



The Grinnell Magazine

Winter 2014

For the Good of All:
Grinnellians in Public Health



Beyond Admission

How can Grinnell support high-need and first-generation students?



Emma Lange '16 is a political science major with a concentration in technology studies from Carroll, Iowa. She will be studying abroad in Copenhagen for the spring 2015 semester. She hopes to attend law school after Grinnell and work in the field of American technology policy.

The *New York Times* released its “Most Economically Diverse Top Colleges” list in September, and Grinnell ranked second for its commitment to recruiting students from every income bracket.

As a first-generation, third-year student, I have no doubt that Grinnell’s Offices of Admission and Financial Aid deserve this high praise, but it is imperative to remember that support for low-income and first-generation college students must exist beyond admission and financial aid practices. Admission staff members cannot create further economic diversity once a class has arrived on campus. At that point, our entire institution must provide exceptional support to preserve economic diversity until graduation.

Nationally, 89 percent of low-income, first-generation college students in the United States do not finish their degree in even six years, with 25 percent dropping out after their first year. Grinnell’s retention rate for both first-generation and low-income students is much higher than the national average, and four-year graduation rates for all students remain high. When controlling for factors of race/ethnicity, first-generation status, and gender, Grinnell’s Office of Analytic Support and Institutional Research recently found no statistically significant difference between graduation rates of students in the top and bottom income quartiles.

Many factors contribute to this relative success, including the fact that it is much more difficult to fall through the cracks at a liberal arts school with 1,600 students than at a public university with 30,000.

But we cannot measure the experience of economically diverse students at Grinnell simply via retention rates. Grinnell must intentionally support low-income and first-generation students during the four – or more – years between accepting an offer of admission and receiving a diploma. We must also ensure that these students have the same quality experience during their time on campus as their non-first-gen, non-Pell-eligible, non-low-income peers.

I know this from personal experience. I applied to Grinnell not only as a first-generation student, but also as part of a Grinnell legacy. My two older brothers are alumni – Adam in the class of 2011 and Andy, class of 2013. In fact, my first year on campus was concurrent with Andy’s fourth and final year. We actually lived across Eighth Avenue from each other – I was in Loose Hall, and he was in Lazier Hall.

I attribute much of my success at Grinnell to the guidance Adam and Andy so eagerly provide me. I not only learned about the College from their lived experiences, but their knowledge served as my entire understanding of American undergraduate institutions.

However, that support does not negate the fact that prior to my senior year of high school, no one in my family had completed a four-year degree.

Despite the tremendous help my brothers provided me, I still struggle with what I now know are common experiences of first-generation students. Last spring I found myself crying in meetings with my professor and a fellow first-gen admission counselor because I felt so stifled by factors I attributed to my own inadequacies. I reached out for help because I had hit a point where I felt incapable of performing academically – but I should have reached out for support much earlier in my Grinnell career instead of waiting until the end of my fourth semester.

One problem has already been solved. Before this year, Grinnell’s first-gen community met annually in April – a time that was far too late to provide support to students who may be struggling to complete their classes. Thankfully, this academic year is seeing an entirely new approach to support for these students, which bolsters the first-gen community.

Programming is starting earlier and occurring more often so that students can form relationships with members of the College community who can help them handle issues earlier in the semester and help them extinguish larger fires later on. This is far more beneficial than hearing retroactively about support systems that might have been critically important if they had been aware of them months, or even semesters, earlier.

College-sponsored programming is only a first step to community-building, though. As Grinnellians, we pride ourselves on our openness, yet we are still extremely incapable of having candid conversations about class outside academic settings. Even then, our discussions revolve around denouncing others’ classism, while avoiding commenting on our own class.

The Grinnell College community as a whole needs to ask more questions about how it can support low-income and first-generation students. How can our campus create more allies? How can we create an environment that enables productive discussions about economic diversity? Only together can we support the incredible economic diversity that our Offices of Admission and Financial Aid have been able to provide.

I am dedicated to reaching out to alumni, staff, faculty, and current students to share their experiences in order to support other students like myself in any way possible, because we all deserve a mentor and support system like the one I have found in my brothers. I implore any first-generation Grinnellian to join the Facebook group Grinnell College First Generation Students and help support, or be supported by, the community of first-generation Grinnellians.



Photo by Justin Hayworth

Grinnell Prize winners Kiah Williams and Adam Kircher chat with keynote speaker Charlayne Hunter-Gault.

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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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THE CASE FOR GRINNELL

Why Giving Matters

In my first three months at Grinnell, I've fielded one question more than any other: "Why should I give to Grinnell?"

Maybe it's best to answer with a question: "Why do you think you should give to Grinnell?"

For alumni, giving to Grinnell provides the opportunity to express your appreciation for the world-class education you received and for the benefits you now enjoy. For all of us, gifts of appreciation are also a way for

us to pass along the lesson to our students that giving back is a noble effort and, given the state of world affairs, an important priority.

In addition, giving helps Grinnell stand out as the great College that you know it is – which means the cumulative effect of every gift really matters. Your generosity figures into the equation used by such national magazines as *U.S. News & World Report* to assess alumni satisfaction, a key component in a popular annual ranking of liberal arts colleges.

What if your gift to Grinnell could support students who are just like you? Or a faculty member teaching biology, classics, religion, neuroscience, or political science, to name a few? Or perhaps career services, a global experience, the arts, an athlete or coach, or student leaders? Maybe music, future teachers, undergraduate research, strategic flexibility through the unrestricted fund, or community service? What if you are able to define and give to – broadly or narrowly – that which matters most to you?

If you have not made a gift to Grinnell, or if it has been awhile, please ask yourself, "What would it take to give?" When you speak to our staff or student callers or class fund directors, let us know the answer. We hope to create meaningful philanthropic connections.

In 2014, we created a plan for the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. We considered ways to improve, enhance, and grow. Relationships and programs will take time to build, but we have goals. We aim to add 547 new alumni donors, which is what it will take to create a measurable uptick in the alumni component of college rankings. But that's not the whole story. Your gift to Grinnell College is your opportunity to create even greater opportunities – for the College, for its students, for the next generation of leaders. More than 9,400 donors – alumni, parents, and friends – joined us last year in supporting our world-class liberal arts education.

So why give? We believe your gifts are not just gifts to Grinnell. Your gifts flow through Grinnell to create a better world. We invite you to make a difference in the lives of our students, just as others did for you.

Please let us know what will motivate you. Please write to us at alumni@grinnell.edu or call 866-850-1846.

– Yours for Grinnell,

Shane Jacobson

Vice-president for Development and Alumni Relations



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*“My stay in Afghanistan
was arguably the start of
my liberal arts education.”*

– Tom Loddengaard '76

LETTERS

Afghanistan experience

I read with interest the article on Grinnell alumni in Afghanistan. My own experience in that country came several years before I started college. My father was looking to change careers and decided to take on a two-year contract working for USAID as an administrative officer working with Kabul University. I was 14 when we arrived in November 1968 and was 16 when I left.

Life was dramatically different. I attended an American-run private school. We went to school on Saturdays, not Fridays, to accommodate the Muslim holy day. About a third of the students were not Americans. There were kids from India, Egypt, Yugoslavia, and elsewhere. Most were diplomats' children.

Many of the other American students had grown up overseas and had spent very little time in the United States. Their knowledge of American pop culture was quite limited. Pay phones and vending machines were strange to them. Touchstone TV shows were unknown.

My stay in Afghanistan was arguably the start of my liberal arts education. In the span of less than two years I visited more than a dozen countries and toured extensively within Afghanistan. There, in my jeans and T-shirt, I was the strangely dressed, exotic foreigner. The life I had considered normal, I learned, was just one culture among many. I gained an objectivity that I think is at the core of the liberal arts experience.

– Tom Loddengaard '76
Minneapolis

The name game

I read your article in the summer 2014 edition with great interest. I have a different spin on “the name game.”

I thought about changing my last name when I was in college, as my mother's last name was Kent, much easier to spell and pronounce. When I was a senior in college, in the '70s, I had a serious boyfriend and we discussed marriage. He was adamant that I take his last name and implied it would be a deal-breaker if I didn't. I married another and eventually hyphenated my last name to include his, but never got used to it. Two years later, I divorced and entered medical school in Mexico, where I was known as Martha Wiedman Kent, as single women use both parents' names. Many years later I married a man who didn't care that I kept my last name. We have lived happily ever after. Definitely women's liberation had a part. As did being a professional – but one's name is most of all a choice of identity.

– Dr. Martha Wiedman '71
Santa Ana, Calif.

Fond memories

My ties with Grinnell go way back. I worked as a dishwasher in one of the dining rooms while in high school in the late 1940s. My dad worked in maintenance in the 1930s. My grandfather was in charge of the laundry, also in the 1930s. I was in Grinnell this summer and marveled at the changes in the campus. Very impressed. I wonder what happened to the old car that was on display just inside one of the buildings.

– Jack King
Green Valley, Ariz.

Editor's note: *We also wonder what happened to the car. We learned that the Department of Physics used the 1932 Pontiac in a demonstration during the department's 40th anniversary open house in Goodnow Hall on April 14, 1933. General Motors donated the car permanently, and it was on display for several years in Goodnow's first-floor hall. The Pontiac even escaped from a scrap drive during World War II. If you know what happened to this old car, please contact us at magazine@grinnell.edu.*

*Why not give equal opportunity
to the peacemakers, showing how
as students and faculty we
have not always been so
willing to take up arms?*

– David Skinner '69

War and peace

The fall 2014 issue of *The Grinnell Magazine* and events on campus appear to promote war and Grinnellians who served. Why not give equal opportunity to the peacemakers, showing how as students and faculty we have not always been so willing to take up arms?

The peace movement in the late 1960s and early 1970s had a huge impact on campus life, highlighted by a guest appearance by Martin Luther King, Jr., arranged by the late **Andy Loewi '71**, as keynote speaker at a fall 1967 campus peace symposium at Darby Gym. While on campus King joined the majority of the Grinnell student body as well as a number of faculty members and College employees in signing a petition calling for an end to the U.S. military presence in Vietnam.

In the spring of 1970 the College (along with Brandeis University) served as the center to coordinate the nationwide student effort that forced an early end to classes on many college and university campuses, including Grinnell, after the bombing of

Cambodia and the Kent State shootings. These events triggered protests on the Grinnell campus that featured picketing outside Burling Library and a student-led occupation of the Air Force ROTC building across from campus, joined by at least one member of the College administration.

During the Vietnam era, Grinnellians stood out in the outside world as well, with College Chaplain **Dennis Haas** leading a Grinnell contingent to Cedar Rapids. There they were among the first to publicly burn their draft cards to protest the war, while every peace march in Des Moines had Grinnellians in the vanguard. These are just the tip of the iceberg during this period, and other wars had their opponents as well as their participants; it's time that the many students and faculty members who have opposed wars and served on the front lines of the peace movement while at Grinnell and later in life get some recognition for *their* service. At a time when this country has chosen to embark on a military adventure

in Syria and Iraq that President Obama says will last for years, it is more important than ever to promote peace.

– David Skinner '69
Bisbee, Ariz.

As the grandson of an Army intelligence officer who served in France and Germany during World War I and of a pilot who trained but did not deploy, I was pleased to see the attention given to “Grinnell in World War I” by the magazine. More than 116,000 Americans died and more than 204,000 were wounded in the less than two years that the American Expeditionary Force took part in “the war to end all wars.”

The United States has lagged behind other nations, on both sides of the conflict, in commemorating the war's centennial. Twenty-plus years ago, I became one of a relatively small number of people who tracked the declining ranks of America's World War I veterans, the last of whom, Frank Buckles, died in 2011 at age 110. In his last years, aware

of his unique position, Buckles met with members of Congress and President George W. Bush to advocate for the creation of a national memorial to World War I on the National Mall.

There is a National World War I Museum at the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Mo., but the National Mall is where Americans visit memorials to veterans and the fallen in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. There is a memorial on the mall, tucked behind trees, that honors the World War I veterans who hailed from the District of Columbia. I have favored the expansion of that into a national memorial. There is an official proposal to site a national memorial in a park several blocks away but the “doughboys” deserve better — a national memorial alongside the other national memorials. Those interested in learning more should visit the websites WWImemorial.org and pershinglastpatriot.com

– Dave Schechter '77
Atlanta

*I was curious
how much Grinnell
would cost us.*

– John Nalezny '87

Middle-class Americans can't afford Grinnell

Using the CSS [College Scholarship Service/Financial Aid Profile] to extract a bit more money out of students is not good news. I am afraid it is just another step on the road to closing down the school.

Who are Grinnell's customers? Mostly middle-class American families. And economically, we are dead in the water. If we are lucky, we get raises that cover inflation. If not, we fall behind. Maybe your parents saved for your education. Now, if your parents started saving when you were born, you are still in trouble. Maybe you can borrow. I think we can agree that student borrowing has gone as far as it can go. And yet, college expenses continue to climb. Where is the money going to come from?

I went to Grinnell in the late '80s. It was not exactly cheap, but with the help of my family, I made it through with minimal loans. My child started college a month

ago. I was curious how much Grinnell would cost us. About 50 percent of our after-tax income. Apparently, that is what "100 percent of demonstrated need" means. Now, using the CSS, you would try to extract more. Believe me when I say there is nothing extra to extract. We have a decent income, and we live fairly frugally. We started a college fund when our child was born. I count my family as lucky. But Grinnell was impossible for us to consider. And yet, every year, they need more. How much will Grinnell need in another generation? Based on how much the comprehensive fee increased since I graduated, we are in the neighborhood of \$300,000 a year. Or \$1.2 million for four years. Where will that money come from?

This is not just a Grinnell problem. It is common to most institutions of higher learning. You need to answer the question: Where will the money come from? If you can't answer it, you need to figure out how to live with the money that is available. CSS might kick the can down the road a little bit, but it doesn't solve anything. The days of automatic price increases are over. At least for institutions that want to be around for another generation.

– John Nalezny '87
Broomfield, Colo.

Editor's note: You raise a thorny issue. To address it, we've asked Brad Lindberg, director of student financial aid, to discuss how financial aid and demonstrated need are calculated in the Spring 2015 issue of The Grinnell Magazine.

Where's the criticism?

I receive *The Grinnell Magazine* and read at least parts of it with some interest and pleasure.

You seem to consider your role (as editor/publisher/whatever) to write panegyrics about Grinnell. I have never encountered anything critical in the mag. You seem to see/present Grinnell as the best of all possible worlds.

– Jeff Easterson '61
Perpignan, France

The Grinnell Magazine welcomes letters from readers concerning the contents of the magazine or issues relating to the College. All letters should include the author's name and address. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Letters selected for publication may be edited for length, content, and style. Address correspondence to: *The Grinnell Magazine*, Office of Communications, Grinnell College, Grinnell IA 50112-1690, or send email to magazine@grinnell.edu.

Errata:

In “Learning Spaces” [Page 19, Summer 2014], we did not include **Astrid Henry’s** named chair, which is now called the Louise R. Noun Professor of Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies.

Our cover photo for the Fall 2014 issue was taken by Sarah DeLong. We’re happy that she saw the photo so that we could properly acknowledge her work.

The Grinnell Magazine regrets the omissions.

Curbing Sexual Assaults on Grinnell’s Campus

Shaping a culture of sexual respect.

Since 2010, colleges across the United States have been required to report the number of sexual assaults that occur on their campuses. All actions from unwanted sexual touching to violent rape are grouped together under a single federally mandated category of “forcible sexual offenses.” From 2011 to 2012, the number of reported forcible sexual offenses on Grinnell’s campus rose from six to 18. That number dropped to eight in 2013.

Nationally, sexual assaults are underreported. **Angela Voos**, Grinnell’s Title IX coordinator, says that the incidence rate is believed to be close to 20 percent for college women and that it would be a mistake to think that the number of reports reflects the number of incidents. “We don’t know if the increase of 2012 or decrease of 2013 in reported sexual assaults reflect a change in the number of incidents; rather, the increase in reports in 2012 may indicate that students feel more comfortable coming forward to report assaults – for which we are deeply grateful – and that perhaps there was a backlog of issues that came

CAMPUS NOTES

Town Halls

Taking another look at disability and accessibility.

In the fall of 2013, Grinnell College began a series of town hall meetings to encourage transparency and frank, civil discussion of topics that faculty, staff, and students consider important. Each town hall has sessions at noon and in the evening. The most recent sessions, held Tuesday, Sept. 30, focused on disability and accessibility. As with last year, attendance was strong, with about 70 people at each session.

Autumn Wilke was hired as coordinator of disability resources as a result of feedback at last year’s town hall meetings, it was noted. This year’s discussions were insightful and covered topics including:

- Exactly what is meant by the terms disability, accommodation, accessibility, and universal design.
- The importance of not using -ableist language and using person-first descriptions.

- Not making assumptions about the presence or severity of a disability based on external appearances.
- Being able to talk about disability and not shy away from the topic.
- Accommodation in the classroom and what both students and professors can do in cooperation with the Office of Academic Advising.
- The idea that disability is not, strictly speaking, a deficit; people with disabilities perceive the world differently, and their perspectives enrich this community.
- The need to put in place procedures to assist those with disabilities in emergency situations.
- Web and computer accessibility.
- The need to establish a checklist of resources of campus spaces.
- Whether the responsibility to note disabilities falls on students or professors.

Over a Century of Newspaper Archives Digitized

Scarlet & Black articles available online.

For the first time, *Scarlet & Black* will be completely digitally archived and available online, with volumes dating back to the first issue printed in 1894.

Many of Grinnell’s peer institutions have already digitized their newspapers, and **Richard Fyffe**, Samuel R. and Marie-Louise Rosenthal Librarian of the College, has been eyeing the project for years. He had been hampered by a lack of funds needed to contract a digitizing company.

Last semester, he noticed funding might be available.

“What enabled this to happen were some lower-than-anticipated subscription costs for [academic] databases. As we realized that had happened at the end of last year, we decided to take the extra money that wasn’t going to be needed for those subscriptions, to contract for having the newspapers digitized,” Fyffe says.

Fyffe worked with **Chris Jones**, special collections librarian and College archivist, on the project. In late spring, they contracted

with ArcaSearch, a company that digitizes documents and hosts them in an accessible database.

The idea was Fyffe’s but it was Jones who worked over the summer to produce the final product. Burling Library keeps archived issues of *S&B* in the Department of Special Collections and Archives; the librarians evaluated the bound copies held there to determine which hard copy of each issue was the best candidate for digitizing.

“We boxed them up and borrowed a company van, and I drove them to Minnesota, where [ArcaSearch] is,” Jones says. “They did their digitization magic, and I drove up later and picked them up when they were done.”

Every issue, except for a handful from the mid-1890s to be added soon, are available on the database.

Jim Reische, vice-president for communications, calls the project a “treasure trove” and noted that alumni, students, faculty, and staff will be able to

forward,” says Voos. “Our hope is that our campus community knows where to go to get confidential help and how to connect to the many resources Title IX can provide.”

The increase in reports corresponded with the implementation of a series of initiatives to educate the campus about sexual assault and provide more support for those subjected to it. The College established a Task Force on Prevention, Safety, and Responsibility that focuses on preventing sexual assault and abuse of alcohol and other drugs. It also implemented faculty and staff training and a campuswide information campaign and website, conducted an audit of Clery Act compliance, devoted attention to the student conduct process, and named four deputy Title IX coordinators: **Jen Jacobsen '95** for prevention, **Deanna Shorb** for confidential response and support, **Jeff Pedersen '02** for athletics, and **Andrea Conner** for case management.

In March 2013, the federal Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (SaVE) Act was enacted. This law outlines standards of transparency,

accountability, and education that colleges and universities must meet. The one measure of prevention explicitly stated in the act is active bystanderism. “Active bystanderism is a great fit for Grinnell because it’s applied self-governance. It helps give our students the tools to embrace the responsibilities that come with self-gov,” Jacobsen says.

In addition to active bystander training, the College has taken other steps to help students remain safe on campus. Events in the Harris Center and in Gardner Lounge are better lit than in previous years, and food and water are available in the Harris Center’s lobby to allow a transition period between parties and heading back to residence halls. These suggestions came from students through a baseline sexual respect survey conducted by **Christopher Ralston**, assistant professor of psychology. Jacobsen says the College relies on students and their feedback – through surveys and more directly – to develop strategies to shape a culture of sexual respect on campus.

–Luke Saunders '12

explore details of the College over the past 120-plus years.

“The *S&B* is the best record that the College has of the day-to-day life on this campus,” he says.

The database has considerable practical applications as well. Library employees, who in the past often spent their time searching through hard copies of *S&B* to answer questions for people researching Grinnell’s history, won’t be called upon as heavily to research.

Additionally, the communications office hopes to use the database to highlight historical moments from *S&B* in school publications and social media.

Currently, the database will only include newspapers published up to May 2010. This allows recent graduates to explore the workforce without worrying that employers may uncover *S&B* articles that would present them in an unprofessional light. Articles published in *S&B* since 2010 are available at www.thesandb.com, however.

In another precautionary measure, search engines, including Google, won’t crawl the database. To find a story on a particular person or subject, an employer would need to search the new database directly.

“We think that’s a good balance between providing open access to this information and respecting privacy – because most employers are going to do a Google search, but they’re probably not going to make the extra step of going to the school newspaper site,” Fyffe says.

“Right away, I don’t think that there’s much risk of employers finding anything incriminating about potential employees,” says **Stephen Gruber-Miller '15**, *S&B* co-editor-in-chief.

Gruber-Miller and **Emma Sinai-Yunker '15**, co-editor-in-chief, worked with the librarians to establish a policy statement for how the archive would be presented in a way that maintains the historical record and is also

Photo by Rachel Neubauer



sensitive to real-world desires of graduates.

Another issue in the process was a question of intellectual property. Do the students or the College have ownership over the *S&B*? Reische says technically, the College is the ultimate owner. Even so, the permission and concerns of the current editors were considered during this process.

“The really nice aspect of this is the fact that the College and students can work together and do something really cool, without

a lot of fuss. By college standards this happened pretty quickly,” Reische says. “We do hope people will go to it and explore it. We’re certainly going to mine it and share the fun stuff that we find.”

The free database is at <http://usiagr.carcasearch.com/Research.aspx>.

–Hayes Gardner '15

This article was originally printed in the Oct. 3, 2014, online edition of *Scarlet & Black*, Grinnell College’s student newspaper.



At the FAULCONER GALLERY



Gordon Parks: The Making of an Argument

January 23–March 15, 2015

Born into poverty and segregation in Kansas in 1912, Gordon Parks, who later became a writer, filmmaker, and composer, was a photographer who worked for *Life* magazine for more than 20 years. In 1948, the magazine published his first photographic essay, “Harlem Gang Leader,” which focused on the daily lives of a group of gang members and their leader, Leonard “Red” Jackson. From the significant number of photographs that Parks produced, and from those he chose to submit, the editors of the magazine selected 21 for publication. This exhibition, which includes all 21 photographs in the essay, examines the selection processes of both the photographer and *Life*’s editors, providing insight about how photography – alleged depicter of what is “true” – is packaged and presented by the media. The exhibition was organized by the New Orleans Museum of Art.

Gordon Parks, *American, 1912-2006; Untitled, Harlem, New York, 1948; Gelatin silver print, printed later; Courtesy The Gordon Parks Foundation*

Financial Future Update

Two years ago, in February 2013, the Grinnell College Board of Trustees voted to continue the policy of need-blind admission and meeting 100 percent of domestic students’ financial need. The trustees will revisit the issue at their fall 2015 meeting.

Alongside net student revenue and endowment income, charitable giving is an essential component to the College’s long-term financial sustainability. The Office of Development and Alumni Relations appreciates how alumni and friends are responding to the opportunity to invest in the College – most importantly impacting our people, programs, and facilities. The office looks forward to continued partnerships as it enhances alumni giving trends, total annual gifts, multiyear pledges, and deferred estate commitments. These are all reliable indicators of the health of the College’s fundraising program.

Philanthropy and Engagement in Fiscal Year 2014

Assessing support in multiple ways.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, philanthropic gifts totaled \$11.2 million – the highest level in the past four years.

Annual gifts of all ranges continued to play an important role in advancing the College’s priorities, with these highlights:

- \$5.8 million was directed to the endowment, the most since fiscal year 1987.
- \$4.27 million was in realized estate gifts, which were directed to a number of initiatives, some of which are included in the endowment figure noted above.
- \$2.2 million was given as flexible, unrestricted support that can be directed to the College’s highest priorities.
- Need-based financial aid support totaled \$435,691, which represents a 24 percent increase over fiscal year 2013.

Donors also made new, multiyear pledges and future estate gifts.

Grinnell received \$1.2 million in commitments that will create seven new endowed scholarship funds. Additionally, commitments totaled \$4.5 million for three endowed chairs, including a gift of \$1.5 million to endow the **Daniel ’77** and **Patricia Jipp Finkelman ’80** deanship for Grinnell’s Center for Careers, Life, and Service.

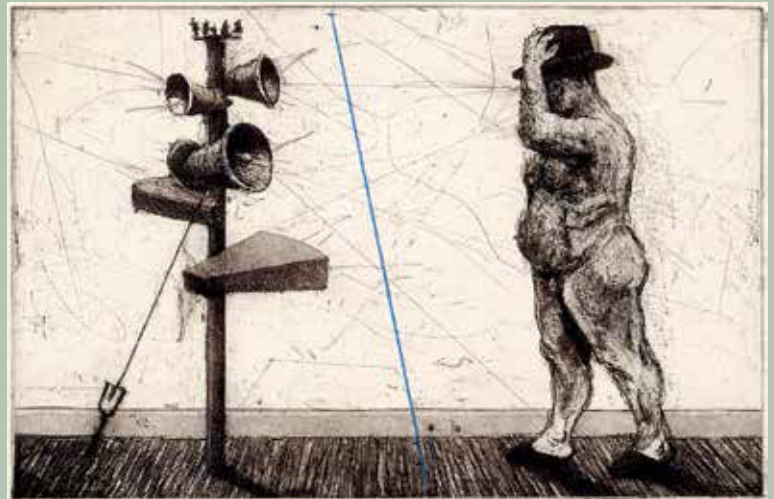
“All gifts are meaningful,” says **Shane Jacobson**, vice-president for development and alumni relations. “Philanthropy is an important ingredient that helps showcase the excellence of our people and programs, and ensures the ongoing strength of this wonderful place.”

More than 9,400 donors – including alumni, friends, parents, faculty, staff, students, and foundation and corporation partners – made gifts last year. Among them were 157 alumni who made their

Playing it Forward: German Expressionism to Expressionism Today

January 23–March 15, 2015

In 2001, Faulconer Gallery acquired more than 70 German Expressionist prints from the collection of John L. and Roslyn Bakst Goldman of Rochester, N.Y. Since then, the Goldmans have formed a new collection of prints by international contemporary artists. This exhibition will feature both collections side by side, demonstrating the Goldmans' continued interests in cutting-edge printmaking and their fidelity to Expressionist ideals, including a wide variety of printing processes, masterful technique, and challenging subject matter. This exhibition is curated by **Daniel Strong**, associate director and curator of exhibitions of Faulconer Gallery.



William Kentridge, *Man with Megaphone Cluster*, 1998. Etching and aquatint, © William Kentridge, Collection of John L. and Roslyn Bakst Goldman.

first-ever gift to the College. An additional 119 young alumni (classes of 2004–2013) made their first gift since graduating. Parent and family giving reached a four-year high.

The alumni giving rate and sustainability of alumni giving are other metrics the board will assess. The alumni giving rate is also the only factor *U.S. News & World Report* tracks for alumni in its annual college rankings. *U.S. News* determines alumni participation by calculating the average percentage of alumni of record who contributed financially to the College. *U.S. News* uses this as a proxy for how satisfied students are with the school. In the past five years, 55 percent of Grinnell alumni with degrees have made a gift. The College's goal is to grow alumni giving.

Throughout the year, alumni proved over and over that they support the College in many meaningful ways. For example, Reunion 2014 was the single largest alumni gathering in College history. Grinnell welcomed 1,454 alumni and guests to campus for a weekend of celebration, connection, and fellowship. Guests arrived from 49 states, the District of Columbia, and 20 foreign countries. The 50th and fifth reunion groups set new records for overall classmate attendance. The class of 1964 surpassed its reunion giving goal by committing \$1.33 million, the second highest commitment since Grinnell developed a reunion giving program.

Alumni also reached out to current and prospective students. Fifty alumni mentors participated in the spring of 2014 in the College's student/alumni externship program; 76 percent were first-time participants and 97 percent indicated that they would recommend the program to other alumni.

Additionally, the Grinnell Regional Admission Support Program (GRASP) was instrumental in assisting the admission office with its record-breaking application season in 2013–14. Alumni volunteers conducted more than 550 applicant interviews, up 50 percent from the previous year. The number of alumni interviewing also increased dramatically, almost 40 percent more than the year prior.

Throughout the year, the College welcomed 4,444 alumni, parents, and friends to 88 regional and campus events, a four percent increase over 2013 and 100 percent increase from 2011. Fall Volunteer Weekend set an attendance record and was up 31 percent over 2012.

"Grinnellians clearly believe in creating impact. In all of the ways they engage with us, they signal the importance of a lifelong relationship. We are thankful to have a wonderful network of dedicated volunteers," Jacobson says.

For more information about what you can do to help create the strongest possible future for Grinnell, please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 866-850-1846 or send an email to alumni@grinnell.edu



Next issue ...

Financial future update: the endowment

Plans for Wind Farm Halted

Board of Trustees reaffirms commitment to the environment.

At its October meeting, the Grinnell College Board of Trustees elected not to continue with plans to construct a wind farm north of campus. The vote also reaffirms the College's commitment to incorporating environmental responsibility into policies, decisions, and daily life on campus.

The Board initially authorized construction of the wind farm, subject to an approved funding plan, in February 2011. Estimates at that time indicated that a three-turbine wind farm could supply more than half of the College's energy consumption.

After conducting numerous studies and securing lease agreements, easements, and permits needed for the project, College officials recently discovered that Optimum Energy, which plans to construct a single-turbine wind farm near Grinnell, had filed for interconnection approval from Alliant Energy before the College submitted its filing. According to Alliant Energy policies, Optimum's project would have first priority to generate and sell power to Alliant. Grinnell would have had lower priority and at times could be forced to curtail or even shut down production.

"The development of a wind farm is a complex and lengthy

process," says **Clint Korver '89**, Grinnell board chair. "When Optimum Energy filed for interconnection approval, it significantly changed the economics of our project and reduced the projected environmental benefit. However, the Board made clear in our motion that, while this project is no longer viable, the College will seek other ways to fulfill our commitment to environmental responsibility, as a core aspect of our policies, decisions, and daily campus life."

In 2011, Grinnell President **Raynard S. Kington** signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. That commitment requires signatory institutions to develop a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible. Colleges also must take two or more actions to reduce greenhouse gases while their comprehensive plans are being developed.

Grinnell's actions include:

- Requiring all new buildings to be constructed to meet the equivalent of requirements for silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

Making the World Healthier, Cleaner

2014 Grinnell Prize winners inspire students.

The 2014 Grinnell College Innovator for Social Justice Prize – a \$100,000 award split between the recipient and his/her organization – was presented in October to founders of two organizations, Sanergy and SIRUM, that are making the world a healthier, cleaner place.

All four 2014 prizewinners – Ani Vallabhaneni and Lindsay Stradley of Sanergy and Adam Kircher and Kiah Williams of

SIRUM – shared their experiences and expertise on campus Oct. 6-10 during the fourth annual Grinnell Prize Symposium.

In addition to giving formal presentations, prizewinners met with health-related student groups and community partners; high school civic classes; the African and Caribbean Student Union; the College Board of Trustees; and even teamed up with students to win at pub quiz night.

Faculty members also invited prizewinners into their seminars and tutorials to expand Grinnell curricular efforts using real world contexts and problem-solving.

Liz Queathem, senior lecturer in biology, says her First-Year Tutorial students and the prizewinners "discussed everything, from the failure of the free-market system to address environmental issues to how their relationships with their peers have changed with their success."

"We were continually inspired and challenged by the students," Stradley says. "Their level of questions in classes and at other events throughout the week matched the caliber of those we receive from partners or others who have actively been in the social enterprise space for years."

Kircher says, "Students are not held back by preconceived

notions of how industries are supposed to work and in several cases helped us find ideas that were hiding in plain sight."

Julia Schafer '18, one of Queathem's tutorial students, says the prizewinners offered inspiring advice. "They addressed the fun and challenging aspects of a startup and encouraged us all to find what we are passionate about, what really interests us, and pursue it. Someone who was only one year older than me originally thought of SIRUM. It's encouraging to see what driven people can accomplish. I received a valuable and not so subtle push: That could be me winning that prize – there are so many impacts I can have on the world if I want to."

Saunia Powell '02, who became the coordinator of the Grinnell Prize earlier this year, says, "Having the prizewinners on campus this fall inspired me to see how we, as Grinnellians, can walk the talk to build a more justice-minded global community."

Stradley was surprised to learn that this is only the fourth



Photo by Justin Hayworth

- Purchasing new appliances that meet the superior energy efficiency requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star program when feasible.

Grinnell already is tackling many energy-efficiency projects that add up across campus:

- The College's facilities management department will soon begin operating solar panels installed on the roof of its building at 1917 Sixth Ave. The solar power generated will offset 15 percent of the building's electricity consumption. An energy audit also showed that doing a large-scale lighting retrofit, swapping out older-technology bulbs for LEDs, will save money and labor.
- Finding new applications for LEDs that will save money and labor will continue throughout campus.
- Each summer a residence hall is made more energy efficient. For example,
 - LED lighting replaced nearly 100 percent of the lights in James Hall during its summer 2014 renovation.

- Installation of an automation system made it possible to establish temperature set points.
- Triple-pane windows replaced older, less energy-efficient windows.
- Sensors installed on windows automatically reduce heat in a room when a window is open.

The College's "Environmentally Responsible Building Guidelines" ensure that future construction projects will achieve the highest level of sustainable performance possible within overall program parameters.

For example, a high level of sustainable building performance is stressed in the College's request for proposals from architectural firms for the renovation and expansion of Alumni Recitation Hall and Carnegie Hall to create a new unified Humanities and Social Studies Complex. Firms seeking to provide both architectural and engineering services for the project are required to submit information about their experience and success in incorporating sustainability, high performance and alternative energy (such as geothermal) into project design.

– by Lisa Lacher

Photo by Justin Hayworth



President Kington (center) with (L-R) prizewinners Ani Vallabhaneni and Lindsay Stradley of Sanergy and Kiah Williams and Adam Kircher of SIRUM.

year of the Grinnell Prize. "Its renown within the social enterprise community is much greater than I would expect it to have achieved so quickly," she says. "Given Grinnell's deep history with social justice, the prize is a brilliant way to highlight this critical distinction of its values and generally strengthen the College's brand."

"With the planned internships, fellowships, courses and research projects coming

out of these new partnerships," Powell says, "the sort of contextual learning, social responsiveness, and innovative problem solving that the Prize honors will continue to be at the heart of what a Grinnell education is all about."

About the Winners

Ani Vallabhaneni and Lindsay Stradley, husband and wife, founded Sanergy in 2010 and launched operations in Nairobi,

Kenya, the following year. Their sanitation reform model brings accessible, affordable, and sustainable sanitation to urban areas where waste is typically dumped into waterways, contaminating water supplies and spreading disease.

In 2011, **Adam Kircher** and **Kiah Williams** turned a small student organization at Stanford University into Supporting Initiatives to Redistribute

Unused Medicine (SIRUM), a pioneering, technologically cutting-edge nonprofit. SIRUM is a nimble online platform that facilitates the redistribution of unopened, unexpired prescription medications.

To learn more about the 2014 prizewinners, visit bit.ly/1sLm1Um

Adam Kircher and Kiah Williams discuss their organization, SIRUM.

Photo by Justin Hayworth





Randy Stiles

is associate vice-president for analytic support and institutional research. This essay reflects his personal point of view, not necessarily that of the College.

Ratings and Rankings and Lists

It's that time of the year again – rankings season. Starting in August and continuing throughout the fall, various publications, in addition to *U.S. News & World Report*, produce college rankings, ratings, and lists. At Grinnell, the Office of Communications and the Office of Analytic Support and Institutional Research collaborate in analyzing results and answering the many questions that arise about the College's standing among other highly selective liberal arts colleges according to at least seven different systems. Here I'll address the three most commonly asked questions.

Are U.S. News & World Report (U.S. News) results really the "gold standard" among college ranking systems?

My short answer to this question is "no." In fact, based on my experience in the higher-education institutional research community, no other reasonably well-known system receives more criticism each year than *U.S. News*. While this system does include some very important measures such as retention and graduation rates, student/faculty ratios, and class size (things we pay close attention to at Grinnell), nearly a quarter of the final institutional score comes from a highly suspect and subjective survey of college presidents, deans, senior admissions officials, and high school college counselors. Participation rates in the survey are low, the system is subject to "gaming" by the respondents, and it's not likely that any of the respondents have deep knowledge about the quality of more than a handful of institutions beyond their own.

How do these different systems do their rankings and is there a best methodology?

Our office pays close attention to the methodologies of the following seven systems: 1) *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges, 2) *Forbes* America's Best Colleges, 3) *Kiplinger's* Best Values in Private Colleges, 4) *College Factual*, 5) *Washington Monthly's* College Guide, 6) *Money's* Best Colleges, and 7) *The New York Times* Access Index. While it doesn't rank colleges as other systems do, *The Princeton Review* provides lists and student commentary about campus cultures, so we follow it as well.

For each of these systems, we benchmark our results among a set of liberal arts colleges with similar missions and resources – our group of 16 peers – and we follow our own trends within the rankings. We study and are as aware as possible of the various measures and associated weights

within each system. At the end of the day, it's fair to say that each has some degree of merit and each is subject to due criticism. In a 2011 *The New Yorker* article about ranking systems, staff writer Malcolm Gladwell concluded with the following statement: "Who comes out on top, in any ranking system, is really about who is doing the ranking."

My own view is this: Colleges are complex social organizations with unique histories and cultures. Just as the assessment of quality teaching requires multiple measures, so does any attempt to assess institutional quality. So, we monitor and analyze multiple ranking systems and follow benchmarks and trends among a group of 16 other colleges that we know are of high quality. If we find ourselves doing well in this mix, it is reassuring.

Should Grinnell create its own ranking system?

Another short answer here: I don't think so. As noted above, there is now an abundance of ranking systems reflecting various sets of values. A composite view of these systems provides us with helpful perspectives on the many facets of Grinnell as a private, residential, highly selective liberal arts college. Of course, we do note those systems where we rank especially well among our peers.

In describing their system, the *Washington Monthly* College Guide says: "We rate schools based on their contribution to the public good in three broad categories: social mobility (recruiting and graduating low-income students), research (producing cutting-edge scholarship and Ph.D.s), and service (encouraging students to give something back to their country)." These measures resonate very strongly with Grinnell's values and are reflected in our high ratings. Also, a new ranking system this year by *The New York Times* is aimed at measuring "top colleges' efforts on economic diversity." They analyzed all colleges and universities in the United States with graduation rates of 75 percent or higher. Vassar and Grinnell were No. 1 and No. 2, respectively.

My bottom line: We do our best to stay informed about well-known college rating systems and to respond to questions about those systems that come from our College community. Each system is potentially a helpful starting point in the college decision-making process but even better is the composite view. And in that view, Grinnell continues to be a very good choice! ■

Redskins: Words Do Matter

“If I were the owner of the team and I knew there was a name of my team – even if it had a storied history – that was offending a sizable group of people, I’d think about changing it.”

– U.S. President Barack Obama

We live in an era where cultural misrepresentation is rampant. Over the years, I’ve been subjected to various claims of tribal affiliation by some of my fellow artists and writers. Then there were others who just wrote unpleasant words about Native Americans.

Some things change, some things remain, like the Redskins name.

Linguists and historians can offer concise historical perspectives showing that the word “redskin” has benign origins – that, historically, it wasn’t intended or used as a slur. A professional football team owner might even use his analysis to validate, to justify his team’s name to those who find the term offensive, which is unfortunate.

Is the Redskins name a priority in Meskwaki affairs? No. To me, feeding tribal children, elders, and veterans is more important. Having said that, I will share thoughts from my heart, *ne te e ki-ottti*.

Myself, I only want to be referred to as a Meskwaki or Native American, not a Redskin. Truth be told, I’ve never known nor met a tribal member who openly wanted to be known as a Redskin.

So who speaks for tribal members here? It could be the Hereditary Chief or the Tribal Council. In the end, though, it’s really the Meskwaki electorate. If this contentious Redskins topic ever came to a vote, I would hope this community endorses the National Congress

of American Indians, President Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, 50 Capitol Hill lawmakers, and others who support the football team’s name-change.

Regardless of its origins, the word “redskin” evolved over time to become a negative term. The linguistic past is insignificant when marketability of the Washington Redskins trademark is the bottom line, which, according to *Forbes*, was \$381 million in 2012.

From what I’ve seen, money can and will oft-influence decisions that are at issue in American society. As such, one can only pray for the best outcome when a decision is rendered on the use of the name “Redskins.”

As a bilingual writer, I’ve learned after 40-plus years of publishing that words can go a long ways. Not only do they enlighten, they just as quickly can be misinterpreted. In today’s social media and the Internet, this process is faster. In sharing my thoughts amid this technological change, the Redskins tide could now roll my way. Be that as it may, all I can say is: I continue to live, write, and learn at 63 years of age.

Yes, according to my late grandmother, our tribal name reflects our tribal beginnings, a time when we were sculpted from the ochre-colored soil by God. But that has nothing to do with the color of my skin tissue.

In my humble opinion. ■



Ray Young Bear '76 is a Meskwaki tribal member, poet, and novelist. He lives in Iowa. This essay was originally published in *The Gazette of Cedar Rapids, Iowa*.



Susan Ferguson, professor of sociology, teaches courses on medical sociology, the family, and social inequality. She has three anthologies, *Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Social Class: Dimensions of Inequality* (Sage, 2014); *Mapping the Social Landscape: Understanding Sociology* (McGraw-Hill, 2013); and *Shifting the Center: Understanding Contemporary Families* (McGraw-Hill, 2011).

Discovering a Grinnell Connection through an Argentine Poet

When I went on the job market in August 1992, I had never heard of Grinnell College, or so I thought. I attended the employment service at the American Sociological Association meetings in Pittsburgh. There, if a school selects your application to be screened, you have 15 to 20 minutes to make a strong impression. You sit in a row of chairs with other Ph.D. candidates waiting for the bell to ring so you can find your next interview.

I remember vividly my interview with my two senior Grinnell colleagues, **Chris Hunter** and **Kent McClelland**, because their questions were distinct from those of sociology faculty at other schools. They also asked if they could take my picture at the end of the interview. I thought this request was a bit quirky, but I didn't mind. I was focused on the bell that was about to ring and my next interview with the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque.

After the national sociology meetings, I reviewed all the school interviews with my dissertation adviser, and when I mentioned Grinnell College, she was ecstatic. My professor explained to me that Grinnell was one of the top liberal arts colleges in the United States, known for its high-caliber teaching. Since I was looking for a school that valued teaching, I made note of her comments.

After coming to Grinnell, I was immediately impressed by the social network of alumni and friends of the school. I would hear stories of someone wearing a Grinnell College sweatshirt in Red Square in Moscow, and they would run into a Grinnell alum. Or, someone hiking the Appalachian Trail, and they would meet up with another person who had a Grinnell connection. This degree of closeness was strange and intriguing to me: I was a first-generation college student who had attended large state universities that did not have the intimacy or feeling of connectedness that Grinnell faculty, students, and alumni seemed to have.

However, a couple of years ago I realized that I did indeed make a Grinnell connection earlier in my life. For several summers during college, I worked at a remote wilderness retreat deep inside Alaska's Denali National Park. I worked in the kitchen, baked bread, cleaned cabins, chopped wood — whatever chores needed to be done.

Guests came from all over the world to study the birds, flowers, and wildlife of central Alaska. It was an incredible job really, to think I could wake up and see Mount

McKinley (now Mount Denali) in all its majesty in the Alaskan Range.

During the summer after my sophomore year in college, I struck up a conversation with a guest about Spanish literature. I was a Spanish major at Colorado State University, and I had recently completed an honors seminar on women in Spanish literature. I did my research paper on Alfonsina Storni, the brilliant Argentine poet who committed suicide in 1938 by walking into the sea. As an undergraduate I was passionate about Storni's life and work, and here in the middle of the Alaskan wilderness was a Spanish professor who shared my interests.



A week or two later in the mail came a book, *La Poesia Femenina Argentina, 1810-1950*, written by **Helena Percas de Ponseti**, professor of Spanish at Grinnell College. I was honored to receive a college professor's book, which she signed. I also was startled by her generosity to send it to me in Alaska. In her letter, Professor Percas de Ponseti recommended that I continue my studies of women in Spanish literature, and she suggested that I read the works of two other significant writers, Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda, a 19th-century Cuban-born Spanish writer, and Clorinda Matto de Turner, a Peruvian writer. She also encouraged me to study abroad in Spain, which I did the following summer in Madrid.

Professor Percas de Ponseti taught at Grinnell College from 1948 to 1990, and she wrote the preface to the above book from Grinnell in 1954. I met her in the summer of 1981, and I came to Grinnell in 1993, three years after she had retired from teaching. Unfortunately, I did not make this connection until a couple of years ago, after her death in 2011, as I was going through some of my Spanish books and found Professor Percas de Ponseti's preface and the reference it made to Grinnell. I was and still am astounded by this professor's generosity in encouraging me to continue my studies and for sharing with me her work. I also am delighted to have my own Grinnell connection story. ■

Dulce Tortura

escrito por Alfonsina Storni

Polvo de oro en tus manos fue mi melancolía;
Sobre tus manos largas desparramé mi vida;
Mis dulzuras quedaron a tus manos prendidas;
Ahora soy un ánfora de perfumes vacía.

Cuánta dulce tortura quietamente sufrida,
Cuando, picado el alma de tristeza sombría,
Sabedora de engaños, me pasada los días
¡Besando las dos manos que me ajaban la vida!

Sweet Torture

by Alfonsina Storni

translated by Jennifer W. Lowery

In your hands, my melancholy became dust of gold;
I spilled my life on your long fingers;
My sweetnesses stayed fastened to your hands.
Now, I am an empty vial of perfumes.

What sweet torture I suffered in stillness!
When, with my soul cut into pieces by somber
sadness,
I, knower of betrayals, spent my days
Kissing the two hands that made me disappear.



Untitled, Jennifer W. Lowery



For the Good of All

Grinnellians in public health careers
seek large-scale solutions to make
communities, countries, and the world healthier.

by Erin Peterson '98

For those who want to make an impact on a grand scale, there are few fields that are as promising as public health. Public health workers help develop and implement policies that may ultimately touch the lives of millions.

Grinnellians have long been drawn to public health careers, and there are hundreds of alumni currently in the field. Starting in 2015, the school's ties to public health will grow even stronger, as students begin to apply for Grinnell's new master of public health cooperative degree program with the University of Iowa. Students enrolled in the program earn their bachelor's degree from Grinnell and master's degree from the University of Iowa in five years, instead of the traditional six.

According to **Jim Swartz**, director of Grinnell's Center for Science in the Liberal Arts, the program is a perfect fit for the College. "Public health, as a profession, depends on the kinds of thinking and knowledge that come from humanities, social studies, and science," he says.

To find out the impact that Grinnellians are already having in careers linked to public health, we talked to eight alumni in the field. Snapshots of their work – tackling issues from Ebola to cancer to hospital infections – are in the pages that follow.

Erich Giebelhaus '92

Work: Helps develop emergency preparedness plans for New York City

Education: History and German majors at Grinnell; Master of Public Policy in social policy/health policy, University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Quote: "With emergency management, you're always trying to stay one step ahead of what's happening. You can't plan for the last emergency, because the next one will never look the same."

When Hurricane Sandy hit New York City in 2012, vast multitudes of the population headed out of town to avoid the brunt of the superstorm. But for some of the most vulnerable people – like those in hospitals, for example – getting to a safe location was no easy task.

And that's where Erich Giebelhaus stepped in. As special assistant to the deputy commissioner and interagency coordinator for the New York City Department of Health Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response, he spent two weeks after the event helping find beds for hospital, nursing home, and adult-care facility patients.

Photo by Andy Kropp '98



Erich Giebelhaus '92

He ordered emergency supplies such as power generators, blankets, flashlights, and clothing and made sure they got delivered where they were needed. "It was an intense time, and we were dealing with fragile people," he says. "I felt responsible – it was so important to get things done in a timely fashion." In the end, Giebelhaus and others helped place 6,000 individuals from 37 facilities.

Long before the city has to deal with an emergency – a hurricane, a deadly flu virus, a terrorist attack – Giebelhaus spends his days figuring out how the government and other organizations can best respond. More recently, for example, he's been working on Ebola preparedness activities for the city by coordinating local, state, and national agencies. He helps build partnerships with organizations to help ensure that people get the help

they need during an emergency, right when they need it. His agency helps develop plans that cover everything from bioterrorism to mold contamination for a city where more than 150 languages are spoken.

Such planning can help save hundreds – if not thousands – of lives, turning a potentially devastating event into a far more manageable one. "Nobody wants a disaster to happen," says Giebelhaus. "But when it does, it's gratifying to know that you've put together – and you can implement – the most effective response."

Emily Parker '95

Work: Conducts research to help doctors treat their patients more effectively

Education: Biology major at Grinnell; M.P.H. and Ph.D. in epidemiology, University of Minnesota

Quote: "There are a lot of people who think, 'I want to do something that helps people, so I'll be a doctor.' But if they had exposure to [the ideas of] public health they might think, 'I want to help populations of people, so I'll do public health.'"

Hepatitis B is a devastating disease that, if gone untreated, can lead to chronic liver disease and liver cancer. For patients from sub-Saharan Africa and East Asia, their likelihood of having the disease is up to 10 times higher than their counterparts from North America.

For Emily Parker, a research investigator who focuses on research methods for HealthPartners Institute for Education and Research, the question was simple: How could busy doctors ferret out patients who might be at high risk for the disease to make sure they got screened – and received follow-up treatment if necessary?



Emily Parker '95



Russell Luepker '64

Recently, Parker helped craft an ingenious study for HealthPartners clinics to solve that problem. With just two data points — country of birth and the language they prefer to use in the health system — from patients' health records, she developed an algorithm to determine whether or not the patient had an increased risk of having hepatitis B. The algorithm was turned into a software tool on doctors' computers, and if the data suggested the patient was at risk, a pop-up screen with details appeared on the computer, encouraging the doctor to order the appropriate screening. As part of the randomized trial, some clinics got a pop-up that required the doctor to order the screening (active), while others got a pop-up that didn't require the doctor to order the screening (passive).

The results were encouraging: clinics in which the active tool was used were nearly twice as likely to help identify a patient with hepatitis B compared to clinics where the passive tool was used. That's led to real change: "Now that HealthPartners sees that the tool works, they're interested in implementing it into all of the clinics," says Parker.

Russell Luepker '64

Work: Spent a significant portion of his career doing community disease surveillance and prevention

Education: History major at Grinnell; M.D., University of Rochester; M.S. in epidemiology, Harvard University

Quote: "I've been encouraged to pursue ideas that I think are important at local, national, and international levels."

In a world of speedy delivery and instant gratification, it's easy to feel frustrated by the slower pace of change in public health. But over the course of a career, the

transformation of a disease — and the culture that surrounds it — can be enormous. Few know this as well as Russell Luepker, professor of public health at the University of Minnesota, focusing on cardiology.

Luepker's interest in studying cardiology and public health was sparked in part by his father's sudden cardiac death at age 51, when Luepker was a senior at Grinnell. At the University of Minnesota, he has headed up vast projects, including the Minnesota Heart Health Program, an effort to reduce heart attacks and strokes in six major cities in the upper Midwest, and a National Institutes of Health trial designed to improve healthy habits of school-age children.

It's work that truly matters. According to the Institute for Scientific Information, Luepker's research is among the most highly cited in the world, and the lessons he's learned are being implemented. The country's average lifespans continue to rise in part because death rates from heart attacks and strokes have fallen and new cases of heart disease are also declining.

He attributes the change to a variety of factors, including a cultural shift in attitudes toward smoking. "The decline in cigarette smoking, for example, is dramatic in our society," he says. "I was in Copenhagen a few months ago, and they looked at me strangely when I asked for a nonsmoking area in a restaurant," he recalls. "But here, it's not just restaurants that are nonsmoking. It's almost everywhere."

Technology to save people who have had heart attacks has also made enormous leaps forward. "At both levels — preventing heart attacks and strokes from happening, and treating them and preventing a second event — have changed in favorable ways," he says.

It's that trajectory of positive change, says Luepker, that makes jobs like his worthwhile. "A career in public health is gratifying because you have the opportunity to help groups of people live better and healthier," he says.

Jeremy Youde '99

Work: Studies global health politics as a political science professor

Education: Political science/global development studies major at Grinnell; Ph.D. in political science, University of Iowa

Quote: "Implementing public health policies, especially when dealing with multiple countries, isn't simply about science. We can't just drop that in place. We have to understand the politics, the history, and the context of the countries and the situation to understand why people respond in specific ways in the first place."

When the Ebola virus outbreak started making headlines earlier this year, one of the go-to sources for the media to discuss the logistical challenges of treating the disease was Jeremy Youde, associate professor of political science



Jeremy Youde '99

at the University of Minnesota at Duluth.

Youde has spent nearly his entire academic career researching global health politics – how the international community comes together (or fails to come together) to address transborder health issues.

A public health crisis offers plenty of challenges when it's

contained to a small area, says Youde. But when a deadly, communicable disease like Ebola crosses country lines, politics can make treating it even trickier. Some countries have strong, effective policies to address health crises, while some have weak ones – or policies that run counter to those of other countries. Organizations such as the World Health Organization, Doctors Without Borders, and Samaritan's Purse all hope to alleviate the problems, but they struggle to coordinate their efforts. "It's like herding cats," says Youde. "Everyone wants to do their own thing, and each has their own idea about what's best."

Youde first got interested in global health politics at Grinnell, when he traveled to Zimbabwe and ended up doing an independent study project that examined the potential political and economic effects of an HIV epidemic in the country. "That was what first got me

thinking about the intersection of public health and politics," he says, a topic he ended up pursuing more systematically once he entered graduate school.

While Youde has had a chance to share his views in the media – he had an op-ed on *The Washington Post* website in August – much of his work will happen after the crisis has subsided. "My job is to step back and see what we can learn from a crisis. We want to find out how we can use these insights for future emergencies and outbreaks that occur."

Debbie Gottschalk '90

Work: Includes developing and refining public health-linked legislation

Education: American studies major at Grinnell; J.D., State University of New York-Buffalo School of Law

Quote: "We want to create the structures for people to be supported in their communities, no matter what kind of support they need."

For most people, a vision of public health focuses primarily on the body – vaccinations and prenatal care, clean water, and healthy foods. But for Debbie Gottschalk, chief policy adviser to the secretary of the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, a critical part of her job is working on policy that provides guidance and assistance to foster better mental health, too.

Recently, for example, she and others have been working to update the state's civil mental health laws in ways that make it easier for people to get help – and less likely for them to be involuntarily committed. "Our emphasis has been on encouraging people to receive treatment voluntarily and to make it feasible for people to receive treatment in the community, rather than in institutions," she says.

Gottschalk has also been instrumental in developing legislation for Delaware's new aging and disability resource center. The program is designed to help older adults and those with disabilities maintain their independence by helping them find and fund everything from transportation to food delivery services to home health care options. Often, Gottschalk says, individuals can stay at home with just a few thousand dollars' worth of help, compared to a six-figure price tag for some types of nursing home care. "Staying in their own homes is not just healthier for the patients," says Gottschalk. "It's also one of those rare times when what people want is actually more cost-effective than the alternative. It's much less expensive to support people in their communities than to pay for them to move into a state institution."

For Gottschalk, it's work that leads to stronger communities, where loved ones can stay together when they have the resources they need.

Debbie Gottschalk '90





Maia Olsen '11

Maia Olsen '11

Work: Helping provide critical information on fighting noncommunicable diseases in resource-poor nations.

Education: Anthropology major and global development studies concentration at Grinnell; M.P.H. in international public health, Boston University

Quote: *"We want to keep pushing the boundaries of global health. We want to say 'Yes, we have to treat chronic diseases like cancer, asthma, and heart disease in places like Africa. It's not too expensive. It's not too difficult. We have to make it happen.'"*

For years, treating HIV/AIDS in Africa seemed impossibly daunting; the affected population was enormous, treatments were expensive, resources were slim. But in recent years, thanks to efforts from scientists, governments, and public health officials, universal coverage seems tantalizingly within reach.

But now there are new challenges on the horizon. In many parts of Africa, rates of noncommunicable diseases including cancer, asthma, and heart disease are on the rise. Treatments are expensive. Resources remain modest. For Maia Olsen, a program associate at the global health organization Partners in Health, the excuses are as unsatisfactory as they were decades ago. "It's the same place we were at with HIV," she says, "and we want to push against that."

Large-scale efforts to fight noncommunicable diseases in countries with poor populations are relatively new, and her program at Partners in Health is beginning to ramp up its efforts in countries including Rwanda, Lesotho, and Kenya. For Olsen, that means helping develop a website that promises to be the "connective tissue on policy and advocacy, planning resources, and telling the stories of what chronic diseases look like in really poor settings."

The site will include training material for health care workers, information about policies, and a database of key planning tools and research. It will also include stories to illustrate why the problem is so critical to address – and why the tactics that have worked elsewhere may not be effective everywhere.

For example, while the United States was able to slash the incidence of lung disease by concerted efforts to discourage smoking, the same approach won't necessarily be sufficient in other countries. "In some settings, people are getting lung disease because of the cooking stoves in their huts, but they might not have the money to buy something else," she says.

In the end, she says, her organization's work is part of a much larger effort to increase awareness of the problem of noncommunicable diseases in countries with poor populations. "For us," she says, "that [growing awareness] will be a measure of success."

Tim Johnson-Aramaki '99

Work: Helps employers design workforce health programs to help workers get and stay healthy

Education: Fine art major at Grinnell; M.B.A. and M.P.H., University of Michigan

Quote: *"Wellness requires a longer-term commitment because it's about change, and usually people don't change quickly. However, as large and critical as the issue is, we have to start with baby steps to bring about that change."*

As health care costs have skyrocketed, the companies covering their workers' costs have tried minimizing their bills by raising deductibles and limiting coverage. But these days, they're also layering on another tactic: helping employees get healthier through wellness programs.

For Tim Johnson-Aramaki, a workforce health consultant for Kaiser Permanente, the goal is both daunting and critical. He's charged with helping employers get their employees healthier within a larger culture that has seen nearly unabated increases in obesity and diabetes, thanks in part to fast-food restaurants on nearly every street corner and increasingly sedentary jobs for employees. "We've developed the problems that we're facing today over the past 50 years," he says. "I can't just go in and wave a wellness wand and change it."

Johnson-Aramaki works with more than 30 organizations, including the University of California, which want to encourage their employees to get healthier. Efforts to jump-start that process can include premium reductions for things like getting a physical/preventive screening, participating in a 5K walk, or joining a smoking-cessation program.

But Johnson-Aramaki says that experts in this rapidly developing field are also approaching the problem more holistically. It's not enough to participate in a 5K if workplaces offer vending machine candy bars in every breakroom and host regular pizza parties. And it's not enough to tell an overweight employee to "work out more" if the weight gain is tangled up in a mental health issue such as depression.

In the end, he says, the real goal for wellness programs is to help create an environment that encourages people to adopt healthier habits for life. "Wellness isn't really about 'activities,'" he says. "It's about changing the culture at workplaces, in families, in the larger society. The activities, though, are the things that help us start to change that culture."

Scott Fridkin '86

Work: Develops policies to prevent antibiotic resistant infections in healthcare settings

Education: Chemistry major at Grinnell; M.D., Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine

Quote: "I believe my efforts have directly affected the way the federal government is measuring the impact of its investments in health care-associated infection prevention. And it's working."

Hospitals are designed to help us get well, not make us get sick. But perhaps it's no surprise that in an environment that by definition contains a stew of germs and bacteria, patients can end up with an illness they didn't bargain for. Indeed, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates suggest that almost three quarters of a million of people get sick every year as a result of hospital-acquired infections.

It is Scott Fridkin's job to help bring that number down. As senior adviser for antibiotic resistance in healthcare at the CDC, Fridkin helps develop smarter strategies to prevent antibiotic resistant infections, a critical subset of those hospital-acquired infections.

You've probably heard of "superbugs," the strains of bacteria that have evolved to resist today's antibiotics. Such superbugs are among the baddies Fridkin is charged to track and fight.

In 2005, Fridkin was able to calculate the first national estimate of people in the United States who developed the potentially deadly methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infection (MRSA) – it was an astonishing 110,000 people



Scott Fridkin '86

a year. "I believe that information sparked a public debate about how unacceptable infections with MRSA were," he says.

The discussion ultimately involved patient advocacy groups, elected officials, scientists, and professional organizations and led to 25 states passing laws regarding the reporting of either healthcare-associated infections or MRSA specifically. These policy changes eventually led to federal policy changes in the Affordable Care Act. As of 2011, the number of serious MRSA infections has dropped to 75,000 cases per year.

The trajectory has been so successful, says Fridkin, that they're using the work as a template to move forward. "We're just beginning to put the same efforts in place for other antibiotic-resistant infections encountered in hospitals," he says. "The lessons we learned from MRSA should be helpful." ■

As the new cooperative degree program in public health grows over time, Swartz believes it will be just one more way that Grinnell seeks to achieve its larger mission. "As a field committed to the betterment of the human condition," he says, the public health program "ties to the long-term commitment that Grinnell has to issues of social justice."

THE LEGACY OF Loren Reid '27

REFLECTIONS ON GRINNELL'S OLDEST LIVING ALUMNUS.

by Luke Saunders '12, portrait by Justin Hayworth

It was 87 years ago that Grinnell's oldest living alumnus graduated from the College. **Loren Reid '27**, who turned 109 in August, came to Grinnell in the fall of 1923. It was here that he met his wife and decided he would devote himself to the field of speech. Reid has left a legacy in his work, his family, and his support of the College. Had it not been for a flat tire, though, his life would likely look very different.

Loren Reid didn't arrive at Grinnell with the hopes of attaining a liberal arts education. When visiting colleges with his father, he was far more enamored of the University of Iowa. He refused to visit Grinnell's campus on the trip from Osceola, Iowa, to Iowa City or on the way back. It was thanks to a punctured tire that he even bothered to stop in the town. As he said in *Finally it's Friday: School & Work in Mid-America, 1921-1933*:

"In anybody's book, Grinnell College is a highly regarded institution. It is famous for distinguished teaching. Its students have done well in graduate and professional universities. I am proud to be an alumnus. I entered Grinnell, however, not for any of the foregoing reasons, but because Somebody Up There caused the Overland to have two blowouts, until we finally got the message. ..."

Before he left, Reid had secured the last scholarship Grinnell had to offer that year. Reid, who had worked in his father's newspaper, the *Gilman City (Mo.) Guide*, got a job at *The Herald* in Grinnell, where he worked from 5 p.m., when his classes ended, until 10 p.m. He recounts his early years operating the Linotype machine at his father's office in his first autobiographical novel, *Hurry Home Wednesday*.

J.P. Ryan, professor of speech, was the Grinnell professor who had perhaps the most profound effect on Reid. In *Finally it's Friday*, Reid wrote, "Some students, especially those who went on to graduate and professional schools, said later that Ryan had taught them the basic principles of examination writing. Others went so far as to allege that Ryan had taught them to think." Reid recalled Ryan's natural charisma as well as his devotion to his students and to his subject:

"Ryan was a dedicated believer in the necessity of public speaking in business, professional, and public life. 'Public speaking is the most important study in the curriculum,' he assured and reassured us. The way to learn to speak well is to make numerous short speeches. 'Newton, Iowa, is the home of the One-Minute washing machine. Grinnell is the home of the one-minute speech.' Even a brief speech, however, should have a useful purpose. A speaker should not merely scatter 'beautiful sunshine,' which we quickly saw was his term for B.S. To be able to present a message in a short time called for organization."

In his book *Reflections, Reflections, Reflections ...*, Reid gives Ryan an ample amount of credit for helping him get his academic career started. "Ryan's advice was pointed and colorful: 'If you want to teach, you must get a doctoral degree or you will be like the foolish virgins who showed up at the wedding feast without any oil in their lanterns.'" Ryan was also a major influence in Reid's decision to enter the emerging field of speech rather than English.

More than even the influence of the legendary J.P. Ryan, the one event that shaped Reid's life most at Grinnell was meeting his future wife, **Augusta "Gus" Towner '28**. As he recalled, they met in a class they both disliked. For three years after Reid graduated, he and Gus lived in different cities and corresponded by mail. In the summer of 1930, they were both in Iowa City at Reid's master's degree commencement. Towner had just finished her second year of teaching English. Reid had said that he wanted to have his Ph.D. in hand, a good job, and a thousand dollars in the bank before the two of them got married. Even though at the time he had only his master's and \$320.58, and the job market was tightening, he and Towner married that August.

Reid received one of the first doctorates in speech from the University of Iowa and was instrumental in the early growth of the Speech Association of Missouri, which was formed in 1932. During World War II, Reid drew from the speeches of world leaders — Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt. He considered Roosevelt the most eloquent presidential orator since Lincoln.

After struggling to get by during the Great Depression and facing low enrollment and budget cuts during the war, colleges and universities found themselves after World War II with more students than they could accommodate. Reid found those years to be the “golden age of teaching.” With the enactment of the GI Bill in 1944 and the end of the war the following year, colleges and universities across the country were flooded with students. In the three years after World War II ended, enrollment doubled what it had been at its former peak. Half of the new enrollees were veterans. “I have yet to find a professor who does not recall the late 1940s and early 1950s as the peak years of teaching. We worked hard but the rewards were bountiful,” Reid wrote in *Speech Teacher: A Random Narrative*.

From 1946 to 1977, Gus Reid was a professor at the University of Missouri in Columbia, teaching English and rhetoric. The couple raised four children, the oldest of whom is now 80. It wasn’t until he retired that Reid started writing his autobiographical books, beginning with *Hurry Home Wednesday*. His favorite book that he wrote is *Professor on the Loose*, which documents his teaching and travels during the Great Depression, World War II, and the Cold War.

Three of the four Reid children and two of the couple’s 15 grandchildren attended Grinnell College. **Ellen Reid Gold ’55, Stephen Reid ’62, and Tony Reid ’67** all became educators at either the high school or college level. “For us, choosing a life centered on reading, communication of ideas, and collaborative and academic engagement was as natural as breathing,” says Stephen Reid. Grinnell, he says, modeled the academic habits of inquiry, research, and engaged classroom teaching in him and his siblings. Tony Reid puts the life of his father, a man born in 1905, into a historical context: “He knew many men who fought in the Civil War; he recalls men who came to this country on sailing ships. He heard William Jennings Bryan speak. Loren actually has memories of when the *Titanic* sank, when he was seven.”

Gus Reid died in August 2009 at the age of 102. “Loren was really in love with Gus and remained so till the end of her life,” Ellen Gold says. In reflecting on his father’s legacy, Stephen Reid says, “Certainly his love of teaching and learning – which included traveling – was his most important legacy.” Regarding the whole family: “I think the most remarkable thing about the family was their connection to Grinnell and their subsequent desire to pursue careers in education. All four of the siblings earned Ph.D.s in various fields, from speech and English to education.”

Loren Reid’s life is one devoted to education – his own, his family’s and his students’. His family is “amazed and gratified” that he has lived so long, says Tony Reid. He lived in his own home until he was 107, water-skied into his 90s, and has voted in every presidential election since 1928. Reid had the makings of a Grinnellian before he ever came to Grinnell and established a distinctly Grinnellian legacy – one that values knowledge, inquiry, and exploration – that has already lasted decades and generations. ■



Campus Myth Busters

We dig deep into the College archives to find out the truth behind some of the most incredible Grinnell legends.

by Erin Peterson '98

Grinnellians have always been able to spin great yarns. Just take founder Josiah Grinnell, who insisted he headed to Iowa because he'd been personally advised by abolitionist Horace Greeley to "Go west, young man."

It turned out that Greeley told Grinnell no such thing (Greeley himself disavowed the story), but Grinnell was such a charismatic storyteller that the tale took on a life of its own. The "go west" myth has been repeated in countless history books and taken as fact for more than 150 years.

That particular Grinnell legend may be the one with the most staying power, but it's not the only tale that's been told so often that it's been accepted as truth — regardless of the amount of truth it contains.

We were interested in finding out what was behind some of the other rumors that have been winging their way around campus for decades, sneaking into College guidebooks and campus-tour scripts for added staying power. Is it true that Quad was never intended to be a dining hall? Did the Federal Communications Commission squash the campus radio station for an entire year because of a well-executed prank?



To find the answers to these and other burning questions, we enlisted the help of archivists, longtime faculty members, biographers, and national research companies. What we discovered surprised us. Sometimes, fiction is just fiction. And sometimes, the rumors are not only true, they're just the tip of the iceberg.

Legend: Gary Cooper couldn't land a role in a single play at Grinnell.

True or false? True.

The back story: During his 34-year film career, actor **Gary Cooper '26** landed three Academy Awards, a Golden Globe, and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. But

snaring a spot in Grinnell's drama club as a student proved too difficult for the swoon-worthy star.

Hey, we've got *standards* here.

Cooper, a Montana native who was born Frank Cooper (he chose Gary as his stage name later), started his college career at the Helena-based Wesleyan College. Though he dreamed of becoming a surgeon, such a career



Photo by Justin Hayworth

was never really within reach; biographers note that his chief interest seemed to be cartooning.

In 1922, he transferred to Grinnell. According to the exclamation-laden biography of the star in *Current Biography 1941*, he showed little early promise as an actor. “He tried out for [Grinnell’s] dramatic club and was unhesitatingly turned down,” the publication reported. “He had stage fright so badly that he stuttered — and did that in a whisper!” Some biographies of the actor suggest that he had more than one unsuccessful tryout for the club.

Nonetheless, he found other ways to stay close to theatre while at Grinnell. According to Jeffrey Meyers’ *Gary Cooper: American Hero*, he dated **Doris Virden ’23**, the leading actress in the dramatic club, for more than a year. He also drew the covers of the playbills of theatre productions.

Though his academic performance at Grinnell was, by most accounts, discouragingly poor, he found plenty of interesting ways to spend his time, Meyers reports. “Cooper and some friends once stole a 5-gallon jug of Matlack’s cider, tried to make it hard, then lost patience and drank it before it fermented,” he writes. “To destroy the evidence, they put a firecracker in the neck of the jug and blew it up like a bomb.”

Cooper left the College in 1924, believing he could get a jumpstart on commercial art work in Chicago, but ultimately headed to Hollywood. He started as an extra in 1925, and he moved up the ladder quickly. Despite some miscalculations during his career — he turned down the role of *Gone with the Wind*’s Rhett Butler, insisting that the movie would be “the biggest flop in Hollywood history” — he snared best-actor Oscars for his roles in *Sergeant York* and *High Noon*.

Cooper died in 1960 of prostate cancer. He was awarded a lifetime achievement Academy Award posthumously.

Legend: More than a century ago, an alumna donated a significant sum to the College to build a church. The Grinnell administration obliged, but as soon as the alumna died, the “church” became the Quad — a dining hall for decades, and now a space for special events and performances.

True or false? Very unlikely to be true.

The back story: With its soaring ceilings, arched windows, and stained glass, it’s no wonder that Quad has evoked comparisons to a church.

But architecture alone isn’t enough to substantiate any claim, and there are enough other confounding details that this story seems like nothing more than urban legend. College Archivist **Chris Jones** says he could track down no documents that indicated any donation from any alumna for a church. And the timing is, at best, strange: “Herrick Chapel was built in 1907 and the Quad was completed in 1915,” he notes. “It seems a little unlikely that [administrators] would design two chapels for such a small campus.”

But what about that design? It’s awfully churchy, isn’t it? A cursory Web search indicates that the architects may have been taking cues from the Great Hall at the Christ Church campus of England’s Oxford University (founded long before Grinnell), which has similar features, from the tall, beamed ceilings, arched windows, and even the wood-

paneled walls. (The church was also the inspiration for the Great Hall in Harry Potter movies.)

Still, the legend persists — and along with it, the concern that any major gift to the College can be “repurposed” once the donor has shuffled off this mortal coil. But **Meg Jones Bair**, director of donor relations, dispels that myth. Strict ethics — not to mention binding contracts — guide the use of all major gifts. “When we accept larger gifts for a building or other large commitment, both the donor and the College sign gift agreements,” she says. She notes that the standard agreements include language that assures donors that their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given — or, if times change, a purpose that reasonably approximates the intent of the donors and supports the mission of the College. For example, when the NCAA prohibited Division III institutions from offering scholarships specifically to athletes, Grinnell worked with donors and their families to amend about a dozen scholarships in which candidates needed to be athletes. Many simply expanded their requirements to award the scholarship to a leader — either on or off the athletic field.

Legend: An alum once walked a cow to the top of Gates tower; since cows can’t walk down stairs, it was butchered in the bathroom.

True or false? False.

The back story: This legend has as many moving parts as a Clue murder mystery. Was it Gary Cooper in Rawson with a horse? Or Robert Noyce in Gates with a cow?

No matter: there appears to be no evidence that any alum from any era brought a massive beast to the top of a residence hall.

To be fair, Larry Swindell, author of the Cooper biography *The Last Hero*, offers a tale that was printed in an early movie studio biography of the star, in which Cooper rides a horse to his room at the top of Rawson. When the horse could not be persuaded to walk back down, it was butchered, and Cooper was expelled. But there are plenty of problems with the tale even without the question of the horse: Cooper never lived in Rawson (he was a Langan resident), and he was never expelled.

Swindell chalks the story up to a Paramount publicist who was “being paid to make Gary Cooper’s past sound interesting,” noting that “Hollywood publicists often reveal extraordinary resourcefulness for building tales out of scant information, or none at all.”

So why the persistence of the tale? It turns out that in some ways, it’s just an appealing story — and not just to Grinnellians. Bringing a cow or horse to the top of a building is a commonly reported (though perhaps less commonly executed) prank at schools, typically by the most famous alum the school can muster. At Pennsylvania’s Allegheny College,

for example, the prank is credited to William McKinley, who went on to become the 25th president of the United States (McKinley denied the tale). At Princeton, the tale involves a horse that belonged to the chair of the alumni board.

Alumni at other colleges, including St. Mary’s of California, Goshen College, and the University of Virginia, all claim to have had students who have coaxed a cow to the rooftops of the tallest campus buildings, and it’s on a list of “Senior Prank Ideas” at the College Confidential website. Perhaps it’s no coincidence that the definitive book of college pranks is called *If at All Possible, Involve a Cow*.

At Grinnell, however, the cows and the horses have all stayed at ground level.

Legend: In the 1960s, some inventive Grinnellians found a way to use the train tracks as powerful makeshift antenna for the radio station; their handiwork drowned out stations as far away as Chicago and earned an FCC violation that kept them off the air for a year.

True or false? False.

The back story: KDIC was not always KDIC; in 1948, the College launched its first AM radio station, KGRW. But by 1961, the station was in a tough spot; the equipment had become obsolete, and no one in Norris, the new residence hall on campus, could listen to the station because the dorm’s electrical wiring interfered with the signal.

This might have been about the time that ingenious students took matters into their own hands to create the most formidable train-track-powered station of all time, but the truth is more mundane. According to archive reports, students appealed to the College’s board of trustees for funding so that the station could upgrade to a stronger FM signal; but funds in those days were slim, and the request was turned down. The station was shut down until the spring of 1968, when it was relaunched as KDIC.

But were any other hijinks part of this seven-year hiatus? We checked with **Waldo Walker**, professor emeritus of biology, who says he’s familiar with the tale but has no recollection of what would undoubtedly be a memorable event. “I’ve been associated with the College since 1958 and was in the administration in the early 1960s,” he says. “I never heard of any intervention from the FCC.”

And neither, it turns out, has the FCC. To double-check his memory, we hired BCPI, an official FCC contractor, to dig through decades of the two stations’ records; despite hours of research, the company found no record of any violations.

Nonetheless, we wondered: Is it even possible to use the train tracks as an antenna? Speculation abounds on the Web; the answers range from “maybe, but it would be really, really hard” to “not a chance.”

These days, KDIC doesn’t need a train-track-powered jolt to get heard all the way across the country. If you’ve got



Photo courtesy of Burlington Library Archives, Grinnell College.

an Apple or Android phone, you can download the KDIC app and listen to today's student DJs from almost anywhere on the planet.

Legend: Grinnell has a series of secret tunnels beneath the campus.

True or false? Tunnels? True. Secret? Not so much.

The back story: Who doesn't love a secret passageway? We sure do. They're always where the best adventure stories start and often are the hiding spot for amazing treasures.

Well, not *always*, says **Chris Bair '96**, the College's environmental and safety coordinator. The College does have tunnels that run beneath North and South Campus dorms, but you won't find the Holy Grail or even the tombstone of beloved founder J.B. Grinnell. What you *will* find are pipes that deliver heat, chilled water, and Information Technology Services cabling to all the residence halls.

Though Grinnellians could technically walk the length of North Campus – from Norris to Younker – in one of the tunnels, they won't become popular passageways anytime soon. For one thing, says Bair, the entrances to the tunnels are kept "very locked." Bair says that during his eight-year tenure he's never seen any indication that students have made their way into the tunnels but has found plenty of evidence that students have made their way into "all sorts of strange places."

While the tunnels aren't accessible for students for good reason (they're not the ones who need access to utilities), they're also pretty unpleasant, says Bair. He describes the North Campus tunnel as a long concrete bunker that's about as wide as three people – with about

as much charm as that suggests. "The tunnels under North and South Campus are old and dingy," he says. "They'd be pretty good in a horror movie."

South Campus tunnels, meanwhile, aren't even tall enough to walk in. These "crawl tunnels" extend the length of South Campus. And if you think you might just want to make your way from Norris to Quad by way of tunnel, you'll have a tough go of it: The two sets of tunnels are connected only by buried pipes. But both campuses have more tunnel cred than East Campus; it has no tunnels at all. The utilities are incorporated into the residence hall basement space. ■

Read All About It

These stories are part of a much larger tale of the College and the adventures of its students and alumni. To find out more, check out these books and articles:

- *Grinnell College in the Nineteenth Century: From Salvation to Service*, by Joseph Frazier Wall '41.
- *Pioneering*, by Alan Jones '50.
- *The Man Behind the Microchip: Robert Noyce and the Invention of Silicon Valley*, by Leslie Berlin.
- *Gary Cooper: American Hero*, by Jeffrey Meyers.
- *The Last Hero: A Biography of Gary Cooper*, by Larry Swindell.

Extra:

Do you have a campus legend you'd like us to dig into? Send them to magazine@grinnell.edu. We'll answer the best questions in a future issue of the magazine.



Author **Bruce F. Pauley '59** is professor emeritus of history at the University of Central Florida, Orlando. Among his books are *Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini: Totalitarianism in the Twentieth Century* (Wiley-Blackwell, 4th edition, forthcoming 2015); *From Prejudice to Persecution: A History of Austrian Anti-Semitism* (Univ. of North Carolina Press, 1998); and *Hitler and the Forgotten Nazis: A History of Austrian National Socialism* (Univ. of North Carolina Press, 1987).

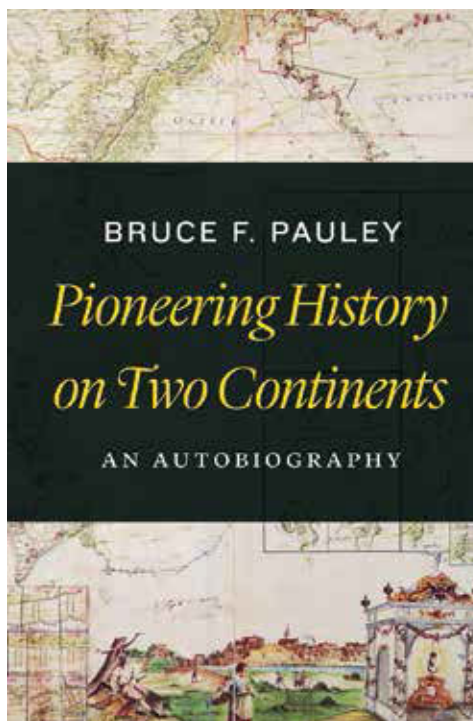
Pioneering History on Two Continents

An Autobiography

My choice of major was quickly confirmed. I gave some thought to being a professor of political science or even German, but soon dismissed those ideas in part because the political science department was not one of Grinnell's strongest. When I discovered that learning German was a struggle and that I would probably spend most of my time teaching beginning courses in grammar, that idea also quickly evaporated. Moreover, political science and German did not offer nearly the breadth of subject matter that history did. The Foreign Service remained my "plan B" as late as graduate school in case a career as a history professor proved impossible. I reasoned that history would be an excellent background for either career.

Many students considered Grinnell's history department the best in the college, which helps account for its having the largest number of majors. In the late 1950s, World War II was still fresh in the minds of my generation, and best-selling books such as Alan Bullock's classic, *Hitler: A Study in Tyranny*, had only recently been published. The Nuremberg trials, the Berlin blockade, the Korean War, the death of Stalin and de-Stalinization, the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, and the launching of *Sputnik* by the Soviet Union were all riveting events that stirred the interest of my generation.

Having made an early decision about a career proved advantageous. I knew from the get-go which courses I needed, so I never complained that my courses were "irrelevant" (an oft-used term in the 1960s), even if the thought did occur to me. For example, I knew that I would have to study German and French if I wanted to get a Ph.D., so I would have to take those subjects whether I liked them or not.



I was also lucky in having an especially inspiring history professor my very first semester at Grinnell: **Frederick L. Baumann**. Professor Baumann, or simply "Baumann," or even "Freddy," as we called him behind his back, had just begun phased retirement. A member of the faculty since 1929, he amazed us by saying that he had been born in 1888 and could recall the Panic of 1893, when unemployment reached 18.4 percent, the highest ever prior to the Great Depression. He also entertained us with stories about his experiences in an ambulance corps in northern Italy during and just after World War I.

Baumann was definitely a member of the old school of teaching. He firmly believed that scaring the wits out of students was the best way to make them study

and learn. Girls found him so intimidating that some of them would burst into tears when he barked at them while they gave an oral report. Nowadays his demeanor might be described as bullying, but it was gender neutral and certainly produced results. As for myself, I didn't need any scaring; my parents had already warned me that I would surely flunk out if I didn't study harder than I had in high school.

Before long I had Baumann figured out. Beneath his gruff and almost tyrannical exterior was a man with a soft heart and a love of history that he was eager to pass on to his students. Only a few weeks into that first fall semester I walked into his office and announced that I had decided to be a history professor. His response was: "Well, I was afraid of that. It's a great profession if you're independently wealthy." There was much truth in this observation. As late as 1940, Ivy League schools such as Yale had "dollar a year" faculty who were so wealthy that they were willing to work

“Baumann was definitely a member of the old school of teaching. He firmly believed that scaring the wits out of students was the best way to make them study and learn.”

for literally nothing. When Baumann began his career, the average pay of professors nationally often did not even meet basic living expenses. Salaries dropped even lower during the Great Depression at a time when enrollments were increasing nationally by 20 percent. By the mid-1950s the national average annual salary for assistant professors was around \$5,000. For senior professors in all fields it was about \$7,000 (around \$58,000 today), and I seriously doubt whether Grinnell’s salaries were even that high, especially for historians. In terms of purchasing power, salaries had actually declined nationally by 2 percent since 1904. By contrast, elementary school teachers had seen their incomes rise by over 100 percent during the same period, and auto workers by 140 percent.

Unlike many other historians, I can’t say that that my exposure to an inspiring college professor was decisive in my decision to become a history professor. As noted earlier, I had made that decision even before setting foot on Grinnell’s campus. Nevertheless, the history professors at Grinnell did *confirm* me in my professional choice. It wasn’t just their lecturing that persuaded me to follow the path of a historian. It was their whole style of life, and indeed the whole intellectual and cultural milieu of the campus.

Intellectual stimulation was not limited to the classroom at Grinnell or even to out-of-class discussions with professors. Particularly during my sophomore and senior years, “bull sessions” with roommates and other friends in my dormitory proved to be thought-provoking and informative. I was especially lucky to have as a roommate a young man named **John Price** [’60]. I had met him during the spring of my freshman year when he was visiting the campus; we immediately hit it off and agreed to be roommates in the fall. John was from Manhasset, an upscale suburb of New York on the North Shore of Long Island surrounded by historical sites and cultural outlets. His mother, who was from Iowa, thought it would be broadening for him to get a taste of the Midwest. After graduation John won a Rhodes Scholarship and graduated from Harvard Law School. Later, he was special assistant to President Nixon for urban affairs, succeeding Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York in that position. Part of his job was working on the president’s health insurance proposal, which (interestingly enough) included

universal coverage. Still later he became an international banker. He has been a trustee of Grinnell itself for the past 40 years.

John and I and the other member of our three-person suite, **Dave DeLong** [’59], spent long hours talking about life, politics, careers, our professors, and, of course, the relative merits of numerous members of the opposite sex. In looking back on our conversations and friendship, I feel sorry for students who never had a college roommate and haven’t fully participated in campus life. Classes were only part, albeit an important one, of my undergraduate experience.

Meanwhile, Grinnell offered me numerous musical outlets. I quickly joined the college chapel choir, which sang the great hymns of the Christian musical repertoire every Sunday morning. I was also a member of the Men’s Glee Club, which sang both serious and lighter fare and performed for high schools throughout Iowa and also at the Art Institute of Chicago. In my sophomore year I played the role of Prologue in the short comic opera *Pyramus and Thisbe*, although I have absolutely no memory of the story. I think it was also in my sophomore year that I joined the chorus, which sang Handel’s *Messiah*. Likewise, I was in a chorus of the Brahms *Requiem* during my senior year. In that same year I was chosen (probably with the help of John Price) to be in the Scarleteers, a male octet similar to the Boys Octet I had sung with at Lincoln High. All this singing and exposure to choral masterpieces had two consequences. On the one hand, it increased my appreciation of serious music; on the other hand, it utterly spoiled me. In later years I was never tempted to join a church choir or any kind of chorus that didn’t perform the classics. ■

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Grinnell, IA 50112

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Everyday Class Notes Gets Real

Chicago Super Meet-up, Sept. 26–28, 2014

Everyday Class Notes (ECN), the fast-growing Facebook group of Grinnell alumni, hosted its first-ever super meet-up on a glorious late-September weekend. Nearly 100 alums from the classes of 1974 to 2012 converged on Chicago to eat, drink, chat, and sweat together in real life.

When a fire at a regional air traffic control center upended weekend travel plans, ECNers braved long hours and creative routing in the battle for Chicago-bound flights. Others ditched the airports, loaded up on junk food and caffeine, and hit the road.

Josh Nathan '92 and his hardworking organizing committee ensured that those who made it to the event faced deliciously difficult choices. Sunday morning alone featured three brunch options: dim sum, Ethiopian, and Sunday Bloody Bloodies for fans of Bloody Marys.

After months of sharing beverages in cyberspace, participants clinked glasses at two concurrent Friday Afternoon Drink Thread Live! events hosted by **Kathleen Kern '93** at Sable and **Shea Nangle '94** at the Peninsula Hotel. Trepidation over whether friendships forged online would hold up in 3-D, if real hugs would be as welcome as virtual ones,

CLASSNOTES

1935

Louise Goodwin McKlveen celebrated her 100th birthday in August 2014.

1961

Garvin Davenport was awarded an Outstanding Faculty Award by Hamline University's College of Liberal Arts Alumni Association, Oct. 22, 2014. Every year, the association selects one current or former faculty member of the College of Liberal Arts who has exhibited exemplary teaching and/or writing in his or her field to receive this prestigious award.

1963

Charles Fuller represented Grinnell College at the inauguration ceremonies of Steven E. Titus as 29th president of Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, April 2014.

1964

Peter Cohon Coyote was featured in "Think 'The Roosevelts' sound familiar? It's because of Peter Coyote" by Steven Winn, SFGATE online, Sept. 13, 2014.

1965

Wallace Loh, University of Maryland president, received the Advocate of the Year Award from the 2014 steering committee of the Montgomery County Executive Hispanic Gala, September 2014.

1968

Businesswoman **Ruthena Sternberg Fink** was one of the five finalists for America's Retail Champion of the Year, honored by the National Retail Federation at its Retail Advocates Summit in Washington, D.C., July 2014. Fink established Grand Jete, a dancewear store in St. Paul, Minn., 30 years ago. She has been a member of the board of directors of the Minnesota Retailers Association for 10 years. Grand Jete also was featured in the national publication of *Dance Retailer News*, August 2014.

1972

The U.S. Senate confirmed **Alan Cohen's** nomination as a member of the seven-person Social Security Advisory Board, September 2014.

Mitch Erickson writes: "June 15, 2014, was the date for a reunion of Grinnell chemistry alumni **Doug**

Johnson '73, Steve Good '73, and [myself]. Doug is a chemist with ExxonMobil, specializing in aviation lubricant chemistry to keep your plane in the air. Steve is a pharmaceutical chemist, currently working in the antiviral arena with a startup. [I am] an environmental chemist working on the science of homeland security" with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Gabriel, a book-length poem by **Edward Hirsch** about his deceased son, was profiled in *The New York Times*, Sept. 10, 2014; the review was also published on its website.

Carol Sigmond was named partner at Horowitz Sigmond LLP in its New York office, June 2013. Sigmond is the New York County Lawyers' Association's 60th president-elect, the fifth woman to hold this position. She concentrates on construction industry matters, including contract preparation, mediation, litigation, suretyship, bid protests, appeals, and arbitration.

Greg Thielmann writes: "I'm in my fourth year as a senior fellow of the Arms Control Association – not to be confused with Obamacare, the other 'ACA.' I have had an opportunity to participate in an ongoing German-



Chemistry alumni Doug Johnson '73, Steve Good '73, and Mitch Erickson '72 reunited June 15, 2014.

and whether we would seem as witty in person disappeared in the swirl of Grinnell alchemy and loud music at Friday night's Super Meet-up at the Local Option bar.

Promising the camaraderie of the pub with the inebriated athleticism of Grinnell Relays, Saturday's ECN Cry for Help Bike Pub Crawl began with a lakefront bike ride and a stop for banh mi sandwiches before kicking off at Hopleaf. Plans to bike to other notable watering holes fell by the wayside as the power of Belgian beer, frites, and stellar company prevailed.

Thanks to **Ben Rodriguez '98** and **Deana Greenfield '00**, ECN had the run of the Q Room for Saturday night's main event: the ECN Chicago Super Meet-up Grand Gala, Awards Ceremony, Karaoke, Diet Fresca, and Sharknados for the Entire Family! Attendees renewed old friendships and solidified new ones over games of cards, pingpong, pool, and bowling. **Tim Romine '92** provided entertainment with his karaoke machine and numerous awards were bestowed, including ECN poet laureates **Lucinda Schutzman Bowen '00** and **Dan Jacobsohn '95**.

For those needing to work off a bit of Chicago's hospitality, **Doug Schenkelberg '96** organized the ECN 2014 Save the Children Race for The Cure lakefront fun run and **Paula Nixon '84** led the ECN 'Sweatin' to the Oldies!' workout.

Brandy Agerbeck '96 and **Nancy Ying '95** led the ECN Arts + Eats Tour – a three-hour walking tour of Chicago architecture and public art punctuated with famous local snacks. Pairings included the Marshall Fields building with Frango Mints; Marc Chagall's Four Seasons mosaic with Garret popcorn; and the Empire Room at the Palmer House Hotel with Lemonheads.

A few of ECN's intrepid air travelers never made it to Chicago but armed with vouchers for canceled flights, they have vowed to join us at Reunion 2015 or the next ECN Super Meet-up (TBD).

– by *Alison Hayes '87* and *Lauren Merritt '91*

Russian-American commission on 'Challenges to Deep Cuts in Nuclear Arms.' The Deep Cuts project brought me to Hamburg twice this year for planning and workshops and spawned visits to other German cities for U.S. embassy-sponsored events. Happily, the project has brought me back into contact with academics and former officials of two countries where I had previously served as a foreign service officer, as well as with German relatives and friends. The latter part of the year has also included monitoring and commenting on two important arms control agreements: to eliminate chemical weapons in Syria and to take the first step in Geneva toward ensuring that Iran does not build nuclear weapons."

1973

Jon Gray received the Spurgeon Smithson Award from the Missouri Bar Foundation at the annual meeting of the Missouri Bar and the Missouri Judicial Conference, September 2014. The Smithson award is presented each year to a judge, a practicing lawyer, and a legal scholar for outstanding

contributions to the expansion and diffusion of justice. Gray served as a circuit judge for the state of Missouri for more than 20 years before retiring from the bench in 2007. He is now a partner in the international law firm of Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP in Kansas City, Mo.

1976

Bill Burke completed the South End Rowing Club's Five Coves of Death swim as its oldest participant, May 2014. He recapped his 2-hour, 45-minute swim in the Dolphin Club's log www.dolphindub.org/dolphin-log/, Summer 2014.

1977

Mark Blanchard won the following American Contract Bridge League awards: 2013 North American Mini-McKenney 50-100- point champion (tier 10 of 13), 2013 District 24 North American Pairs Flight C champion (New York City and Long Island), 2013 Long Island Sectional Player of the Year Flight B, and 2013 Long Island Newcomer of the Year.

1978

Both *Seattle Magazine* and *Seattle Met Magazine* selected **Ron Cohen** as a Top Doctor for 2014. Cohen has been the medical director of behavioral health services and chief of psychiatry at Valley Medical Center, a University of Washington affiliate, in Renton, Wash., for the past 20 years.

Rebecca Chipman Fulgoni represented Grinnell College at the

inauguration ceremonies of Mauri Ditzler as the 16th president of Albion College, Albion, Mich., August 2014.

1979

Becky Wolcott Hein accepted the position of vice president and chief financial officer at Portland State University Foundation in

Some Changes to Classnotes

The "Classnotes" section of *The Grinnell Magazine* is expanding its coverage. We invite you to submit news about your travel – especially trips to visit fellow alumni, volunteer/service activities, major wedding anniversaries, grandchildren, and photos. This new content will be in addition to our traditional categories: your professional accomplishments, degrees, publications and performances, marriages and unions, births and adoptions, and death notices.

A couple of minor content changes include using preferred names, e.g. Jim instead of James, Peg instead of Margaret, in lieu of "official" names with middle initials. Also, we'll publish "Classnotes" in a mix of first and third person, depending on which is appropriate. If you submit your note in first person – e.g., "Reader, I married him" – we will run it that way, but if we write one based on information sent to us about you, it'll be in third person.

If you send photos, please identify the people in them. Send your news to classnotes@grinnell.edu

Breaking Genre Stereotypes

Telling stories of social justice, victim empowerment, feminism, and happy endings.

Vylar Kaftan '98 and Ruth Homrighaus '98 don't take offense when someone suggests that romance or science fiction isn't "literary."

"I just dump my drink on their heads," jokes Kaftan, who recently won a Nebula Award, one of the most prestigious prizes in science fiction. "After that, I remind them that there are terrible writers in every genre, including mainstream fiction, and you can't judge a genre by the worst."

Kaftan's Nebula-winning novella, *The Weight of the Sunrise*, is an alternate history in which the Incan empire survived both smallpox and Francisco Pizarro's invasion. The main character, a naïve translator, saves his society yet again by allying with a slave to outwit an American opportunist.

The story is one example of recurring themes in Kaftan's writing. "I come back to a few things over and over. Power: Who has it, who doesn't, who uses it, who takes it back. Love: Nothing is greater than truly understanding and caring for another person or creature. And hope: What's the difference between having it or not, when is hope real versus an illusion, and whether hope has to be real to have true power."

While Kaftan has written science fiction and fantasy since she was a child, Homrighaus embraced romance after college. "Reading a lot of

romance after my son was born, I started to notice what outsiders will call 'the formula' of romance, and that gave me a structure to start thinking about narrative within."

Homrighaus is now a *New York Times* best-selling author under the name Ruthie Knox. Her more recent effort is in a new subgenre known as "new adult."

Her *USA Today* bestselling books as Robin York, *Deeper* and *Harder*, feature a college student on a campus much like Grinnell. The student must deal with the fallout when her ex-boyfriend posts sex pictures of her on the Internet, a practice known as "revenge porn," and ruins her reputation and career prospects.

The publication of the first book happened to coincide with the arrest of Hunter Moore, the "revenge-porn king," in California. Homrighaus took the opportunity to speak out about the practice and advocate for its criminalization in interviews with MTV and *USA Today*, among others.

"I noticed that none of the [new adult novels] described a college experience like my own. Most of the stories are set at big universities;

Oregon, September 2014. Hein is responsible for overseeing the PSU Foundation financial planning and management and for the integrity of the foundation's financial systems and internal controls, the performance of its investment portfolios, the security and effectiveness of its information technology systems, and management of its real estate, facilities, and records.

1980

Sheldon Tapley represented Grinnell College at the inauguration ceremonies for Nayef Simhat as 11th president of Wofford College, Spartanburg, S.C., April 2014.

1982

For the second year in a row, Mitchell Channon Design earned a top industry honor when the Illinois chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers awarded the firm its Design Excellence Award at its annual awards gala in Chicago, September 2014.

Russell Pierce presented the keynote speech at the National Alliance on Mental Illness annual Massachusetts convention, October 2014. Pierce is director of recovery and empowerment for the state's Department of Mental Health.

1983

Christopher Hertel rode in this year's Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI LXII), July 2014.

Ellen Heath Modersohn represented Grinnell College at the inauguration ceremonies of Paula J. Carlson as 10th president of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, Oct. 10, 2014.

1986

Dan McGrath writes: "I took a trip to Tokyo (July 2014) on the 30th anniversary of having first gone there via Grinnell's Japan study program in July of 1984. I swung by Waseda University and reminisced about the junior year abroad I spent there and reflected on how the experience changed my life. I was involved in Japanese-speaking jobs for the first 20 years of my career and my wife is from Japan, so the 'Japan experience' influenced me every bit as much as the 'Grinnell experience' did."

1988

In early 2014, Chad Darby founded the nonprofit organization Neighbors Nourishing Communities (NNC) in Tualatin, Ore., to address the lack of nutritious produce available for low-income families. "Low-income families

have the least accessibility to good health care and yet also suffer from the lack of good nutritious foods with which to stay healthy," Darby writes. "NNC provides home gardeners with free plants, seeds, and instruction in exchange for 20 percent of their

produce for low-income families. NNC also helps low-income families directly by providing free garden space near their residence, tools, seeds, plants, and classes in gardening, cooking, and preserving for free. Even our low-income families have asked if



Rebecca Quirk '86 and Richard Beck '86 then and now: "Clubbing" during Grinnell-in-London in 1984 and watching the sunset on top of Rattlesnake Butte, Homedale, Idaho, Sept. 13, 2014, with superdog, Ginger.



the frat parties are dangerous to the heroine's safety, the campus is anonymous, the professors don't have time for a single student's problems," she explains. "I wanted to write a story that reflected my own college experience, which was overwhelmingly one of safety and acceptance. Putnam [the fictionalized Grinnell] isn't a world without danger, but it offers the story's heroine a lot of positive experiences to bolster her as she's trying to locate her identity following a traumatic experience.

"I've found, too, that writing romance can really be a female-positive and even feminist experience," she adds. "All of us bring our own values to the pages of our stories. It's been fun for me to write heroes and heroines whose views and actions support and forward the sexual and personal politics that are important to me."

And to critics who maintain that popular fiction isn't literary? "Judge the genre by its best work," advises Kaftan. "Science fiction, romance — any genre can produce amazing stories capable of moving human hearts."

— by Sarah Eagan Anderson '98



Vylar Kaftan '98



Ruth Homrighaus '98

they can donate 20 percent of their garden produce like everyone else. They have also guest-taught some of our very best cooking classes."

Christine Black O'Malley completed a Fulbright specialist project in Gondar, Ethiopia, March 2014. During the four-week assignment, she trained faculty and staff from two Ethiopian universities on branding, content, and social media and also created a communications plan for the University of Gondar's Diamond Jubilee held in July. She has produced a companion course on iTunes U at <http://go.osu.edu/brandedsocial> and advanced several health sciences partnerships on behalf of The Ohio State University in her role there as executive director of health sciences.

1990

Debbie Gottschalk writes, "Thanks to **Mai Ha Vu '13** for finding [me] and **Kate Randall '08**. We are joined by **Kit [Bannon] Angell '63**. Our Grinnell experiences spanned single-sex campuses with curfews to coed rooms! Pulled out calendars and planned our next [Grinnell-in-Newark, Del.] dinner in November. If you're in the area, please join us!"

As a member of the USA Knights medieval armored combat league, **Zorikh Lequidre** took the overall championship title at the first International Medieval Combat Federation Battle of the Nations competition in Belmonte, Castilla-La Mancha, Spain, May 2014. For the past two years, Lequidre captained the all-on-all team Kill the Kin, the largest American team in this field of competition.

1991

Michelle Hampton Emery writes: "I am in my sixth year teaching high school French at Burr and Burton Academy (22nd year in the classroom) in Vermont and led a student service trip to Morocco in April 2014. After leading many trips to Quebec and France, Morocco was totally different and a truly life-changing experience. I am currently organizing a second trip to Morocco in April 2015 with a new group of students and continue to pray for a trip angel to fund student trips."

1993

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs selected **Elizabeth Powley** as a member of its seventh class

of emerging leaders, July 2014. Recipients of this two-year fellowship were chosen for their ability to help Chicago compete and thrive in the global era.

Kartik Sheth represented Grinnell College at the inauguration of Bradley W. Bateman as 10th president of Randolph College, Lynchburg, Va., April 2014.

1994

Kerry Bart is in his second year as pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Barboursville, W.Va., fall 2014. This is the fourth church he's served in the past 12 years.

LeAnn Dacken Oldenburger accepted a position with Des Moines (Iowa) Public Schools as drama director at Lincoln High School, August 2014.



Alan Thomas '92 and Jana Murchison Thomas '94 celebrated 20 years of marriage on Sept. 3, 2014. Also pictured are their children and future Grinnellians, Will (class of 2023) and Skylar (class of 2021).



She's Got the Music in Her

Alum nominated for Native American Music Awards.

Stephanie Snow '03 has had music in her since before she could walk. That's when she started dancing at the Meskwaki Nation settlement near Tama, Iowa, where she grew up. "My whole family is involved in music. I knew I could sing at an early age but I wanted to be different, so I didn't share my voice. Finally in high school, I got the nerve to show Uncle Storm [Native American singer Storm Seymour] I could sing, and he put me on stage."

Snow has turned her music and voice into a very active and successful avocation; she is half of the Seymour Snow duo formed with her uncle. The duo has been so successful, in fact, that it was recently nominated for several Native American Music Awards, the highest honor a Native American vocal artist can receive. The awards draw the biggest names in Native American art and music. The duo has been nominated for artist of the year, best country recording, and record of the year for the CD *Home Grown*.

Snow's involvement at Grinnell and since graduating with a major in anthropology hasn't always included music. While a student, she worked in the office that was then known as multicultural affairs,

Allison Wickens became vice president for education at the Mount Vernon (Iowa) Ladies Association, Mount Vernon, September 2014. Wickens will work on behalf of Mount Vernon's newest facility, the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, to develop, deploy, and evaluate educational resources for teachers, students, and lifelong learners.

1996

Hollis Pfitsch was honored by Adhikaar, a New York-based human rights and social justice group organizing Nepali-speaking immigrants, for supporting its members' fight against wage theft, June 2014. Pfitsch, who works as a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society in New York, helped many Adhikaar members successfully recover thousands of dollars of unpaid wages. **Luna Ranjit '00** co-founded Adhikaar in 2005 and currently serves as executive director. **Raji Pokhrel '08** is Adhikaar's program coordinator.

1999

In August 2014, **Courtney Birkett** was elected president of the World Atlatl Association for 2015. The association, founded in 1987, unites people who are interested in the atlatl, an ancient hunting weapon that preceded the bow and arrow in most parts of the world and is one of humankind's first mechanical inventions.

Kate Kerr accepted the position of human resources manager at the Armstrong Teasdale law firm in the St. Louis office, Sept. 16, 2014. Kerr is responsible for the oversight of recruiting programs, including the on-campus interview program, summer associate program, and law school relations. She will also work with groups to oversee recruiting strategies, retention, diversity integration, and attorney learning and development.

Elizabeth Perrill was promoted to associate professor of art history at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, August 2014.

2001

Marissa Payne is now a staff writer at *The Washington Post*, where she covers national and international sports

news. Since starting in May 2014, she's appeared on MSNBC and NBC and is a regular on the newspaper's own sports talk show, *Post Sports Live*.

2002

John Catron received the City Pages 2014 award for best actor in Minneapolis, *Citypages.com*, "Best of the Twin Cities," April 2014.

Erik Gable was named director of marketing and audience development for the Croswell Opera House in Adrian, Mich., September 2014. The Croswell is the oldest continuously operating theatre in Michigan and one of the oldest in the nation.

Special counsel at Jenner & Block and co-chair of the firm's government contracts corporate transactions practice group, **Damien C. Specht** testified on July 15, 2014, before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce. Specht was invited to provide his perspective on the Small Business Administration's implementation of specialized contracting rules. At Jenner & Block, he focuses on corporate transactions and compliance counseling for large and small government contractors.



Stephany Schmidt Hall '95 climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania with her husband Marc in July 2013. The climb was followed by a two-day safari at Tarangire and the Ngorongoro Crater.

leading workshops in Native American culture. She also co-led the Native American Student Alliance. “Any chance I got, I got involved,” Snow recalls.

In her first job after Grinnell, Snow worked for the American Indian Council throughout the Midwest, assisting with academic and career advising and job placement. Later she worked for the state of Iowa in the New Iowans Centers, a division of Iowa Workforce Development, where she served as a liaison to new residents. “I worked with people from over 100 countries and with agencies such as the Department of Labor to find job placements or anything newcomers might need.” Unfortunately state budget realities closed the centers and ended work that Snow enjoyed.

In February 2014, she was hired by Grinnell in the Office of Intercultural Engagement and Leadership and now holds a one-year contract as interim assistant director, a job she says fits well with her music career. “I see music as an extension of my work. This is who I really am. I feel free when I perform and it’s from my heart. I’m not an expert or ‘the best’ but I sing with my heart and put my whole self into whatever I do,” Snow humbly relates.

In addition to her busy music and work schedule, Snow remains involved with the Meskwaki Historical Preservation Project and the Food Sovereignty Project at the settlement that promotes healthy eating with local and traditional foods and community gardens.

She sees her anthropology background as “logical” with her work and her music. “I have found that there is always an element of teaching and culture-sharing, especially in our music. We draw from different cultures – a little folk, a little country, traditional Native, some in Spanish. I write a lot of poetry, which gives us ideas too. I don’t do instruments. I only have my voice and dance.”

Snow admits that her humble nature makes her a bit stage-shy. “I’ve been on the Grand Ole Opry stage three times. I am nervous at first but I collect myself and say, ‘If this touches someone, that connection is universal.’ My goal is to do something that makes my heart feel good and touches other people. That’s really what’s most important to me.”

– by Cindy Deppe

2004

Devan McGranahan shares news about himself and wife **Meghan Kirkwood**: “We recently lived in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, while I was lecturing in the Department of Grassland Science at the University of KwaZulu-Natal as a Fulbright Scholar. Meghan was doing research for her Ph.D. in art history at the University of Florida. This last spring we moved to Moorhead, Minn., as we’ve both accepted assistant professor positions at North Dakota State University in Fargo, N.D. Meghan teaches photography and 2D design, and I’m in the range science program.”

2005

Adrian Barnes and his Laser SHIELD (Screening at High-throughput to Identify Energetic Laser Distortion) development team from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory were recognized with an R&D 100 Award for their work with high-energy lasers, August 2013. Widely recognized as the “Oscars of invention,” the R&D 100 Awards identify and celebrate the top technology products of the year and span industry, academia, and government-sponsored research.

Renae Youngs became director of research and evaluation at the Minnesota State Arts Board, June 2014.

2006

Margaret Toomey received three out of the five nominations for best costume design in a tier-2 production in the First Annual Theatre Bay Area Awards, September 2014. Toomey was recognized for her costumes for *In the Heights* and *Dreamgirls*, both at Broadway by the Bay in Redwood City, Calif., and *The Color Purple* at Hillbarn Theatre in Foster City, Calif. The award ceremony was held in November in San Francisco.

2007

Sollie Flora, now an attorney with Winston & Strawn LLP in Chicago, was named a 2014 Illinois “rising star” in the field of general litigation by *Super Lawyers/Illinois 2014* magazine.

2008

Caitlin Carmody and **Megan Goering** have been getting together on Friday nights in Goering’s San Francisco home for board games, pumpkin Its-Its (a local ice cream sandwich

specialty), homemade dinner, and autumnally-themed tea, which they say feels an awful lot like being at 1021 High St. again. Carmody writes, “We both agree that **Kirby Ramstad** is the very bravest badger!”

2012

Kyle Espinosa was part of a team at Nickelodeon that won an Emmy for outstanding creative achievement in interactive media-user experience and visual design, winter 2014. Espinosa is full-episode programming coordinator at Nickelodeon.

Degrees

Marco Davalos ’03, M.F.A. in film, with an emphasis in production, American Film Institute Conservatory, Los Angeles, May 2014. He has accepted a position as postproduction coordinator at an independent production company in Los Angeles. His thesis film *Ellie* toured the film festival circuit, fall 2014.

Jess Rochester ’03, master of public health, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, August 2014. She accepted the position of grants administrator with Minnesota’s Office of Economic Opportunity, May 2014.

Amanda King ’07, M.S. in education, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. She began teaching information technology at Chippewa Middle School in Des Plaines, Ill., August 2014.

Amanda Underwood ’10, master’s in strategic communication, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, summer 2014. She has accepted a position in donor relations at Macalester College, St. Paul, Minn.

Rebecca Heller ’11, master of social work, Columbia University School of Social Work, May 2014. She became a social worker in an assisted living residence in Manhattan in June and passed the New York State licensing exam and became a licensed social worker in July.

Marriages and Unions

Jason Elbogen ’94 and **Xiaodong Zhang**, June 21, 2014. Attending were *Katie Mardis ’90*, *Jack Simpson ’93*, *Mike Kraus ’93*, *Laura Waxman ’93*, *Sarah Quimby ’94*, *Alex Kranjec ’95*, *Jesse Holcomb ’95*, and *Laura Wooley ’97*.



Art to Algorithms

From NASA to Norway, one young alum follows her passions.

“Where do you see yourself in five, 10 years?” That’s often the eye-rolling question in a first job interview.

For **Natalie Larson '06**, the quick answers could be “NASA,” “Norway,” and “Internet congestion” — a few of her hefty resumé builders since graduating with honors as an art major.

“At Grinnell, I oscillated between choosing philosophy and art as a major, but after taking time off to pursue life as a Carmelite nun (another exploration) and subsequently dealing with many inner philosophical battles, I chose art.” She credits faculty members **Bobbie McKibbin**, **Matthew Kluber**, **Jill Schrift**, and **Lesley Wright** as influential mentors.

Grinnell, though, came *after* Larson found a math error on a national standardized test while in high school, but *before* she discovered a mistake in the GRE (Graduate Record Examinations) test, which led to work for *The Princeton Review*. These experiences she counts among her “most satisfying to date,” followed quickly by “my internship at Harvard



Jerome Simmons '10

has self-published *Everything I Know About Cooking*, a do-it-yourself cooking journal. He writes, “My mother is an outstanding, adventurous chef who never fears straying from a recipe. Despite her creative alterations to timeless recipes and original masterpieces, Mom never wrote anything down. All too often, delicious creations were lost to memory, and I rarely experienced the same meal twice. This book was created for the adventurous chef, family, and friends to save their masterpieces.”

Jennifer Kulik '94 and **Brook Eshete**, Aug. 22, 2014. Kulik adds, “I am the founder and CEO of Silver Kite Community Arts Consulting, based in Kenmore, Washington.”

Evan Petig '98 and **Abby Copeman '01**, Sept. 1, 2013. **Henry Rietz '89** officiated. More than 25 Grinnell faculty, staff, and alumni also attended, including **James “Jimbo” Sadler Tanzosch '88**, **Sarah White** (admission), **Heather Benning '96** and **Deanna Shorb** (chaplain), **Chris Bair '96** and **Meg Jones Bair** (alumni relations), **Jon Benning '98** and **Jordan Blanche Benning '98**, **Andrew Cody '99**, **Josh Magden '99** and **Elizabeth Roeder Magden '01**, **Tammy Baker Dann '01**, **Courtney Gengler '01**, **Julie Grundman '01**, **Shannon Hammen Miner '01**, **Jordan Esbrook '01** and **Jeff Pedersen '02**, **Angela Jensen '02**, **Melanie Schettler Heto '02** and **Nihad Heto '05**, **Marie Opsahl-Lister '03**, **Curran Trick '03**, **Jeff Blanchard** (mathematics), **Dr. Raynard S. Kington**, president, and **Dr. Peter Daniolos**.

Stephanie Wilcox '00 and **Matthew Perlick**, June 7, 2014. The bridal party included **Leah Ray Seid '00**.

Rachel Liberatore '01 and **Kate Lehman**, married in Albuquerque, N.M., after 12 years of partnership, June 16, 2014.

Jess Rochester '03 and **Renae Youngs '05**, Aug. 30, 2014.

Ivy Selechnik '06 and **Paul Prifer**, March 1, 2014. Attending were **Supat Tipayamongkol '04**, **Mike Misek '05**, **Elizabeth Bleier '06**, **Ryan Sterling '06**, **Susan Vescovi '06**, and **Erica Williams '06**.

James Bird '07 and **Sarah L. Smith '08**, July 12, 2014.

Molly Dahlberg '07 and **Travis Richter**, May 31, 2014. The bridal party included **Brady Austin '07**, **Christena McIntyre Austin '07**, **Anna Johnson '07**, **Claire Tindal '07**, and **Margie Scribner '10**. Dahlberg and Richter live in Baton Rouge, La.

Elizabeth Ward '07 and **Phil Naumann**, June 28, 2014. Attending were **Greg Chatterley '06**, **Nathan Austin '07**, **Amos Goldbaum '07**, **Keegan Gourlie '07**, **John Guittar '07**, **Chris Hall '07**, **Isabella Horning '07**, **Andrea Matter '07**, **Eric Schatzkin '07**, **Lizzy Tegeler '07**, **Molly Thompson '07**, **Paul Wainright '07**, **Ben Weyl '07**, **Sarah Zimmerman '07**, **Hannah Sayle '08**, and **Rachel Fields '09**.

Sarah Marcum '08 and **Kyle Yoder**, May 24, 2014. Attending were **Andrew Marcum '12** and **Rebecca Hughes Marcum '12**.

Caitlin Wells '08 and **Scott Kamen**, July 12, 2014. The wedding party included **Allison Amphlett '08**, **Lindsay Dennis '08**, **Christine Boeckholt Remissong '08**, **Nora Skelly '08**, and **Spencer Green '09**. Also attending were **Seth Gitter '02**, **Chris Neubert '08**, **Matthew Remissong '08**, **Allison Wisco '08**, **Nate Gailey-Schiltz '09**, **Jocelyn Gerriets '10**, **Emma Silverman '09**, and **Ethan Struby '10**.

Nelson Goering '10 and **Erika Graham '10**, Sept. 6, 2014. Attending were **Alexi Brooks '10**, **Beth Miller '10**, **Matthew Nielsen '10**, **Hugh Potter '10**, and **Patrick Rich '10**.

Tara Hawley '10 and **Brent Cyr**, Aug. 9, 2014.

John Hereford '10 and **Liz Davis '11**, June 21, 2014.

Mark H.K. Pharris '10 and **Cecelia F. Wolter '10**, Aug. 2, 2014. Maid of honor was **Zoe Wolter '16**. Also attending were **Hannah Caster '10** and **Katie Jones '10**.

in 2010 and the 2011 program on quantum computing I attended at MIT, which were extremely gratifying. Learning about the strange, mind-bending, humanity-altering potential consequences of quantum computing from foremost researchers was an amazing experience.”

What qualified the artist to conduct research in quantum computing? After graduating from Grinnell, philosophy was still on Larson’s mind. “I found myself drawn more and more to logic, eventually realizing that I should just study pure mathematics,” she says.

In 2012, Larson earned a second bachelor’s degree, double majoring in mathematics and computer science with honors from Vanderbilt. She also attended NASA’s Aeronautics Academy, where she wrote software to simulate in-flight Internet usage. Today, she’s in the midst of a Ph.D. program in computer science from the University of California, San Diego.

“In my Ph.D. research I study Internet congestion, both from a technical point of view, and a socioeconomic point of view, looking at

reasons why networks might be motivated to allow certain pathways to remain congested,” Larson explains.

For example, “in early 2014, we saw especially heavy congestion between Cogent — one of Netflix’s transit providers — and virtually all other service providers with the exception of Cox, which has a special agreement with Netflix.” Netflix was using Cogent to deliver Netflix service to Comcast customers. “When Netflix agreed to pay Comcast this March, nearly all congestion on paths between Cogent and other service providers disappeared,” Larson says.

“Identifying sources of congestion and finding ways to mitigate them can make the Internet fairer, faster, and more reliable.”

Larson’s research is funded by a Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Defense, in return for her commitment to work for the defense department the next two summers and for at least three years after she completes her doctorate.

– by Cindy Deppe

Scott Phillips ’11 and **Diana Roman ’14**, May 21, 2014.

Peter Macfarlane ’12 and **Abby Halperin**, Aug. 16, 2014. Groomsman was **Andrew Marcum ’12**. Also attending were **Melanie Echaes ’12**, **Kelly Iacobazzi ’12**, **Allison Jamieson-Lucy ’12**, **Katie Lakey ’12**, **Rebecca Hughes Marcum ’12**, **Emma Rellergert ’12**, and **Kirsten Shriver ’12**.

Births and Adoptions

Natasha Vasey-Ellis ’97 and **Timothy Ellis**, Jan. 13, 2013, their third child, second son, **Hugo Campbell Ellis**.

Shannon Chipman Heers ’97 and **Michael Heers**, April 24, 2014, their first child, a son, **Jax William Heers**.

Megan Schubel ’97 and **Brian McNamara**, April 2, 2014, their first child, a daughter, **Anna Kathryn McNamara**.

Jessica Chapman ’99 and **Brian Vicente ’99**, March 13, 2013, their first child, a daughter, **Nina Chapman Vicente**. Also, June 29, 2014, their second child, first son, **Luke P.J. Vicente**.

Sara Stevenson Rooney ’00 and **Mark Rooney**, Sept. 5, 2014, their fourth child, third daughter, **Hannagan Elsie Rooney**.

Beau Hurtig ’01 and **Ellen Mai ’01**, April 19, 2014, their second child, first daughter, **Fiona Hurtig**.

Amy Walters ’01 and **Justin Balvin**, March 1, 2014, their first child, a daughter, **Penelope Balvin-Walters**. Maternal aunt and uncle are **Stephanie Walters ’97** and **Ryan McGary ’97**.

Whitney Davidson-Hinz ’02 and **Jan Hinz**, April 25, 2014, their first child, a son, **Willem Walter Hinz**.

Janet McLaughlin Olson ’02 and **Peter Olson ’02**, Feb. 8, 2014, their first child, a daughter, **Pearl Rose Olson**.

Caitlin Raich Marek ’06 and **Rachel Marek ’06**, July 4, 2014, their first child, a daughter, **Cora Elizabeth Marek**. Aunt is **Eden Marek ’15**.

Hannah LaFollette O’Polka ’11 and **Jason O’Polka**, Sept. 27, 2014, their first child, a son, **Liam Jayce O’Polka**. Paternal aunt is **Emma O’Polka ’12**.

Publications, Productions, and Exhibitions

“The Challenge of Occupational Safety and Health in Greece” by **Foster Rinefort ’56**, *Advances in Management and Applied Economics*, June 2014, Vol. 4, No. 3, Screen Press Ltd., London.

The Imperfect Twin: Contentions and Saving Graces of Being Brothers by **Keith Felton ’64**, America Star Books, Frederick, Md. Felton writes: “You might be interested in a ‘California collusion’ with this book — I decided to use a reader at the presubmission proofing stage and received the splendid help of **Susan Coop Street ’64**. She did a stunning job of focusing on issues, liabilities, and word confusions, proving without doubt that two Grinnell educations are far better than one!”

“Letter to Francis Scott Key” by **Ann M. Lousin ’64**, reprinted in the *Law Bulletin*, Sept. 9, 2014.

The Ten Commandments of Management by **Palmer Hartl ’65**, Koehler Books, Virginia Beach, Va., Oct. 1, 2014. “The book presents 10 basic principles of management in the spirit of helping people to manage adults by being adult,” Hartl writes. “For too long in this country, we have labored under a parent/child employment paradigm where the boss is the parent and the employee is the child. The book also ties together my two worlds of the church and my work as a consultant to management. I have prefaced each chapter with a short reference to a Biblical principle or text. I would like believing Christians to know that there is a way to manage that honors their faith as well. If you are not a believer you may still find it useful.”

Postwar Urban America: Demography, Economics, and Social Policies, by **John F. McDonald ’65**, M.E. Sharpe Inc., Armonk, N.Y., Dec. 2, 2014. The book provides a demographic and economic history of urban America over the last 65 years. McDonald is professor emeritus of economics, University of Illinois at Chicago.

The Decisive Moment

This English major discovered photography — and a career.

By day, **Lawrence Sumulong '10** is the photo editor of *Jazz* at Lincoln Center, a position that requires him to “handle an extremely intense editing workload while maintaining a unique style of photography over hundreds of events and concerts,” according to Jazz publicist Erika Santucci. But nights and weekends, he’s been working doggedly on his own projects: Sumulong’s photographs have appeared in *The New Yorker*: Photo Booth, *Le Monde*’s *le magazine du Monde*, the Jorge B. Vargas Museum, and the Milk Gallery. His postcard series for the publication *Abe’s Penny* was acquired for the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art Library, and a selection of his work is slated to appear in *Lens*, a photo blog run by *The New York Times*.

A native New Yorker and English major at Grinnell, Sumulong discovered photography when he spent two weeks volunteering with a nongovernment organization in the Philippines. He shot his first photo book there, *Gawain Ng Diyos* (God’s Work), which he subsequently published through Grinnell’s Student Publications and Radio Committee. Since that first series, Sumulong has returned to the Philippines again and again, exploring a complicated relationship

to his parents’ birthplace. Some of his photo series, like *In Answer*, are ruminative explorations of family and identity; others such as *From the Prison House* approach subjects of violence and poverty in the Philippines in a more direct, unblinking manner.

As a photographer, Sumulong vacillates between two different and sometimes conflicting ways of making images: fine art and photojournalism. Studying poetry with Professor **Ralph Savarese** during his senior year at Grinnell, Sumulong realized “photography was just a different way of doing poetry,” he says. He often begins these more poetic, personal series with an epigraph, or intersperses textual elements like handwritten notes between images, as in *Personal Effects*, a series of distorted color portraits of people with borderline personality disorder. *Personal Effects* and projects like it have a distinctly associational quality, often employing reflections, screens, and semitransparent windows that partially obscure their subjects, as if the image is resisting the viewer, like a reticent poem.

However, Sumulong also has a documentarian’s impulse, and for these assignments, he prefers to render his images in stark black and white, with slightly tilted horizons captured through a wide-angle lens.

“Justspeak: A Black Mother Weeps for America — Stop Killing our Black Sons!” by **Irma McClaurin '73**, *InsightNews.com*, Aug. 26, 2014.

Picturing Dogs, Seeing Ourselves: American Vintage Photographs by **Ann-Janine Morey '73**, Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park, Pa., August 2014.

“Due West” by **Glenn Vanstrum '74**, *Bellevue Literary Review*, Fall 2014.

A Hunger Artist and Other Stories by Franz Kafka and translated by **Timothy “Thor” Polson '80**, Guernica Editions, Toronto, Canada, Fall 2014.

“Beer for Breakfast? Remembering the young, wild Replacements” by **Jim Bickal '82**, *MPRnews* online, St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 12, 2014. The item features an audio clip of Bickal’s recollection of the band’s performance at Grinnell College in 1984, as well as his interviews with others.

“Massacre at Centralia” by **Nicole Etcheson '85**, *nytimes.com* opinion pages, Sept. 30, 2014.

U.S. Against the World, a documentary by **Zorikh Lequidre '90**, about the first year of the International Medieval Combat Federation Battle of the Nations at Ft. Bema, Warsaw, Poland, in 2013. Also, *Return to Pennsic*, a documentary about the Pennsic War, the largest medieval camping event in America, 2007.

What You See is What You Get, a feature-length script by **Michelle Molhan-Zang '90** won Best Romantic Comedy Screenplay at the 2014 Broad Humor Film Festival in Los Angeles, Sept. 5–7, 2014.

The Word Rhythm Dictionary by **Timothy Polashek '94**, Rowman and Littlefield, Lanham, Md., April 18, 2014.

Between Nostalgia and Apocalypse: Popular Music and the Staging of Brazil by **Daniel Sharp '95**, Wesleyan University Press, Middleton, Conn., November 2014. The book is a close-to-the-ground account of musicians and dancers from Arcoverde, Pernambuco, a small city in the northeastern Brazilian backlands.

New York writer and comedian **Ben Asher Brofman '03** has been producing and hosting *Nasal Vice*, a monthly stand-up comedy show, at the Back Room at Jimmy’s No. 43, New York, since November 2013. The show lineups are posted each month on Facebook.

“Public Policy Considerations Concerning Insurance Bad Faith and Residual Market Mechanisms” by **Chad Marzen '05**, *Baylor Law Review*, Vol. 66, No. 2, Pages 388–424 (2014).

Sex from Scratch: Making Your Own Relationship Rules by **Sarah Mirk '08**, Microcosm Press, Portland, Ore., Aug. 1, 2014.

“I’m trying to move away from wearing my heart on my sleeve,” he says. In the case of a forthcoming series entitled *Waray*, a common phrase in the Philippine islands of Samar and Leyte meaning “no more,” Sumulong explores a prison/makeshift refugee camp on eastern Samar. “I think my work right now is a little more documentarian, [but] it’s still taking a feeling. ... It’s about trying to give shape to a feeling about loss, about losing someone close to you.”

In the past four years, Sumulong has worked as a photo assistant for Magnum Photos photographers Bruce Gilden, Chien-Chi Chang, and David Alan Harvey and *Vice* photographer Giles Clark – each of whom seems to have imparted a piece of his style to the young apprentice. With a forthcoming feature in *Lens Culture* and a solo show at the Philippine Consulate in New York City in late 2014, Sumulong feels he has reached a crossroads in his career.

“I know I can produce a really specific image on a dime,” he says. “Given the freedom, the complete freedom, I think I could produce a great image – maybe not iconic – but great.”

– by Danny Penny '13



TAGUIG, MANILA: Goats run free in an empty stretch of road on the outskirts of the Bonifacio Global City district, a highly urbanized and planned out community targeting high end corporations, consumers, and residents. These goats were owned by impoverished, informal settlers or squatters who lived in shanties on the periphery.

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 Meg Jones Bair.

Elvera Lohse Hollander '35, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Oct. 13, 2014.

George H. Payne '38, Omaha, Neb., May 27, 2014.

Charlotte Carman Foote '40, Ann Arbor, Mich., Oct. 8, 2014.

Richard G. Bowers '41, Keokuk, Iowa, July 17, 2014.

Laura Cruzen Kruse '41, Roseburg, Ore., Sept. 2, 2014.

Helen Patterson Pedersen '41, Waterloo, Iowa, Aug. 1, 2014. Survivors include her daughter, *Barbara Pedersen McKlveen '64*, and son, *John S. Pedersen '70*.

Alden E. Matthews '43, Palm Harbor, Fla., Oct. 8, 2014. He is survived by his daughter, *Cynthia Matthews Miller '68*.

Betty Hink Jones '44, Hopedale, Ill., Aug. 28, 2014.

Verna Baer Nash '44, South Hadley, Mass., July 16, 2014.

Litza Koppelman Schlanger '44, Valley Stream, N.Y., April 29, 2014.

Daniel M. Doolittle '45, Denver, June 25, 2014.

Gwendolyn Beck Schone '46, Portland, Maine, July 9, 2014.

Elaine Kayser Wingate '47, Chicago, July 2014.

Louise Altman Appel '48, Minneapolis, Aug. 10, 2014.

M. Sallee White Griggs '48, Kansas City, Mo., June 4, 2014.

Margaret “Peg” Astleford Toch '48, Omaha, Neb., Aug. 8, 2014. Survivors include her daughter, *Stacia Toch Barton '81*.

Jerome K. Cabbage '49, Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 17, 2014. Survivors include his son, *Alan Cabbage '75*; daughter-in-law, *Charlotte Strader Cabbage '75*; and grandsons, *Kennett P. Cabbage '06* and *Geoffrey A. Cabbage '08*.

Edward W. Lawlor '49, Wilmington, N.C., Aug. 1, 2014.

Mary Lance Peterson '49, Providence, R.I., June 26, 2014. Survivors include her son, *James M. Peterson '89*.

Robert A. Shuman '50, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, April 2014.

Vera Aab Glasow '51, North Chili, N.Y., Feb. 28, 2014.

Marion Gridley Hitchcock '51, Farmington, Conn., Sept. 3, 2014. Survivors include her husband, *Stephen W. Hitchcock '50*.

Donald A. Jessen, Jr. '51, Tempe, Ariz., Sept. 20, 2014.

Thomas Berger '52, Tarzana, Calif., May 14, 2013.

Gertrude “Trudy” Camp Braun '52, Sparta, Tenn., July 21, 2014. Survivors include her sons, *Kenneth C. Braun '77* and *Nathan Kwame Braun '79*, and grandson *Jonathan Braun '17*.

Paul J. Egenes '52, Dallas, Aug. 22, 2014.

Margery Jane Miller '52, Quincy, Ill., May 18, 2014.

Janice Cromer Lee '53, Iowa City, Iowa, Oct. 8, 2014.

George C. Scott, Jr. '53, Minneapolis, June 23, 2013.

Sherwood D. Miller '55, Deerfield, Ill., Sept. 3, 2014. Survivors include his brother, *Merrill P. Miller '59*.

Alumni Council News

by Susan Henken-Thielen '80
President, Alumni Council

The 2014-15 Grinnell College Alumni Council is a dedicated, passionate group of 24 alumni volunteers and two student representatives. The council's purpose is to foster strong connections between alumni and the College and among the 20,000 Grinnell alumni in 50 states and 55 nations. Current council members come from 13 states, Washington, D.C., the United Kingdom, and Canada and span class years of 1953 through 2011.

Since July, four standing committees of the council have created goals and plans for the year, in conjunction with staff from the Office of Development and Alumni Relations:

- The Stewardship Committee is focusing on developing programs that express appreciation for the time, talent, treasure, and ties provided to the College by Grinnell alumni.
- The Communications Committee is preparing recommendations to improve the Forum Alumni Council pages.
- The Alumni Engagement Committee is assisting in the creation of new regional clubs in Boston, Denver, San Francisco, and Des Moines and Iowa City, Iowa, and planning a Global Day of Service to be held June 15, 2015.
- The Alumni Student Connections Committee is working on meaningful programming to connect alumni with students on campus, which includes support for the Student Alumni Council organization, the development of a more robust career database, and additional internship and job shadowing opportunities.

Additionally, the Alumni Awards Committee has evaluated nearly 30 nominations for 2015 Alumni Awards, recognizing Grinnell graduates who best exemplify the Grinnell spirit by their service to the College, their professional accomplishments, and/or their community service. The winners will be recognized at the 136th annual Alumni Reunion, May 29-31, 2015, during the Alumni Assembly held that weekend.

If you would like to make a nomination for a future Alumni Award, we encourage you to visit forum.grinnell.edu/alumni-awards. Nominations must be received by July 15 of the year preceding the nominee's reunion.

Peter W. Moore '55, Frisco, Texas, Oct. 10, 2014.

Jerome Eisner '56, Grand Rapids, Mich., July 20, 2013.

Robert I. Elder '56, Naperville, Ill., June 29, 2014. Survivors include his sister, *Mary Lou Elder Jindra '44*.

Ernest E. Gershon '56, Toronto, July 11, 2014. Survivors include his wife, *Lorna DeLay Gershon '58*.

James E. Anderson '57, Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 5, 2014.

Richard J. Malcolm '57, Coralville, Iowa, March 20, 2014.

Paula Kirby Adkins '59, Clinton, Iowa, Oct. 12, 2014. Survivors include her son, *Charles Adkins-Blanch '84*.

James E. Palmer '59, Washington, D.C., April 15, 2014.

Gordon D. Felper '60, Grinnell, Iowa, Oct. 4, 2014.

Arthur B. Fraser '60, Geneva, Ill., Oct 2, 2014.

David A. Arends '61, Toledo, Iowa, Jan. 18, 2014.

Thomas F. Beveridge '61, Bloomfield, Conn., Oct. 12, 2014.

Michael F. Bachmann '62, Western Springs, Ill., Sept. 7, 2014.

Robert J. Hanken, Jr. '64, Fergus Falls, Minn., April 11, 2014.

Charlene J. Cutforth '70, Strafford, Vt., Jan. 14, 2014.

Booker T. Carter, Jr. '71, Bowie, Md., July 23, 2014.

Norris Stubbs, Jr. '72, College Station, Texas, Aug. 9, 2014.

Progress in Public Mental Health

How the recovery movement is transforming a society's view of mental health.

*"Through all the sorrow of the Sorrow
Songs there breathes a hope – a faith in
the ultimate justice of things."*

–W.E.B. Du Bois

Good mental health and the experiences of those living with mental illness are rarely part of society's larger dialogue. I want to share some of the exciting work under way in the public sector of mental health.

Some of the work includes providing more culturally and linguistically appropriate care, improving access to care and prevention, and using those with trauma histories to serve as peers, mentors, and coaches in overall wellness strategies.

Several states have developed networks to hire and train persons with "lived experience" to work in the mental health system. They work alongside clinical staff to model recovery and show that these debilitating illnesses need not become so life-disrupting that dreams cannot be pursued. Through peer support, which is rooted in mutuality, trust, and reciprocity, peers are providing voices where they were once silenced and consigned strictly to institutions.

Newer approaches to care are building on the ever-increasing use of technology and telemedicine to deliver counseling and other therapies to isolated communities where there may be a dearth of professionals trained to help people with emotional distress and serious mental health conditions. The use of tele-behavior health and videoconferencing is rapidly becoming the norm as states attempt to improve quality of access and outcomes.

And speaking of outcomes, those who receive mental health services are fast becoming agents in their own care and contributing to the design and evaluation of systems to include satisfaction survey instruments. Those with lived experience are serving on boards and committees and leading national organizations, much in the same way I have for the past 20 or so years.

People are no longer routinely placed into institutional settings where treatment merely consisted of medication ingestions. Rather, today, under enlightened leadership and better science, people like myself are being successfully integrated into the whole fabric of community life.

It has been a tremendous opportunity for me to be involved in what is known now as the recovery movement. This has been a significant paradigm shift. Persons with mental health conditions are receiving treatment in partnership with their providers that puts the individual at the center of treatment and where the

person seeking care is no longer an object of care but is directing his or her well-being.

This shift in mental health care and treatment has occurred because of a change in attitudes about mental illness, as well as court decisions. Most significant is the Olmstead case, where the Supreme Court concluded that it was a Constitutional imperative that persons be integrated in the least restrictive settings possible, especially when doing so would pose no undue financial burden on the states.

States are devising new and exciting alternatives to jails and detention centers as places for mental health care. In Massachusetts, we're expanding our use of jail diversion programs, homeless outreach, and employment services.

We're also doing much to address discrimination and stigma through creative messaging across different platforms. We're involving stakeholders in the clergy, business, and academic communities by presenting lectures and tool kits on countering offensive language.

Prejudice can disappear but it requires constant agitation, and most of all discourse, which Grinnell powerfully prepared us all to do.

Research and experience tell us that through social contact, we reduce the distance between the stigmatized and those who are not so identified. We must engage with those whom we have stereotyped and "otherized." This requires effort and must be intentional. It has taken hold in several communities. People deliberately have lunch or go on an outing via drop-in center or mental health facility and purposely engage mental health patients not as the "other" but as fellow citizens. While stigma and discrimination continue in many communities, I believe that such attitudes will ultimately dissipate from our landscape.

A best friend at the College told me at one point, "You are wondrously created." For me, that continues to mean that I can and have done wonderful things. What a powerful message he was projecting to me at a time of deep personal loss and distress.

A diagnosis need not become a destination point, and with care and attention, all of those affected by it can enjoy independent and productive lives in the community. In my view, a person has value not merely because he or she contributes to the integrity of the public treasury, but because they contribute to community life. For me personally, that will continue to mean my participation on boards that advance the understanding of the "other."

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

–Frederick Douglass



Russell D. Pierce '82
is director of the Office of Recovery and Empowerment at the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health.



Grinnell College

The Grinnell Magazine
Grinnell College
733 Broad Street
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

Iowa View



Morning light on ARH. (Photo by Justin Hayworth)