience helps students connect their learning to the careers they want to pursue and the lives they want to lead. It upholds our values and prepares students to be philanthropically effective in a changing world.

Just as our Office of Development and Alumni Relations engages alumni in the life and work of the College, we have established ambitious goals to more effectively build relationships with current students. Students are helping to fuel the development of programs that encourage peers to demonstrate College affinity while preparing them to stay engaged after graduation.

From the time they arrive on campus, Grinnell students gain a sense of becoming "alumni in residence." As they become part of a deeply connected intellectual and professional network, they also find that this connectivity involves sharing their time, talent, treasure, and ties in their home communities, with other members of the Grinnell community, and with the

College. They learn firsthand that strengthening commitments among people who represent the future of our alumni programming is healthy for the College and fundamental to what it means to be a Grinnellian.

We fortified this commitment in 2014 by adding to our staff an assistant director of student programs — a position dedicated to both building new programs and strengthening others that visionary alumni previously helped establish. Our professionals are partnering with a group of student leaders who comprise the Student Alumni Council and whose guidance established activities such as I Heart GC Week. These students invest personally and creatively to build philanthropic awareness and skills for future engagement with their peers.

We are especially proud that this nascent program has already been recognized by our peers in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Last August, leadership from the Student Alumni Council and the Senior Class Gift Committee traveled to the CASE Conference

in Washington, D.C. The trip was made possible by a gift from **Barry Zigas '73** and **Jodie Levin-Epstein '72**. In addition to receiving an honorable mention award for National Philanthropy Week, the students benchmarked their philanthropy education program against their peers and had the opportunity to network with advancement professionals from across the country.

Our vision of achieving Grinnell's enduring mission in unpredictable times is enhanced by our ability to connect with alumni at all levels. Whether we are helping to facilitate the effectiveness of future class fund directors or planting the seeds of networking opportunities throughout the global Grinnell network, we anticipate that this new student-focused approach will help guide the student-to-alumni transition.

As giving by Grinnell's young alumni trends upward, we hope to see more young alumni stepping up in volunteer roles and larger numbers of alumni attending reunions. On campus, we are elevating the importance of giving back and paying forward as an essential component of what it means to be part of the Grinnell family. That is a trend that will benefit all Grinnellians, present and future.

— *Shane Jacobson, vice president for development and alumni relations*

Photo by Justin Hayworth



Teaching for Fun

Ignite Program brings children to campus to be college students for a day

Since fall 2014, nearly 150 Grinnell College students have volunteered to teach workshops on campus to children from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

“I hope they discover something about teaching they didn’t know,” says **Ashley Schaefer**, Ignite Program coordinator and Lawrence S. Pidgeon Director of the Careers in Education Professions Program.

The Ignite Program began in the 2014–15 school year, offering classes on three different Saturdays last year — in November, February, and April. Attendance averaged 175 students for each day. For the first class in November 2014, they expected about 80 children but had 198 attend.

In November last year, 256 children from Grinnell and the surrounding area participated. Classes included Dive into Archaeology, Iron Chef Grinnell, and Act Out Your Imagination in Improv 101. Children may take two different classes, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, and have lunch on campus.

Classes are taught by teams of two or three College student

volunteers. These volunteers, dubbed “teacher scholars,” write a course proposal that includes a brief description and lesson plan. About half the teacher scholars are in the education program.

Schaefer meets with each team to review lesson plans. She emphasizes that the nearly 2-hour class isn’t a lecture and discussion. “It’s a workshop,” she says. “If you’re doing something with chocolate, the kids will expect to eat some chocolate.”

Cassandra Miller ’16, a biology major from Las Vegas, N.M., developed and taught Fun with Fungi last year for third and fourth graders. She chose that topic because she was taking a fungal biology course that she loved with **Kathy Jacobson**, associate professor of biology.

In November 2015 Miller adapted her class for first and second graders. “I wanted to see what would happen,” she says. Her favorite part is trying to make the science accessible to young children.

One of the activities, “fungal detective,” involved using microscopes and dried specimens.

It was the first time many of these children had used a microscope. They could see the gills, pores, and teeth of their specimens. “They appreciate mushrooms more,” Miller says.

Offered free of charge, the Ignite Program is sponsored by local philanthropists **Helen Redmond** and **Pete Brownell**, the College’s Office of Community Enhancement and Engagement, and the Careers in Education Professions Program.

The program was modeled on other colleges’ programs that bring high school students to campus for a day to experience classes. Schaefer wanted to start with the young kids. “The number of opportunities for academics for little kids was small,” she says. “This is the only opportunity for our students to teach elementary school students.”

In April the program is expanding to high school students. Even though Miller doesn’t intend to become a K–12 teacher, she’ll participate again. “I think education will always play a role in my future,” she says.

– Michele Regenold ’89



Photo by John Brady '16

Bachelor of Arts Exhibition (BAX)

April 8–May 1, 2016

Bachelor of Arts Exhibition (BAX) features work by third- and fourth-year art students, both those majoring in art and students in other majors who work intensively in studio. With support from the Faulconer Gallery staff, students manage all the exhibition details — from the submission of proposals to the selection of a juror to the installation and awarding of prizes.



Jill Davis Schrift
Stoneware clay fired to
cone 10 in a reduction
fired, gas kiln
Photos by Daniel Strong



Studio Faculty Exhibition

April 8–June 19, 2016

This year’s exhibition features work by regular and visiting faculty in studio art. View prints, paintings, sculpture, installations, and video by **Jeremy Chen, Mary Coats, Andrew Kaufman, Matthew Kluber, Evan McLaughlin, Andrew Orloski, Lee Running, and Jill Davis Schrift.**

Second Annual Grinnell Lecture

Conceptualizing Human Interaction Through the Lens of Collective-Action Problems



Bill Ferguson ’75, Gertrude B. Austin Professor of Economics, gave the second annual Grinnell Lecture to his fellow faculty members Feb. 5. Collective-action problems arise whenever individuals pursuing their own interests cause undesirable outcomes for a group. This relatively simple notion applies to a huge array of problems, Ferguson says.

Large-scale examples are global climate change and the war in Syria, while a small-scale example is who does the cooking in a household. “Collective-action problems can focus our thoughts on social, political, and economic interactions that are extraordinarily complicated,” he says. “If we can separate the important pieces from the details, they might help us theorize about these problems, generate hypotheses, and test the hypotheses with data.”

All Hands on Deck

May 13–June 19, 2016

St. Louis artist Damon Davis created seven powerful prints entitled *All Hands on Deck* in response to recent events in Ferguson, Mo., and elsewhere. The oversized prints, created at Wildwood Press, feature the raised hands of individuals old and young, black, white, and brown. Faulconer Gallery purchased the prints in honor of **Vernon E. Faulconer ’61**. The exhibition features these and other recent acquisitions from the College’s art collection.



Damon Davis
All Hands on Deck #3,
2015
Lithograph/Graphite,
32 x 58 in.
Faulconer Gallery,
Grinnell College Art
Collection



For Love of Opera

Students travel to San Francisco to put their learning in context

During Grinnell's weeklong fall break, 11 students in Opera, Politics, and Society in Modern Europe left the classroom for San Francisco with **Kelly Maynard**, assistant professor of history, to get an up-close look at how politics and culture influence the development of modern opera.

The idea for the trip began years earlier, when Maynard met **Craig Henderson '63**, an opera enthusiast and Grinnell College trustee, on the ride back from the interview for her position at Grinnell. Discovering their shared interest in the world of opera and its importance as a window into history and politics, she later invited him to come speak to her class as a guest lecturer. Henderson was impressed with the students' discussions and pitched the idea of a class trip to San Francisco.

While it took time for Maynard to work out the details of how the students could receive funding for the trip, she finally decided to take Henderson up on his suggestion. He generously offered up his home and his opera contacts to make sure that the students had an unforgettable

experience.

"Everyone they met in San Francisco was impressed with their intellectual sophistication and seemed to derive the same pleasure from the association that I did," Henderson says. "I hope we can do it again next year."

Students spoke with opera singers, saw orchestral rehearsals, met with opera critics, and got exclusive backstage glimpses into set design and media suites. They also saw two live opera productions at the San Francisco Conservatory and the San Francisco Opera House, *The Magic Flute* and *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

"You can read about how people used to make sets or how people designed opera houses centuries ago, but you can't get a real feel for it without seeing how everything operates with your own eyes," says **Austin Schilling '17**.

"We got to see firsthand that the history we're studying in class is alive and functioning today, and is still as rich and complex as it was 200 years ago," says **Elizabeth Allen '16**.

What students didn't expect was the opportunity to meet with David Gockley, general director of the San Francisco Opera, during one of their tours. With half a semester of in-class study and a rigorous week of immersion in the world of opera under their belts, students were prepared to ask Gockley questions that helped them to discover the modern correspondences to what they learned in class.

"I was so proud of the students; I could tell they surprised him with the quality of their questions," says Maynard. "He really had to think about his answers, and they walked away with all these fantastic contemporary parallels that we could map back onto the content of the class."

Through learning about the many complicated components that go into an opera production, these students discovered aspects of opera that they had never expected to be interested in. Allen even discovered an area that may turn into a topic of future research — the way globalization and art collide in modern opera.

"I think my biggest take-away from this experience is that you need to look at things from many different angles."

– Sam Hengst '18

"Thinking about *The Magic Flute*, which is an 18th-century Viennese opera, translated into English in the 21st century by David Gockley, using set design that includes the aesthetics of contemporary Japanese ceramics ... it's something global and contemporary, but still rooted in the past," Allen says. "Seeing that was a really pivotal experience for me, and I realized that that's the way I want to look at things in the future."

"I think my biggest take-away from this experience is that you need to look at things from many different angles," says **Sam Hengst '18**. "When we do readings, we're so used to just thinking about things in one way, but on this trip we saw that the world of opera is complex, from the actors and singers to set design and the use of technology. It's a network, and we couldn't have gotten such a great understanding of that from just reading about it."

– Elise Hadden '14

Bakopoulos Receives 2016 NEA Fellowship

His second fellowship, this time for creative nonfiction



The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has awarded individual creative writing fellowships of \$25,000 each to 37 fiction and creative nonfiction writers, including **Dean Bakopoulos**, writer-in-residence at Grinnell College.

The NEA selected Bakopoulos from among 1,763 eligible applicants evaluated by 23 readers and panelists. This is his second NEA fellowship, a rare accomplishment. Fellows must wait 10

years before applying for a second fellowship. Bakopoulos won an award for fiction in 2006; the 2016 award is for creative nonfiction.

"I'm so grateful to the NEA for recognizing my work for a second time," Bakopoulos says. "This is an important boost for me on many levels, not just financially, but also emotionally. I'm finishing a difficult and somewhat perplexing book, and this fellowship has given me the courage to keep working, to finish the manuscript I was very close to throwing away."

"The nonfiction manuscript, titled *Undoings*, is a book-length meditation on the way things fall apart, and how we, as individuals, as families, as artists, often become undone by our own obsessions and our own pasts. I wrestle with many demons and blessings in that book: marriage, divorce, and parenthood; my own family's history as war refugees and the long shadows cast by war trauma; as well as everything from country music to fast food to the role of religion in clinical depression. Right now, it's a mess of a book, and this fellowship gives me the time to give it the focus it needs."

Bakopoulos, who teaches fiction and creative nonfiction courses at Grinnell, is the author of three novels — *Please Don't Come Back from the Moon*, *My American Unhappiness*, and *Summerlong*. The film version of his first novel, co-written by Bakopoulos, wrapped shooting in January and stars James Franco, Rashida Jones, and Jeffrey Wahlberg. The film version of *Summerlong*, also adapted by Bakopoulos, is in the works. In addition to his two NEA awards, Bakopoulos is the recipient of a 2008 Guggenheim Fellowship.

– Lisa Lacher

Grinnell Takes Student Well-Being to the Next Level

Students engage deeply with active bystanderism on campus

In the midst of the national outcry about student safety on college campuses, concern about alcohol, drugs, and sexual assault is central to many conversations surrounding student well-being. While it's clear that students on every campus are facing these issues, it can be difficult, from the outside, to see what steps are being taken to increase student safety. What is Grinnell doing to address these problems? One of the most promising answers, according to **Jen Jacobsen '95**, wellness director, lies in the College's active bystander training.

"Active bystanderism is an opportunity to empower people to interrupt a situation that looks like it might be harmful, to find out if they can change the direction of that situation," says Jacobsen.

This intervention can be as simple as offering to walk someone home from a party if they seem like they've had too much to drink. But direct intervention isn't the only thing active bystander training encourages. Students learn about campus resources they can turn to in case they feel uncomfortable addressing a situation themselves. For example, a student with a roommate who hasn't been to class all week may not know how to start a conversation directly but can alert the on-call residence life coordinator (RLC).

The most compelling and unique part of Grinnell's active bystander program is the intense amount of student involvement. Training sessions are often run by student mentors, and the students receiving the training have input into what scenarios they learn about.

Students talk in groups about situations they've encountered where they wished they'd known how to help — for instance, how to talk to a friend who's obsessing over a final paper about taking it easy and making time for wellness. Another common concern is how to act when seeing someone who is drunk leaving a party to "hook up" if it seems like he or she might not be safe or able to give consent. Understanding that students are dealing with these kinds of situations and are unsure of how to navigate them helps Jacobsen tap into what really matters to students.

"The greatest learning comes from that discussion where the students talk among themselves about what scenarios they've encountered, what they have seen, what they think someone should do," Jacobsen says. "It also gives me a good pulse on what's actually relevant and happening on campus."

Grinnell students are eager to learn how they can be active bystanders in their community, likely due to the self-governance ethic

of campus culture. When asked whether they would like information on how to help others in distress on campus, 83 percent of Grinnell students responded that they would, compared to only 56 percent of the national undergraduate population. Furthermore, 96.7 percent of Grinnell students see active bystanderism as important to the success of self-governance.

Colton Silvia '17 has been so involved in active bystander training on campus that he presented alongside Jacobsen at the Heartland Safety Summit last November. His knowledge and confidence impressed many of the student affairs and violence prevention professionals from other schools who attended the conference, and Silvia walked away with some important takeaways as well.

"The thing that really struck me was the importance of being intentional about how you reach certain communities, because it's not a one-size-fits-all kind of thing," Silvia says. "The experience spurred me to keep pushing to revive the group Real Men, because men teaching men about gender-based violence has proved to be really effective."

Student organizations like Real Men target specific groups on campus to provide them with training and role models that will most effectively teach and inspire them to participate in harm reduction on campus. Jacobsen, who is also assistant track and field coach, has developed training sessions that provide targeted examples to athletic teams, who have been campus leaders in engaging in active bystander workshops, faculty, and other groups on campus to make sure that the training has the biggest possible impact.

— Elise Hadden '14

Senior Wins Prize in France on Campus Award Competition

Exploring slavery in the Caribbean through choreography

Taylor Watts '16, a French and anthropology major, recently received second prize in the 2015 France on Campus Award competition, sponsored by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy.

"The France on Campus Award competition is open to all U.S. colleges and universities, so Watts' second prize is proof of the strength and creativity of her proposal," says **David Harrison**, professor of French.

Applications for the France on Campus Award were evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Demonstrated interest in expanding the reach of France and French culture on campus.
- Originality and creativity of the project.
- Potential to reach a broad audience, including university students, professors, and other organizations on campus and beyond.

Watts' proposal, "A Choreographic Exploration of the *'commerce triangulaire'*," combines her study of dance with her study of French literature. The choreographic piece is inspired by, and set to, a series of texts in French that discuss the impact of slavery on the Caribbean.

"Subjects such as these need to be brought to light because they continue to affect the world today," Watts says. "I believe knowledge and understanding are the only ways to move forward."

To design and develop the choreography for her proposal, Watts is completing a Mentored Advanced Project (MAP) under the direction of **Celeste Miller**, assistant professor of theatre and dance.

"Taylor's 'Choreographic Exploration' is a rich example of how dance, because of the undeniability of the body, can be a powerful and visceral use of the arts to examine complex and difficult topics," Miller says. "It is a choreographed embodiment drawn from research into both her topic and the aesthetic of the art form of dance."

Watts' project draws from her off-campus study experience in Nantes, France, once one of the most important slave-trading ports in Western Europe. The methods she is using for her choreographic approach began with a summer MAP in Atlanta, also directed



Photo by Justin Hayworth

by Miller, working with theatre and dance companies whose work addresses social justice issues.

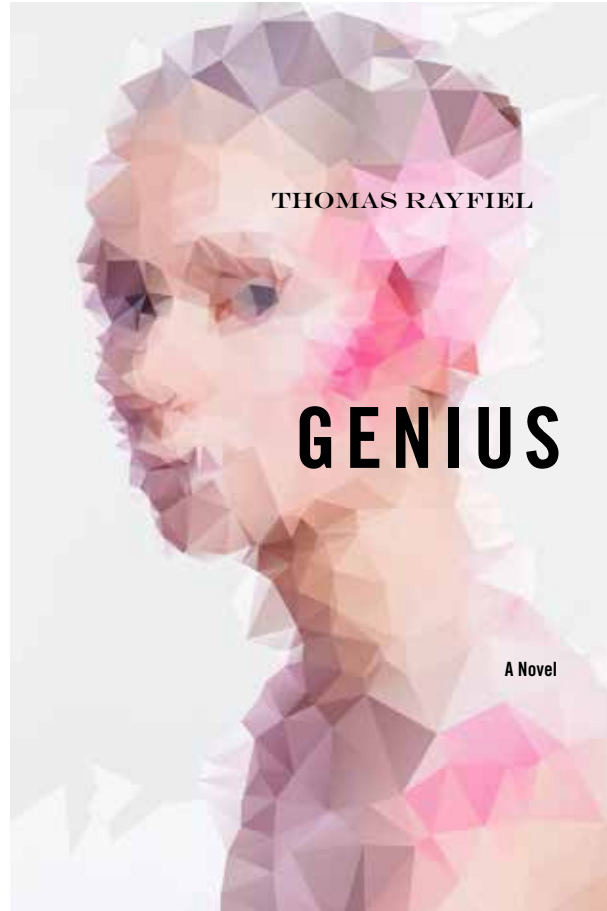
Watts studied Nantes' role in the French slave trade, then took a seminar at Grinnell about French Caribbean literature from **Gwenola Caradec**, assistant professor of French. The works read in this seminar inspired Watts to transform the words into movement with a cast of Grinnell students.

Watts says she also was inspired by the campus visit of choreographer Olivier Tarpaga, hosted last winter by Miller. Tarpaga, from Burkina Faso, a landlocked country in West Africa, incorporates historical speeches and other spoken words into his choreography to explore the history of decolonization in Africa.

The Cultural Services of the French Embassy, in partnership with Kickstarter and OrgSync, have established the France on Campus Award, under the patronage of film director Wes Anderson, to discover, celebrate, and support initiatives that explore France in new and creative ways.

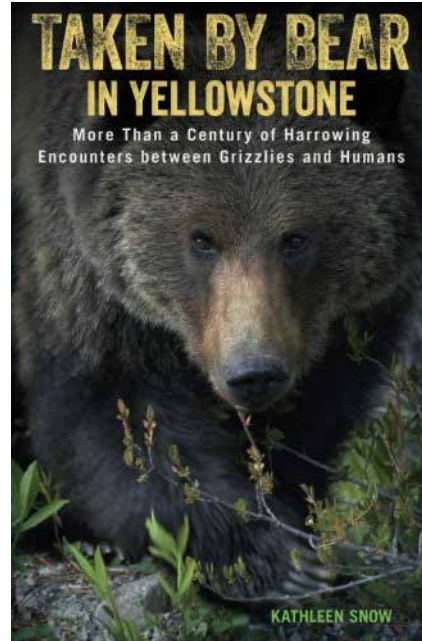
Watts will perform her work at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 3, in Flanagan Studio Theatre in the Bucksbaum Center for the Arts. As part of her award, she also will receive mentoring from the French Embassy and from Kickstarter to raise funds that will enable her to perform the work on other U.S. college campuses.

— Lisa Lacher



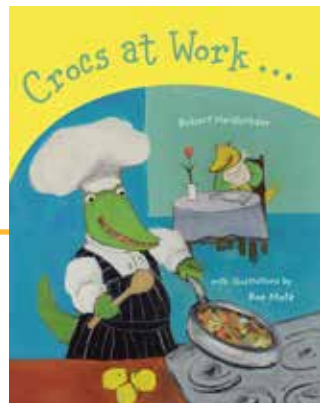
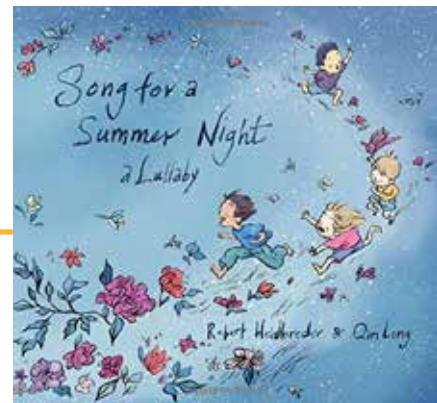
Genius

Thomas Rayfiel '80 published his seventh novel this spring. *Genius* (TriQuarterly/Northwestern University Press, 2016) is about a young woman whose IQ is off the charts but whose sexuality is still firmly in the closet. Illness forces her return to small-town Arkansas, where she must confront the issues that sent her fleeing in the first place.



Taken by Bear in Yellowstone: More Than a Century of Harrowing Encounters between Grizzlies and Humans

Written by **Kathleen Snow '65**, *Taken by Bear in Yellowstone: More Than a Century of Harrowing Encounters between Grizzlies and Humans* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2016) includes archival photographs and drawings that cover the history of bear-human interaction from 1870 to 2015. It is sympathetic to Yellowstone's bears as well as to human victims.

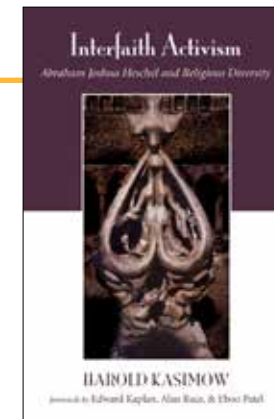


Song for a Summer Night: A Lullaby and Crocs at Work

Robert Heidbreder '69 recently published two children's books, *Song for a Summer Night: A Lullaby* (Groundworks Books, May 2015) and *Crocs at Work* (Tradewind Books, November 2015).

Looking at a Broad

Looking at a Broad, a choreo-poetic solo performance piece by **Rebecca Mwase '07**, was performed November 2015 at the Theatre of St. Claude in New Orleans through Broken Habit Productions. The performance was a stimulating synthesis of lyrical text and dynamic movement layered with visual and media installation; it invited audiences to question, witness, and engage the multiple oppressions, expectations, and constructions of race, gender, and sexuality faced by black women living in the United States.



Interfaith Activism: Abraham Joshua Heschel and Religious Diversity

Harold Kasimow, George A. Drake Professor of Religious Studies, emeritus, has published a new book, *Interfaith Activism: Abraham Joshua Heschel and Religious Diversity* (Wipf and Stock, 2015). Heschel was the towering religious figure of American Jewry in the 20th century. In *Interfaith Activism*, Kasimow, who is known for his work on Heschel and on interfaith dialogue between Jews and members of other faiths, presents a selection of his essays on Heschel's thought. Topics include Heschel's perspective on the different religious traditions, Heschel's three pathways to God, his deep friendship with Maurice Friedman and Martin Luther King Jr., and his surprising affinity to the great Hindu Vedantist Swami Vivekananda and to Pope Francis. A new essay examines Heschel's struggle with the Holocaust. Since the late 1950s, when Kasimow was Heschel's student, he has wrestled with Heschel's claim that "in this eon, diversity of religions is the will of God" and Heschel's belief that there must be dialogue "between the River Jordan and the River Ganges."

Scholarly and professional publications

Jonathan Kolber '75 wrote *A Celebration Society* (Inciti Publishing, 2015), which addresses the accelerating automation that threatens to displace multitudes of workers and disrupt societies. Though this problem is increasingly recognized and discussed in the media, the proposed solutions of a universal basic income and massive retraining programs are insufficient to the forthcoming need. Instead, Kolber proposes a completely new solution based on a societal design that can be modeled and tested on a local basis within a decade or so. The design is grounded in historical societies, advanced technologies, and cutting-edge research fused into a new paradigm.

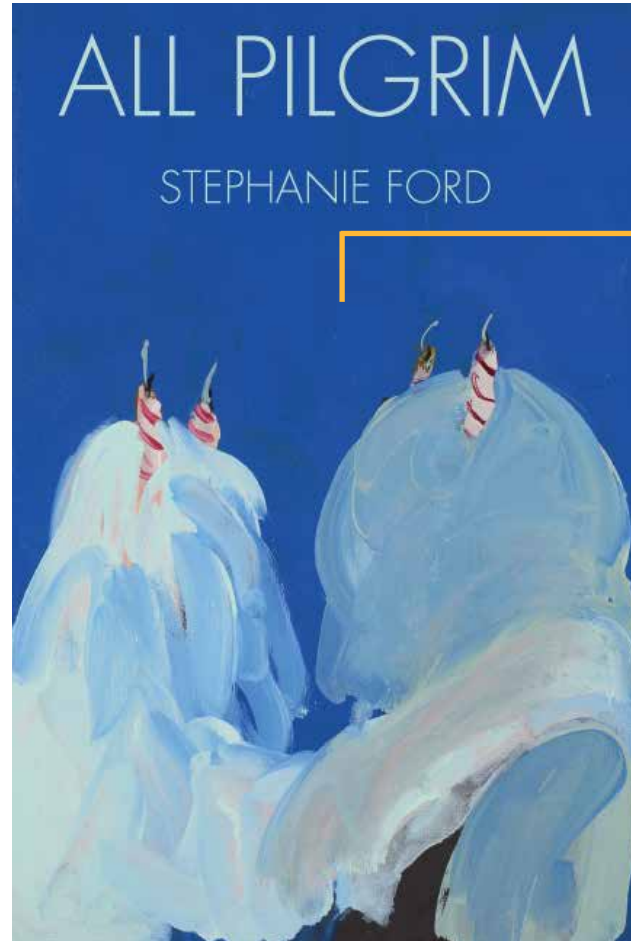
Sarah Harlan '01 co-authored "A Multilevel Approach to Knowledge Sharing: Improving health services for families and children" with Naheed Ahmed and Rupali J. Limaye. *Annals of Anthropological Practice*, Vol. 39, Special Issue: The Role of Anthropology in Improving Services for Children and Families, November 2015.

Ron Goodenow '63 wrote "Service Across Cultures: A Case of the Emerging Role of Communication Technology in Rotary International," in Elizabeth Christopher's *International Management and Intercultural Communication* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).

More books

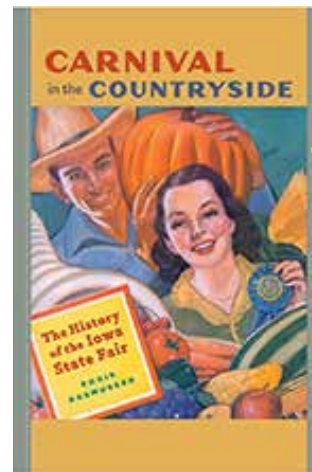
Julie Gard '95 published *Home Studies* (New River Press, 2015). Her prose poetry illuminates the struggles and celebrations of a queer Midwestern family life from a fresh and engaging perspective.

Alina Berger-Germann '99's chapbook of poems, *Tuesday's Children* (Hermeneutic Chaos Press, 2015), was released in December.



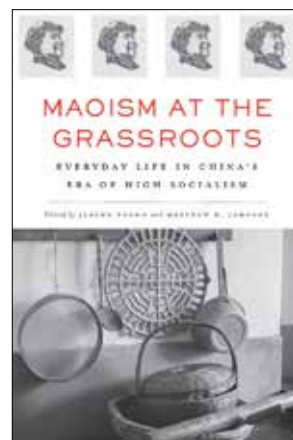
All Pilgrim

Stephanie Ford '95, who studied art at Grinnell, has published a collection of poetry, *All Pilgrim* (Four Way Books, 2015).



Carnival in the Countryside: The Making of the Iowa State Fair

Chris Rasmussen '82 has written a history of one of Iowa's premier events, the Iowa State Fair. *Carnival in the Countryside: The Making of the Iowa State Fair* (University of Iowa Press, 2015) explores the tension between entertainment and agriculture, going back to the fair's founding in the mid-1800s.



Maoism at the Grassroots: Everyday Life in China's Era of High Socialism

Matthew D. Johnson, assistant professor of history and chair of East Asian studies, and Jeremy Brown, associate professor of history at Simon Fraser University, have edited *Maoism at the Grassroots: Everyday Life in China's Era of High Socialism* (Harvard University Press, 2015). The Maoist state's dominance over Chinese society, achieved through such watersheds as the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, is well known. *Maoism at the Grassroots* reexamines this period of transformation and upheaval from a new perspective, one that challenges the standard state-centered view. Bringing together scholars from China, Europe, North America, and Taiwan, this volume marshals new research to reveal a stunning diversity of individual viewpoints and local experiences during China's years of high socialism.

Quote Board

“Right now, this country needs all the brainpower we can find. We need leaders with different experiences and points of view. And we don't think students' ability to get a first-rate college education and contribute to society should be limited by their family resources.”

– President Raynard S. Kington in “Grinnell Shows What It Takes for an Elite Private College to Be Socioeconomically Diverse,” *The Hechinger Report*, Dec. 9, 2015

“

I've lately started singing Adele's 'Hello' at my emails to that one person who never emails me back.”

– Rachel Schnepfer, associate director for academic technology, Twitter

“Day in the life of a Grinnellian: donate blood, debate with hateful protesters visiting campus, vote in city election, see @HillaryforIA.”

– Emma Lange '16, Twitter

“It's crazy, these people [David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson] are sort of icons to you — these heroes — and then for three days they're just your co-workers. Then you leave and months go by and you go back to viewing them as icons and idols.”

– Kumail Nanjiani '01 on guest starring in an episode of *The X-Files* in “Kumail Nanjiani Wants to Believe,” *Mother Jones*, January/February 2016



Conversation with **Greg** Wallace

Longtime Grinnell athletics director prepares for new role in the fall

by Denton Ketels

For the first 20 of **Greg Wallace's** 28 years at Grinnell, he was head football coach. He has also coached golf and baseball, and he is an associate professor of physical education. For the past eight years, Wallace has served as director of athletics and recreation.

Wallace is currently developing a new approach to recruiting student-athletes at Grinnell. He is laying the groundwork for a five-year senior faculty project that will begin after he retires as athletics director this fall and becomes coordinator of student-athlete recruitment for the Office of Admission. We asked him about his plans:

Is this a new role?

It absolutely is a new role. I tested the waters last fall. I did some of my high school visits at that time and scheduled meetings with athletics directors at high schools in Kansas City, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

How did you come up with this idea?

I felt like we needed to get our name out there, because a lot of schools I visited knew of Amherst, or maybe Oberlin or Pomona, but we weren't necessarily in that same conversation. My hope is that when somebody is looking at one of those schools, either the athletic director or a coach will say, "If you're looking at those schools, you ought to look at Grinnell."

So, you are giving schools the tools to point students to Grinnell?

Exactly right. And as you go through the process, you learn a little more each time you go to the school. One of the things I tried to do at all of the schools was not only to visit the AD [athletics director], but also to stop in and introduce myself to people in the counseling office.

Where do you recruit?

It's interesting. We really don't have very many of what you would call feeder schools. The whole key is name recognition. We want to be in the same conversation for student-athletes whether they're looking at a NESCAC [New England Small College Athletic Conference] school or they're looking at an Ivy school.

Are there NCAA rules specific to this kind of role?

Once students become juniors in high school, you can have direct contact with them. That's not always been the case. Now, juniors can actually come to your campus to visit in the spring of their junior year.

By invitation or on their own?

Either way, but in most cases it would probably be by invitation from the coach. I think it's a good thing simply because schools like Grinnell are really working hard to get early-decision students, and you can't get early-decision students unless you've made contact sometime during their junior year.

How does this dovetail with other recruiting efforts?

Many of our coaches are going to academic elite camps and showcases where junior athletes are participating. A lot of times there is academic information available to coaches who attend those. As soon as we get that information, we bring it back and put it into our system, which automatically takes it to the admission office so students will start receiving information from Grinnell College, as well as from our athletics program.

Does Grinnell actively recruit students who are pursuing Division I athletic programs?

We send our coaches to some of the Ivy League camps, because if there are 150 kids at an Ivy League camp, that Ivy school may sign two of those. That leaves 148 of them who are looking for someplace to go.

A lot of our coaches in team sports are getting YouTubes [YouTube videos] that the kids have put together themselves or that show game highlights. Coaches are getting a pretty good look at the potential of student-athletes in competition. The recruiting of student-athletes has always been intense, but it takes up so much of our coaches' time and energy now that they are working as hard or harder during the recruiting process as [they do] during the coaching of their actual sport. Recruiting never stops for us.

How else is the recruiting process different for a Division III school?

Division I and Division II have a national signing date the first week of February, so they have their class at that time. We're recruiting all the way up to May 1, when students have to declare what schools they are going to attend. If we're only working on seniors at that point, then we're not doing justice to the next year's class. So we've got to have a plan to address this year's class and also a way to monitor and communicate with next year's class.

Have student-athletes changed over the years?

I think student-athletes are the same, but there is more information available to them than ever before. For example, the Midwest Conference was one of the first Division III conferences to require webcasting of home contests in football, basketball, and volleyball. That's been a big recruiting tool.

We do webcasting now for almost all of our contests, so I can assure parents that they're not going to have to miss a home contest or an away conference contest. It's a big plus, even for prospective students who are able to watch and say, "I think I can play there," or "I can see that guy's graduating so that position's open next year."

Final thoughts on your new endeavor?

I'm just very excited about it. I've had some very good response. I think it's a good opportunity for us to get the type of student-athlete that we want at Grinnell College. It's a way to get the brand in front of more people so that more coaches will say to students, "You could probably play at Grinnell. Have you thought about that?"

Then and Now



Photo courtesy of Burlington Library Archives, Grinnell College



Photo by Justin Hayworth

Class Size

1956 vs. 2016

Right Livelihoods

Grinnell career changers find success when they follow their callings

by Anne Stein '84

Changing your career can be challenging or exhilarating or, for many people, much too scary to contemplate. We may feel stuck or unwilling to change because of finances or geography. We're too afraid to start over and tackle what's unfamiliar or unknown. Or our job is so much a part of our identity that it seems impossible to consider anything else.

"Those who do change are courageous," says nationally recognized career coach Kathy Caprino. "They understand that in order to stretch and be happy, they have to be afraid. They also have to have goals they believe can be achieved."

Smart career changers, she says, should follow a five-point plan: 1) Start with an honest and significant consideration of who you are. Caprino's clients fill out an 11-page questionnaire to begin the process. "You have to dive deep and think about the talents you have, your biggest dreams, what form those dreams could take — who you *really* are. You really need to peel back the layers." 2) Look at the patterns in your life that make you unhappy. Jumping from one career to the next won't erase unresolved issues. If you don't tackle those issues (I'm never paid enough, I can't get along with my boss) they will follow you to the next job. 3) Create a vision, a burning desire to do

something new. 4) Immerse yourself in this new (potential) profession. Spend as much time as possible volunteering, interning and interviewing with professionals in the field. Decide if you want it to be a hobby or a job. 5) Develop a plan with goals to reach. Involve mentors, sponsors, or others who will keep you accountable.

The five Grinnellians here made changes that significantly transformed their identities and more importantly, their quality of life. The switch from one career to another wasn't easy and took years of study and practice, either formal or informal. But for each of them, life is richer and more satisfying for the change.

Illustrations by Kevin Cannon '02



Corporate video producer to science teacher: **Phil Dworkin-Cantor '86**

In the weeks following 9/11, the streets of downtown Chicago, like those in most American cities, were eerily quiet, giving Phil Dworkin-Cantor time to reflect on his life.

On Sept. 6 of that week, he and his wife's twin girls were born two months premature. After airplanes struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the editor at Dworkin-Cantor's video production company fled Chicago, leaving him to handle hundreds of hours of footage on his own. Sitting in an editing suite until midnight most nights, then walking on deserted streets to visit his babies in the intensive care unit, Dworkin-Cantor began reconsidering his future.

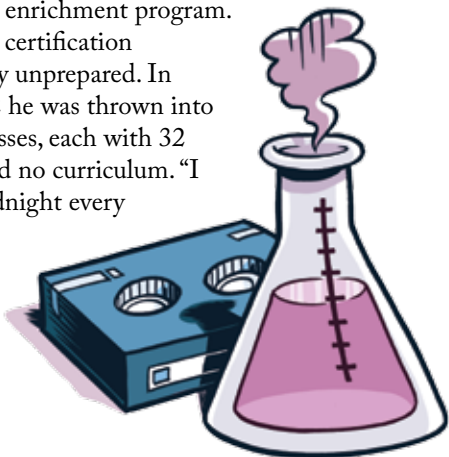
The videos he made for nonprofits such as Chicago's Field Museum, on Sue the Tyrannosaurus rex, were rewarding. The videos showing sales people how to demonstrate pointless new kitchen gadgets were not.

"Everything was so uncertain at that point," he says. "I cared more about the future because I had these tiny babies and I wanted to do something more valuable — because who knew how long we'd be here? I wanted to make an impact.

"Doing the T. rex video reminded me how much I loved science," says Dworkin-Cantor, who majored in psychology at Grinnell. "I had forgotten that." He decided to stop making videos and instead teach science.

Since he didn't have the financial option of taking two years off to get his master's and teaching certification, Dworkin-Cantor found a program that would qualify him much faster. Northwestern University's Golden Apple Teacher Education summer program certified math and science teachers in just eight weeks. He enrolled the following summer while simultaneously student-teaching in a Chicago science enrichment program.

The quickie certification left him woefully unprepared. In September 2002 he was thrown into teaching five classes, each with 32 sixth-graders and no curriculum. "I was up until midnight every night agonizing over getting lessons done, figuring out how to deal with behavior



problems, and creating materials," recalls Dworkin-Cantor, who unlike many of his peers stuck it out. (It's estimated that nearly half of new teachers quit within their first five years of teaching.)

He's now in his 14th year teaching science to Chicago Public Schools students.

"Part of why I was able to continue was the students — they're pretty awesome — once I was able to not be overwhelmed by their difficulties," he says. Today he teaches biology and advanced-placement psychology at North-Grand High School in Chicago's heavily Hispanic West Humboldt Park.

In 2012 Dworkin-Cantor earned a master's degree in education policy. He is currently a master teaching fellow in the National Science Foundation's Project SEEEC (Science Education for Excellence and Equity in Chicago). He mentors student teachers and is enrolled in an NSF-funded doctoral program in science education which focuses specifically on teaching science in low-income Chicago neighborhood schools. "I'll be studying what we can do to get our kids more excited about science and how to make it more relevant to their lives."

He's also politically active, working on issues from getting an elected (rather than appointed) school board in Chicago, to reopening schools that have been shut down, to promoting a social justice curriculum.

"I like working hard and I like fighting," admits Dworkin-Cantor. "And while I miss some of the aspects of production work, the reward of working with students vastly outweighs that. Every day I get a chance to impact kids' lives."

Attorney and pastor: **Don Heath '79**

On a recent Sunday at Edmond Trinity Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Edmond, Okla., the Rev. Don Heath preached on the topic of downward mobility, based on Mark 10:17-31. In that passage, Jesus advises a wealthy young man seeking eternal salvation to sell his possessions and give his money to the poor. The man walks away dejected.

Heath tied the passage to the environmental theology movement, which suggests radically downshifting our lifestyles to accommodate climate change. "We need to do much more than change the

kind of light bulbs we use," says Heath.

Two days later, Heath, who majored in Russian and history at Grinnell, was behind his desk at Hirsch, Heath & White, PLLC, where he specializes in issues of real property, probate, and oil and gas. The Oklahoma native has been practicing law since he graduated from University of Oklahoma law school in 1982.

Heath describes himself as "bi-vocational."

"Law allows me to pay the bills, and ministry allows me fulfillment," says Heath, who was in his early 40s when he decided to attend seminary. "I started taking my daughter to church and reading the Bible and studying, and really getting involved in the church." He grew up in a churchgoing family but left religion behind in his 20s.

From 2001-09, Heath took two classes per semester, one day a week, at nearby Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa. "They set things up so that people can work while going to school." A single dad at the time, Heath met his wife Mary, an elementary school teacher, at the seminary; today she is co-pastor of their church. He preaches one Sunday and she preaches the next.

"It's a fairly progressive congregation that welcomes LGBT folks," Heath says of the left-leaning Disciples of Christ. Their philosophy, in fact, states that the church "welcomes all people of diverse race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status to worship and participate fully in all aspects of church life in a safe, loving, nurturing, and compassionate community."

"We got involved in the climate march last year and the International Day of Peace and we go to the Pride Festival every year," he says. They've also rallied to abolish the state's death penalty. "There aren't many like ours in Oklahoma; the vast majority are on the other side (politically)."

Heath divides the workweek into chunks. Sundays and Mondays (and Tuesdays, when he is preaching) are ministry days. Wednesday through Friday are law days. "It's hard to go back and forth on the same day between ministry and law," he says.

"I enjoy the law and it's challenging, but a lot of attorneys, after they've been at it for 15 years or so, realize that the system sucks. You feel like you're moving money from one pocket to another. I was really looking for something that gave me more satisfaction," he says.

"My idea of retirement would be having one job. I'd like to just do ministry, but it's not going to work out for now." Still, bi-vocationality is a more satisfying way to live life. "I have a deeper spirituality," Heath says. "I listen more and I'm not so quick to jump in and assert my opinion. Being a pastor has made me a better person and a better attorney."



College basketball coach to financial business consultant:

Mike McCubbin '88

For years, Mike McCubbin, former captain and MVP of the Grinnell men's basketball team, dreamed of being a college basketball coach.

Soon after graduating he began what he calls his coaching quest, working as a volunteer assistant at Division 1 Siena College (New York) and working "a bunch of part-time jobs to support my coaching habit."

The hard work paid off, and after three years he was hired by the legendary Stan Van Gundy — currently head coach of the NBA's Detroit Pistons — as an assistant at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. After that McCubbin moved up the coaching ladder, first landing a full-time assistant's job at Siena, then working as an assistant at University of Rochester.

In September 1998, the 32-year-old hit the jackpot and was hired as head coach at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. His eight-year stint as head coach was the longest of any Colorado College basketball coach since the 1970s. He also satisfied a life goal by making it to the 2004 NCAA Tournament (just the second time in school history), leading a group of seniors that four years earlier had won only a single game.

But being a successful coach at that level, besides the high stress and constant risk of getting fired, meant 15-hour-plus days and a lot of travel.

"When you're single you're willing to do what it takes, like making calls until 10 or 11 at night four nights a week. That's sustainable," recalls McCubbin, who lives in suburban Denver. Even driving a van full of college kids to a tournament Christmas week seemed doable. But not if he wanted to spend significant time with his wife and own kids.

"I was married for a year before I quit coaching" in 2006, says McCubbin, who now trains, recruits, and mentors young financial service professionals at Charles Schwab in Lone Tree, Colo.

"I was at a point (after getting married) where I knew I wanted to do something different. I enjoyed what I did but the lifestyle wasn't one that I saw as conducive for family and what I wanted to do with my future, so the question was, 'OK, what's next?'"

The process "was to look for what I wanted to do and tie it back to what I've most enjoyed and been engaged in. For me it was helping other people be more successful than they could be on their own. That's the common thread that drives me."

A colleague had gone into finance, and when McCubbin researched the field, he found that coaches, teachers, and recruiters had an excellent chance of being hired without previous experience. He decided he would enjoy the work and could also make a living at it.

At 39, McCubbin got off the coaching carousel. "I didn't want to wait three or four more years to make a career change," he says, "but I don't know if I would have been nearly as prepared to be successful in my current role if I was younger. And I still have quite a bit of career in front of me to make an impact."

Happily married and the father of a 6-year-old son, McCubbin, whose title at Schwab is acquisition delivery market manager, often stands in front of a white board instructing young employees how to be more effective on the phone; he also recruits within his own organization. "It's a lot like being a small college basketball coach, just in a different industry."

When his wife asked him to coach his son's flag football team, the answer was no. "I was so passionate about coaching but it's an extreme lifestyle and the hours and emotions can consume you at some levels. These days I'm a fan," he says, smiling.



Cardiologist to farmer and llama breeder: Carlos Mendoza '72

Retired cardiologist Carlos Mendoza never imagined he would one day own a farm. Nor did he picture himself breeding llamas, those tall creatures with adorably fuzzy faces and (literally) spitting-mad personalities. But after 30 years in a thriving Denver cardiology practice, he has happily transitioned to a radically different life.

That lifestyle change began in 1996 when Mendoza, still practicing medicine and single with no children, grew tired of suburban living. He started looking for open space — 5 acres or so — to live on. "I wanted to get up in the morning and look outside my door and let my dogs out," he says. But zoning laws made buying small acreages difficult; he instead found a 200-acre parcel of land north of Denver, in unincorporated Weld County. He sold his house, moved a modular home onto the property, hired a tenant farmer — who continued row crop-farming, including corn, sugar beets, and pinto beans — and commuted to his office in Denver, until retiring in 2012.

The longer Mendoza lived on his 200 acres, however, the more intrigued he became with farming. In 2000, he started farming himself, replacing the crops with perennial grass pastures, which provided hay that was baled and sold for local livestock. Mendoza would wake at 4 a.m. to get in a few hours of farming before making hospital rounds. Tasks included moving irrigation systems, feeding animals, and cutting and raking hay when the pastures were ready for baling. He would then work at night on the farm for a few hours after he returned home. "It was a huge challenge, and I like challenges," says Mendoza, whose brother **Guillermo Mendoza '68** is also a doctor and whose late father **Guillermo (Bill) Mendoza** taught zoology and biology at Grinnell for 34 years.

A year after he bought the farm, Mendoza brought llamas onto the land; there are now about two dozen living there. "I had seen llamas at a bed-and-breakfast in Mendocino and thought they seemed kind of cool," Mendoza says. "They eat our weeds and we use their manure, and we sell and show them." Once sheared, their wool is sold for yarn and felting.

The change from cardiologist to farmer/landowner coincided with his impending retirement and the changing health care landscape, explains Mendoza. In the past few decades, the practice of medicine had become less enjoyable; doctors were losing their independence as their practices were bought out by

hospitals and other corporations.

"I bought the equipment — balers, tractors, irrigation equipment, buildings, storage space — while still working as a doctor, so when I retired I didn't have to buy anything substantial," he says. "A friend encouraged me to invest money in the farm and that was good advice; it's appreciated much faster than anything I could do in the stock market. Plus it's my retirement career, and it makes sense to invest in your career if it's something you want." At 62 he was ready to leave cardiology and be his own boss again — on the farm.

Mendoza employs a full-time and a part-time worker who do the bulk of the farming, although he labors about six hours a day, doing everything from irrigation to hay baling and anything else that's needed. The farm produces about 600 tons of grass hay a year, along with champion show llamas.

"I'd never done anything like this before," says Mendoza, who calls himself a self-taught farmer. "My dad was a pre-med counselor at Grinnell, and he was the strongest influence I had, advising us to avoid getting bogged down intellectually in our medical career." It was advice Mendoza took to heart.

Banker to college history professor: Georgia Mickey '66

"I should have been in academia from the start," says Georgia Mickey. "My mother was a high school English teacher, and my grandfather was a professor of American history at the University of Chicago." But getting a late start hasn't hurt Mickey's second career. After earning her doctorate at the age of 55, she completed several postdoctoral fellowships and now, at 71, is a happily tenured associate professor of East Asian history at California Polytechnic State University, Pomona.

A former banker who spent much of her career putting together deals for clients in New York, London, and Hong Kong, Mickey graduated from Grinnell with a degree in Spanish, eventually ending up in Washington, D.C., where she became the second female associate at Booz Allen Hamilton. While her analytical skills served Mickey well, her gender didn't. "I hit the glass ceiling in the late 1960s and moved to New York, ending up in banking and corporate finance."

After earning an M.B.A. from Columbia University to advance her career, Mickey found her niche, becoming one of the few women working in ship financing. "I really enjoyed that because it was intellectually stimulating," she says. "I also enjoyed the



customer contact. Shipping companies are generally family-owned, so you really got to know people at a very personal and professional level."

But commercial banking changed drastically in the 1980s, and the increasingly cutthroat nature of the business turned her off. "It became more of a deal-driven, rather than a relationship-driven business, so in my mid-40s, I left."

She worked at several small bookshops on Madison Avenue while figuring out what to do next. An ad for a master's degree program (aimed at older students) at Columbia University's School of General Studies caught her eye. Mickey, who since taking a high school course on Asia and living in Hong Kong for three years had been fascinated by the region, started coursework in East Asian studies. The classes sparked the idea of becoming an academic. At 49, she enrolled full time in Columbia's Asian studies department to earn a master's, so she could eventually apply for the school's doctoral program.

"I was utterly captivated," she says of her studies. "I had a fantastic experience." She learned Chinese in her mid-50s and spent time in China researching her dissertation.



After earning her doctorate in 2004, she completed two postdoctoral fellowships, first at Stanford University's Center for East Asian Studies and then at Columbia University. While many Ph.D.s complain that getting hired for a full-time post past age 35 is nearly impossible, Mickey found the right situation at Cal Poly and at 62 landed a position.

"I didn't have dates in my resume, and I look younger than my actual age," she admits. "I think the students would be horrified if they knew how old I am. But it doesn't make a difference to me. I get along just fine with my students and that has something to do with Grinnell, because I like to give them the kind of experience I had at Grinnell."

Cal Poly is one of the most diverse colleges in the nation, says Mickey, and she enjoys her mostly first-generation college students. "It's really fun when you're in a classroom and you watch their eyes light up. There's something very magical when you realize the class is with you."

Teaching, says Mickey, is perfect for her. "I get to do a lot of different things, from organizing a new class [to] finding images and videos, showing films, researching new topics, and engaging students in class discussions."

"I like the personal interaction with colleagues and students. And teaching the students how to think is an enormous challenge, which I find fascinating." 📖

Grinnell Career-Changers' Wisdom

"Understand why you want to change careers. Reflect on your strengths, and ask other people, like a career coach, to help with that self-reflection. Figure out when and where you did your best work and were most satisfied."

– **Mike McCubbin '88**, basketball coach turned financial business consultant

"Find the thing you feel that you'll be satisfied with at the end of the day, the week, the month; and if you think that will fulfill your life, go for it. Once you get there, you will end up doing things you hadn't even imagined."

– **Phil Dworkin-Cantor '86**, corporate video producer turned high school science teacher

"Talk to people who have the job you're interested in before you make a change. People love talking about themselves. Do your research before you meet with them and go in with good questions."

– **Georgia Mickey '66**, banker turned college history professor

"Plan carefully and make sure you're secure about cash flow and income. You don't want to throw away a successful career and find yourself in financial trouble later. Once you decide you can financially do it, ask questions to decide if it's something you really want to do. Why do you want to do this? Why leave one career for another? Will you be intellectually satisfied? What really turns you on?"

– **Carlos Mendoza '72**, retired cardiologist turned grass hay farmer/lama breeder

"If you really feel called to (change careers), do it. Go ahead and take the leap; you'll find a way to make it happen."

– **Don Heath '79**, attorney and pastor



Photo by Idelle Cooper '01

The Essence of Inquiry

Grinnell students engaged in research make serious contributions to bodies of knowledge while shaping their own futures

by Denton Ketels

Student research opportunities at Grinnell are abundant and diverse. In 2014–15, 40 percent of students completed a Mentored Advanced Project or MAP — a distinctive Grinnell program that provides exposure to research methods, collaboration with faculty, and deep career insights. It's one reason why Grinnell ranks seventh among all private and public national institutions for graduating students who go on to earn Ph.D.s.

Translating new knowledge

Queenster Nartey '16 earned “outstanding presentation” honors at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in Seattle last November.

“There were huge research institutions represented in divisions like neuroscience, math, cell biology, microbiology,” Nartey says. “The judges that came to hear about my research were like, ‘This all took place at Grinnell?’ Yep, this happened at a small, rural liberal arts college in Iowa. They were really amazed.”

Nartey, a biological chemistry major, shared findings from her MAP that could have major implications for health care environments where harmful bacteria pose a threat.

“Hospital-acquired infections are a big concern,” Nartey says. “If a doctor touches a door handle and then examines a patient who has an incision still healing, that’s a way for bacteria to enter into the bloodstream and spread to different organs.

“Copper is an anti-microbial agent; it kills bacteria by disrupting the outer membrane and degrading the DNA,” Nartey explains. “For this research we were hoping that with copper on surfaces like door handles, light switches, IV poles, and keyboards, we could minimize bacterial growth and hospital-acquired infections.”

Nartey collected samples for analysis at Grinnell Regional Medical Center. The hospital is partnering in the study by implementing copper alloy surfaces on high-touch areas in patient rooms and examination areas.

Comparing samples to those from her stainless steel control, Nartey documented a significant decrease in bacterial growth for the copper alloys. She is continuing her MAP this semester to test further for resistant bacteria and to sequence for genus and species.

“Being pre-med, it’s wonderful being part of this translational research where I see the direct impact of the results right away,” Nartey says.

Nartey’s MAP, mentored by **Shannon Hinsaleasure**, associate professor of biology, exemplifies faculty-directed research that leverages partnerships and funding for capstone-type opportunities. Nartey says having published papers as an undergraduate will help facilitate her access into a fellowship position after graduation and eventual application into an M.D./Ph.D. program.

“Queenster has become an invaluable member of our hospital research team,” Hinsaleasure says. “Her attention to detail and mastery of laboratory techniques have allowed us to expand on our initial studies and gather enough data to tell a complete story. I appreciate her strong interpersonal skills that have allowed her to work effortlessly with all types of care providers at the hospital and her vision for where to move the project next.”

Tying it all together

Josie Bircher '16, a biochemistry and math double major, is using her math skills to help advance chemistry professor **Mark Levandoski**’s studies on receptors in the brain linked to nicotine addiction.

Bircher says mathematical approaches are gaining favor in biology and biochemistry due to computing power that provides fast results on multiple simultaneous calculations. Her research could ultimately help lead to drug therapies that effectively treat nicotine addiction.

“The whole point of mathematical modeling is to generate predictive power,” Bircher explains. “If a model matches with experimental data when the receptor is in the presence of one drug, then we can predict how this receptor might act in the presence of another drug, or in the presence of a different amount of drug. We can use the model to then make predictions for other cases to get a general idea of how the receptor works.”

Bircher’s work expands on what students did in previous years, and she values the continuity that’s built into the system. “I relied heavily on what people had done in the past and the final papers they wrote, so those really help in continuing the process,” Bircher says. “It’s a huge benefit of the structure of the MAP.”



Photos by Justin Hayworth

Queenster Nartey '16 and Shannon Hinsaleasure in the lab.

Each MAP proposal is “essentially proof that you’ve put a lot of work into it and that the project is well thought out,” Bircher says. “It’s also a justification of the research question, how it’s relevant to previous work, what you plan to contribute to the field, and how it relates to your previous studies, because the MAP is supposed to be a culmination of all of your prior coursework in an advanced level.”

Bircher attributes the success of her current MAP to what she has learned in her math classes and sees the research process as intrinsically valuable regardless of what a student might choose as a career direction.

“As I’m planning on being a researcher, it’s been perfectly aligned with what I want to do in the future, but I think that your final goal doesn’t have to be research to do a MAP and to be involved in the research process,” Bircher says. “I think it really helps tie together everything you do in classes, and experiencing this type of research firsthand instead of just reading about it is largely beneficial.”

Levandovski says the value of research to an undergraduate education cannot be overstated, even beyond the fact that students involved in research often

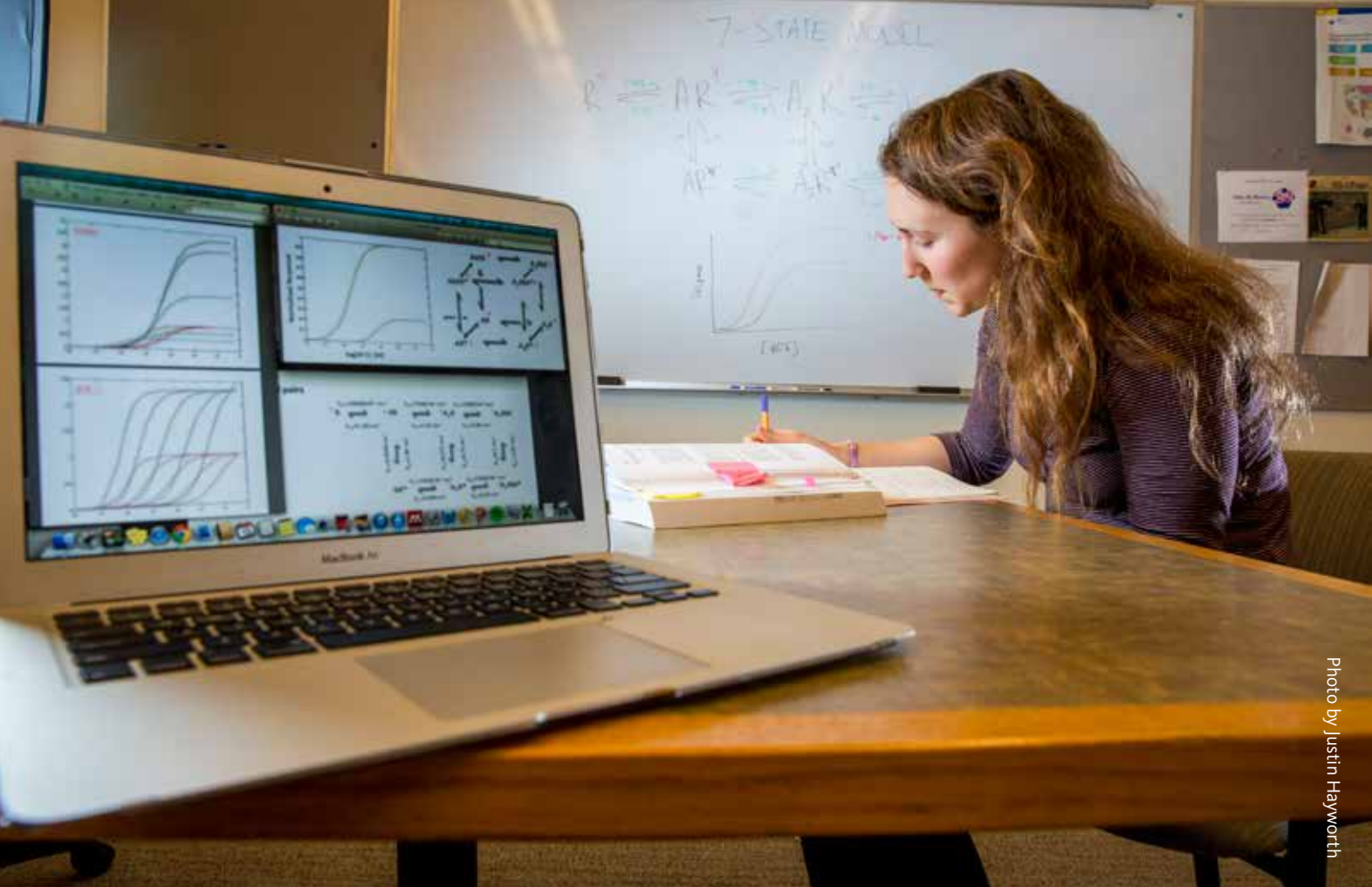


Photo by Justin Hayworth

Josie Bircher '16 is using mathematical modeling in her MAP.

become full collaborators, conference presenters, and publication co-authors in the process.

“By its integrative nature, a research experience affords students some opportunities for growth that are rarely possible in regular coursework,” Levandoski says. “Students gain independence and confidence as they work to figure things out for themselves, drawing on their previous experiences.

“Some of my most rewarding interactions with research students have come from observing their ‘Eureka!’ moments — not about the science itself, but about the discovery of their passion for it. You can’t put that in a textbook or a syllabus.”

Collaborating in the field

Two summers ago, **Rebecca Rasmussen '16** and **Edward Hsieh '16** helped find what turned out to be the largest supercolony of ants ever recorded in North America. By “large,” we mean from Iowa to the Appalachian Mountains.

The success of that project earned them both an invitation from **Jackie Brown**, professor of biology, to do a MAP in summer 2015 on Big Island, Hawaii.

Both students accepted, and by mid-May they were planning preliminary field studies to help Brown and **Idelle Cooper '01**, assistant professor of biology at James Madison University in Virginia, find out why some female damselflies are red and others are green.

“I was looking at a behavioral biology aspect because we wanted to see if the females were evolving this color dimorphism because of sexual selection,” Rasmussen says. For two months, she and other researchers stalked damselflies at various sites near Naalehu, the southernmost town in the United States.

“Our main hypothesis was ecological selection, so I was testing the alternative,” Rasmussen says. Her findings indicated that sexual selection was minimal. “What we saw goes along with what Professor Brown and Professor Cooper have been positing, which is promising for their research,” she says.

Hsieh tested for chemical properties related to the color morphs. “In the ant project I looked at their particular hydrocarbons, and in this one I looked at antioxidant chemicals to see what potentially helped protect damselflies against UV radiation depending on the elevation,” Hsieh says.

Hsieh’s early findings contradicted expectations that red pigment signals protection from UV stress. He found that the redder the damselfly, the lower its antioxidant capability. “We have a couple of theories as to why that might be so,” Hsieh says. “It’s still pretty open-ended and we’re continuing to work on it.”

Brown, who along with Cooper received National Science Foundation funding for the damselfly project, says, “Working with Edward and Rebecca on two different projects has highlighted for me both their talents and the value of our research-based curriculum in preparing students for meaningful participation in research.

“Each has built on their particular experience with the ant project, but in a completely new setting,” Brown says. “We’ll be working hard together during their senior year to submit these results for publication.”

Rasmussen says the collaborative research processes have made her feel “more prepared for going to graduate school in biology, if that’s the route I decide to take. Going through the planning stage, executing it, and then summarizing it is, I think, applicable to any career field.”

As an undergraduate, Rasmussen says, it is satisfying to do work that adds knowledge to a field. “It is pretty exciting to find

GRINNELL *examines* GRINNELL

Religious experiences meet the secular classroom

Olivia Queathem '18 is one of six students participating this spring in a group MAP in religious studies. Queathem and her co-researchers will be conducting student focus groups, the results from which will help inform a grant-funded study examining campus religious climate. In particular, the MAP will look at how classrooms in an intentionally secular environment such as Grinnell are affected by students’ closely held religious beliefs and experiences.

“There can be some pretty strong emotional attachments to what’s being talked about, and it’s a really difficult balance to find a classroom climate that feels open so that people can say what they’re feeling and ask honest questions,” Queathem says. “The professors are always looking for better ways to make sure that students feel safe in the classroom expressing their views through respectful dialogue.”

Project directors **Tim Dobe**, associate professor of religious studies, and **Caleb Elfenbein**, assistant professor of religious studies and history, used the first several weeks of the semester to help establish the parameters for the students’ research. But it’s the students who’ll drive the process.

“This MAP is really interesting because students begin from a position of authority,” Dobe says. “In a more typical MAP, the professor is seen to be the one who’s got the authority, because you’ve mastered a field, or you know the methods best and you’re going to correct lab mistakes, or you’re going to see where they missed interpretive questions they should be asking.

“Here, the students’ own experience validates their contribution to the research, and I think that part of this whole grant emerged out of conversations like that — with students, with people who work with students in student life so that we recognize the limits of our own knowledge.”

Elfenbein says that student-led focus groups are an important early phase of the overall study, because “other students might be willing to say things that they wouldn’t if Tim and I were leading the focus groups. So, in terms of curricular and pedagogical development in the department, we couldn’t do this work without the students.

“We’re also thinking about how to work with the information we garner in terms of future programming,” Elfenbein says, “in which students with religious commitments might actually participate in presenting their experiences at public forums to generate conversation about forms of diversity that usually aren’t part of the discussion, like religion on campus.”

“Going through the planning stage, executing it, and then summarizing it is applicable to any career field.”

— Rebecca Rasmussen '16, biology

things that could seriously contribute or that turn out to be an unusual finding that is worth reporting,” she says.

“I was originally interested in doing biological field research,” Hsieh says of his MAP experience, “and these opportunities gave me a lot of experience in what I would expect to do if I were to continue in that vein.”

Even fieldwork has its perks, and because damselfly research is highly weather dependent, the research team used rainy days to seek out diversions that included Hawaii’s mix of Asian cuisine, volcanoes, and black sand beaches.

“One morning it was raining, so we went to a beautiful beach for snorkeling,” Hsieh says. “We swam with sea turtles, and then farther out we found a giant pod of 30-plus dolphins.”

“We were swimming with dolphins,” Hsieh says. “It was one of the coolest experiences of my life. And it was on my 21st birthday. It was awesome.”



Web extra:
Research experience adds value to internship.

What is a Mentored Advanced Project?

- Approved course of faculty-directed scholarly or creative work.
- Integrates student learning and faculty development.
- Requires student initiative in shaping every phase of project.
- Mentored by one or more faculty members.
- Capstone experience; represents culmination of preparatory work.
- Stipend supported; equivalent to a full-time job for the period of the project.
- May include travel to another location for an extended period of time.
- Aims to produce results that merit presentation to wider scholarly world.

For a detailed look at MAPs, see www.grinnell.edu/academics/arc/academic-affairs/map

“Some of my most rewarding interactions with research students have come from observing their ‘Eureka!’ moments — not about the science itself, but about the discovery of their passion for it. You can’t put that in a textbook or a syllabus.”

— Mark Levandoski, professor of chemistry

Giving

Chance Encounter

How helping a couple on a train led Wilfried Prewo '70 to Grinnell

by Luke Saunders '12

It started with strangers on a train — very seldom does one get to say that anymore. The year was 1964, and it was this chance encounter that led to **Wilfried Prewo '70's** Grinnell experience, which changed his life and made his recent and future gifts to the College possible.

Bill and Jean Cramer — a couple from Overland Park, Kan., with no real connection to Grinnell — found themselves on the wrong train after visiting a friend in Germany. Prewo, a teenager then, helped them find their way to a train that would take them to Paris, their intended destination. They exchanged contact information, but it seemed unlikely their paths would cross again.

In the next few years, Prewo completed high school and his compulsory military service in Germany and began studying economics at the University of Frankfurt. He daily found himself in lecture halls filled with as many as 800 students. A small class had 300.

In the summer of 1969, Prewo was in the United States and because he had corresponded with the Cramers since they first met, he decided to take them up on their invitation. While visiting he told them about his university experience, his dissatisfaction with the school’s student-faculty ratio of 100:1, and the lack of access to professors.

He also told them about his interest in Grinnell, which he had first learned about through an economics textbook by then-Grinnell professor **Robert Haveman**. Jean immediately suggested they visit the campus, and they soon made the four-hour drive, where Prewo was given a full tuition scholarship and allowed to enter as a senior.

As excited as he was at the prospect of coming to Grinnell, Prewo didn’t have the \$1,000 he needed for



Wilfried and Sylvia Prewo

room and board for the 1969–70 academic year. The Cramers, even though they had five children of their own, offered Prewo the money as a gift. He hadn’t even asked.

Prewo’s experience at Grinnell was a profound one. The culture was vastly different from that of his university in Germany. “I never knew an academic experience like Grinnell existed,” he says. “It was like the garden of Eden and nirvana.” Before coming to Grinnell, he had never seen an open-stack library. At his former university, “you could sit there and listen, but the learning was limited because there was no back and forth,” he says. At Grinnell, he says, “I could learn so easily.” After one year at Grinnell, he graduated and pursued a Ph.D. in economics from Johns Hopkins University.

In the years since he received his doctorate, Prewo taught at the University of Texas at Austin and then returned to Germany. In 1985 he became chief executive of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Hannover. He held that position until he retired in 2012.

Prewo could teach a master class on ways to give. Ever the economist, he chose the three modes that made the most sense for his financial situation: a bequest from an existing family trust, a gift of stock to establish a charitable remainder unitrust managed by Grinnell College, and a cash gift. The bequest and the cash gift will establish a pair of scholarships, one honoring the Cramers and the other honoring his parents. He chose to honor his parents because of the importance they placed on education. He honors the Cramers because they recognized the value of the education he was offered and generously removed the financial obstacle that stood in his way.

Alumni Council News

Beyond money: Added connections to Grinnell

by Ed Senn '79, Alumni Council president

“Scramble the brain, Senn. Scramble the brain!”

Forty years later, this advice from Professor of Biology **Irving Y. Fishman** sticks with me still. I was struggling to “pith” the brain of a rather unwilling frog with my lab partner, **John Malkinson '79**. It was part of an experiment in Vertebrate Physiology meant to test muscle reaction and memory. The frog's, not mine. Fishman continued, “Son, you'll never get to step two if you can't do step one.”

Fishman was a wise and memorable character — a chain-smoking, no-nonsense, coffee-mug-always-in-hand gentleman who proved a reliably daunting foe in the annual horseshoe competition pitting bio majors against bio faculty. He taught us about both physiology and human behavior.

In the intervening years, I've somehow moved beyond the medulla oblongata of the *Rana Catesbeiana* to become the president of Grinnell's Alumni Council. The job, which is terrific fun despite being a great deal of work, makes me an ex-officio member of the College Board of Trustees. And it includes voting privileges. In October I joined with the other trustees in their unanimous vote to retain our need-blind admission policy and meet 100 percent of demonstrated financial need for domestic students.

In a sense, Professor Fishman still stood over my shoulder as I voted. Our decision was “step one.” It is necessary for “step two” — ensuring that Grinnell continues to be a strong (and even stronger) institution for the next 50 years. While the trustees have been clear about the necessity of this goal, they've been equally explicit in emphasizing the importance of balancing the contributions of endowment support, net student revenue, and alumni giving.

The board is committed to providing Grinnell with the financial stability required to continue as a great institution. But that mission requires the involvement of Grinnell's alumni community, which needs to take the next steps by engaging with and supporting the College.

Charged with fostering stronger connections between Grinnell and its alumni, the council asks the alumni community to consider a broad-based approach to supporting Grinnell. “Step two” can take many forms, and giving to Grinnell can extend beyond money. If you're looking for additional ways to assist, we recommend (1) volunteering to interview prospective students via the GRASP program; (2) providing a summer internship for a current Grinnell student; and (3) offering to host a student extern during spring break (alumni volunteers are solicited in the fall). Support can also take the form of wearing some Grinnell bling/gear and gently annoying the person next to you on the plane by talking about the advantages of a Grinnell education!

Alumni financial support is critical, and increased alumni giving is key for providing educational opportunity for all students regardless of their ability to pay.

We ask that you consider joining us in making a financial contribution to the College this year and every year. If you can't do that, raise your hand to support the College in a new way in 2016. Consider attending Reunion and the Alumni College this year. We've created a new group of attendees called the GRAYs (Grinnell Reunion Any Year). There's no need to wait until it's your year to come back and check on Grinnell's path. In any way you choose, we're sure you'll find re-engaging with the College in some form both memorable and inspirational. 🐸

“Son, you'll never get to step two if you can't do step one.”

Prompted

Bicycling on a Spring Day

On a lucid, caressing spring day **Marjorie Mahon Wirth '57** decided this was the time to rehearse for her upcoming cycle tour through central Europe. **Joanne Bunge '56** had encouraged her to register with the American Youth Hostels for the journey. A pre-requirement was to ride a bicycle 20 miles. Marjorie asked me to accompany her.

Margaret Henry '57's bike was conveniently parked in the North Campus loggia near Marjorie's. We took off and arrived in the town of Newton with ease. While returning I was wondering how Marg would respond when she noticed her bike was gone. When I faced her, rather than anger, I experienced her joy over my daring to meet such a challenge. These two '57 women, no longer dynamic on earth, thrive in my thoughts because of pushing me into exceptional activity.

– **Carol Lingle Mark '57**, Maui, Hawaii

An Unconventional Coach

Soccer was not a very popular sport when I arrived at Grinnell, and I was not a very good soccer player, so it seemed like a perfect fit. I joined the team as a sophomore and played for three unremarkable seasons, certainly not a highlight of my lifetime athletic achievements and worthy of mention for only one reason. I was coached by **John Pfitsch**.

Coach Pfitsch was unconventional. Soccer was not a sport he was very familiar with, and his training methods and strategies were unlike anything any of us had ever experienced. But his philosophies were intriguing, infectious, hard to follow until you followed them, somehow more real than the usual rhetoric or banal clichés. Now 40 years later I think of him often as I coach my small group of middle school athletes. My kids don't prance and pose when they win, because winning is what they expect if they do what we have practiced. Coach taught me that. We lie on the grass and visualize our upcoming successes, just as our Grinnell soccer team did in a dark room in the 1970s, and we are successful. I owe everything I am as a coach to John Pfitsch.

– **Larry Pistrang '80**, Princeton, Mass.

Sense of Community

In spring 1968, I was trying to decide where I would transfer for my sophomore year of college. I had a Grinnell acceptance but had spoken to exactly one Grinnell alum and never seen the place.

As the deadline for a decision approached, I was invited to a Grinnell alumni event near my home in Maryland. Dean of the College **Joseph Wall '41** spoke and then opened the floor for questions and comments.

A woman stood up and said she had not attended Grinnell but her son Joe was an alum. She wanted us to know that he was doing his medical residency in Pittsburgh and was doing just fine. And she sat down.

If Grinnell is the kind of community where Joe's mother had become a part of it, it was probably the place for me. Thank you, Joe and your mother, whoever and wherever you are.

– **JC Labowitz '71**, Alexandria, Va.

Friends for Life

During my first semester (spring 1952) at Grinnell College, my lengthy friendship with **Charlie Anderson '55** was launched. For two years we were roommates in South Younker. Charlie's main focus and mine was on academics. Late evening bull sessions with our South Younker buddies and double dates with coeds from South Campus helped us maintain a sense of balance.

Grinnell College days were followed by Johns Hopkins days where Charlie pursued a Ph.D. in political science. Next was Charlie's lengthy tenure in the Department of Political Science at the University of Wisconsin. For a decade visits between Charlie and me were out of the question.

That changed in 1967 when I accepted a position in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Iowa. Madison, Wis., and Iowa City, Iowa, weren't distant cities. During our visits we rehearsed old jokes and discussed academic issues and prevailing national problems. I was saddened to learn that Charlie died of cancer in 2013 (I remain in touch with his wife, **Jean Wood Anderson '55**).

Charlie's engaging mind, sense of humor, and natural friendliness convince me that truly I've been enriched for having known Charles W. Anderson.

– **J. Kenneth Kuntz '56**, Iowa City, Iowa

Prompt for Summer 2016

There's a vibe — a sense of coming home — that many Grinnellians feel when they come to Grinnell as students. How/when did you know Grinnell was “home” for you?

Submit up to 200 words by April 29, 2016, to magazine@grinnell.edu with “home” in the subject line. If we publish your story, we'll send you a special T-shirt.

1950s

1955

Dean Martin '55



Dean Martin will be inducted as an NAI Fellow at the National Academy of Inventors' fellow induction ceremony on April 15, 2016, at the U.S. Patent and Trademark

Office in Alexandria, Va.

1960s

1963

Bennett Bean '63



Bennett Bean shares: "Just back from 10 days in Israel lecturing and demonstrating, sponsored by the Association of Israel's Decorative Arts foreign exchange program."

1964

Dennis Maulsby's flash fiction story "Amtrak Dream" won an honorable mention in the 2015 Soul-Making Keats Literary Competition. This annual community arts outreach program of the National Federation of American Pen Women looks for original, freshly creative, and finely crafted works that embrace creative interpretations of the statement by English poet John Keats. Read "Amtrak Dream" at www.dennismaulsby.com/blog. Quotations by Maulsby are also featured in "Voices from Vietnam: Some 40 years after

the war's end Iowans who served tell their stories," an article featured in the January/February issue of *The Iowan* magazine.

1966 (50th Reunion)

James Holbrook, clinical professor of law at the University of Utah, received the inaugural Peacemaker Award and gave the inaugural Peacemaker Lecture in September in Provo, Utah. The award was created by the Brigham Young University Center for Conflict Resolution and co-sponsored by the BYU David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies. View his lecture at kennedy.byu.edu/events/the-wagon-wheel/.

1968

Chuck Connerly '68



Chuck Connerly received the University of Iowa's Michael J. Brody Award for Faculty Excellence in Service on Oct. 6, 2015 at the University of

Iowa's annual Faculty and Staff Awards Banquet. The citation for the award can be found at now.uiowa.edu/2015/10/annual-celebration-honors-faculty-staff.

Amy Rossman received an Alumni Legacy Award from Oregon State University, College of Agricultural Sciences, for her work with fungi, October 2015.

On Nov. 18, 2015, the Library of Congress live-streamed "Contemporary Analog and Digital Color Photographic Prints: Processes, Practice, and Accelerated Test Methods for Evaluating Print Permanence," a lecture by Henry Wilhelm.

1969

Carl Muller was recognized as an Ohio Super Lawyer for 2016 by the Super Lawyers rating service. Muller works at Tucker Ellis LLP.

1970s

1971

JC Labowitz was named one of the best lawyers in the Washington area in the 2015 issue of *Washingtonian* magazine. His specialty is elder law.

1972

Floyd Slotterback retired from music teaching in April 2015 after 29 years at Northern Michigan University. He also taught for seven years at Manchester University and for three years at Westwood High School in Mesa, Ariz., and Winslow High School in Winslow, Ariz. He and his wife Patricia have five children between them. "Since teaching for nearly 40 years does not prepare one for retirement, I occasionally wake up completely perplexed," he writes.

1973

Irma McClaurin will receive the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Massachusetts Amherst Alumni Association on April 4, 2016, at the Massachusetts Statehouse. She received her Ph.D. in anthropology and a master of fine arts in English from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Ron Medvin once again sang with Andrea Bocelli as part of the Opera Tampa Chorus during a Feb. 11, 2016, concert at the Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla. Medvin, a baritone, was excited as this was his second opportunity to sing with Bocelli; he was part of Bocelli's 2012 Tampa concert.

1980s

1980 (35th Cluster Reunion)

Liane Binowitz '80



Liane Binowitz writes: "I was recognized in the 2015 issue of *Mountain States Super Lawyers*, a magazine that identifies the top 5 percent of attorneys

in designated specialties in the states and regions, chosen by their peers and through research of Super Lawyers, a



Photo by Justin Hayworth

Chris Bulbulia '10 was a development assistant at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2012. That's when a friend urged him to see Congressional Chorus perform its annual cabaret across town at the historic Atlas Performing Arts Center.

"I'd seen ballet and opera, I'd seen lots of shows at the Kennedy Center," Bulbulia says. "But I saw *this* show and my jaw fell to the floor. I was like, whoa, what *is* this? There was such a range of genres — a cappella singing, bands and dancing, soloists and ensembles. It was a wonderful production.

"I fell in love with Congressional Chorus the first time I saw the cabaret," he says. "I feel very proud to be part of the organization today."

The Congressional Chorus and American Youth Chorus — its full name — is a family of five choruses devoted to American choral music. It performs a full slate of concerts and special appearances each year in Washington, D.C., including White House and Capitol Hill occasions.

Bulbulia became a Congressional Chorus singer in 2013. He quickly transitioned to become the organization's director of marketing, production, and development.

"We have a performance style for everyone," he says. "You're not going to get the same thing every time you come to a show, which really lends to a dynamic season that people enjoy."

Far from feeling overwhelmed by his multifaceted role, Bulbulia is energized by the integration of functions he came to appreciate as a theatre major at Grinnell, as a freelance fundraiser for nonprofit groups, and as an intern and employee at the Kennedy Center.

"There is a whole other side to the arts besides being a performer," he says. "I've come to understand the relationships that need to be built in order to sustain organizations. This job incorporates all of the elements that allow Congressional Chorus to be healthy."

Bulbulia's activities at Grinnell included two years with the Grinnell Singers. His participation with the Student Publications and Radio Committee (SPARC) gave him important insights into fundraising, allocations, and nonprofit relationships.

After graduation, his plan was to return to Washington to become an actor. He went to bartending school and worked as an overhire stagehand

while "doing the struggling actor thing." The plan shifted, he says, when his postgraduate internship at the Kennedy Center refocused his attention on arts management.

"The arts are in need of people who can bolster the craft and provide good representation for artists themselves," Bulbulia says. That includes helping artists make sound financial decisions, as well as building their marketing and technical skills for making productions and performances the best they can be.

Bulbulia continues to work in support of nonprofits like Washington's Raise Your City and Think Local First. He is a member and officer in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which is dedicated to the elevation of character and principles of friendship. He also manages events and partnerships for the city's online music review and playlist resource, DCMusicDownload.com.

"I have strong commitment to community and to bringing people together in some sort of fellowship," Bulbulia says. "That is why I've been a part of all these organizations — to help communities grow and enjoy life together." 🍷

— Denton Ketels

Thompson Reuters company. This is the third consecutive year in which I was included in the personal injury defense/product liability category. I am senior counsel at Gordon & Rees Mansukhani Scully LLP, a national insurance defense firm."

1981 (35th Cluster Reunion)

Rita Gergely writes: "I retired from the Iowa Department of Public Health on April 30, 2014 ... (and) on Aug. 20, 2015, I received a Century Farm Award for my farm in Monroe County, Iowa. My Slovak immigrant grandfather purchased this farm in 1915, so I am the third generation to own this farm."

Adam Sterling was nominated by President Barack Obama as ambassador to the Slovak Republic. Sterling is a career member of the U.S. Foreign Service, class of counselor, and has been deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in The Hague, Netherlands, since 2013. He served concurrently as chargé d'affaires in The Hague from 2013 to 2014. Previously, he served as deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 2010 to 2013.

1982 (35th Cluster Reunion)

Susan Bart '82



Susan Bart's many achievements include being named in the 2015 *Illinois Super Lawyers* magazine as one of the Top 50 Women Attorneys in Illinois, and for the sixth consecutive year, being recognized by Chambers USA's listing of America's leading lawyers for business. In 2015, Bart was elected vice chair of the board of trustees of Roosevelt University, Chicago. As reporter for the Uniform Trust Decanting Committee, Bart drafted the Uniform Trust Decanting Act with guidance from the drafting committee. This act was approved by the Uniform Law Commission in July 2015. She wrote "Saving for Education: Creating Educational Dynasty Trusts Using 529 Plans," *ACTEC Law Journal*, 2015 and

"Amendments to the Illinois Virtual Representation Statute," *Southern Illinois University Law Journal*, 2015. She is co-author of *Illinois Estate Planning: Forms and Commentary*, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, which was revised in 2005 and is currently being revised for 2016 re-publication.

Paul Marthers and his wife Janet created a college guide organized around academic programs and types of colleges entitled *Follow Your Interests to Find the Right College*, Wheatmark Publishing, Dec. 15, 2015.

1983

John Gazewood received the 2015 All-University Teaching Award at the University of Virginia's fall convocation. He is program director for the family medicine residency at the university.

Andy Mennick writes: "I recently completed a multiyear service project where I helped open the first college counseling center for public schools authorized by the Romanian Ministry of Education and trained the country's first cohort of public school college admission counselors. My final work with the project was a wrap-up weekend in May before I moved to Beijing, although I still stay in touch long-distance. It was terrific to work with amazing educators and students in northern Romania, as well as help students when they were in Bucharest. Now that I'm in China, I'm looking for a new service opportunity and hope that I can find a worthwhile one before long, although the adjustments and logistics of moving here are taking up a fair amount of my time. I have a new position as a college counselor at the International School of Beijing, and am loving Beijing — (manageable) pollution and all!"

Carl Pfirman writes from Los Angeles that he is "working as a film editor on feature documentary films and TV shows. Last month, a film that I edited called *Tyrus* premiered at the 2015 Telluride Film Festival; and earlier in the year, another film that I edited called *Limited Partnership* aired on PBS (June 16, 2015) as part of the ITVS/Independent Lens series. Right now I'm

editing the new film directed by Robert Greenwald, aka 'the other Michael Moore.' I live with my spouse John. We celebrated our 25th anniversary in September."

1984

Peter Hautzinger concluded a 27-year career in state prosecution with 11 years as the elected district attorney for Colorado's 21st Judicial District in Grand Junction, Colo. He resigned with one year remaining in his third and final term to accept a position with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado. He will serve as an assistant U.S. attorney, based in Grand Junction, with responsibility for all federal criminal prosecutions in western Colorado.

1985

Dana Weidman was granted a one-semester sabbatical to work on her documentary project called *Progeny: Of Mice, My Mom, Our Mutation and Me*, detailing the discovery of the genetic mutation that causes dilated cardiomyopathy in her family and the current research in gene therapies to reverse heart failure. Weidman raised \$7,000 on Kickstarter to help fund her project, with major thanks offered to her friends from Grinnell.

1986

David De Young and Lotta Vihriälä announced the birth of their second child, a daughter, Selma Sofia Elisabeth Vihriälä, Sept. 25, 2015.

1987

Heidi Hopkins graduated with her Ph.D. in biology from the University of New Mexico, May 2014. Hopkins now teaches at Ithaca College, Ithaca, N.Y.

1989

Billboard magazine honored **Anya Grundmann** in "Women in Music 2015: The 50 Most Powerful Executives in the Industry," on Dec. 3, 2015, in the radio category. Jan. 6, 2016, Grundmann was named NPR's new vice president of programming and audience development after a national search. She held the position for six months on an interim basis.

A Pattern of Humanitarianism

Alumna's passion for learning brings College and community together



Photo by Justin Hayworth

Joanne Bunge '56 has a knack for building community. In Bloomington, Minn., her home for 30 years, Bunge organized churches, a hospital, and educational resources to start a Family Education Center.

"It was for parents, grandchildren, teachers — anyone who was involved with raising children," Bunge says. "It was more successful than I ever imagined."

After raising two sons and doing an array of volunteer work, Bunge returned to Grinnell in 1990 to become the College's director of planned giving.

"If it hadn't been my alma mater, I wouldn't have left Bloomington," Bunge says. "Grinnell College did so much for me that I felt if they wanted me to come back and do this, I would. Thank goodness I did. I'm so happy to be here."

After five years at the College, Bunge spent seven years building the development department at Grinnell Regional Medical Center (GRMC). Then, going to sleep one night, she had one of her signature epiphanies:

with all the educational opportunities in Grinnell, why not coordinate them through one community resource?

"It was something I had to do," Bunge says.

Bunge sold the idea to leadership at the College, the GRMC, and the Mayflower Community. More entities jumped in, and the seven-member Community Education Council (CEC) was born in 2007.

"People say you should have a vision in your mind of what a project is going to be, where it's going to go, and what you expect to accomplish," Bunge says. "That is so far from what's happened to me in anything I've done. I just get this notion for something, and next thing I know I have a tiger by the tail."

The CEC's first project culminated in a book titled *Our War*, edited by **George Drake '56**, former CEC planning committee member and former Grinnell College president. It documented the riveting personal accounts of area World War II veterans who served in the European and Pacific theaters.

Bunge's idea for "bucket courses" — things people might want to learn before kicking the proverbial vessel — has manifested in a weekly series that brings educators from the College and elsewhere to adult learners at Drake Community Library. It's open to anyone, and it's a hot ticket.

"My concerns when we started this was that we wouldn't have enough people come to make it worthwhile, and that we'd run out of professors who were willing to teach," Bunge says. "Now we have so many people we can't get them in the room, and we have a list of professors who want to teach that we can't get to for the next two years."

To promote access, Bunge and her planning committee have launched a new website, grinnellcecbucketcourses.org. Visitors can view the entire schedule and past classes on YouTube.

Bunge directs credit for success of the bucket courses to the planning committee. "It's the most extraordinary group of people that I've ever seen," she says. "They're the talented people. The professors are the talented people. I just keep the plates spinning."

Her talent for organizing community resources flows from her passion for voluntarism, education, and community.

"I see where there is a need and I can see where there are resources. I just hook them together," Bunge says.

She recalls the day an associate called her a humanitarian. "She said humanitarians aren't happy unless they're making life better for other people," Bunge says. "I thought, bingo, that's exactly what I have to do in order to be happy myself." 🐯

— Denton Ketels

1989

Todd Troutner was elected president of the Private Investigators Association of Virginia, October 2015. He is a former homicide detective who “finds much greater satisfaction keeping people out of jail.”

1990s

1990

Karen Glennemeier is a conservation ecologist with the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, where she helps restore habitat in the forest preserves surrounding the city.

Katherine Page '90



Katherine Page has been promoted to partner at Perkins Coie's commercial litigation practice in the Seattle office.

1992

Josh Burke co-chaired the 137th annual meeting of the International Trademark Association, the global association of

trademark owners and professionals dedicated to supporting trademarks and related intellectual property. This year's meeting, held over the course of five days at the San Diego Convention Center, was the largest in the association's history, with 10,000 attorneys, paralegals, and other trademark professionals attending.

1993

Brett Fechheimer and Stephen Asche were married on Dec. 12, 2015 in Minneapolis. Attending were *Laura Waxman* and *Marian Saksena Hatch*, both from the class of 1993.

1994

Chad Finke was appointed as court executive officer and clerk of court for the Superior Court of Alameda County, Calif.

1996

Bruce Friedrich graduated from the Georgetown University Law Center in December 2015, *magna cum laude*, Order of the Coif. He's published several law review articles, which are available at works.bepress.com/bruce_friedrich/. He writes, “I've also started a new job as executive director of The Good Food Institute and co-trustee of a small venture capital firm, New Crop Capital, both

of which focus on promoting culture and plant-based alternatives to animal agriculture. Websites for both will be active at the end of January, www.TheGoodFoodInstitute.org (we have a landing page, but that's it) and www.NewCropCapital.com.”

Douglas Schenkelberg was named executive director at the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless.

1999

Clara Rice Hlavac and Andre Hlavac announced the birth of their child, a daughter, Lily Jane Hlavac, on Oct. 30, 2015. Lily is proud to be a Grinnell chip!

Matt Horstman and **Emily Langerak '01** were married July 18, 2015, in Northfield, Minn. Attending were *Kirk Johnson '95*; *Rebecca Eilers '98*; *Wyatt Gaswick*, *Shannon Guy*, *Laurie Kauffman*, *Rick Moore*, *Nathaniel Rosi*, *Aleah Vinick*, all from the class of 1999; *Courtney Hougham '00*; *Laurelin Muir Andrade*, *Ned Axtbelm*, *Shana Barchas*, *Marisol Brito*, *Adam Gratch*, *Solveig Hanson*, *Emily Howard*, *Robyn Lingo*, *Hilary Mertaugh*, *Ben Owen*, *Matt Pellowski*, *Elaine Aron Tenbrink*, all class of 2001; *Jefferson Mok* and *Jenanne Luse*, class of 2002; and *Lara Rosen '03*.

Noah Zaring '93, Ben Wohlauer '93, and Alex Severens '94

Noah Zaring writes: “Grinnellians **Ben Wohlauer '93**, **Alex Severens '94**, and I had a somewhat unexpected reunion at the National War College, where the three of us are in the class of 2016 studying for a master's degree in strategic studies. NWC is the Department of Defense's premier senior leadership school, preparing a small number of military officers for senior command and also making a few positions available to other U.S. government agencies and foreign military officers. It's a rare chance to take time out mid-career and renew knowledge of things learned at Grinnell (history, economics, political science) and not (military strategy). Our new classmates, like good Grinnellians, have prioritized public service over personal comforts, but many are returning from commands in Afghanistan or Iraq. It makes for conversations in and out of class that are very different from Grinnell, but every bit as interesting. Alex, Ben, and I are sponsored to attend by our home institutions; the Treasury Department (Alex) and State Department (Ben and Noah).

[From left to right, Wohlauer, Zaring, Severens]



The Power of Memory

The Prison Public Memory Project works with communities to preserve the past and unlock the future

In the midst of an unprecedented number of prison closures around the country, rural communities whose local economies were shaped around correctional institutions find themselves struggling with the question: If not prisons, what?

Tracy Huling '77, founder of the Prison Public Memory Project (PPMP), helps communities cope with this difficult question. “The PPMP uses history, art, and new media technologies to tell the important stories of prisons and their people,” Huling says. “We try to use culture to change culture, helping people to grapple with dark history but also to uncover the good intentions and, sometimes, good results that come out of that history.”

By researching the history of prison communities and conducting oral history interviews, the PPMP helps local people reflect on their complicated histories and discover new ways of coming together as a community to remember their past and shape a new future.

“I see the PPMP as facilitating a process of change by engaging these communities in transition, excavating their histories, telling their stories, and honoring their memories,” says Huling. “We create forums where people can learn about and openly discuss the good and the bad.”

The Prison Public Memory Project has developed its full model in Hudson, N.Y., its pilot site. In spring 2016, PPMP will assist the community of Fort Madison, Iowa, in collecting oral histories of people who worked or were incarcerated at the old Iowa State Penitentiary site (a new prison site opened a couple of miles away in 2015). Plans are afoot to train and involve Grinnell students in the Iowa work.



Brian Buckley '14, coordinator of the Hudson pilot project, found out about Huling's project when she came to campus to present her documentary, *Yes, In My Backyard*, which analyzes the complex reasons that rural communities welcome the construction of prisons in their areas.

“I had been serving as a volunteer — and later as a student coordinator — for the Liberal Arts in Prison program since my first semester at Grinnell. It was a very important passion of mine during my time at Grinnell. I often felt more intellectually and personally invested in those classrooms behind bars than in some of my classes on the Grinnell campus,” he says.

Watching Huling's documentary and talking with her about her views on mass incarceration helped Buckley to gain a new perspective on how to tell the story of prisons in the United States. “I was really taken with the mission of the PPMP, which was to come at this issue from a lot of different angles. I began to see that prison education, which was the area I had really been focused on at Grinnell, is just one part of a solution to a problem that's really big in scope,” he says.

After interning with the PPMP during the summer of 2013, Buckley wrote his senior thesis on the social history of the Hudson site; after graduation he began work with the PPMP full time. He conducts oral history interviews and generates new ways to embed local memories of prisons into the community, through public events and even curricula for the local high school.

“We believe that if the United States is going to be able to drastically scale back its prison system, it's going to take an effort that penetrates into the areas of our country that have become dependent on prisons as job generators,” Huling says. “We need to provide safe spaces for open dialogue and healing, while still demanding accountability and acknowledging the damage done by mass incarceration in these communities.”

Huling and Buckley plan to use their 2015 Wall Service Award to help create a permanent site of memory in Hudson and to establish a national PPMP board of directors to help locate new sites, create the program for a national assistance center, and raise additional funding. 📖

— Elise Hadden '14

2000S

2000 (15th Cluster Reunion)

Morgana Bailey has been named one of the 2015 Top 30 LGBT Future Leaders through OUTstanding, a nonprofit professional network for LGBT individuals in England, and the *Financial Times*, London. Bailey is a vice president at State Street Corp. in the global human resources department. The LGBT Future Leaders category recognizes those making a significant contribution to LGBT inclusion in their company.

Chian Wu '00



Chian Wu has been promoted to partner within Perkin Coie's financial transactions and restructuring practice in the Seattle office.

2001 (15th Cluster Reunion)

Pete De Kock is the new executive director for the Des Moines (Iowa) Social Club. The club seeks to be an innovative arts and entertainment venue that provides a home for local artists, offers unique programming spanning all art disciplines, and brings people of every age and background together under one roof.

Rhiannon Dietze Harris and Ben Harris announced the birth of second child, second son, Elliott Alexander Harris, Aug. 28, 2015.

Nathaniel Quance and **Amanda Perry '03** were married in Kansas City, Mo., on Aug. 9, 2015. Attending were *Amy Bailey, Mark Czarniecki, Davin Dabl, Sarah Dixon Gale, Mike Hochman, Justin Lea, Susie Przybylinski Lucas, Emily Merrick, Emily O'Keefe, John Palinski, Matt Roberts, Megan Samuelson, Andrew Sherburne, Liz Graf Sherburne, Matt Warner-Blankenship, Eli Wood, Jeff Zdunek*, all class of 2001; *Marie Opsahl-Lister, Courtney Prior, Erin Stutelberg*, class of 2003; *Anna Barlow, Colin Bernard, Rick Coriell, Megan Latchaw Czarniecki, Aaron Kase, James Michael-*

Hill Prior, Sam Taylor, class of 2004; *Catherine Hall '05*; and *Ami Freeberg '10*.

Rachel Heck Rose, senior research and development engineer working on *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, is part of short video lectures offered through Code.org, which is in partnership with Disney and Lucasfilm, featuring tutorials teaching logic and problem-solving through basic computer programming to young people, especially girls. The tutorial, called *Star Wars: Building a Galaxy with Code*, is found at code.org/starwars.

2002 (15th Cluster Reunion)

Joe Simonson and **Hisako Watanabe Simonson** announced the birth of their first child, a son, Takumi Lugh Simonson, August 2014. "We are still waiting to see if his first word will be Japanese, English, or Python."

2003

Mary Laura Calhoun and Kevin Bogardus announced the birth of their first child, a daughter, Isabel Katherine Bogardus, July 26, 2015.

James Edwards received his Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from the University of California, Los Angeles, on March 20, 2015.

Ruth Anderson Lang and Juan Lang announced the birth of their third child, first daughter, Ana Luisa Lang, June 29, 2015.

Kate Michaelsen writes: "This year I moved with my family from Connecticut back to Washington. I will be working as a psychiatrist at the VA [Veterans Affairs] Hospital and as faculty at the University of Washington."

Anne L. O'Brien and James E. Dankovich announced the birth of their second child, second daughter, Rosalie Loudon Dankovich, Sept. 6, 2015.

Tony Pham has joined Coin as the head of marketing (www.onlycoin.com).

Aaron Scott writes: "At the beginning of the year, I left my arts editor gig at *Portland Monthly Magazine* to produce a radio show about arts and creativity called *State of Wonder* for Oregon Public Broadcasting. It's been a year of firsts: I recently filed my first feature for NPR about the modernization of Shakespeare's language; updated my first feature for Radiolab about America's first transgender mayor ("New Stu"); covered my first international breaking news story, about the shooting in Roseburg [Ore.], for NPR, BBC, and PBS; and bought my first house with my first partner. Life is not boring."

Courtney Sloger Mueller and Chris Mueller announced the birth of their first child, a daughter, Audrey Lou Mueller, April 1, 2015.

Vanessa Pierce '02

Vanessa Pierce and Kelly Knutsen were married at the Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch in Loveland, Colo., Aug. 8, 2015. Attending were *Bill Holland '00, Christopher Thomas '00, Sarah Kogel-Smucker '01, Matt Ewing '02, and Joe Mowers '02*.



Photo by Justin Hayworth

Homes Help Restore Lives

Alum's project offers city's homeless a path to reintegration

Cullen Davis '94 has been called a real estate tycoon. He chuckles at the characterization. Eminently successful as a developer, owner, and property manager, Davis is living proof that doing well and doing 'good' are not mutually exclusive.

Davis' specialty is affordable and mixed-income housing. His Chicago-based companies include UP Development LLC, and UPA LLC, a property management firm, both of which work to enhance and revitalize affordable housing in Chicago and throughout the Midwest.

One of Davis' projects is Walnut Commons in Muncie, Ind. The \$8.4 million complex is a multilayered public-private partnership that combines 44 new apartments with medical and social services for homeless and disabled individuals trying to re-enter the community as productive citizens.

"We do all kinds of affordable housing, but our big thing is permanent supportive housing," Davis explains. "When people don't have an address, they can't get stabilized. What follows is a general cost to society. That's why it makes sense for state and federal government to be involved."

Davis cites the example of veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, or substance abuse issues. At Walnut Commons they can be properly enrolled in benefit programs with the help of a 501(c)(3) partner in the development that also serves as the on-site social services provider.

"Caseworkers interact directly with residents," Davis says. "They'll say, 'Did you go to the doctor?' 'What's your plan to get a job?' 'What's your plan to get some education?' 'Let's work on budgeting your money.'"

A community medical clinic in the building adds a layer of services for diagnosing and treating conditions that could lead to life in the streets. Secured entrances, common areas, bike storage, and a secured patio with green spaces promote a stable, accessible environment.

While Walnut Commons is not a panacea for all homelessness in a city like Muncie, the impact of permanent supportive housing on community well-being is immediate.

"First thing, the touches of first responders go way down," Davis says. "Some of our residents are responsible for many of those, and some of them have multiple aliases. If you cycle that one person through the local emergency rooms, you start adding up real societal costs, especially when they're not covered by insurance."

Some neighborhoods react to the housing with a "not in my backyard" attitude, but Davis says Muncie demonstrated a strong political will to help those facing homelessness. In a 2014 proclamation to mark groundbreaking for Walnut Commons, Muncie Mayor Dennis Tyler called permanent supportive housing "one of the most critical elements to a comprehensive strategy" for ending homelessness in the city.

"Our partner mental health facility has relationships with all the local shelters and target groups," Davis said. "They basically hung up a sign that explained what was being done and the requirements to get in. We had 44 people before the building opened."

Rules for living in the housing are strict, but the demand is such that there is no need to bend them for anybody. "We tell residents upfront that if you can't paint inside the numbers, you'll have to go someplace else," Davis says. "We don't let bad apples who can't conform to the rules denigrate the safe space that we've created."

"We've found that maintaining safe space is incredibly important to operational harmony and [to] people making progress and achieving the goals they've set for themselves," Davis says.

"It's important to understand that this is *permanent* housing," Davis says. "Ideally, we'd like you to come here, get stable, get a job, and get tired of the rules we put on you. But if you don't want to leave, it's permanent and you can stay." 📖

— Denton Ketels

Tyler Ostergaard '07 and Sarah Smith '07



Tyler Ostergaard and **Sarah Smith** were married in Elgin, Ill., on Oct. 17, 2015. Attending were *Shannon Hammen Miner '01; Sam Taylor '04; Wes Beary '05; Jenny Noyce '05; Kat Henry, Lucy McCormick, Cori McKenzie, Jessica Saidian, Gina Tarullo, Anna McNulty Taylor*, all class of 2006; *Kate Burney, Maggie Immler, Spring Knapp, Logan Lewis, Lauren McFarlin, Emerson Williams-Molett, Melissa Nye, Amanda Slatus, Elise Keller Stokes, Tyler Stokes, Mike Van Hulle*, class of 2007; and Kim Hinds-Brush, former College staff member.

Jancey Wickstrom updates: "I've spent the past year starting up an outpatient clinic for women with eating disorders. We just had our first month in the black, and I'm immensely proud of my team. I also got engaged, bought a house, and moved twice. I teach at University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration (social work) and absolutely love it."

Nathan Williams is serving as a pastor at Echo Hill Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Ken Yeung was promoted to vice president, strategy and cross-border e-commerce, at Yihaodian (yhd.com) a leading e-commerce retailer and marketplace platform in China, owned by Walmart. Yeung will drive the development and implementation of strategic plan for the company, while running its cross-border e-commerce business unit. In China, cross-border e-commerce is growing exponentially as a result of increased consumer demand for foreign brands and products. Yeung first joined Walmart at its headquarters in Bentonville, Ark., in 2006 and has been a part of its global e-commerce business since 2011.

In anticipation of the birth of their first child, **Bridget Lavelle '04** and Matthew Paul merged their family names, and are now Bridget and Matthew Pavelle. On Dec. 30, 2015, their daughter, Maeve Elizabeth Pavelle, was born.

Sabrina Ross was promoted from counsel to senior counsel at Uber in San Francisco. Ross also joined the Legal Advisory Board of Crisis Text Line, a national nonprofit organization providing free crisis intervention, in November 2015.

2005
Daniel Follmer and **Jessica Rhoades '07** were married in Chicago on May 9, 2015.

Leslie Boyadjian and Mike Stanton were married on Oct. 18, 2015.

Terrill Legueri and Kane Turner were married in Santa Fe, N.M., on Sept. 12, 2015. Among those who attended for much eating, drinking and dancing to

Madonna were *Caroline Fieg Heberton '78; Lisa Otte Marasinghe '03; Ursula Hill, Dana Logsdan, Meghan Rahn, Miriam Stanton, and Lisa Stevens*, class of 2005; *Eli Zigas '06*; and *Renata Heberton '06*.

2006 (10th Reunion)
Laura Mason-Marshall and **Scott Schmidt** announced the birth of their third child, second daughter, Zeldia Jane Schmidt, Sept. 5, 2015.

2008
Kirsten Aho and Jakob Kocyan were married on May 30, 2015.

Megan Goering is now an independent consultant working with Strategic Operations and Product Design, living in the Mission District of San Francisco.

Amanda Keledjian and **Sean Warlick** were married in Seattle, Sept. 6, 2015. They state: "We were married by *Liv Gibbons '08* with 25 Grinnellians in attendance. A lovely time was had by all."

Holly Lutwitz Rapp completed a Ph.D. in history at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, December 2015.

Bryan Williams obtained his master's in financial engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles, Anderson School of Management, in December 2015. In January 2016 Williams was named director of analytics at HYFN, a social advertising firm in Hermosa Beach, Calif.

Alyssa Yokota-Lewis joined Umoja Student Development Corp. in Chicago in July 2015 as a restorative justice specialist.

2009
Joel Henderson was awarded a master of science in computer science from the University of Texas, El Paso, in July 2015. He is employed with the Army Research Laboratory at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.



2010S

2011
Laura Cesa and Brian DeVree were married in St. Joseph, Mich., on Oct. 17, 2015. The wedding party included *Anna Cesa '07* and *Perri Grabow '11*. Attending were *Aaron Barker, Garrett Fortin, Tony Klodd, Stephanie Nordstrom, Greg Parks, Alex Rosen, and Phil Sletten*, all from the class of 2011.

Joshua Snedden and **Morgan Horton** were married in Winnetka, Ill. on Oct. 10, 2015. Many Grinnellians attended: *Rick Berdelle '09; Lily Camp, Julia Fine, Paul Gagne, Emily Summers*, class of 2010; *Lucy Bloch-Webba, Lara Meyer, Cyrus Mistry, Ross Noecker, Emma Willenborg*, class of 2011; *Emily Bajet, Miriam Barcus, Julia Gerasimenko, Jason Kemis, Martha Reilly, Casey Strickler,*

Ian Warlick '10 and Caitlin Short '12

Ian Warlick and **Caitlin Short '12** were married on the Grinnell College campus on July 25, 2015. They are now Caitlin and Ian Warlick-Short.

class of 2012; *Drew Davis, Julia Kreznar, Jenny Peek, Alex Staff*, class of 2013; and *Grace Gallagher '14*.

2012
Rebecca Hughes Marcum and **Andrew Marcum** announced the birth of their first child, a daughter, Nora Nancy Marcum, Oct. 28, 2015. Rebecca Marcum also received her master of education in higher education from Pennsylvania State University, August 2015.

2013
Mary Miller '13



Mary Miller is serving with the Jesuit Corps, working with Christian Senior Services in San Antonio.

2015
Silvia Elena Foster-Frau received the Hearst Journalism Fellowship, a two-year digital media journalism fellowship awarded to four to six aspiring journalists each year. For the first year of her fellowship, Foster-Frau will be reporting for the Hearst Connecticut Media Group. She is reporting for the *Greenwich Time* newspaper in Greenwich, Conn., but will transition to *The Connecticut Post* in Bridgeport for

the second part of her internship. She aspires to be a feature writer for *The New Yorker*, *Harper's Magazine*, or *The New York Times*.

Janice Trang '15



Janice Trang has joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest, serving with Providence In-Home Services in Anchorage, Alaska.

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Fall 2016 Issue: July 22, 2016

Marion McCoy Vipond '39, Western Spring, Ill., June 24, 2015. Survivors include her daughter *Marion Benesch Ingold '65*.

Patricia Redpath Young '40, Frankfort, Mich., June 12, 2015.

Nancy Armin Werlein '42, St. Paul, Minn., July 7, 2015.

Joan Barlow Van Note '44, Oak Park, Ill., Oct. 16, 2015. Joan graduated from Grinnell College with a degree in psychology and received a master's in nursing from Case Western Reserve University in 1946. She worked as editor of *Nurses Notes* in New York City, a newsletter designed to keep nurses up to date on medical advancements. *Nurses Notes* later turned into the *Report for Nurses*, which she self-published for three years. Joan then worked as a geriatric nurse and realtor in Wheaton, Ill., and continued her love of long-distance swimming long into her retirement.

Annabelle L. Baley '48, Sun City, Ariz., June 3, 2015.

Shirley Simanski Spelt '48, Shorewood, Wis., Nov. 4, 2015. Survivors include her stepson, *Philip Spelt '59*.

Robert A. McFarland '49, Iowa City, Iowa, Oct. 19, 2015. Bob joined the Army straight out of high school in 1943. He was in combat in the European theater and the Battle of the Bulge and was awarded a Bronze Star. After his discharge he attended Grinnell, where he met his wife, *Shirley Miller McFarland '50*. The two were married in 1948. Robert pursued a long career in education as a high school teacher, principal, and superintendent. In 2000, Robert was knighted in the Imperial Constantinian Military Order of St. George. Survivors include his wife.

Philip Southworth '49, Florence, Wis., Oct. 27, 2015. Survivors include his son *Donald Southworth '68*.

Barbara Schwinn Stull '49, Davis, Calif., Oct. 19, 2015.

Melvin J. Adams '50, Bethesda, Md., Dec. 24, 2015. Mel received

his master's in public administration from the Maxwell School, Syracuse University. He worked at the Federal Housing Authority before joining *Tom Appleby '49* in New Haven, Conn. in 1959, where they ran redevelopment efforts during the heady days of urban renewal. Mel then served as the director of Miami-Dade County Florida Housing and Urban Development from 1971–86, overseeing the building of 10,000 affordable housing units. He later managed projects for Montgomery County, Md., Housing and Opportunities Commission. During the 1980s Mel served as president of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, leading efforts to fight Reagan administration cuts in funding for affordable housing. He also coached youth baseball and inspired many young players. At Grinnell, Mel played on some of the first basketball teams under legendary coach and future athletic director *John Pfitsch*. Mel excelled in academics at Grinnell, and after graduation he was the fund director for the class of 1950, which gave him the opportunity to pen some very humorous class letters. He also served on the Grinnell College Alumni Board. Among his survivors are his sister, *Joan Adams Kabn '50*; and his sons *Scott Adams '81* and *Russell Adams '85*.

Donald B. Horn '50, Leon, Iowa, Jan. 2, 2016.

Mary Beth Day '51, Cincinnati, Sept. 15, 2015.

Lea Sykes Crary '51, Sioux City, Iowa, Aug. 25, 2015.

Sally Cobb Elegreet '51, Albuquerque, N.M., Dec. 22, 2014.

John M. Lloyd Jr. '51, Winter Haven, Fla., Oct. 29, 2015.

Joanne Myer Spiegel '51, St. Louis, Aug. 20, 2015.

Roger W. Hartung '52, Ankeny, Iowa, Nov. 24, 2015.

Lester F. Scoles Jr. '52, Greenville, S.C., Jan. 2, 2016.

Patricia Keagy Hurst '53, Fresno, Calif., Sept. 6, 2015. Patty was an exceptional musician and had a passion

for the written word. She graduated from Grinnell College with a degree in music and married fellow musician *Rolland "Woody" Hurst '54*. Patty remained a poet throughout her life, eventually winning the Editor's Choice Award from the National Library of Poetry in 1998. After her children were grown, she developed a passion for distance running and participated in many marathons and half-marathons. Patty's philosophy regarding running and life was shared with others when she said, "A marathon is like life. You get to points where you'd like to quit, points where it's easy, points where it's hard, but you don't quit."

Benjamin W. Jones '53, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, Nov. 13, 2015.

James "Dick" Sampel '54, Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 20, 2015.

Allen F. Harrison '55, Oakland, Calif., July 20, 2015.

Robert G. Crumpton '57, Beaverton, Ore., Oct. 6, 2016.

Richard R. Thomas '57, Bloomington, Minn., Oct. 3, 2015.

Thomas F. Eadie '58, Kalamazoo, Mich., Dec. 30, 2014.

Rhea Alice Hoffman Hawkins '58, Burnsville, N.C., April 25, 2015.

Katherine Thogerson Von Wald '58, Wayzata, Minn., Nov. 16, 2015. Survivors include her sister *Ann Thogerson Chang '67*.

John R. McClenon '59, Lynchburg, Va., Dec. 24, 2015. After graduating from Grinnell, John went on to earn his doctorate in chemistry at University of California-Los Angeles and taught chemistry for 38 years at Sweet Briar College. Music was an important part of his life. John played clarinet and saxophone in countless bands and ensembles, including his own, the 15-piece Johnny McClenon Big Band. After retiring from teaching, John logged more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service at local pharmacies. A lover of adventure and experiments, John and his family took many trips across the United States and abroad, including living for a year in the

Netherlands. Survivors include his daughter *Anne McClenon '82*.

Kathleen Neill Kirchner '60, Borrego Springs, Colo., Sept. 19, 2015. Survivors include her husband, *Douglas Kirchner '60*.

Jack D. Marcum '60, Grinnell, Iowa, Nov. 30, 2015. Survivors include his son, *Scott Marcum '82*; stepson, *Cbad Stuchis '95*; stepdaughter, *Kristin Stuchis '98*; granddaughter, *Sarah Marcum '09*; and grandson, *Andrew Marcum '12*.

Lois Small Gindling '61, Geneva, N.Y., Nov. 8, 2015.

Dana Dahl Seaton '63, Mustang, Okla., Nov. 3, 2015. Dana was one of the first participants in the Peace Corps. She volunteered from 1963 to 1965 in several cities in Colombia where she worked with families. While raising her two children, Dana finished her master's degree in criminal justice and then began her career with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, where she worked from 1988 to 2009. She worked part-time with DHS as the regional Spanish translator until 2014. Dana was her class's fund director for 11 years.

Howard G. Weinstein '63, Rockville, Md., Nov. 7, 2015.

Susan C. Hauser '64, Puposky, Minn., July 6, 2015.

Charles T. Pyle '67, Palmer Lake, Colo., Nov. 6, 2015. Chuck was a prolific singer-songwriter, guitar virtuoso, fly fisherman, Zen cowboy, and all-around Renaissance man. After leaving Grinnell for Colorado in the late '60s, he joined the band *Colours* in the 1970s, then moved to Amsterdam to explore the vibrant Dutch folk scene. After his return to the United States in 1974, he played many solo gigs and even headlined for the *Black Hole Ramblers*. His first album, *Drifter's Wind*, was released in 1985 and grew his music career into the '90s with many critically acclaimed singles and albums. His songs were recorded by country music stars such as John Denver, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and Jerry Jeff Walker; his song "Colorado" became regarded as the essential

soundtrack to Colorado life. His fans were dedicated and would often drive long miles to see his concerts. Chuck loved writing and performing music and enjoyed seeing the smile his music put on his fans' faces.

William A. McGinty Jr. '68, St. Charles, Ill., May 28, 2015.

Margaret Morrison '70, Conway, Ark., Nov. 11, 2015. Survivors include her mother, *Ruth Fagan Morrison '45*; husband, Steve Butcher; and daughter, *Sarah Butcher '05*.

Donald M. Baron '72, Chicago, April 13, 2015. After receiving his B.A. from Grinnell College, Don went on to earn a master's in economics from the University of Michigan and a law degree from Washington University, St. Louis. He was a gifted violinist and participated in many orchestras and ensembles throughout his life. Don worked as an economist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and published numerous papers on applied econometrics. He enjoyed horseback riding, golf, maps, and U.S. history.

Brent C. Allison '76, Juneau, Alaska, Feb. 28, 2015. Brent attended Grinnell College and later earned a degree in labor relations from the University of Oregon. After moving to Alaska, he worked for the Klukwan Inc. (the Klukwan native village corporation), the city and borough of Juneau, and the state of Alaska. He transformed his love of hot sauces into the popular Alaska Lava Hot Sauce Co., known locally as "Lavalicious." He loved animals, walking, karaoke, and sports and even wrote poetry occasionally. Brent is remembered for his sense of humor and kindness to those around him.

Carin DePree '78, Bethesda, Md., Nov. 13, 2015.

Philip J. Knaff '82, Burr Ridge, Ill., Dec. 10, 2015. Survivors include his daughter, *Bethany Knaff '19*.

Kevin Michael Tapp '92, Charlottesville, Va., Nov. 2, 2015. After graduating from Grinnell, Kevin earned a master's degree in library sciences from the University of Oklahoma in 1998. He was director of the Harvey

Center in the Waldron College of Health Sciences at Radford (Va.) University for many years. Kevin is remembered as a free spirit with a good sense of humor. He enjoyed rock climbing, played jazz and classical piano, and was an avid chess player. Survivors include his brother, *Kristopher Tapp '93*.

Douglas Demarest '95, Anchorage, Alaska, Dec. 29, 2015. A gifted outdoor photographer, whitewater kayaker, and lover of the wilderness, Doug is remembered for his bravery, loyalty, and adventurous spirit. After graduating from Grinnell with a degree in physics, he worked for many years as an Outward Bound instructor. In 2010, Doug and his wife Kate moved to Anchorage, Alaska, and devoted their time to growing their small business. He was an ardent proponent of social justice and equality. Doug is survived by his wife and two young children, Simon and Silvia.

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**.



Sujeev Wickramasekara, associate professor of physics, died unexpectedly Dec. 28, 2015, at Mercy Hospital in Iowa City, Iowa, apparently from a cardiac event. He was 48. Originally from Sri Lanka, Sujeev came to the United States to pursue a bachelor's degree in physics at the University of Southern California. He went on to receive his doctorate at the University of Texas at Austin, specializing in particle physics. During his time at the University of Texas, he distinguished himself among his colleagues as a brilliant mathematician and scientist and as a thoughtful and loyal friend.

After joining the Grinnell faculty in 2005, Sujeev gained a reputation among his students for both his intelligence and his willingness to engage deeply with his students' education. He served as a mentor and inspiration to countless students, encouraging even those who previously had no interest in the sciences. He was the winner of the prestigious Cottrell College Science Award, as well as the Harris Faculty Fellowship, and he also gained an international reputation through his many published works.

Sujeev was a devoted husband and father and is remembered by all who knew him as an outstandingly kind and supportive individual. He is survived by his wife **Tammy Nyden**, associate professor of philosophy, and his stepsons, Jonah and Cole Bullock.

Memorial contributions can be made in Wickramasekara's name to support financial aid for Grinnell College physics students from groups that are currently underrepresented in the field. Contributions should be sent to the Grinnell College Development and Alumni Relations office, 733 Broad St., Grinnell, IA 50112.

IN MEMORIAM: DENNIS WAYNE HAAS, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND FORMER CHAPLAIN



The Rev. **Dennis Wayne Haas**, professor emeritus of religious studies and former chaplain at Grinnell College, died peacefully in Grinnell, surrounded by family, on Jan. 18, 2016, at the age of 81.

One of the College's most beloved teachers, his areas of interest and expertise included the Hebrew Bible and Christian Scriptures. Faculty and students knew him as a generous, thoughtful, compassionate man who was devoted to issues of social justice, diversity, and peace.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, Dennis received a master's of divinity from Union Theological Seminary, N.Y., and a master's of sacred theology from Lancaster Theological Seminary, Pa. In 1959 he began his career serving as pastor at Faulkner Swamp German Reformed Church (UCC), Gilbertsville, Pa. He joined the Grinnell College faculty in 1966 and served in the dual role of professor and chaplain until his retirement in 1996. He became professor emeritus in 2003. Dennis was an active and dedicated member of Grinnell UCC Church, most recently teaching the adult Sunday School Seekers class. Among his many accomplishments, Dennis served as president of the National Association of College and University Chaplains, board member of Mid-Iowa Community Action, and on the Grinnell Affordable Housing Commission.

The son of Wayne B. and Mamie C. Haas, Dennis was born Dec. 23, 1934, in Topton, Pa. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Thomsa "Tommy" Stewart Haas; his children Jonathan Haas (Deborah), David Jordan-Haas (Constance), Andrew Haas (Sarah), and Elizabeth Haas; siblings Christine Luckenbill, Richard Haas, Timothy Haas, Bonnie Haas; and five grandchildren. Dennis is preceded in death by parents Wayne and Mamie Haas of Kutztown, Pa., and siblings Larry Haas, David Haas, and Alan Haas.

Memorial gifts may be made in his honor to Southern Poverty Law Center (donate.splcenter.org) or the Mayflower Human Needs Endowment Fund (www.mayflowerhomes.com/donations).

Risk Engagement for Colleges: Grinnell Leads the Way

Grinnell is at the forefront of a new approach that colleges and universities can use to handle risk. Adapted from the enterprise risk management practiced in the corporate world, Grinnell's model gives priority to academic values, not just the financial bottom line.

Why is Grinnell the right place to study risk?

The College has a tradition of taking risks. *Grinnell College in the Nineteenth Century* by **Joseph Wall '41** describes how the Iowa Band originally founded the College in response to "a dare tauntingly thrown at them" by a mentor they greatly respected.

When Grinnell attained national prominence in the 20th century, its rise in fortunes was also connected with risk. Trustees like Warren Buffett and **Joseph Rosenfield '25** multiplied the endowment through bold financial speculations. They were Grinnell's "risk-taking pioneers of the 1970s," wrote **Alan Jones '50** in *Pioneering*.

More recently, the Board of Trustees took a chance by appointing a president who acknowledged having little experience with liberal arts colleges. **Raynard S. Kington** arrived on campus in 2010 and asked his team of senior leaders, "What are our institutional plans and policies to manage risk?"

That early dare from a new president had no easy answer. But his question spurred leaders at Grinnell to develop and share a new approach to risk — one now embraced as a model by other liberal arts colleges.

A risk model that suits Grinnell

Apart from historical anecdotes, what makes this approach right for us? For one thing, a strong tradition of academic shared governance ensures that our risk categories won't be overly "corporate." Designed for financial services and businesses, enterprise risk management had to be translated into academic language and culture before it could truly serve a college.

Faculty leaders at Grinnell have a strong voice, so when administrators raise the idea that it's time to analyze risk, the faculty can see to it that risks to the mission of teaching and scholarship take priority. Keeping academic values central remains a guiding principle in Grinnell's "purposeful risk engagement" model.

As a college that welcomed diversity in admission pretty much from the beginning, Grinnell upholds diversity as a core value. A cautious attitude is common at many institutions of higher education, where administrators worry about greater diversity bringing new risks — embodied in anxieties about compliance, protests, and lawsuits.

At Grinnell we view diversity as positive and seek to identify (and engage!) risks that threaten what we value in a diverse community. Drawing strength from our history, we look beyond the dutiful surface of compliance and adherence to rules, and honor the spirit of educational opportunity behind laws like Title IX and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), a spirit that affirms real values behind institutional choices and actions.

Paula V. Smith is a professor of English and the author of *Engaging Risk: A Guide for College Leaders* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015).

Risk management as a balancing act

Risk management often involves keeping two complementary risks in balance. New protective measures that increase security could make a simple process take longer. Attempts to gain consistency across campus can threaten the flexibility and autonomy that faculty, staff, and students rightly value. The obligation to keep certain records confidential can limit transparency in communications.

To resolve such risk dilemmas, we look for solutions that balance competing needs as well as possible, using the mission as a frame of reference. We keep in mind that the academic mission itself has two sides: a responsibility to preserve knowledge from loss and a drive to extend the frontiers of new knowledge.

The typical new startup company has no duty to preserve ancient records or to fight the permanent loss of the world's languages, cultural artifacts, and traditional skills. A business can readily reinvent itself without concern for such consequences.

This difference helps explain why institutional change at a college or university may appear frustratingly slow and deliberative to those accustomed to the business world. It also explains why the corporate model of risk management had to be translated into a new approach that takes into account what matters most in an academic setting.

That's So Grinnellian

Photo by Justin Hayworth

Students kick a soccer ball
around Mac Field as the sun sets.





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