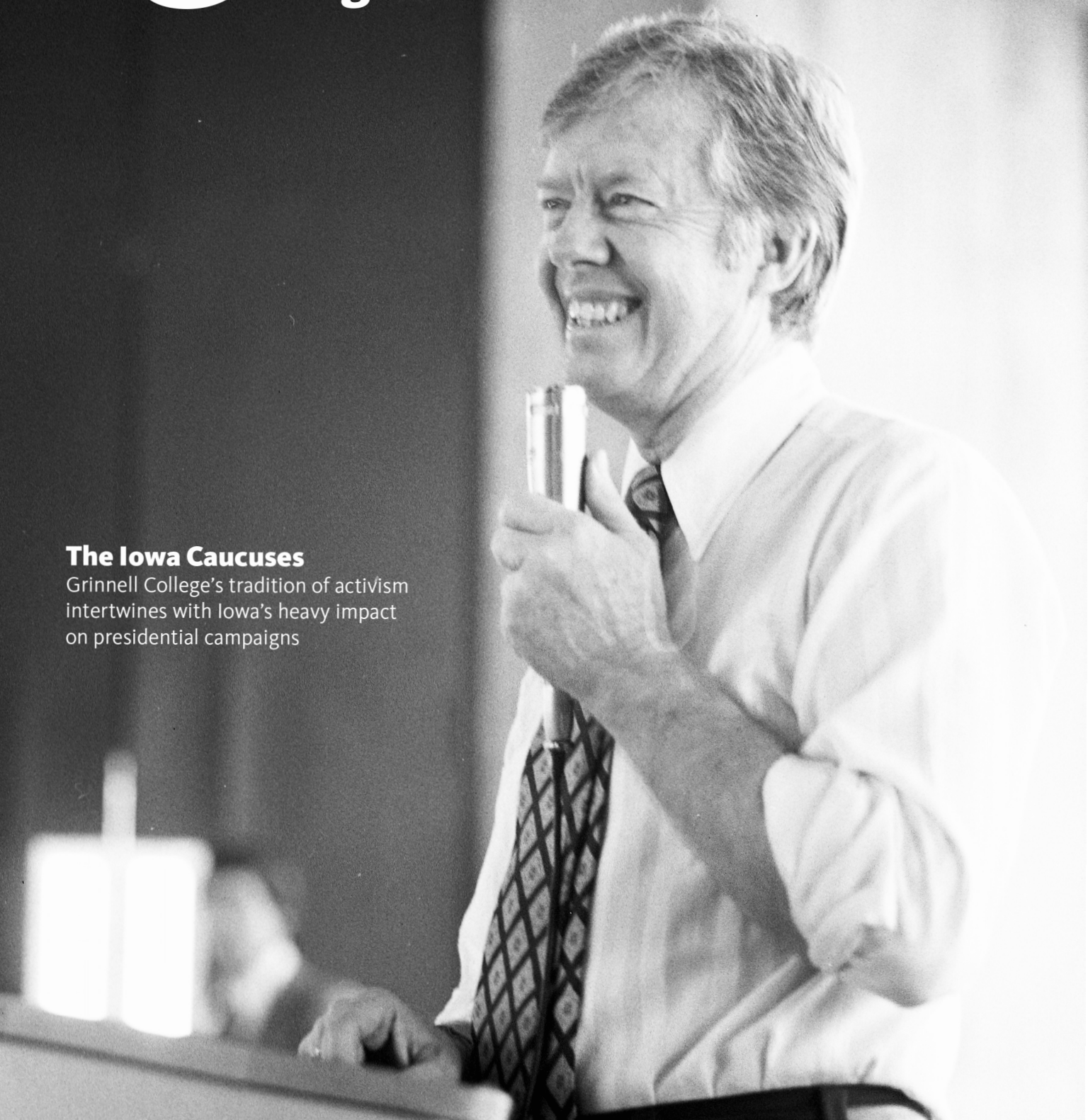


the grinnell magazine

winter 2015

The Iowa Caucuses

Grinnell College's tradition of activism intertwines with Iowa's heavy impact on presidential campaigns





Cover and TOC photos courtesy of Burling Library Archives, Grinnell College

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Cindy Deppe is data-phobic but appreciates those who aren't.

Elise Hadden '14 has her eye on the prize.

Denton Ketels' superpower is understanding sports statistics.

Lisa Lacher introduces the media to Grinnellians doing cool things.

Carroll McKibbin '60, a native Iowan, no longer lived in the state when its caucuses became a big deal.

Mary Knuth Otto '63, now a Vermonter, is a strong advocate for alumni connections to Grinnell.

Neither **Michele Regenold '89** nor **Justin Hayworth** got to ride in a firetruck or slide down a fire pole.

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Mission Statement

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

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On the cover:

Gov. Jimmy Carter, D-Ga., campaigns for president at the Forum, December 1975.



Reactions to the new design

I like the new look and feel of the magazine. A better size, more text and pictures on the page, fewer big fashionable swatches of empty space. I like the “Then and Now” feature and hope it will continue. And your piece on Georgia Dentel is wonderful; she arrived after I graduated, but she was obviously a great asset to the College. My one quibble about this issue: Think of “Autumn in New York” (Billie Holiday), “Autumn Leaves” (Nat King Cole), “Early Autumn” (Stan Getz), “Autumn Serenade” (John Coltrane), or just “Autumn” (Barbra Streisand) and replace autumn with fall in those titles. Doesn’t sound nearly as good. No one writes about fall. So why is this called the fall issue and not the autumn issue?

– **Bill Ingram '53**
Ann Arbor, Mich.

I really like your new feature “Artists and Scholars,” which features the covers of books by alumni. I went and bought **Bryan Crockett '76's** book right away. Not only was he in my class, but I really liked the description of the novel.

– **Lynn Voedisch Blumenthal '76**
Lincolnwood, Ill.

I really like the new *Grinnell Magazine* format. I especially like the new page size; I found the previous larger size more awkward to handle.

– **Genevieve Tvrdik '55**
Lancaster, Pa.

I was delighted when I caught my first glimpse of the cover on the most recent issue of *The Grinnell Magazine* and realized that, indeed, **Kevin Cannon '02** is back!

I’m sure I sent what I hope was not an impolite message of disappointment to the then-editor when Cannon’s cartoons stopped gracing the pages several years ago. But I held out hope that he might one day reappear. Prayers are answered! Satchmo on the cover, illustrations on the inside, and an editorial promise of more to come!

As you can guess by now, I’m a fan of Kevin Cannon. In his honor and in appreciation of the reappearance of his work, I will be sending in an additional contribution to Grinnell for this year.

– **Dave Scott '50**
Moorhead, Minn.

Having just received my new fall issue of *The Grinnell Magazine*, I am happy to share with you how much I like the new format. It is both hip and retro at the same time. I like the feel of it. It just totally works. This magazine now has an improved look and feel. I’m also pleased to see that you continue to use Suzanne Kelsey as a professional writer for your magazine.

– **Carol Baker '83**
Berea, Ohio

Inside fine. Outside says you’ve forgotten who your audience is. No class.

– **Don Martin '49**
Pleasanton, Calif.

Kudos to the Liberal Arts in Prison Program

I was so pleased to read the excellent article in *The Grinnell Magazine* Summer 2015 issue about the College’s program that offers education services to men, women, and youths who are incarcerated at nearby correctional facilities. In my career, I have spent many years trying to help people in the “free world” recognize and embrace the humanity of people consigned to live without basic freedoms inside institutions which rarely rehabilitate and often retraumatize the victims of violence and prejudice and poverty.

I was so proud to learn that my alma mater was among a group of elite liberal arts colleges trying to make a real difference in these people’s lives by providing them with what research shows to be the most effective deterrent to crime and violence: a quality education. The vast majority of people in prison will be released at some point; helping to prepare them to be good citizens, parents, neighbors, and contributors to the legal economies in our communities makes sense on every level.

I also applaud the College for exposing students to the harsh realities of the world in a structured and safe way that allows them to be part of the solution to mass incarceration, now one of the most pressing problems in America, acknowledged by leaders across the political spectrum. I have been honored to support this program with a donation, and I am thrilled that many of my fellow alums have done the same. For me, the Liberal Arts in Prison Program continues to make it obvious why Grinnell matters.

– **Tracy Huling '77**
Founder/Director,
Prison Public Memory Project
Freehold, N.Y.



Legalizing marijuana

As an Oregon bankruptcy attorney who previously has practiced criminal defense law, I found Denton Ketels’ [“Making Marijuana Legal,” Page 18, Fall 2015] interview personally fascinating since recreational marijuana became legal in Oregon on Oct. 1. Unfortunately, the interview format used perhaps necessarily omitted the practical problems encountered when trying to initiate such a ballot measure passed by the voters.

In Oregon the job was given to the State Liquor Control Commission, which requested input from small businesses, conducted town halls, and even created an online survey for Oregonians. The practical issues:

- The concern about access by children to marijuana cookies and candy — the “Joe Camel” factor.
- Regulatory interface with the medical providers who also wish to sell retail.
- Scientific quality control including graded THC levels. Current marijuana is far stronger than that consumed by my own “Woodstock generation.”
- Preventing outside big business, such as the tobacco companies, from taking over.
- Creating a seamless “farm to table” system but not overregulating.
- Developing an effective roadside drug test for drivers who are possibly [impaired] from the drug.

All of the above would have been inconceivable as I dangled my feet over the window ledge in Gates Tower and smoked my own stash while blasting the Grateful Dead across Mac Field.

– **James MacAfee '76**
Salem, Ore.

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

Honoring Georgia Dentel

So glad Grinnell is honoring Georgia’s contributions to the College. I had the pleasure of working as concerts chair and thoroughly enjoyed working with her. We had many great performers that year, but I am particularly proud of Chick Corea, Allan Holdsworth, and the Modern Jazz Quartet. MJQ were on a reunion tour and Georgia worked her magic to get them to take a detour through Grinnell.

– **Jim Asplund '88**
Woodbury, Minn.

Thank you so much for the well researched, well written, and entertaining feature on **Georgia Dentel**. The tribute was due, and it’s wonderful it was done so well. I worked with Miss Dentel for three years, and knowing her and learning from her are among the best things I took away from Grinnell.

Miss Dentel was always her own person. I am sure she still is. At a time when those of us from the middle of the country were trying to become sophisticated like those from the coasts, and when the students living off campus were cool beyond our reach, Miss Dentel went her own way. It could be zero degrees in winter, and she would stride the campus in a thin leather jacket and spike-heeled black patent leather pumps. She said she wanted to get used to the cold so she could save her winter clothes for when she really needed them.

She listened. She laughed. She got along with almost everybody. She was an inspiration to people who didn’t fit in easily.

– **Keith J. King '66**
New York

Vision 2030

In his June 1906 inauguration speech, Grinnell president **John H.T. Main** predicted a future when a person could sit at the breakfast table and speak by phone with a friend in Berlin or Hong Kong “while the wheat cakes are coming in.”

Forty-six years later, another of my presidential predecessors, **Howard Bowen**, faced off against claims that “closed-circuit TV is as good as live teaching. That street-car colleges are as good as residential colleges, or that assembly-line teaching is as good as individualized instruction.”

Main and Bowen were each setting out a vision for Grinnell: for how this small but ambitious school would fulfill its mission and values in changing times.

Today, with tremendous help from alumni, the College is on a strong footing — strong enough that the board of trustees felt confident reaffirming our need-blind admission policies at its last meeting [See Page 9]. But times are changing. With our admission pool and alumni engagement at historic highs, now is the time to articulate a new vision for Grinnell’s next phase of excellence.

What does it take to prepare Grinnellians for meaningful lives and careers in the future? We need to invest in our educational core. While there will be many aspects to this work, they all ultimately relate back to our commitment to excellence in teaching and learning and to helping students connect their education with their goals for meaningful and rewarding lives.

This must be done in ways that are financially accessible and sustainable, and which uphold our commitment to diversity.

Following are some of the areas where we need to direct our attention and investment:

- Individualized advising from faculty and staff, who respect students enough to involve them in shaping their own education.
- Advanced research and creative experiences that equip students with analytical, communication, and other critical skills, earning them the honor of being mistaken for a graduate student.
- Courses and co-curricular experiences enriched by global connections and local perspective, proving that if you truly want to explore the world, you need to come to central Iowa to do it.



- Attention to the unique benefits of learning as part of a residential community, including the educational value of diversity, self-governance, and student leadership.
- A commitment to helping students from day one connect their education to the lives they want to lead, the careers they want to pursue, and the difference they want to make in the world.

This approach takes advantage of our distinctive strengths and upholds our enduring values, while equipping students for a new and changing world.

We are strong in many of these areas already. But fulfilling Grinnell’s promise of an innovative education for *every* student will require shared effort. All of us need to work together — as teachers and mentors, donors and volunteers, coaches and supporters — to ensure the success of Grinnellians, and Grinnell, in new times.

Following his reverie about a world connected by transoceanic calls, John Main observed that “the college, a home of culture and ideals, must respond to the spirit of the age if it is to be an effective agent and helper in working out the complicated problems of society.”

Forty years later, Howard Bowen shared his similar hope, “that through the increasing excellence of our program, we [Grinnell] shall serve as a constant reminder of what higher education should be and can be, and that through our example, standards of higher education generally will be raised.”

Today’s world has moved far beyond transatlantic telephones, far beyond closed-circuit TV. We need a vision for achieving our timeless mission in new conditions. It is up to us — all of us — to envision the College’s next future together. And then to realize it, for the sake of generations of Grinnellians still to come.

— Raynard S. Kington, president

Assigning All Incoming Students a Career Adviser

How it’s changing the conversation at the Center for Careers, Life, and Service

New for 2015–16, all first-year students were assigned an adviser from the Center for Careers, Life, and Service (CLS). The purpose is to integrate the CLS into students’ lives as soon as possible, so that students can take full advantage of the resources, programs, and CLS advisers in an intentional way.

“The more we can engage with first-year students early in their time at Grinnell, the more likely they are to come back [to the CLS],” says **Mark Peltz**, Daniel ’77 and Patricia Jipp ’80 Finkelman Dean of the CLS.

The CLS advising staff met with incoming first-years in several large group sessions during New Student Orientation. Students participated in an activity that asked them to identify their top 10 values from a set of 44 value cards. Each card included one value and a brief definition such as “Duty: to carry out my duties and obligations” and “Creativity: to have new and original ideas.”

Family, friendship, passion, purpose, and knowledge were the five most commonly cited values, says **Megan Crawford**, director of career counseling and exploration at the CLS. The purpose of the activity was to help students start thinking about their values and how those values are reflected in their decision-making, she says.

“What I love about this activity,” Peltz says, “is it’s directly linked to our mission, which is empowering students and alumni to live, learn, and work with meaning and purpose. How can you do that if you don’t have an understanding of what’s important to you?”

To help reinforce this notion,



Kelly Guilbeau, career counselor, meets with a student to discuss her values and how they affect her decision-making.

students met individually with their career advisers for a follow-up appointment during the fall semester. “It’s a relational approach,” Crawford says. During the individual session, adviser and student discussed how one of the student’s values affected a recent decision.

“Many [students] cited their decision to come to Grinnell,” Crawford says. “Whether [the value] was adventure or travel or even self-knowledge, [students] seem to understand the concept of those decision-making processes.”

Each student also selected one personal, professional, or civic goal to work on this year, such as setting up a job-shadow experience, creating a personal advisory committee, or taking a career or personality assessment.

There was one result the CLS didn’t foresee — helping a couple of first-year students who were seriously struggling with whether they belong at Grinnell. “We’ve reached out to their RLCs [residence life coordinators] and their faculty advisers,” Crawford says, to make sure those students “were on their radars.”

“This new initiative has tightened the weave,” Peltz says. “It’s harder for a student to slip through and not get noticed. Early signs are that it’s effective.”

Crawford says the new program is also spurring a more integrated adviser approach. CLS has shared the student learning outcomes as well as the activities from both the individual and group sessions with the First-Year Tutorial professors, who are students’ faculty advisers, to provide an understanding of the CLS approach.

“There’s a real strong appetite from first-year students for this kind of connection,” Peltz says. “Some upper-class students who’ve learned about this initiative have asked, ‘When do I get my CLS adviser?’ It’s an affirming message but also speaks to the challenges. How will we fully sustain this as a four-year integrated advising approach as an institution?”

Peltz says that next spring, the CLS will evaluate data from this first year to help determine next steps. Meanwhile all students are welcome at the CLS.

— Michele Regenold ’89

At the Faulconer Gallery

Siberia: In the Eyes of Russian Photographers

January 29–March 20, 2016

This exhibition is a geographical portrait that has the potential to alter stereotypes about a famously remote region. Photographs span more than 130 years, beginning with the late 19th century and continuing until the present. The images include rural and urban scenes, landscapes, native peoples, agriculture and industry, Russian frontier settlements, the Gulag, religion, and just plain everyday life.

The project is timely as Siberia's role grows on a world stage. The region's military, political, and economic possibilities have intrigued individuals and nations for centuries. They do so now with renewed vigor as Siberia's energy and mineral resources and strategic location attract global attention. Leah Bendavid-Val, author of the book *Siberia: In the Eyes of Russian Photographers*, curated the traveling exhibition, which is organized by the Foundation of International Arts and Education.



Andrei Sharpan, *Deer Breeders, Kamchatka*, 2007



Anastasia Rudenko, *Krasnoyarsk*, 2010 (November)



Anastasia Rudenko, *Newlyweds, suburb of Novosibirsk*, 2010 (November)

Beverly Semmes: FRP

January 29–March 20, 2016

In her *Feminist Responsibility Project*, Beverly Semmes conjures the work of a committee of rogue censors charged with the revision of '70s-era male "pictorial literature." In addition to this ongoing project, the exhibition also features Semmes' work in other media — glass, ceramic, and video — as well as three of her signature dress pieces, including one acquired by the Faulconer Gallery in 2014.

This exhibition is co-organized with the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College. The catalog contains an interview with Beverly Semmes and an essay by writer/curator Ingrid Schaffner.



Beverly Semmes
RC, 2014
Velvet
Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell
College Art Collection

After Many Years of Service

Life trustees retire

Three long-serving life trustees retired from their positions with the Grinnell College Board of Trustees in 2015.

Richard W. Booth '54 was first elected to the board in 1982 and became a life trustee in 2002. Booth's firm belief in the value of the liberal arts and his hope for the success of all Grinnell students led to steady support of student scholarships by Booth and his wife **Anne Chandler Booth '56**.

Richard Booth is part of a family legacy of Grinnell graduates starting with his great-grandfather, **David Norris 1872**, who founded Lennox Machine Co. in Marshalltown, Iowa, in 1895, a manufacturer of coal-fired furnaces.

After graduating from Grinnell, Booth served in the U.S. Air Force from 1954–58 as a jet pilot. An economics major at Grinnell, Booth began working for Lennox as an inspector in 1958. He worked for what is now Lennox International, a furnace and air conditioning manufacturer, for many years. He was executive vice president and secretary of the corporation until he retired in 1997.

James H. Lowry '61 was first elected to the board in 1969 and became a life trustee in 1995. He's contributed to campus building and renovation projects such as the Conney M. Kimbo Black Cultural Center and the Charles Benson Bear '39 Recreation and Athletic Center.

Lowry participated in three Grinnell sports — baseball, football, and basketball — and became the first Pioneer in 30 years to earn nine varsity letters. He majored

in political science at Grinnell and went on to earn a master's in public international affairs from the University of Pittsburgh; he also attended the Program for Management Development at Harvard Business School.

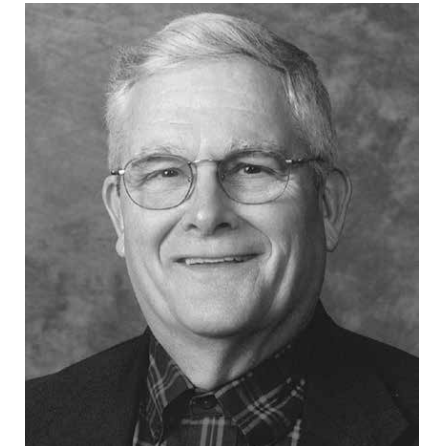
In 1978, he and his team at James H. Lowry & Associates in Chicago wrote a groundbreaking study for the U.S. Department of Commerce, "A New Strategy for Minority Business Development." A world-renowned authority on minority business development, Lowry is co-author of *Minority Business Success: Refocusing on the American Dream* (Stanford Business Books, 2011).

Ronald T. Gault '62 was elected to the board in 1987 and became a life trustee in 2002. He and his wife Charlayne Hunter-Gault have contributed generously of their time and talents to students.

A former member of the Board of Higher Education of New York, he has been involved in minority advancement programs and has contributed advice and counsel to the College in this regard.

A political science major at Grinnell, Gault had a wide-ranging career that included work with USAID, the U.S. Foreign Service, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Ford Foundation, First Boston Corporation, and J.P. Morgan. For J.P. Morgan, he served as CEO of business development and client relations in Johannesburg, South Africa. Gault and his wife also began producing South African wine in 2003 under the label Passages.

— Michele Regenold '89



Richard W. Booth '54



James H. Lowry '61



Ronald T. Gault '62

Champion of Change

White House honors Yesenia Ayala '18

The White House recently recognized **Yesenia Ayala '18** and 10 other young women selected from more than 1,000 nominees as “Champions of Change” for empowering and inspiring members of their communities. At a ceremony on Sept. 15, Ayala was honored for her contributions to the Latino community in Iowa.

As a service learning work-study student at Grinnell, Ayala works for Al Exito, a nonprofit group that empowers Latino youth in nine Iowa cities. She coordinates programming and mentoring for middle and high school Latino students, facilitates family programming and events, and engages other Grinnell students in encouraging Latino students to stay in school and plan for college.

“Through my personal experience,” she says, “I was able to

bring awareness to not only the local [and] state, but national community of the importance of mentoring and supporting students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds, and how we can all come together as one to make the movement work.”

She often shares her story at Al Exito events to inspire others. “I was working full time at McDonald’s as a manager while in high school, I was going to high school in a very low-income community, and I was striving to get As,” Ayala says. “I was also taking the responsibility and the role of helping my parents raise my siblings.”

Ayala is majoring in sociology and Spanish with a concentration in Latin American Studies. She plans to pursue a law degree and specialize in civil rights.

— Lisa Lacher



Yesenia Ayala '18, pictured third from left

Championing Healing

2015 Schwab Alumni Grants awarded



Amy Neevel '95, a researcher at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, received a \$1,500 grant to support the

development of a peer-mentoring video web project to promote reintegration and reduce the risk of HIV in previously incarcerated women in North Carolina and across the country.



Beth Prullage '94, a social worker at Providence Behavioral Health Hospital in Holyoke, Mass., will use her \$1,500

Schwab grant to maintain and expand the music therapy resources at the hospital.



Erin Hustings '98, a founding member of the D.C., Detention Visitation Network, obtained \$1,500 to reinforce and

magnify the program’s efforts in providing support and friendship to immigration detainees in the Washington, D.C. area.

Lori Ann Schwab '95 Alumni Grants are presented annually to alumni who graduated between 1992 and 1998 and who are staff members or volunteers in nonprofit service organizations and public schools.

Schwab was committed to helping others. She died of a sudden illness while studying in London in 1994.

— Elise Hadden '14

Need-Blind Policy Retained

Board to review commitment in 2018

The Grinnell College Board of Trustees voted in October 2015 to retain the policies of need-blind admission and meeting 100 percent of demonstrated financial need for domestic students, subject to annual monitoring and reassessment in 2018.

The school’s operating budget currently relies too heavily on the annual payout from its \$1.8 billion endowment, according to President **Raynard S. Kington**. Increases in philanthropy and net student revenue are seen as long-term solutions to endowment pressure.

The board’s affirmation of Grinnell’s need-blind policy is significant in the context of national concern about rising college costs. Given Grinnell’s endowment and its position as a leader in affordability among national liberal arts schools, a decision to abandon need-blind admission could have been interpreted as a troubling signal about the long-term viability of such policies.

“We remain committed to our long-standing policies, and we are confident in our ability to ensure financial sustainability for the College,” Kington says. “We will continue to experiment with various strategies for improving net student revenue and philanthropic gifts until we reach our revenue goals.”

The College’s long-term revenue goal, Kington says, is 45 percent from endowment returns, 45 percent from net student revenue, and 10 percent from philanthropy and other revenue. Current percentages stand at 55 percent, 39 percent, and six percent, respectively.

Philanthropy has become increasingly important in reducing reliance on the endowment. Gifts to Grinnell College rose again in fiscal year 2015, with alumni giving up 8.8 percent over 2014. Total receipts for fiscal year 2015 reached \$14.1 million, up 26.6 percent from the previous year.

Joe Bagnoli, vice president of enrollment and dean of admission and financial aid, says, “In order to meet the ambitious objective of generating enough student revenue to meet 45 percent of the operating budget, Grinnell will develop strategies for pricing, branding, marketing, enrollment management, and tuition discounting.”

The College also works to control costs through a campus-wide budgeting process, guiding the strategic allocation of resources.

The October vote fulfilled a 2013 board resolution instructing the College to ensure its financially sustainable future while upholding the values of financial accessibility and academic excellence. That resolution called for the board to review the College’s progress and reassess need-blind admission for domestic students in the fall of 2015.

— Denton Ketels

Clark Lindgren Honored

Helps students from underrepresented backgrounds

Clark Lindgren, Patricia A. Johnson Professor of Neuroscience and professor of biology, has been selected as the Iowa Professor of the Year of 2015. A member of the faculty since 1992, Lindgren has strived to help students from groups traditionally underrepresented in the sciences overcome external challenges and find success in scientific fields.



Lindgren says, “For each student I try to be appropriately demanding and yet encouraging at the same time, and that to me is really the essence of what good teaching is about — finding that balance.”

He is a pioneer of engaging, authentic, and interdisciplinary biology teaching methods. He was a co-architect of the upside-down biology curriculum, in which students are immersed in research from their first biology course. Now emulated across the country, Biology 150 is, according to a colleague and nominator, “an important transition from faculty-centered teaching to student-centered learning.”

Read more: grinnell.edu/news/clark-lindgren-iowa-professor-year.

— Lisa Lacher



Photos by Andy Kopka '98

Outside Federal Hall

Driven by DATA, Connected by Grinnell

Alumni in tech careers share insights during fall break

by Cindy Deppe

It was all in the DATA for the fall break tour, Oct. 19–24, that connected 20 students seeking career insights with alumni who work in tech startups and at giga-giant Google, in the financial services industry, and in research at a renowned cancer center.

The New York City tour, sponsored by the Donald L. Wilson Program in Enterprise and Leadership, the Center for Careers, Life and Service, and the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, was nicknamed DATA for its emphasis on data analysis, technology, and applications.

But it wasn't all stats and spreadsheets as Grinnellians, old and new, learned from each other about the prospects for data-based careers.

For **Emily Zabor '03**, a research biostatistician at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the satisfaction of sharing career insights with students came from being reminded that “as an undergraduate, I had never heard of biostatistics or considered the field of public health. So I was excited to share my experiences and opportunities in this way.”

Zabor and co-worker **Anne Eaton '08** collaborate with doctors to design studies about new cancer drugs, for example, and use data to determine how many patients are needed for a valid study, plan the study design, develop hypotheses, and analyze results.

“My field is specialized but could be very appealing to Grinnellians because it's cutting-edge research and public service,” Zabor says.

Biology major **Jarren Santos '17** calls the Sloan Kettering visit “pivotal” in his career exploration.

“The DATA tour helped me explore how research and data is applied to a company setting,” Santos says. “These individuals were working with data in upcoming health innovations while collaborating with public health experts to determine the impact of new surgeries or the decrease in survivorship of a certain disease. I could totally imagine myself doing this.”

The impetus for the DATA tour grew from student interest and faculty recognition of the pervasiveness of data in today's workplace. **Kathy Kamp**, Earl D. Strong Professor of Social Studies, accompanied the tour in her work as director of the College's Data Analysis and Social Inquiry Lab (DASIL).

“With the centrality of data in the modern world, we are doing students a service to engage with data and to visualize how data can be used in creative ways,” Kamp said. “The range of work environments and agendas was fascinating, as well as the diversity of majors among alumni who are now involved in the field.”

Grinnell Trustee **Michael Kahn '74** was a music major at Grinnell and is now an executive in corporate strategy and development for TIAA-CREF, a nonprofit corporation. He has hosted a stream of interns over the past 15 years and enthusiastically agreed to be on the short-term DATA tour schedule.

TIAA-CREF employees **Chris Lee '15**, **Derek Farnam '13**, and **Christina Mantiziba Cutlip '83** traveled to New York to join Kahn

in hosting the tour, as did employee Hans Erickson, son of **Luther Erickson**, professor emeritus of chemistry, and **Jenny Erickson**, retired Forum director.

“There is great potential for TIAA-CREF to be a landing place for Grinnell students,” Kahn says. “What we do with data is diverse and impactful in a meaningful way. Deep analysis and modeling drives superior investments; it's about getting better outcomes for the people we serve.”

Hilary Mason '00, founder and CEO of Fast Forward Labs, gave students a peek into her 18-month-old machine intelligence research business, which reviews research papers, engineering systems, and products that demonstrate machine learning capabilities, then writes about the evolving technology for a general audience.

“All of the technical prototypes we demonstrated for the students use capabilities that only became possible in the last couple of years,” Mason says. “The main point of our tour presentation was not so much the specific projects that we work on, but the idea that technology is always evolving, and if you want to succeed in this industry, it helps to be excited by that.”

Ajuna Kyaruzi '17, a computer science major from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, has followed Mason's varied and ambitious career path.

“I was very excited to get the chance to talk to Hilary Mason,” Kyaruzi says. “Her career was one I have been following for awhile, so speaking to her and learning more about her experiences post-Grinnell was a real opportunity. This past summer I interned at Twitter and got a glimpse of how data drives decisions that a technical company makes, so I was curious to see how other fields use and analyze their data.”

The DATA tour also included visits to Bloomberg with **Kate Macey '00**, **Tony Mitzak '86**, and **Joan Johnson '92**; to Lieberman Research Worldwide with **Kasia Piekarz '01**; at Google with **Peter Likarish '04**; at Makeover Solutions with **Steve Elkes '83**; at CredSpark with **Lev Kaye '92**; and at EDGE Edtech with **Ashantha Kaluarachchi '05**.

“Diversity of majors and experience was the primary takeaway from meeting alumni,” Santos says. “You do not have to major in a business-related field to partake in business and finance or major in a mathematical field to do research in biostatistics. The alumni really emphasized the fact that their diversity was a key component in their career success.”

Observing the interactions and connections among current and former students was especially rewarding for **Monty Roper**, Donald Wilson Professor of Enterprise and Leadership and Wilson Program faculty director.

“What I most appreciated hearing from alumni is that they gained the ability to do things ‘they had no right doing’ because they didn't question that they couldn't. That's the value of the liberal arts,” Roper says.

Kahn urges fellow alumni to consider reaching out to students: “If you feel your success is what you took away from Grinnell, you are reaffirming the impact of Grinnell on the world by connecting with a student. It's a *very* powerful connection.”

Alumni interested in sharing their workplace experiences with students on future break tours may contact **Nate Dobbels**, assistant director of alumni relations for career programs, dobbelsn@grinnell.edu, 641-269-3204.

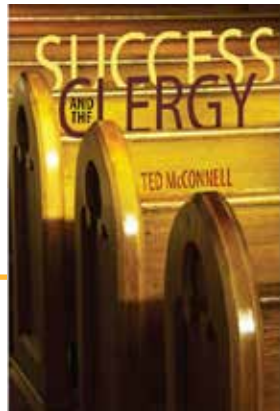


The charging bull on Wall Street



Botanical art installation

Lee Running, associate professor of art, created an art installation for the Grinnell Regional Medical Center's enlarged chemotherapy suite. She used the windows and suite walls as a canvas for a botanical art installation. The piece includes a 200-foot, dimensional mural of painted flowers and hand-cut silhouettes. Windows are etched with floral patterns, creating a botanical screen. "Working on the glass itself means the light changes the botanical shadows in the room over the course of the day," Running says.

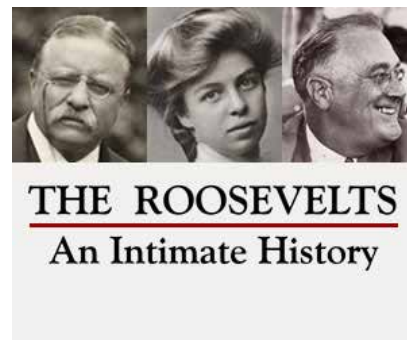


Success and the Clergy

Ted McConnell '60 has published *Success and the Clergy* (Inkwater Press, 2015) for all clergy who have been called by God, for those struggling with that call, and for all people seeking to understand this calling.

Contenders

Erika Krouse '91 published her second novel last spring. *Contenders* (Rare Bird Books, 2015) is about a street fighter named Nina Black. Nina steals wallets and takes advantage of men who try to take advantage of her. This symbiosis is upended when one of her marks, a cop and comeback contender, wants his wallet and his dignity back.



Actor **Peter Coyote '64** won an Emmy as outstanding narrator in the creative arts on Sept. 12. He lent his voice to PBS's *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History* and was specifically awarded for "Episode 1: Get Action (1858–1901)." This was the first ever primetime Emmy for the veteran character actor.

Arts

Bruce Armstrong '69 published "Four Boys & One Excellent Adventure" in the August/September 2015 issue of *BoatUS Magazine*. The article tells the story of the 1898 voyage of four 18-year-old boys who accomplished the first known circumnavigation of the eastern United States, a route now known as America's Great Loop. The voyage took them from Lake Michigan through the Chicago River to the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico, then around Florida and up the East Coast, returning to the Great Lakes and Michigan through the Hudson River and the Erie Canal. They accomplished this perilous voyage on a shoestring budget in a sailboat they built themselves.

Emily Bergl '97 has signed on for a recurring role in season two of *American Crime*, an ABC anthology series.

Michael Maiorana '12, a music composer who has composed for the Central Iowa Symphony, was chosen

to be mentored in the VocalEssence ReMix program. VocalEssence is a nationally acclaimed choral ensemble that has added a new educational program to cultivate an upcoming generation of choral music composers. Maiorana was paired with experienced composer J. David Moore for a six-month one-on-one mentorship to create choral pieces that premiered at the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota's state conference on Nov. 20.

Dennis Maulsby '64 has published a new short story, "The Night of the Pooka," in the September 2015 issue of *Mused Literary Review*. Read the story online at www.bellaonline.com/review/issues/fall2015/f008.html.

Nancy Homan Stroupe '59 had a retrospective of her paintings, prints, drawings, and tiles exhibited at the Carnegie Center for the Arts, Three Rivers, Mich., June 14–Aug. 8, 2015.

Scholarship and professional publications

The American Immigration Lawyers Association published **Dree Collopy '04's** book, *AILA's Asylum Primer*, a comprehensive guide to U.S. asylum law and procedure and the premier resource for representing refugees and asylum-seekers in the United States. The book is available at agora.aila.org/product/detail/2521.

Gautam Ghosh '83 edited *Asians and the New Multiculturalism in Aotearoa New Zealand*, University of Otago Press, 2015, 312 pages.

Ron Goodenow '63 has published "Service Across Cultures: A Case of the Emerging Role of Communications Technology in Rotary International" in Elizabeth Christopher's *International Management and Intercultural Communication* (Basingstoke, U.K.: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015). Goodenow is an active Rotarian who has developed several information technology-focused projects for Rotary and is widely published on information technology and educational and health care services.

Lizeth Gutierrez '12 has published work in *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies*, *Mujeres Talk*, and *The Encyclopedia of Social Theory*. She has forthcoming publications in an anthology, *Gendering XXI: Women as Protagonists in U.S. Latino and Hispanic Caribbean Narratives* and *Aztlán*. Some of her recent awards include the Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant

by the Social Science Research Council (2014) and Washington State University's College of Arts and Sciences/Liberal Arts Scholarship (2013).

Jeanne Pinder '75 and two co-researchers, Jan Schaffer, executive director of J-Lab at American University, and Mimi Onuoha, an artist and researcher, won a fellowship at the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University to analyze and report on crowdsourcing in journalism. The project is funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Jerod Weinman, associate professor of computer science, and his collaborator Erik Learned-Miller at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst have received a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for a project entitled "Adaptive Integration of Textual and Geospatial Information for Mining Massive Map Collections." They will be developing new methods to extract textual and spatial information from digitized historical maps, making these maps substantially more useful to digital humanists and other users. Grinnell's share of the grant was awarded through an NSF program that supports research at undergraduate institutions and will support up to 14 student researchers. Weinman has a track record of successful Mentored Advanced Projects due to his efforts to improve student learning through research experiences.



Photo by Justin Hayworth

Excerpt from a Q&A with Peter Coyote '64

The actor, writer, and countercultural icon talks about life, learning, and Zen

When Peter Coyote first came to Grinnell, he was Robert Peter Cohon, a native of New York City, raised in New Jersey, 19 going on 20. As a freshman, he was one of the organizers of the “Gang of 14” who went to Washington, D.C., to protest the nuclear arms race and support John F. Kennedy’s proposed nuclear test-ban treaty.

Coyote came to campus in October to speak and give an acting workshop. Following is an excerpt from his conversation with **Elise Hadden '14**. See the full Q&A at forum.grinnell.edu.

You came to Grinnell at a time when the College was starting to admit more students from the East Coast. What it was like for you here?

It’s hard to describe, because it was all new, and I didn’t have anything to compare it to. I had a train ride out here, and I had two suitcases, one of which was filled with records with a record player strapped to it. I had my guitar and one suitcase of clothes. And I met one of my best friends on the train, **Ken Schiff '64**, who’s a novelist. I met **Terry Bisson '64** the first day of school. He was whistling a John Coltrane tune while walking

across the Quad, and I called out the title. Fifty-five years later, we’re still friends!

It was very exciting, particularly because I wasn’t a sports guy in high school, and I wasn’t necessarily one of the cool guys. I was interested in a lot of political, beatnik, and counterculture stuff. And I came to Grinnell and had the same experience I had when I went to Martha’s Vineyard, which is that I met a lot of kids who were interested in the same things. They had read the same books, they were thinking about the same ideas. I had that heady experience of sitting down and talking to people for six hours and finding out there were other people seeing the world the way I was.

That experience carried over to faculty as well. I made a lot of friends on the faculty that I stayed friends with until they died. And because I was older than a lot of the kids, the faculty really took me under their wing, and I used to bartend their parties because they knew I would keep my mouth shut [*chuckles*]. I got a sense of the humanized faculty with their hair down, not from the other side of the desk. I really came of age here. I was supported, it was a safe environment to experiment, and I had every tool that I needed to mature. 🍷

Quote Board

“White Grinnell College van is sitting out front, bass thumping. It’s good to have the college students back in town.”

– Bikes to You, Twitter

“Even the innocent claim of being apolitical is, in the end, a ‘political’ stance.”

– Jan Gross, Seth Richards Professor in Modern Languages (senior faculty status), in “Whose right to ‘be political’ — yours, mine, ours, or theirs?” in the *Des Moines Register*, Oct. 16, 2015

“Today in chem lab, we tested to check if our prof’s new ceramic mug had lead in the glaze. It did #applicationsofmymajor.”

– Gargi Magar '16, Twitter

“Is something still considered open to the public if a ticket costs more than \$1,000 per person? #Journo questions.”

– Silvia Foster-Frau '15, Twitter

“As a writer, I am constantly collecting stories to use in my work, which I then return to these communities when I am doing public artwork. I feel like I, myself, am learning more about Iowa with each project I do.”

– Molly Rideout '10 on *Talk of Iowa*, Iowa Public Radio, Oct. 14, 2015

Twins Challenge School and Conference Golf Records in Their First Year

Finish 1-2 in conference tournament and help rewrite record books for team

by Denton Ketels

Vrishali Sinha '19 and Vidushi Sinha '19 ruled Midwest Conference golf this fall.

The twins from Gurgaon, Haryana, India, finished one-two at the MWC tournament in October and led Grinnell women's golf to its third consecutive conference title.

The Sinhas' individual play raised eyebrows from the season's start. In their very first competitive rounds for Grinnell, Vrishali and Vidushi shot the second and third best scores in program history at 74 and 76, respectively.

Golfers since the age of 10, the Sinhas started playing at their home country club with their father. Vrishali says, "I was so jealous that my brother played with him every day, so I started playing." Vidushi joined the family foursome a few months later.

Vrishali was the first of the two sisters to play competitively, winning her first tournament by 27 strokes. According to the twins, most women's sports in India are pursued outside of school, and the Shri Ram School they attended did not offer golf. Aided by one

of the best coaches in the country, they sharpened their skills against national competition in the Indian Golf Union (IGU), India's governing body for men's and women's amateur golf.

All ages compete together in the IGU, and the Sinhas say only about 10–15 women nationally comprised their stiffest competition. Vrishali's highest IGU ranking was second, and last year Vidushi finished ninth. Courses in India generally play about 400 yards longer, so the shorter format here fits their style of play perfectly.

"We don't hit it long," Vidushi says. "We just hit it really straight. We are both really accurate."

"I never miss the fairway," Vrishali says. No braggadocio. Just quiet self-assuredness. To be sure, a serene temperament is key to their success.

"Mentally, we are very calm compared to most girls on the course," Vrishali says. "If you get emotional, your game will be all over the place and you won't do well."

The Sinhas' goal is to compete in Division III nationals. But because the Midwest Conference



Photo by Justin Hayworth

is on probation and there is no automatic bid for winning the team title, they will have to depend on their individual end-of-season stroke averages to qualify. Vrishali's is 75.2, Vidushi's is 77.2. Last year, a 76 was needed.

What they might accomplish in their Grinnell golf careers is for others to speculate about. "Honestly, I don't want to look so far ahead," Vrishali says. "I just want to get better every year and get more accurate with my game."

"I just want to play one game at a time, one tournament at a time, and just be consistent," Vidushi echoes.

Next summer the Sinhas will return to India and stay sharp by playing their home course every day. After all, college golf is one thing, but can they outshoot their brother?

"Yes," they answer in unison.

"Our brother is really good, too," Vidushi says, "But, yeah, we beat him." 🍷

Rematch with the Strait of Dover

Alumna swims the English Channel seven years after bad weather stalls her first attempt

by Denton Ketels

Delia Salomon '14 started her attempt to swim the English Channel from Dover, England, in the dark of night. At hour 10, she was "quite shocked" to have France already in sight.

"I tried not to be looking towards France too much because that can play tricks on your mind," Salomon says. "Once I realized how close I was, it was really exciting."

"The finish line itself was stressful because the wind picked up," she says. "I was trying to land on a rocky beach and not get completely smashed."

A month after completing the most famous long-distance swim in the world, Salomon recalled her landing at Cap Griz Nez September 7. "I felt a huge sense of relief," she says. "And also disbelief. It still feels like a dream."

Salomon made the 21-mile crossing in 10 hours and 33 minutes — faster than she had anticipated thanks to favorable currents and winds, she says.

It was her second try. She'd made an attempt in 2008 when she was 16 years old but it was called off by bad weather after 11 hours.

"I'd read the book *Swimming to Antarctica* by Lynne Cox when I was 15 and decided I wanted to do it," Salomon says. "I guess I am just really stubborn, so once I was thwarted by the weather, I wanted a rematch. I knew I had to finish it."

Open water swimming appeals to Salomon because there are so many ways of defining success. "Sure, there are some who have the records for the fastest or the most or the first of some crossing," she says, "but it can be more than that. I just wanted to get across. I didn't care how long it would take."

Salomon enlisted her own boat pilot to guide her crossing. Pilots typically are fishermen familiar with the channel. They are in complete charge: they choose the day of the crossing and have final say on all safety matters.

"The days leading up to the swim are nerve wracking," Salomon says. "You have to be ready to go whenever your pilot says."

An observer from the Channel Swimming Association made sure that official rules were followed. Salomon was not allowed contact with anyone in the boat during timeouts. At 30-minute intervals she drank a "carb-protein-electrolyte mixture" of her own concoction. She managed to avoid two of the biggest challenges in the channel — jellyfish and tanker ships.

Salomon trained a full year for the crossing, getting help with open water technique from **Tim Hammond**, Grinnell assistant swimming and diving coach, the summer after graduation. She sought to be mentally and emotionally fit for the challenge, staying motivated with the support of family, friends, and coaches.

"I've been working for years to learn how to deal with negative thoughts because I was so hard on myself after not finishing my first channel swim," Salomon says. She credits **Erin Hurley**, head swimming and diving coach, for helping her overcome negativity when she was a student.

"During the swim there were very few times when I was feeling down or negative," Salomon says. "I really felt like I was focused and in the moment."

The second day after her crossing, Salomon got back in the water. After three days, she felt "pretty normal" except for being scratched up from landing among the rocks.

"Before this I never thought that highly of my capabilities to accomplish difficult things," Salomon says. "I don't know that I did this to prove to myself that I could, but in the end I was like, yeah okay, you can do stuff like this if you want to." 🍷



Then and Now

It's beginning to look a lot like winter

1976 vs. 2015



Photo by Justin Hayworth



Photo courtesy of Burling Library Archives, Grinnell College

Social Justice: From Theory to Practice

How the Grinnell Prize
embeds global innovation
in campus culture

by Elise Hadden '14

Grinnell's dedication to educating individuals "who are prepared in life and work to use their knowledge and their abilities to serve the common good," as stated in the College's mission statement, is perhaps nowhere demonstrated so strongly as in the recognition of global innovators through the Grinnell College Innovators for Social Justice Prize.

Awarding \$100,000 each to two winners annually, the prize establishes close, long-term relationships with social entrepreneurs and their organizations. And in the five years since its inception, it has done much more.

"Our real goal is not only to honor people doing meaningful and impactful work in the world, but also to provide resources and motivation to the next generation of social innovators," says **Saunia Powell '02**, most recent coordinator of the Grinnell Prize. "We're expanding the networks available to students, faculty, staff, and alumni to include people who are doing cutting-edge, innovative work."

Now celebrating its fifth anniversary, the Grinnell Prize has begun to highlight an important new trend in social entrepreneurship — a focus on sustainability. "More and more we're seeing people evolve away from the idea of just doing good," says President **Raynard S. Kington**. "These winners, along with others before them, are doing good in a way that is independently sustainable, creating models that will continue to have an impact even if they don't get grant funding."

Deborah Ahenkorah, 2015 Grinnell Prize winner, has developed a book publishing company as a part of

her organization, Golden Baobab, creating a regular source of income to fund her project of supporting emerging African illustrators and writers through training, workshops, and prizes. **Maria Vertkin**, also a prizewinner this year, has developed her organization, Found in Translation, which trains disadvantaged, bilingual women to be translators, into a viable business. By hiring the women she's trained and then contracting with other organizations for translating services, Vertkin's model safeguards the success of her project. This kind of long-term, innovative thinking in the field of social justice is an important hallmark of the Grinnell Prize.

An influential investment

When **Melisa Chan** was hired in January 2011 as the first coordinator of the Grinnell Prize, she had some significant challenges facing her. Although the prize project had been announced the previous fall, there was no formal process to narrow the 1,200 nominations to just two or three winners. In addition, there was an unexpectedly negative backlash against the prize.

"One of the biggest challenges we faced was credibility. Many people wondered why Grinnell was spending so much money on a prize that goes to individuals and organizations that may not be affiliated with the College," says Chan. At the time, critics lacked tangible evidence of the prize's benefit to the campus community.

By involving large groups of students, faculty, staff, and alumni to help sift through nominations and spearhead the selection process, Chan was able to turn most of those critics into supporters.

But it wasn't until the winners began coming to campus and developing their partnerships with the College that the true benefits of the Grinnell Prize became clear. Winners met with student groups to answer questions and provide advice, gave presentations on their work, and established student internships and staff fellowships for the College community. Some winners even returned to give presentations in classes or to teach short courses.

Kevin Jennison '12 recalls his interactions with 2011 winners Eric Glustrom and Boris Bulayev, who founded the nonprofit organization Educate!. The organization provides training in social entrepreneurship and mentorship to African youth to empower them to create solutions to poverty, disease, crime, and other issues of international importance.

At the time, Jennison was in the early stages of founding his own nonprofit, Tab for a Cause, which has

Photo by Justin Hayworth



Deborah Ahenkorah at the 2015
Grinnell Prize ceremony



Maria Vertkin, 2015 Grinnell Prize winner

Photo by Justin Hayworth

now raised more than \$170,000 for charity. “One piece of memorable advice they gave me was not to get caught up in short-term successes until they become long-term,” Jennison said. “The meeting also led to an excellent partnership between Educate! and Tab for a Cause; we’re very proud to support them.”

The positive impact of the Grinnell Prize also extends to the student interns who participate in the selection process each year, doing in-depth research on the finalists and presenting that research to the selection committee. Students not only hone their analytical and public speaking skills, they also learn about inspiring projects around the world.

“You get to see these amazing people and how their personal and social lives have grown around their career,” recalls **Kenneth Wee ’16**, who interned for the Grinnell Prize in spring 2015. “The money that we’re willing to give them suddenly opens up massive possibilities that they wouldn’t have been able to accomplish otherwise.”

When an innovator wins the Grinnell Prize, a mutually beneficial and rewarding relationship is initiated, and the value of social justice and global responsibility is embedded even further into Grinnell’s culture.

Building a better future

One of the first prizewinners was James Kofi Annan, who received the prize in 2011 for the work he’s done with his organization, Challenging Heights, which seeks to end child slavery in Ghana. Since winning the Grinnell Prize, Challenging Heights has been able to

employ a larger staff, build a shelter for children rescued from slavery, establish a sports program, and build a library. It has also expanded its efforts to work with families in villages to combat poverty and end the cycle of slavery. Annan used his personal share of the prize to establish a large restaurant that generates additional revenue to support the organization when grant funding falls short. As of this year, Challenging Heights has rescued more than 1,200 children from slavery.

Challenging Heights has maintained a strong connection with Grinnell through many student internships. One of those interns, **Opeyemi Awe ’15**, credits her experience in Ghana with the discovery of her passion for development work. “When I came to Grinnell, I was a chemistry major, and then I went to Ghana and I didn’t think about chemistry a single time,” Awe says. “I did think about governance, about politics, and how to lift people out of poverty.” Upon returning to Grinnell, she declared an independent major in international affairs.

Awe says her internship saved her a lot of time after graduation. Learning about the day-to-day realities of nonprofit work helped her to identify early on that it wasn’t the path for her. Instead, she wanted to focus on the role of policy in development. The recipient of a 2015 Watson Fellowship, she is now traveling the world to understand how social entrepreneurship can address development issues.

“Our relationship with Grinnell has been very positive,” says Annan. “What we would love to see, moving forward, is more alumni getting involved.”

Changing lives through journalism

Another prizewinner who has continued a symbiotic relationship with the College is Cristi Hegranes, a 2012 prizewinner. Her organization, Global Press Institute (GPI), provides training-to-employment opportunities in journalism for young women around the world, opening an avenue for local people to report their own news to national and international audiences. Several of these reporters have come from backgrounds of extreme poverty and have gone on to win prestigious awards for their writing and investigative skills.

Two Grinnell students interned with GPI in 2013 and found themselves immersed in a challenging yet extremely rewarding experience.

“Working at the Global Press Institute definitely impacted my outlook,” says **Mariam Asaad ’14**. “I developed a much more nuanced sense of how important it is to seek out authentic voices instead of imposing our understandings onto different people, communities, and cultures.”

This knowledge has served her well in her life after Grinnell. Working as a Teach for Pakistan Fellow, Asaad is able to respect the differences between herself and her students and to incorporate those varying perspectives into the classroom.

Elena Gartner ’14 heard Hegranes’ presentation during the 2012 prize week and was immediately inspired to get involved. The Global Press Institute combined her interests in anthropology, media, and nonprofit programming in a way that affected the path she took at Grinnell and beyond.

“GPI’s empathy-based storytelling approach to journalism made me more curious about interdisciplinary approaches to creating social change and inspired me to think outside the box about development,” Gartner says. Now working for the nonprofit JUMP! Foundation in Bangkok, Gartner says that many people she encounters in Southeast Asia have only heard of Grinnell through their knowledge of the Grinnell Prize.

“This prize will continue to set Grinnell apart from other educational institutions as a learning environment that invests in the future,” says Gartner.

Since 2012, GPI has continued to train and employ female journalists around the world, and has also established itself as a legitimate news service, supporting the enduring feasibility of the project.

Students like Awe, Asaad, and Gartner, along with many others, will continue to be inspired by the prizewinners to undertake their own global endeavors and to leave their marks on the world in their service to “the common good.”

2015 Prize Paintings



Golden Baobab, oil on board, 11 x 8.5 inches

Engaging young readers through culturally relevant literature is at the heart of Golden Baobab’s mission. It’s important to see yourself reflected in your reading, especially when you are just starting to read. This painting represents

children’s books written for Africans by Africans. The pen, pencil, and brush represent the authors and illustrators that Golden Baobab supports through competitions, prizes, publishing, and distribution of books. The books are painted to look well-worn and well-used — beloved tales that open a world of imagination and learning to Africa’s children.



Found in Translation, oil on board, 11 x 8.5 inches

For people who do not speak English and are in medical crisis, having a trained medical interpreter can be a matter of life and death. Found in Translation helps bilingual and homeless women secure meaningful jobs

by providing training for medical interpretation certificates and helping with job placements. This painting is about pairing multiple needs. Medical intervention is represented by the stethoscope and blood pressure gauge. The keys represent the stability of an income that provide keys to a home and other opportunities to bilingual and formerly homeless women. Interpretation is represented by the different alphabets and language systems, painted in red to represent medical crisis.

— Tilly Woodward, painter

The Iowa Caucuses

Grinnell College's tradition of activism
intertwines with Iowa's heavy impact
on presidential campaigns

by Carroll McKibbin '60

While Grinnell College has a long and intentional history of encouraging participation and advocacy on public issues, the national significance of Iowa's political party caucuses is relatively recent and quite accidental.

Grinnell's involvement with public policy is as old as the College, dating back to abolitionist activities in the 1850s. The struggle against slavery developed into a tradition that continues to this day, having progressed through the Social Gospel Movement following the Civil War, the Progressive Era into the early 20th century, and the New Deal of the 1930s. In the latter instance, a number of Grinnellians served with distinction, including **Chester Davis 1911** on the board of governors of the Federal Reserve, **Florence**

Kerr 1912, a Works Progress Administration executive, and **Harry Hopkins 1912**, a close adviser to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and a major architect of the New Deal's many administrative and legislative measures.

During the 1960s, Grinnell's Program for Practical Political Education (PPPE) flourished, sponsoring elaborate mock political conventions in Darby Gym and bringing to campus a long list of luminaries, including former Presidents Truman and Eisenhower. However, the loss of foundation funding, the disruptions of the Vietnam War, and the reduction of the voting age to 18 via the 26th Amendment in 1971 caused both resources and motivation for the PPPE to dwindle. Many students, no longer restricted to mock political activities, took advantage of their new opportunity and became directly involved in politics of real consequence.

Photo courtesy of Burlington Library Archives, Grinnell College



U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., spoke at Darby Gym in 1979 when he challenged President Carter for the Democratic nomination.

Iowa's caucus

The Iowa political party caucus system, like the Grinnell tradition of public policy involvement, dates back to the mid-19th century when statehood was attained in 1846. The precinct caucuses continued through the years, lightly attended and little noticed beyond the state until 1972. In that year, the national Democratic Party established new rules to democratize its presidential nomination process. Those changes, plus state party regulations requiring at least 30 days between consecutive meetings at the precinct, county, district, and state levels, pushed each of those sessions backward until January 24 became the latest possible date for the Iowa Democratic precinct caucuses.

New Hampshire, traditionally the first state to hold a presidential primary, had already scheduled its 1972 elections for March 7, six weeks after the Iowa date. Precinct caucuses, only the first of four steps in choosing delegates to a national convention where a nominee for president is selected, seemed innocuous. New Hampshire took little notice and did not contest the earlier date of the Iowa event.

However, the national media, always eager for news on a presidential race, responded quickly when U.S. Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D., did surprisingly well in the Iowa caucus, placing second behind supposed front-runner U.S. Sen. Edmund Muskie, D-Maine. When McGovern went on to win the Democratic nomination, the stage was set for the Iowa caucus to become of great significance in subsequent presidential elections.

Iowa's rise to prominence

The national importance of the Iowa Democratic Party's precinct caucus caught the attention of their Republican opponents. Starting in 1976, the Republicans would thereafter hold their caucus on the same day as the Democrats, adding to Iowa's impact on the selection of presidents.

A little known governor of Georgia named Jimmy Carter also recognized the growing potential of the Iowa caucus. With the White House in mind and his term of office completed, Carter commenced his presidential campaign in Iowa nearly a year before the 1976 precinct caucuses.

Carter's grassroots campaign across Iowa featured hundreds of personal appearances, including one at the Grinnell College Forum, and tens of thousands of handshakes. His standard introduction, "I'm Jimmy Carter and I'm going to be the next president of the United States," was planted in the ears of thousands of Iowans.

Jimmy Carter's lengthy person-to-person campaign in Iowa proved to be successful when he won 28 percent of the Iowa Democratic caucus vote, more than double that of U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., and thereby moved from obscurity to a front-runner status. One year after the Iowa caucus of 1976, Carter became the 39th president of the United States.

The Republican campaign of 1976 added additional drama in the race for the White House when Ronald Reagan, the former governor of California, challenged incumbent President Gerald Ford for the party nomination. Several Grinnellians entered the fray.

Bruce Weindruch '78 and colleagues **Jim Strickler '78**, **Gregg Edwards '80**, and **Jack Dane '79** participated in the Republican caucus and supported Ford's nomination. They also raised the issues of decriminalization of marijuana and divestment in South Africa. While Ford later won the party nomination, Weindruch and his partners had little luck at the caucus with their issue priorities.

"Policy discussions were dominated by the 'right-to-life' issue in the aftermath of the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision," Weindruch remembers. Reagan supporters came from out of state and pushed hard on that issue. It became a litmus test, a kind of 'Are you with us or against us?' sort of thing."

Dane, in his freshman year at Grinnell, attended a precinct caucus in the living room of his parents' farm home outside Iowa City. Four people attended: Jack, his mother, his father, and his sister. Jack was elected to the county convention by — no surprise — a unanimous vote.

From that beginning, Dane participated in the district and state party meetings, and later attended the Republican national convention in Kansas City as an invited, college-age activist. On the convention floor he carried a sign reading "Grinnell, Iowa, loves Jerry and Bob." Dane originally had in mind Gerald Ford, the incumbent president, and Bob Ray, the governor of Iowa. In the meantime, however, the convention had selected U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., as Ford's vice presidential running mate. Thus, the sign made sense in any case.

Network television cameras picked up the young

Jack Dane with shoulder-length hair and wearing cutoff jeans. "Anyone who watched the convention had to wonder who the hell I was and what I was doing there," recalls Dane, now an attorney in Davenport, Iowa.

Four decades later, Weindruch reflects on those days: "My experience as president of the Grinnell College Republicans and grass-roots involvement in Iowa county and state politics had a profound impact on me — only to be fully understood in hindsight many years later. I would describe it as the equivalent of a political 'post-traumatic shock syndrome.'"

Strickler's recollections on his Grinnell experience mirror the College's traditional mission. "What I got out of this experience was the opportunity to discuss and argue political issues, to learn that political involvement is rewarding and enriching of one's life, and to understand multiple perspectives on issues. I came to appreciate a variety of viewpoints and gained understanding on how people can disagree on issues."

Edwards, another of the Weindruch group, was raised in New Jersey, where Democrats greatly outnumber Republicans. "We Republicans had to hustle hard in New Jersey," Edwards remembers. "I found much



U.S. Rep. John Anderson, R-Ill., spoke at Herrick Chapel in February 1979, a few months before declaring his candidacy for president. He ultimately ran as an independent.

Photo courtesy of Burlington Library Archives, Grinnell College

the same at Grinnell College. You have to get used to losing a lot, and that toughened my hide."

Edwards has kind words for Grinnell professors who didn't always share his group's political views: "They admired our pluck and treated us fairly."

Edwards stayed in Iowa after graduating in 1980 to run for the state House of Representatives. Unfortunately, he again learned the trials of losing. If he had won, he might still live in Iowa, something he says, "I wouldn't mind at all."

Gatekeeper to the White House

The McGovern campaign in 1972 revealed the potential of the Iowa caucus in the presidential race, and Carter proved four years later the Iowa caucus could serve as a launch pad to the presidency. The lessons learned from those two campaigns were not lost on presidential candidates or the media as the 1980 presidential selection cycle began, a year when Iowa would become nationally recognized as the gatekeeper on the road to the White House.

All three major television networks established temporary studios in Des Moines in 1980. On Jan. 21, the evening of the caucus, the three news anchors — Walter Cronkite (CBS), John Chancellor (NBC), and Frank Reynolds (ABC) — journeyed to Iowa's capital city to originate their evening news programs. Iowa, for the first time, surpassed New Hampshire for presidential campaign news stories.

Also in 1980, the Iowa Republican Party added a new feature to the presidential campaign that attracted even more media attention, a straw poll conducted five months prior to the caucus. Held on the Iowa State University campus in an atmosphere of half-carnival and half-convention, nine Republican candidates sought to get a jump on the party nomination. "The action begins in Iowa," George H.W. Bush, winner of the straw poll, proclaimed with exuberance.

Bush followed his victory in Ames with the Carter strategy of "retail politics," meeting face-to-face with as many voters as possible. He made dozens of stops across Iowa, including one in Grinnell where he was accompanied by his then-young sons, George, who would be elected president in 2000; and Jeb, who aspires to the same outcome in 2016.

Reagan, the Republican front-runner, largely bypassed the Iowa caucus, making only one stop in the state to deliver a quick speech at the Des Moines airport. When he lost to Bush, a lesson was learned by all presidential candidates: Pay attention to Iowa!

Reagan later won the Republican nomination for



Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., spoke at the Forum Nov. 16, 2003, during the 2004 campaign.

president, but his erstwhile opponent had made his mark in the Hawkeye State. Bush became Reagan's vice president and later succeeded him in the Oval Office.

President Carter was challenged in the 1980 Democratic caucus by U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., whose many visits to the state included speaking to a packed house in Darby Gym. Carter trounced Kennedy, 59 percent to 29 percent, in the caucus vote. The senator from Massachusetts continued his campaign, but never recovered from that devastating defeat.

Iowa's presidential caucuses, now fully recognized as important national events, inspired greater local participation. In 1976, the Republican precinct caucus for the West Lucas Township of Johnson County attracted only Jack Dane and his family. Four years later, nearly 100 people crammed into the Danes' living room to caucus.

The 2016 election approaches

While Grinnell's tradition of equipping students to participate in public policy issues is firmly established, Iowa's key role in presidential elections, although widely accepted, is still evolving.

States still jockey for position and influence in the selection of presidents, a century after presidential primaries were first established. Over the years, New Hampshire became accepted by other states, begrudgingly, as the lead-off primary. And then Iowa innocently slipped under the radar with its precinct caucuses that were knighted by the media into national prominence.

U.S. Rep. **Tom Cole '71**, R-Okla., has a high regard for the Iowa caucus system, except for the Republican straw poll, calling it "stacked and packed" and "one of the worst inventions ever." The poll lost much of its luster during the 2012 campaign when U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., won that event but placed only sixth in the caucus five months later and dropped out of the race. The last straw for the straw poll came when



Photo by Justin Hayworth

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spoke in the Harris Center on November 3, 2015.

Rosenfield Program in Public Affairs

Grinnell College continues its tradition of preparing students for a lifetime of civic engagement through the Rosenfield Program in Public Affairs, International Relations, and Human Rights. Created in 1979 with a million-dollar endowment honoring longtime Grinnell trustee **Joseph Rosenfield '25**, this series of lectures and symposia features noted practitioners and academics. The program director, **Sarah Purcell '92**, professor of history, states the purpose of the Rosenfield Program succinctly: “We bring the world to campus.”

The Rosenfield Program for 2015–16 will again promote the Grinnell legacy in public affairs with a long list of presentations, including a lecture by Akhil Reed Amar of Yale University Law School on Constitutional issues, a conference on “Campaign Finance Reform,” plus a spring break tour to Washington, D.C., that allows students to observe policymaking processes firsthand.

several high profile candidates in 2015 decided not to participate. The cancellation did not disappoint Cole.

Cole acknowledges the Iowa caucus is “very important” and “the first real test in the presidential race,” and calls the state’s voters “a sophisticated electorate.” The congressman says there is “some resentment” in Washington over Iowa’s special role in presidential elections, but he is comfortable with it, saying that Iowa, unlike many states, is politically competitive.

As the 2016 presidential election approaches, the significance of Iowa is very much in evidence. The day after announcing her bid for the presidency in the spring of 2015, Hillary Clinton headed for Iowa. The first official event in her campaign was not held in the ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City, but in an auto tech classroom in Monticello, Iowa.

At last count nearly two dozen declared candidates for the presidency are appearing all over Iowa. Whether it’s Donald Trump addressing a crowd in Winterset in front of a mural of John Wayne; U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., schmoozing with patrons of the Better Day Café in Storm Lake; or U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, appearing at the “Field of Dreams” in Dyersville, they all come to Iowa.

The participation of Grinnellians in the 2016 presidential selection process is an absolute certainty. A tradition that started in the 19th century battling the evils of slavery in the abolitionist movement continues into the 21st with the confrontation of environmental and other issues. The Iowa caucuses will be held Feb. 1, 2016. Grinnellians will be there, continuing a legacy of seeking solutions to the major public policy issues of our time. 📖

Participants and Practitioners in Politics

As **John Bohman '06** prepared for the second semester of his sophomore year, U.S. Rep. **Tom Cole '71**, R-Okla., was being sworn into Congress. Though both are now proud alumni of Grinnell College, their motives for enrolling and interest in politics are opposites in sequence. Bohman, a Washington, D.C.-area native who became the president of the Student Government Association, was attracted by “Grinnell’s commitment to social justice and tradition of activism” but is no longer directly involved in politics. Cole came to Grinnell “to study history and play football.” He is now serving his seventh term in Congress.

Bohman attended the 2004 Democratic caucus and canvassed the city of Grinnell as an organizer for the U.S. Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., campaign. He recalls being invited into the home of an exceptionally friendly, elderly lady. “I’m so happy to see you,” she gushed. “Please sit down and stay for a while. I’ll fix you a cup of coffee.”

Bohman knew Iowans were friendly, but this kind lady exceeded all expectations.

When she leaned forward to hand Bohman a cup of coffee she lurched back in surprise. “You’re not my grandson!” she exclaimed.

“Sorry to disappoint you, ma’am,” he responded. “I’m here to ask you to support John Edwards for president.”

“Well, I don’t know about that,” the grey-haired lady replied. “I haven’t met him yet.”

Bohman has fond memories of those earlier experiences. “The Iowa caucus is democracy in its most basic form.”

Cole, now a member of the House Republican leadership as deputy majority whip, didn’t attend Grinnell College with a political career in mind. Although raised in an Oklahoma family where his parents were politically active — his mother served in the state legislature — Cole’s interest in politics developed after he graduated.

Cole learned of Grinnell from a cousin who told him of the school’s fine reputation. Thus encouraged, he sent an application to the admission office and mentioned under “extra-curricular activities” that he earned all-conference honors as a lineman for the Moore High School football team.

John Pfitsch, Grinnell’s venerable coach, telephoned Cole and encouraged him to enroll.



U.S. Rep. Tom Cole '71, R-Okla., in his Washington, D.C., office

“I’m not sure I’m good enough to play college ball,” Cole responded.

“Son, if you’re all-conference anywhere in Oklahoma, you can play for Grinnell,” Pfitsch replied.

And that he did, helping the Pioneers post winning seasons during his junior and senior years.

Cole’s success in football was accompanied by an avid interest in history. “I had wonderful history professors at Grinnell,” Cole remembers, citing **D.A. Smith** as an example.

Along with football and history, Cole added a third interest at Grinnell: **Ellen Decker '70**. On the day of his graduation, they were married in Herrick Chapel.

Most Grinnell students experience only one presidential cycle while in college. Faculty and staff, in contrast, are more permanent and have opportunities for participation over a longer period. **Kevin Crim**, who became interested in politics as a young boy in Indiana when he shook hands with a campaigning John Kennedy, has been a Writing Lab assistant since 1972. During that time he has chaired the Poweshiek County Democratic Central Committee and served on the party’s state platform committee. In 1984, Crim presided over Grinnell’s First Ward caucus; the First Ward includes the College campus. The 700 attendees comprised the largest caucus in the state.

Smith, now professor emeritus, has attended the First Ward caucus since 1972 and frequently chaired it. He strongly supports the system: “The caucuses bring people together, enable them to discuss issues, and generally think of themselves as participants in a great civic enterprise.”

Among the many party positions Smith has held, the most memorable is serving as an official presidential elector. In December of 1992 he journeyed to Iowa’s state capital in Des Moines as one of 370 electors in the nation who officially made Arkansas Gov. William Jefferson Clinton the 42nd president of the United States. Smith relishes that experience, calling it “one of the great moments of my life.”

– *Carroll McKibbin '60*

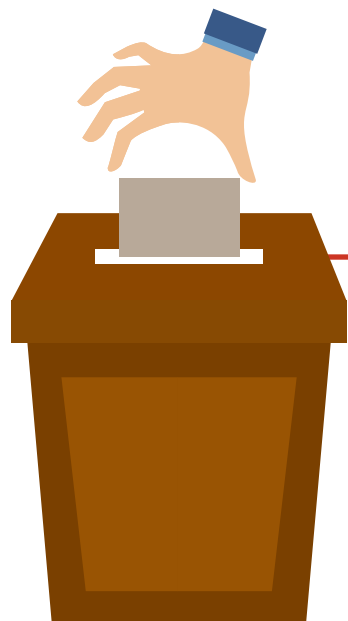
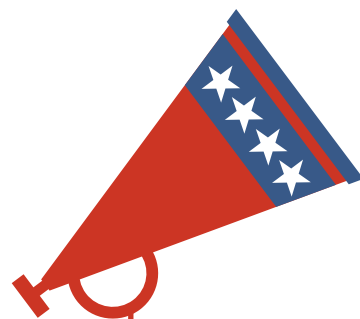


Bill Holland '00 and **Matt Ewing '02** traveled around Iowa during the 2000 presidential campaign drawing attention to climate change problems via a 20-foot inflatable ear of corn with a sign: “Drought kills corn.” When journalists showed an interest in the enterprising pair, they held press conferences to voice their opinions. Even NBC responded, giving Holland a spot on its evening television news.



Lindsay Ayling '10 and **Caitlin Fuller '11** participated in the 2008 caucus. Ayling calls it “one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.” Fuller cut short her Christmas vacation in California to attend. She and other students who had done likewise slept on the floor of the Physical Education Complex because the dormitories were closed over the holidays.

David Karol '92 attended the 1988 caucus. “The caucus was exciting and reinforced my interest in politics, but I gradually realized I am more suited to be an observer and analyst than an activist.” Now a political science professor at the University of Maryland, Karol is co-author of a book about presidential selection, *The Party Decides: Presidential Nominations Before and After Reform*.



Grant Woodard '06 attended a 2004 Democratic precinct caucus in his hometown of Stratford, Iowa. That starting point eventually led to his election as president of the College Democrats of America. In that position he served ex officio on the National Democratic Committee, then chaired by Howard Dean, a former governor of Vermont and a 2004 candidate for president. Grant reminisces of his Grinnell experience: “It was fun to see candidates (for president) come to campus. Few college students have that opportunity.”

Time, Talent, Treasure, Ties Faces of Philanthropy

Fourth of a Four-Part Series:
Alumni Invest in the Future

by Denton Ketels

Gifts of treasure are rarely about just money.
They're about serving future generations.

Photo by Justin Hayworth



Linda Sherry Kocher '84 and **Erik Kocher '84**
in the Joe Rosenfield '25 Center



The value of studying classics

Grinnell College trustee **M. Anne Campbell Spence '66** made a career for herself as a research geneticist, teacher, and higher education administrator. But it was Spence's rediscovery of classic literature 50 years after her first exposure to it at Grinnell that inspired her to help students grasp its historical relevance in today's world.

Last spring, Spence established the Elson-McGinty Fund in Classics. Named for two high school teachers that Spence credits with instilling in her a desire for lifelong learning, the fund expands interdisciplinary team-teaching and learning opportunities for students and faculty in the College's Department of Classics.

It also provides summer fellowships for students who decide midstream in their college careers that knowledge of classical mythology or the speeches of Cicero will enhance their academic and career goals. "It's exciting that students who may not have been introduced to classic literature before they came to college can still participate actively and make up some ground necessary for meaningful courses," Spence says.

Ella Nicolson '18 is an example of how students are using the new classics track. Having already taken 300-level Latin, Nicolson studied Greek last summer in order to accelerate her work on a classics major while she also pursues a major in economics.

"The support that the classics department has given me to follow my dreams and goals reaffirms that Grinnell is the right place for me," Nicolson says. "It's something I would not have imagined myself doing before coming here."

The Elson-McGinty Fund in Classics is one part of a gift that also supports major expansion of Alumni Recitation Hall and Carnegie Hall into a new center for the humanities and social studies. Spence says the space will allow new teaching methods and technologies

“It's exciting that students who may not have been introduced to classic literature before they came to college can still participate actively and make up some ground necessary for meaningful courses.”

to accommodate a wider range of learning styles and accelerate students' grasp of the classics early in their lives.

Spence, who majored in history in addition to biology, says her Grinnell education explains why a person of science would turn her philanthropic attention to students' understanding of Socrates or the Peloponnesian Wars. "When you have a liberal arts background, you are much more open to seeing these things as opportunities," Spence says.

Helping international students experience Grinnell

Growing up in India, **Saumil Parikh '99** benefited from his father's determination and foresight. Harish Parikh worked and saved to ensure that his sons could be educated in the United States. As he researched U.S. private liberal arts colleges, Saumil Parikh says he was struck by the lack of scholarship opportunities for international students.

Now, having created a scholarship fund to honor his father as well as his friend and mentor **Paul McCulley '79**, Parikh enjoys seeing the outcomes created by the Parikh/McCulley scholarship. It is a fully funded four-year opportunity for an international student who could not otherwise attend Grinnell.



Julia Iordache '15 was the first recipient of the scholarship. A native of Romania, she is currently a Grinnell College English Teaching Fellow at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

"Going out into the world has strengthened my belief that this scholarship is the most important thing that ever happened to me," says Iordache. "Because of Saumil's gift to Grinnell, I had more chances to explore, to be involved in campus activities as a student leader, and to discover my passion for Southeast Asia, which brought me to Thailand today."

Iordache's gratitude mirrors Parikh's sentiment about Paul McCulley. McCulley helped him secure a student internship with a Wall Street bank. The ensuing professional partnership with McCulley helped forge Parikh's ideas about giving back.

"Paul's relationship with me is something I regard as ideal, and something I would like to see more of between current Grinnell students and alums," Parikh says. "It's important for Grinnell alumni to reach back to current students and to promote their interests in whatever field it may be."

Parikh says it is also important that the scholarship contributes to diversity by serving students from regions not otherwise well represented on campus. "The scholarship recipient this year (**Rojina Sharma '19**) is a survivor of the Nepal earthquake," Parikh says.

Investing in the College's evolution

Ron Sandler '62 acquired a lifelong orientation to philanthropy when he was still a student at Grinnell. "I read two or three books by a physician named Thomas Dooley," Sandler says. "He wrote about treating patients in Laos. The satisfaction he got out of his work came through very dramatically, and it kind of lit a fire in me."

Also inspired by Albert Schweitzer's efforts in underdeveloped countries, Sandler spent summer medical school internships at a mission hospital in La Paz, Bolivia, and later returned there as a Peace Corps physician.

Sandler's career as an orthopedic surgeon was punctuated by 24 trips to 14 different countries over a 30-year span, including five trips to a region of the Amazon with "the highest concentration of children with club-feet that I've ever witnessed."

"I was able to live the feeling that Tom Dooley conveyed in his writings," Sandler says, "and it was always very rewarding."

Sandler and his wife Rita have given generously to Grinnell through a series of planned gifts, including in 2015 a unitrust, which creates a stream of income that



ultimately benefits the College in the future. He says he "enjoys seeing how the College has evolved" since he was a student and an athlete at Grinnell.

"I got a great education," Sandler says. "It prepared me very well for my medical school rigors. In fact, I found medical school easier than Grinnell was, so from an academic point it was excellent."

A College trustee since 1983, Sandler says he likes interacting with so many alumni of different backgrounds. "The dynamism that I'm witnessing now under President [**Raynard S.] Kington's** tutelage is very impressive," he adds. "The College is making some very great strides, and I think it will accelerate over the years."

A positive habit starts early

Erik Kocher '84 and **Linda Sherry Kocher '84** are living proof that giving back is a habit of successful people. They seized the opportunity to teach a quick course in Philanthropy 101 while accompanying daughter **Audrey Kocher '19** to New Student Orientation this fall.

"We had just bought bed risers at a sale on campus," Linda recounts. "All I had was a 20, and the young woman at the sale said 'It's only 2 dollars; don't you have 2 dollars?' I told her I'd used up all my ones and asked who was getting the sale proceeds. She said 'the environmental club.' I said, well, I'm an alum, keep the 20."

"She was shocked!" Linda laughs. "But that's the way it works!"

The Kochers feel strongly that real-life examples help students grasp the need for philanthropy directed toward the College. "We think that culture needs to be fostered when young people first come on campus," Linda Kocher says.

"It's difficult for that age group to look to the future and see it," says Erik Kocher, "but going to Grinnell is more than just going to college. This is a relationship that can grow and give back for your entire life."

Class fund directors since 1997, the Kochers devote a lot of time and effort each year creating handwritten, personalized thank-you notes to donors. They are strong

proponents of targeted giving and enthusiastically favor both need- and merit-based financial aid with their own gifts to Grinnell.

“Erik had tuition remission (his father taught at Coe College), and Grinnell helped me come up with additional aid so I could stay my senior year,” Linda Kocher says. “We know what it’s like to pay student loans, and we know what it’s like for other people to extend help.

“Now we’re in a position where we can turn around and give back. And we hope at the same time that we’re modeling for others — for younger people like our own children and for other alums.”



Providing good stewardship

John Hinde '75 knows about money, how hard it is to accumulate, and what it can accomplish. “I spent most of my career in the trust business — trust and estates,” Hinde says. “I think giving isn’t a financial investment. It’s really more than that. It’s a gift of the sacrifices and creativity that earned the money.”

Hinde set up an estate gift to Grinnell that will fund two endowed chairs in the names of his parents, John W. Hinde and Helen Patterson Hinde. His parents inspired their son’s interest in political science and history, the areas to which his gift is currently designated.

“Endowed chairs support the crucial work done by an outstanding faculty of world-class scholars who love to teach,” says **Mike Latham**, dean of the College. “They also allow us to secure the quality of that experience for generations of students to come.”

“I’m viewing this as stewardship of the family’s working lives,” Hinde says. “I don’t have heirs, and I did reasonably well in my career and was left funds from my parents and my grandparents.

“I’m doing it as much for them as for the College and myself,” he says, “and to ensure that their efforts will continue to yield benefits going forward.”

Hinde says his Grinnell education provided the tools necessary for law school and a career in the “intellectual disciplines” of law and finance. A supporter of the 1972 McGovern campaign, he says life experience has given him a “more conservative and libertarian” viewpoint.

“There’s nothing wrong with being to the left,” he jokes, “especially when you’re young. But I’m a little surprised that decades of life haven’t given some a greater appreciation of the danger of unintended consequences, as well as an appreciation that most risks and rewards are derived from small, marginal changes.”

Years of doing investments and business valuations taught Hinde other hard realities, such as how even small expenditures can threaten one’s income and assets. To him, it speaks directly to why Grinnell’s endowment shouldn’t distract from the College’s need for support.

“Even students who pay the full boat are not paying the full cost of their education,” Hinde says. “If you focus on the expense of educating students as well as how difficult it is to get investment returns in any economy, you’ll understand that assets are only a small part of the equation.

“It’s stunning to realize the time and effort it took to earn those assets, and how difficult it is to prudently generate the income necessary to even maintain the current price of a Grinnell education.”

What do things cost?

How do we love the Grinnell Experience? Let us count the ways. And the expenses. Gifts at all levels are key to making sure Grinnell students continue to get an excellent liberal arts experience. Here is a very short list of expenses you may not have thought much about:

- Roll of “spike tape” for theatre rehearsals: **\$5**
- One color-changing LED theatrical light: **\$2,200**
- Colored powder for Festival of Colors: **\$39-75**
- Student staff for one Harris Center event: **\$150**
- Transport one visiting prospective student to and from airport: **\$100**
- Academic Advising semester calendar (one copy): **10 cents**
- Language tutors for one semester: **\$5,350**
- Airport shuttles for *new* international students: **\$1,450**
- Groceries for International Student Organization Food Bazaar last year: **\$3,900**
- Airfare for most Rosenfield Program speakers: **\$500-\$600**
- Music licensing fees for public performance, annual: **\$1,310**
- Flu shots for students, staff, and faculty: **\$13,000**
- Officials for one football game: **\$1,120**
- Overnight travel to competition for one soccer player (out of state, using a charter bus): **\$235**
- Tape from the training room to wrap ankles for one competition (basketball, football, or soccer): **\$50**
- An incarcerated student’s enrollment in one semester of the First Year of College Program: **\$1,000**
- Publish *Local Foods Directory* for free distribution, annual: **\$100**
- Garden seed for the campus garden: **\$50-100**
- Conducting savanna restoration (mechanical removal of invasive species): **\$850/acre**
- Water test kit to measure nitrite/nitrate, phosphate, turbidity, chloride, flow: **\$105/kit**

Thank you for your support.

Giving



Back, left to right: Peter Calvert '79, Sherman Willis '01, Allison Brinkhorst '11, Cameo Carlson '93, President Raynard Kington, Ryann Haines Cheung '93, Jim Asplund '88, Jim Decker '75

Middle: Richard Raridon '53, Angela Onwuachi-Willig '94, Mary Knuth Otto '63, Catherine Gillis '80, Barbara Hunt Moore '65, Susan Henken-Thielen '80, Rhonda Stuart '86, Nancy Schmulbach Maly '61, John (Fritz) Schwaller '69, Lara Szent-Gyorgyi '89, Bill Simmons '58, Jeetander Dulani '98

Front: Gof Thomson '62, Rick Stuck '82, Rania Mohamed Robb '03, Ahsan Rahim '11, W. Ed Senn '79, Jayn Bailey Chaney '05

Alumni Council News

Fall Meeting Focuses on Connections — and a Few Traditions

by **Mary Knuth Otto '63**, *Alumni Council Communications Committee*

The leaves rustled and a few prairie flowers were still in bloom for the Oct. 1 meeting of the Grinnell College Alumni Council. Sessions and events were planned jointly by **Ed Senn '79**, council president, and **Jayn Bailey Chaney '05**, director of alumni and donor relations at the College.

Early arrivals attended a Thursday evening dinner at Relish restaurant in Grinnell, to which current students and faculty members were also invited. They later joined a large crowd at the Joe Rosenfield '25 Center to hear **Peter Coyote '64** speaking on “Intention: The Only Force on Earth We Can Control,” followed by a dessert reception. Both gatherings provided opportunities to renew Grinnell ties and set the tone for the upcoming work of the council.

Friday’s first all-council event was a lunch with President **Raynard S. Kington**. As we entered, we were disarmed by the request to don traditional (yes, from my era) Grinnell College scarlet and black beanies, gifts of Ed Senn and specially crafted in Washington, D.C., using an actual 1964 beanie as a pattern — thanks to **Barbara Benda Jenkins '64**. Instantly united as Grinnellians, we picked up lunch plates and welcomed President Kington. He emphasized his commitment to broadening and deepening relationships between the College and the alumni body.

A second meeting with the president followed a “Here Come the Pioneers” dinner at the Harris Center, which also involved class agents and class fund directors. Here, the president elaborated on his vision for Grinnell’s excellence in a new era [see “Strategy Session” on Page 4 for details]. The evening began with a few rousing verses of “Here Come the Pioneers” and “Sons — and Daughters — of Old Grinnell,” which inspired both nostalgia among alumni and indulgent smiles by student waiters. It concluded with a Pub Quiz Night with the Student Alumni Council at Lyle’s Pub.

Committee chairs reported on their committees’ activities, which prompted discussions.

- The Communications Committee continues to foster dialogue between the College and the alumni body and is helping update the Forum website.
- The Alumni Engagement Committee has worked to strengthen regional networks and to institute a concept called “Event-in-a-Box,” for areas where the alumni population is sparse. It has also scheduled the second annual Global Day of Service for June 11, 2016.
- The Alumni Student Connections Committee asked the council to support the senior class gift, encouraged class ambassador-sponsored events among students, and refined the mentoring program

- between alumni and students.
- The Stewardship Committee joined donor relations at the College to recognize the growth of alumni giving.
- The Alumni Awards Committee reported receiving 28 nominations for the 2016 awards.

An informative panel presentation called “College Financing 101,” held in ARH 302, was designed for all volunteers. The aim was to bring us up to date on the basics of Grinnell’s approach to finances and to provide an opportunity for discussion and feedback. Speakers were **Kate Walker**, vice president for finance and treasurer; **Shane Jacobson**, vice president for development and alumni relations; **Andrew Choquette ’00**, director of investments; and **Brad Lindberg**, director of financial aid.

The fall Alumni Council activities concluded with a Saturday evening dinner at Grinnell House and an all-volunteer party at the home of **Nancy Schmulbach Maly ’61**, former Alumni Council president.

Want to join the Grinnell College Alumni Council? The Alumni Council is a group of 26 Grinnell alumni and two student representatives working under the auspices of the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. The council’s mission is to foster strong connections between alumni and the College and among the 20,000 Grinnell alumni located in the 50 states and 55 nations.

We welcome applications for membership, due Jan. 5 each year, from all alumni. Additional information is available at forum.grinnell.edu/alumnicouncil. 📧

Celebrating Pioneer Football

Gift honors namesake of Rosenbloom Field



Football games on crisp autumn afternoons have enhanced college life for generations of Grinnell students, and

alumni are honoring the experience with generous gifts of support for the Pioneer gridiron program.

John Rosenbloom ’71 and Kathy Rosenbloom have made a significant bequest to Grinnell football in honor of John’s father, **Abe Rosenbloom ’34**, the namesake of Grinnell’s football field. A three-time letter winner and stalwart lineman during the Pioneers’ 1931–33 seasons, Rosenbloom earned *Des Moines Register* all-conference (then

Missouri Valley) honors in 1932 and 1933.

Rosenbloom Field was dedicated in October 1975 and was made possible by a gift from **Virginia Whitney Rosenbloom ’36** and her husband Abe.

Additional recent support for Pioneer football comes from a three-year unrestricted gift provided by The Strive Fund.

“The generosity and leadership of these types of gifts are incredible,” says **Jeff Pedersen ’02**, Grinnell head football coach. “These gifts will allow us to pursue the finest student-athletes from across the country and will allow us to provide the outstanding college experience and playing experience they deserve.”

– Denton Ketels

Prompted

The prompt: Tell us about a memorable musical or theatrical performance at Grinnell.

Remember to Save

In 1992 I took Lighting Design with [**Philippa**] “**Pip**” **Gordon**, [assistant professor of theatre]. I was so excited for my first time as light board operator on the computer board in Roberts Theatre. It was for *Scenes From the Life of Billy the Kid*, directed by **Sandy Moffett**.

My first day at the board, Pip and I spent hours cueing the show. In one scene **Barry Gilbert ’94**, I believe it was, had a very long monologue sitting on a saddle on a “horse” alone on stage. We spent at least an hour working on that one scene alone. Pip created the most beautiful sunrise that slowly built throughout the monologue. I was completely fascinated by the emotional effect that lighting could add to a performance. After that grueling cueing session Pip called it a day and told me to shut down and head home.

The next afternoon when I got back into the booth I turned on the board to find everything was gone. Not a cue! Being new to computers I didn’t know I had to save! We had to redo everything in a fraction of the time. The show still looked great, but we just didn’t have the time to fully recreate that gorgeous, burning sunrise. Possibly the most important lesson I learned at Grinnell: Always save your work!

– **Mara Fishman Gossack ’95**, Cave Creek, Ariz.

The Play’s the Thing

The year was 1960, the venue ARH theatre, the play Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, directed by **Ned Donahoe**, [professor of speech].

Gordon “Rock” Knutson ’62 [deceased] and I were lighting crew, working in a cramped booth behind the scenes, on the next level up, stage left. The booth was open to the stage below through a small, unglazed window.

Gordon and I mostly kept our voices down when the play was going on. It was during a rehearsal that Gordon perpetrated his memorable prank.

Late in the play (5:3:19–29), King Macbeth **Joe Nassif ’60** calls for his servant, Seyton. He calls the name twice, speaks a short monologue, then thunders, “Seyton!” This is the cue for the actor portraying the servant to enter.

But before Seyton could make his entrance, Gordon shouted through the window, in a fake falsetto as I remember, “You called?”

– **Floyd “Skip” Hughes ’62**, Greenfield, Ind.

A Regular Occurrence

Feminist folk singer Ani DiFranco’s performance (with drummer Andy Stochansky) [Oct. 6, 1994, Harris Center] was powerful, inspiring, and totally moving.

Despite the epic nature of the concert, it wasn’t as well attended as expected due to a concurrent streaking event happening outside on Mac Field. The backstage doors were open and Ani and Andy had a decent view of Grinnell’s cross country runners and their friends, racing across the grass in their birthday suits.

I mustered courage to gush my enthusiasm for the show. Ani smiled, thanked me and, gesturing out the door, asked, “Is this a regular occurrence?”

Marya Janoff Baron ’95 and I looked at each other and at our bare classmates outside. “Don’t take it personally that they weren’t at your show. They didn’t know what they were missing. It’s just that Grinnellians pretty much like to get naked as often as possible.” The performers laughed and went back to watching their own show of hooting and hollering naked college kids. I like to think it was a memorable night for them, too.

– **Lynn Makau ’95**, Portland, Ore.

The Police

It was spring of 1979 and New Wave music was sweeping the nation. Georgia [Dentel] was able to book the Police, the hottest band in this genre to play Darby Gym. On the day of the show I ran into **John Buckwalter ’79**, the Grinnell concert chairman, and he invited me over to his off-campus house for dinner.

Through the wonder of Georgia, I now have a lifelong memory of sharing a spaghetti dinner and a great conversation with Sting and the boys on a cold, early spring afternoon in Iowa.

– **Bob Greenberg ’80**, Dallas

Prompt for Spring 2016: The people we meet because of Grinnell — the classmates, the professors, the staff members, the townspeople, the alumni — affect us in many ways. Describe an encounter with a Grinnellian who made a difference to you, whether the person brightened a cloudy day or changed the direction of your entire life.

Submit up to 200 words by Jan. 31, 2016, to magazine@grinnell.edu with “difference” in the subject line. If we publish your story, we’ll send you a special T-shirt.

1930s

1935

Louise Goodwin McKlveen '35

Louise Goodwin McKlveen, who turned 101 in October, lived out a lifelong dream Sept. 23, 2015, when she threw out the first pitch in a Minnesota Twins baseball game against the Cleveland Indians. Always a sports fan, McKlveen began watching baseball in earnest when her boys played in Little League and has admired the game ever since. She watches every Twins baseball game and has stuck by the franchise through winning years as well as through less successful seasons. Her wish was fulfilled through a partnership between her senior living community and the nonprofit organization Wish of a Lifetime, which makes dreams come true for older adults.



1960s

1963

Peter Kranz was a visiting professor for eight weeks this summer at Naresuan University, Phitsanulok, Thailand. "I was invited by the faculty of nursing, who had me teach both undergraduate and graduate students basic counseling skills as well as share knowledge of research ideas with faculty," he writes.

1968

Dan Burns has started Applesed Ventures, a company that employs autistic teens and young adults to assemble and package aquaponics

waterfall gardens. Burns invites everyone to check out his website at www.applesedventures.com.

Judith Wallace Crossett is medical director for the Free Psychiatric Clinic at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. She has attracted more than 30 different faculty members to volunteer for the clinic. One recent patient said: "Thank you. I am so thankful this program is available in our community. The psychiatry resident, pharmacy [student], and social work [student] who saw me ... were empathetic and I truly felt heard by them. I did not realize how ill I was getting until my assessments [were done], and they were very clear that I didn't have to be [so ill] and that there was hope. I have 20 years of social advocacy and counseling experience and can tell when someone has the right skill set to do these kinds of jobs."

1969

In late August, U.S. District Judge **Henry Wingate** temporarily blocked the state of Mississippi from carrying out executions in a case that challenges the state's lethal injections methods as cruel and unusual. In addition to serving as federal judge for the Southern District in Mississippi, Wingate has been on the College's board since 2000.

1970s

1970

Joe Berry and his wife **Helena Worthen** are teaching labor studies at Ton Duc Thang University in Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. Berry occasionally contributes to his wife's blog (HelenaWorthen.wordpress.com) about their adventures, of which Joe says, "Followers and responders are most welcome, of course. In case anyone was wondering, even old people can have adventures."

1975

Terry Thompson Thornley writes: "In December, I am going back to Egypt (fifth time) to help one of my Egyptologist friends write a book about the hidden features of the Temple of Amun-Ra at Karnak. I will be

doing the photography and my friend **Scott Rawlins**, a professor at Arcadia University, will be providing illustrations." Thornley specializes in immigration law in Everett, Wash., and is a dual citizen of the United States and Canada, licensed to practice in both countries.

1977

DeBorah Buchanan Ahmed was named to the St. Louis Civilian Oversight Board, which independently receives and reviews complaints against the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Since 1991, Ahmed has served as executive director of the Cultural, Educational, and Business Center at Better Family Life Inc.

1978

The American Oxonian, Winter 2015, reports that **Susan Duffey Campbell** was one of four recipients of the inaugural George Parkin Service Award for dedicated volunteer service to the Rhodes Trust at the University of Oxford.

1980s

1981

Rick Lee '81



Rick Lee was recognized in the 2015 issue of *Oregon Super Lawyers* magazine that identifies the top 5 percent of attorneys in the state, chosen by their peers and through research of Super Lawyers, a Thompson Reuters business. This is the ninth consecutive year Lee has been included in the category of insurance coverage.

1982

Russell Pierce was keynote speaker at the National Alliance on Mental Illness's 32nd annual Massachusetts State Convention, Oct. 18, 2014. As director of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health's Office of Recovery and Empowerment, he spoke about the role of peer voices and volunteers and received the organization's award for Emerging Peer Voice.

Get a Haircut, Read a Book

Alum helps young boys learn to love reading.

Photo by Andy Kopka '98



A Saturday morning haircut ignited a passion and later a program that is drawing **Alvin Irby '07** national attention.

"I want to change the conversation and spark national discussion about reading, especially for black boys," Irby says. "The issue is not capacity or ability. The issue is identity. Instead of asking 'Why aren't they reading?', let's ask 'Why *shouldn't* they be reading?' Their social cues are not there. They may never see black adult males reading and engaging with books. They may never have black role models in the classroom."

While student body president at his Little Rock, Ark., high school, Irby conducted a survey and found that, in general, students didn't read beyond what was required of them. On his own, Irby asked to be switched to Advanced Placement English, where he "fell in love with reading and thought everyone else should too."

After graduating from Grinnell

with a sociology degree, Irby moved to New York City with an assistantship at the Bank Street School for Children, teaching 9- and 10-year-olds. He credits **Katya Gibel Mevorach**, Grinnell professor of anthropology, with guiding him to the independent demonstration school, which her son attended.

Irby then taught first grade at Bronx Public School 69.

On a Saturday, while waiting for a haircut at a local barbershop, Irby observed one of his students, also waiting, acting out, running around, being bored. "He was my student, and I thought he should be using his time better. He should be reading," Irby says. He went home that day and wrote a one-page statement about the need to create spaces in barbershops where black boys could read.

Irby put the idea for what would become Barbershop Books on the shelf as he worked as a founding teacher at a New York City charter school, finished a master's degree,

and started doing standup comedy.

Then he delved into a two-year role as education director at the Boys Club of New York in East Harlem. When he decided he needed formal management training to advance his work, he applied to New York University's Wagner School of Public Service, entered a nonprofit management program, and "used every class to start Barbershop Books."

"Once I completed my M.P.A., I knew I was ready to start Barbershop Books," Irby says. "I used all of my own money, plus some crowd funding, to help pilot the program in six reading spaces in Harlem and Brooklyn barbershops."

A public policy competition drew national attention to his project, and Irby has since received requests from cities across the country to bring Barbershop Books to Anchorage, Baltimore, and Kansas City, to name a few.

Each barbershop book space costs \$500 to stock with "culturally diverse, age-appropriate, and gender-responsive books," as well as an attractive yellow reading chair and book sling. Irby is working full time to apply for grants and solicit strategic partnerships with companies that are now needed to launch the program in other cities. He won a \$25,000 Wall Service Award from Grinnell College in 2015 that he'll use to expand the program.

"We are all a collection of our experiences. I don't take for granted that I've had opportunities but I want to use my experience to change how black boys identify themselves as readers."

One haircut, one book at a time.
— Cindy Deppe

1986

Robert Quashie recently started a new position as director, business analysis, for the American Dental Association.

1988

Paula Rue Dillon has assumed the role of director of managed care for the Illinois Hospital Association, the chief lobbying and advocacy association for 200-plus hospitals and health care systems in the state, working with legislators, regulators, and state and national policy leaders. Her role includes developing policy and advocacy strategies related to managed care, payer operational issues, structuring alternative reimbursement methodologies, and implementing health care information exchanges.

1989

Laura Allender Ferguson is a founder and CTO at Create Inc., a real estate software startup in Washington, D.C. Ferguson was included in some recent articles about women in technology, including an article on women led startups in the District of Columbia.

1990s

1990

Benn Tannenbaum was elected a fellow of the American Physical Society “for outstanding contributions to international peace and security by addressing nuclear arms control, nonproliferation, and terrorism; and for mentoring young scientists and educating students to bring science to bear on societal challenges.”

1991

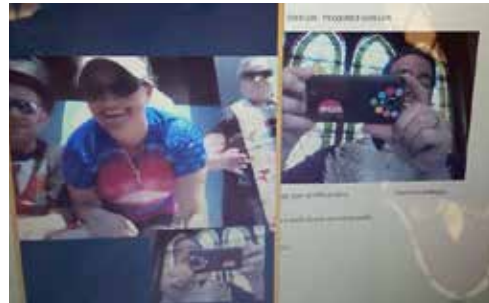
Daniel Werner received the national 2015 Public Justice Foundation’s Trial Lawyer of the Year award on July 14, 2015. Werner was part of the legal team behind one of the largest labor trafficking cases ever brought in the United States. At the Southern Poverty Law Center, Werner spearheaded the case, *David v. Signal International*, which resulted in a \$14 million verdict for immigrant Indian workers recruited to rebuild the Gulf Coast in 2005 after hurricane destruction.

Anna Ryon '97



Anna Ryon married Kevin Althaus on June 20, 2015, in Des Moines, Iowa. The ceremony was held at the Pappajohn Sculpture Park, next to Tony Smith’s sculpture “Marriage.” The ceremony was officiated in person by Brigit Monson Stevens, spouse of *Joe Stevens '95*, and virtually by *Kerry Bart '94*, who joined the ceremony by Skype from Barboursville, W. Va. Attending were: *Lori Leinbach McAllister '83*, *Mark McAllister '81*, *Joanne Sackett '90*, *Joe Stevens '95*, *Scott '98* and *Sarah Eagan '98 Anderson* and their children, and *Josie Gerrietts '10*. The ceremony was also attended by family and friends (including far too

many Grinnellians to mention individually) who were able to watch the ceremony online with only minor technical difficulties. Other than random park-goers who stopped to enjoy the show, only Grinnellians and their families attended the event. The couple rode their bicycles to the park for the ceremony. The bride wore a cycling jersey and skirt with a veil attached to her visor. The groom wore a tuxedo T-shirt and shorts, along with a top hat that, unfortunately, did not fit under his bike helmet. Most of those attending also brought their bicycles. Following the ceremony, the group formed a bicycle parade and rode to their lunch destination.



1992

Frank Douma was named director of the State and Local Policy Program at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs, October 2015.

1995

After a 20-year career in information technology, **Daniel Jacobsohn** is leaving the world of computing to start a new business that will buy, sell, and trade new and used Legos. He and **Gwen Costa Jacobsohn** opened their Bricks

& Minifigs franchise store in Madison, Wis., in late October.

Rhodes College English professor **Scott Newstok** was elected to Humanities Tennessee’s board of directors, September 2015. The term runs through 2019. Founded in 1973, Humanities Tennessee is dedicated to promoting lifelong learning, civil discourse, and an appreciation of history, diversity, and community among Tennesseans.



Scott Samuelson '95

Scott Samuelson, professor of philosophy at Kirkwood Community College, Iowa City, Iowa, received the \$50,000 Hiett Prize in the Humanities, one of the nation’s most prestigious honors in humanities, November 2015. The award identifies those in early humanities careers whose work shows extraordinary promise and has a significant public component related to contemporary culture.

Adhikaar Means Rights

Understanding the needs of the Nepali people



Long before the devastating April 2015 earthquake shook her home country, **Luna Ranjit '00** knew the depth and range of needs of the Nepali people.

In 2005, she co-founded Adhikaar, a nonprofit organization dedicated to human rights and social justice issues faced by more than 40,000 Nepali immigrants in New York City.

As executive director of Adhikaar, which means “rights” in Nepali, Ranjit says, “We plan as much as we can, but as a convenient walk-in community center, we deal with different issues every day. We work on workers’ rights, access to health care, immigration rights, fair pay, and citizenship.”

The earthquake in Nepal brought a flood of requests from immigrants trying to get in touch with their families, which the agency helped facilitate. “The walk-in traffic has increased significantly. We provided a space where people could talk and feel supported,” Ranjit says.

The traffic also increased because of Adhikaar’s quick action to gain temporary protected status

for Nepalis who were trying to immigrate, so they could use available services to also assist family members still in their native land.

During this hectic period, Ranjit worked closely with state legislators, New York Gov. Mario Cuomo’s office, and the state’s Congressional leadership to secure the temporary status. “Building relationships over the past 10 years came in handy. Adhikaar was one of the leading organizations in this tough battle,” Ranjit says.

“We are so happy that officials came together to make it happen so quickly. It’s been an insane few months but with very positive outcomes and major victories.”

During the past 10 years, Ranjit has seen needs grow among Nepali immigrants, from individuals to multigenerational families. Many of them are now U.S. citizens.

“We are trying to make sure we meet the growing and changing needs of the Nepali community with both new and existing programs.”

“The field of social justice is definitely my life’s work, whether it’s at Adhikaar or other causes.”

Ranjit earned a master’s degree in public administration from Princeton University after graduating from Grinnell with an economics major and global development studies concentration. Before founding Adhikaar, she worked with Asian and South Asian communities

in Washington, D.C.

“Grinnell has played an important role in Adhikaar,” Ranjit says, recalling that a \$500 check from economics professor **Mark Montgomery** in 2005 “meant that we could stop talking about creating an organization and actually do it.”

“I had a ‘backpack office’ until I received that check. Then I received the Wall Service Award [in 2006], which meant we could rent space and be more visible.

“Other members of the Grinnell faculty have also continued to support us over the years. There has always been a standing offer to help in any way.

“We’ve had Grinnell interns and volunteers, hosted students on break tours, and had a Grinnell grad on staff,” Ranjit recalls. “Grinnell’s preparation in writing has also been invaluable in my responsibilities for grants-writing.”

Adhikaar celebrated its 10th anniversary at a fundraising gala in New York City on Nov. 19. “We are trying to make sure we meet the growing and changing needs of the Nepali community with both new and existing programs,” Ranjit says. “The 10th anniversary is a good reason to reflect and plan for our future.”

– Cindy Deppe

1997

Ozzie Ercan writes: “My wife **Ann Musser '95** passed away on Sept. 29, 2014, after an epic three-year battle with ovarian cancer. An interview with her and me was published last summer [2014] in the largest Turkish daily [newspaper]. This went viral in Turkey and led to many other stories written about Ann: bit.ly/1sBYK6p.”

1999

Ryan Redmond and Amber Redmond announced the birth of their first child, a boy, Egan Otis Redmond, Dec. 24, 2014.

2000s

2000

Susanna Drake '00



Susanna Drake received tenure at Macalaster College in St. Paul, Minn. Drake teaches in the religious studies department; her research interests include early

Christian and Jewish relations, gender and sexuality in late antiquity, and biblical interpretation in art and text.

2001

Shana Barchas has been promoted from education specialist to education director at Children's Fairyland in Oakland, Calif. “Ask for me when you come with your children and I'll let them groom the donkeys!” Barchas writes.

John Aerni-Flessner and Lauren

Aerni-Flessner '04 announced the birth of their second child, a daughter, Charlie Elizabeth Aerni-Flessner, Sept. 19, 2015.

Courtney Gengler and Travis Groo were married in Marysville, Calif., July 18, 2015. Attending were *Shannon Hammen Miner '01* and *Tammy Baker Dann '01*.

Dolph Robb and **Rania Mohamed Robb '03** announced the birth of their third child, first son, Pierce Anthony Brandon Robb, Aug. 12, 2015. Paternal aunt is *Natisha Robb '14*. He is named in memory of *G. Anthony Smith '01* and *Brandon Martinez '01*.

2002

Saunia Powell, coordinator of the Grinnell College Innovators for Social Justice Prize, has taken on a leadership role at the Wesley Foundation at the University of Iowa, November, 2015.

The National Law Journal named **Damien Specht** to its “D.C. Rising Stars” list of the “most accomplished young attorneys in the D.C. area,” Sept. 14, 2015. He is co-chair of the government contracts/ corporate transactions group at Jenner & Block.

2003

Michael Andersen and Maureen Young were married in Portland, Ore., on June 27, 2015, the warmest night ever recorded in Portland. Standing in nearby kiddie pools were their housemates *Brian K. Smith '00* (who served as stage manager) and *Electra Allenton '03*. Also in attendance: *Roy Huggins '99*, *Courtney Sherwood '00*, *Ann Myers '02*, *Dana Watson '02*, *Erik Burton '03*, *Heather Glidden '03*, *Ellery Sills '03*, *Matt Wilson '03*, *Lindsey Kuper '04*, *Dan Muzyka '04*, and *Mark French '05*.

2004

Eric Blevins claimed two silver medals in the 1-meter and 3-meter events at the 16th World Masters Diving Championships in Kazan, Russia. Blevins, nicknamed “Country,” was a two-time All-American at Grinnell and became the first diver to win eight Midwest Conference championships. He was elected to the Grinnell Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014.

Annie Ewaskio was awarded a travel grant from the Jerome Foundation to sail with the Arctic Circle Residency, where she will explore the Svalbard archipelago in summer 2016. Artists and scientists are invited to collaborate and create work on board the vessel. This trip will inform Ewaskio's paintings, which depict mythical landscapes and characters, ghostly after-images of exploration in boreal settings.

2005

Kate Kearney and Kyle Riggs announced the birth of their first child, a son, Theodore Donald Riggs, April 10, 2015.

2006

Lorin Ditzler and Ernest Niño Murcia announced the birth of their first child, a son, Alexander Kai Niño, July 25, 2015.

2007

Brady Austin and **Christena McIntyre Austin** announced the birth of their second and third children, two daughters, Harriet Marvel Austin and Eloise Briar Austin, on June 29, 2015. They join big brother Julian Austin as future Grinnellians. Paternal grandparents are *Edwin Austin '82* and *Julie Douglas Austin '82*; uncles are *Trevor Austin '09*, *Scott McIntyre '09*, and *Toby Austin '14*.

2009

David Arseneault and **Rachel Whitfield '10** were married in Herrick Chapel, Grinnell College, Sept., 19, 2015. They write, “A great number of Grinnellians were part of our special day!”

Rachel Walberg and **Amanda Underwood '10** were married in St. Paul, Minn., on June 13, 2015. They have combined their last names and are now the Walwoods. The wedding party included *Jess Cheney '09*, *Mer Nechitilo '09*, and *Sam Tape '09*. In attendance: *Emily Mohl '02*, *Joe Benson '03*, *John Bell '08*, *Matt Johnson '08*, *Emily Willborn '08*, *Kathryn Benson '09*, *Nate Gailey-Schiltz '09*, *Christine McCormick '09*, *Scott McIntyre '09*, *Ali Nissen '09*, *Emma Silverman '09*, *Anna Werner '09*, *Ethan Struby '10*, *Julia Stewart '10*, and *Ben Tape '12*.

2010s

2013

Jacqui Vautin and Kevin Krueger married in New Market, Ala., Sept. 20, 2015. The wedding party included *Meg Huey '12* and *Karen Gogins '13*.

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Spring 2016 Issue: Jan. 15, 2016
Summer 2016 Issue: March 15, 2016

Authorized Personnel Only

Theatre and art major finds museum work deeply satisfying.

In the bowels of the Science Museum of Minnesota, **Tom Loddengaard '76** opens a door with the sign “Authorized Personnel Only” on it. The whine of sawing metal leaks out of the workshop. Loddengaard leads visitors through an orderly collection of workbenches to his own, the place where he solves the problems presented to him as an exhibit fabricator — like building a case for a Bambiraptor, a dinosaur that was named for the Disney character and is about half a meter tall and two meters long.

If Loddengaard has done his work well, the typical museum-goer will never think about the stability of a railing around an exhibit or the type of adhesive used to hold artifacts in place.

“There’s no manual that tells you how to go about doing this,” Loddengaard says. “You have to figure it out for yourself. The range of things that I get involved with is kind of crazy.”

Not long after he started working at the museum, Loddengaard was building plywood boxes — 34 of them — for a series of exhibit items to rest on. A co-worker noticed the repetitive work, which is considered a kind of punishment at the museum, and said, “So, who did you piss off?”

Loddengaard says, “Variety is one of the really strong appeals of what we’re doing here.”

In college, Loddengaard was a theatre and art major. “My intent was to do theatre set design.” He acquired his basic tool skills in a tech theatre course at Grinnell.

He describes himself as a welder, cabinetmaker, machinist, electrician, and media installer who dabbles in mechanical engineering. “If there’s



Photos by Justin Hayworth

a skill needed to build something, I learn it,” he says.

He works with a number of other people with theatre backgrounds. “It’s a really good background, because you have a history of building weird stuff that no one’s ever built before.”

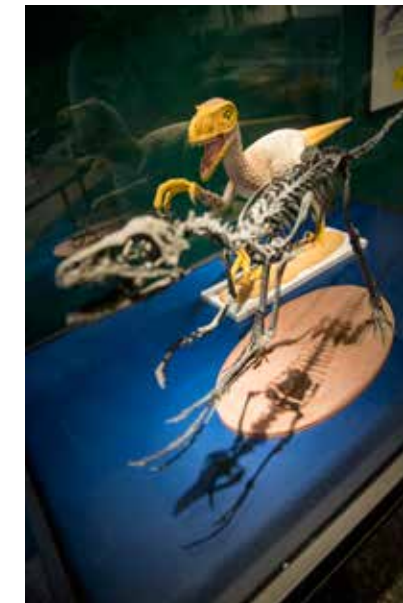
Once, for a television commercial, Loddengaard built a 16-foot-long loaf of bread in a wrapper that an actor had to be able to carry off a semitrailer — it had wheels.

Before accepting the position with the museum in St. Paul, Minn., Loddengaard did a lot of freelance work in television. “It was working well enough,” he says. “I got by. Sometimes the line between freelance and unemployed is really, really thin.”

Museum work presents not only steady work and new creative challenges but an opportunity for lifelong learning.

“The concept that science literacy is an essential part of citizenship is key to what we do here,” Loddengaard says.

— Michele Regenold '89



The Fantastic Job She Never Dreamed Of

Making a difference in people's lives with a goal of surviving her career

Photo by Justin Hayworth



As a kid, **Shana Dooley York '98** did not dream of becoming a firefighter. "It wasn't even something I considered," she says.

"I was always interested in science-type stuff," York says. She majored in biology, which she loved, and at first she considered becoming a doctor or a physical therapist, but "school wasn't really me," she says.

After graduating, she returned home to Minneapolis and worked for a YWCA girls' math and science program. When a female firefighter spoke to the girls about her work, York says she had more questions than the girls did.

She applied to the Minneapolis Fire Department and was hired in 2001.

As a woman in a male-dominated field, York says that being female is always on the radar. "I feel accepted within the department," she says. "It's known that we can do the job. It's more from people on calls."

They sometimes question her ability to do the job because besides being female, she has a slender build.

But it's her calm presence in stressful situations — stabbings, shootings, domestic assaults — that matters. "We get the down-and-dirty stuff that isn't so glamorous," she says.

Like all Minneapolis firefighters, York is also trained as an emergency medical technician. Fire stations respond to all 911 calls in their area, not just fires, and firefighters are nearly the first responders to a scene, York says.

Some may envy her work schedule — 24 hours on, 24 off, 24 on — working two days out of six. But not everyone is cut out for the constant interruptions with calls coming in or the emotional stress of a shooting each week during the summer or someone jumping off a freeway bridge. The camaraderie of fellow firefighters helps make the toughest days bearable.

For York, variety is the best part of the job. "I do something different — Every. Single. Day."

Another thing that appeals to her is getting to make a difference in someone's life. "I go to your house

and you're having trouble breathing and I give you oxygen and I take your blood pressure and reassure you that the ambulance is on the way. For that 10 minutes, when you were so scared, I can reassure you. I can help you make that day not worse."

York started in the entry-level firefighter position. "That's the person in the back seat [of the rig]," she says. "We always joke that that's the person who does all the work."

In her third year as a captain, York still does many of the same things. But now, she says, "I'm the voice on the radio, making decisions on the ground, and the person doing all the reporting after the fact."

York is also involved in training firefighters in 19 basic practices such as ventilation, forcible entry, hoses, and ladders. Her Grinnell background comes in handy there.

"Something that's really interesting is this idea of applying science to what we know," she says. "We know that you can go in the front door and put water on the fire and the fire will go out. We used to break out windows, and when you break out windows you let the hot air out, but you also let oxygen in. We're doing that stuff strategically with science in mind so we can be effective with saving lives and not getting ourselves in trouble."

As a trainer, York seeks out current knowledge and technology to share with firefighters. She says the science is sometimes intimidating to her adult learners, so being able to break it down is helpful.

"This job is fantastic," York says, "but the goal is that you'll be able to retire healthy and do something else. That's why I work — so I can do other things."

— Michele Regenold '89

In Memoriam

Anna Mae Wack, professor emerita of physical education, Grinnell, Iowa, Oct. 15, 2015. A native Iowan, she taught in a few Iowa high schools before working at Grinnell College from 1955 to 1983. She was a leader in coaching women's sports and played a key role in the planning and construction of the Physical Education Complex.

1930s

Marian Loetcher Siekmann '38, West Chicago, Ill., Aug. 1, 2015.

Dorothy Ziegenmeyer Davies '39, Franklin, Tenn., Aug. 5, 2015.

1940s

Dorothy Palmer Hulett '40, Chino Valley, Ariz., May 31, 2015. Dorothy loved music and passed that love of music on to her children and grandchildren. Before any Christmas presents could be opened, the attendees each shared an instrumental or vocal solo.

Julie Booz Nuefeld '41, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Aug. 13, 2015. Julie studied French and piano at Grinnell and received a prestigious scholarship to study at the Sorbonne University in Paris. Unfortunately, this honor was interrupted by World War II. Julia became a caretaker and music teacher to numerous children and earned the respect and gratitude of countless families. She is remembered as a wonderful mentor and engaged community member.

Grace Brant Spindler '41, Creston, Iowa, Aug. 24, 2015.

Evelyn Ovrann Manning '43, Keosauqua, Ill., July 19, 2015.

Miriam Sherman McEwen '43, Lexington, Ky., June 18, 2015. Survivors include her nieces, *Miriam Bridgham Ford '64* and *Mary Bridgham Gilroy '66*.

Marjorie Childs Voiers '44, Austin, Texas, June 13, 2015. After graduating from Grinnell College, she earned a master's in music and, later, a certification in early childhood special education,

both from University of Texas at Austin. She worked for many years as a music teacher at Texas School for the Blind and various other elementary schools. She is remembered for her sharp wit, endless energy, and dedication to her community.

Betty Liston Gotham '47, Petaluma, Calif., May 28, 2015.

Einar Graff '47, East Dundee, Ill., Feb. 16, 2015. Survivors include his son, *Erik Graff '74*.

Ann Kilbride Allen '49, Seattle, July 29, 2015. After graduating from Grinnell with a degree in mathematics, Ann received a teaching fellowship to attend Smith College, where she earned a master's in physics in 1951. She worked as science teacher for many years and as a laboratory instructor at the University of Hartford from 1980 until her retirement in 1991. After her husband's death in 1980, Ann bought a small camper and traveled across the United States regularly over the next few decades, often alone. She enjoyed planning only one day in advance to visit far-flung relatives and state parks and attend reunions at Grinnell. She was 79 years old when she made her last solo trip.

James D. Milliken '49, Saratoga, Calif., Sept. 5, 2015.

Mary Martin Rehm '49, Fort Collins, Colo., Aug. 3, 2015. Mary graduated from Grinnell with a degree in botany and put her artistic abilities to use working as an illustrator in the Seed Laboratory. Her illustrations can still be found in Grinnell's collections to this day. She was a skilled craftswoman, skilled in painting, basket weaving, and flower pressing. Mary had an extensive collection of rocks and maintained her love of the outdoors throughout her life. Survivors include her brother *Donald Martin '49* and sister *Ruth Martin Minter '51*.

1950s

Emmett S. Goff '50, Wilmette, Ill., June 23, 2015.

Mary Grimm Baumgartner '52, Oxnard, Calif., July 26, 2016. Survivors include her husband, *David Baumgartner '52*.

Barbara A. Jones '52, Lakewood, Colo., Aug. 7, 2015

Joan Davis Hirst '53, Russell, Kan., Feb. 15, 2015.

Carol Hoyt Mossman '53, Youngstown, Ohio, Dec. 4, 2014.

George E. Nancarrow '53, Munds Park, Ariz., May 28, 2015.

Richard H. Schaefer '53, Fresno, Calif., Dec. 18, 2014.

Priscilla J. Antrim '54, Stevensville, Mont., Aug. 12, 2015.

James R. Bonde '54, Glen Ellyn, Ill., March 10, 2015.

Daryl Bielefeld '54, Oct. 28, 2014.

Marilyn Smith Cole '54, White Bear Township, Minn., April 19, 2015.

The Rev. James H. Ameling '55, San Francisco, May 15, 2015.

Johanna Van Bommel Friend '55, Markham, Ontario, Canada, Aug. 10, 2015.

Robert E. Hays '55, Clive, Iowa, May 9, 2015.

Carla Jackson Nelson '55, Visalia, Calif., Aug. 2, 2014.

Matilda Surridge Dunlop '56, Phoenix, Aug. 15, 2015. Survivors include her spouse, *John Dunlop '56*. She volunteered in the children's ministry at her church and led a Girl Scout troop, loving all the kids she was privileged to know. She helped foster kids through her role as a court-appointed special advocate, in addition to supporting unwed mothers and local prison ministries.

Ann Lynn Farrell '56, Indianapolis, June 20, 2015.

Patricia Sloan Railsback '56, Lutz, Fla., Sept. 24, 2015. Survivors include her daughter, *Kathryn Railsback '80*.

Lee B. Savage '56, Palm Harbor, Fla., June 28, 2015.

William C. Letzkus '58, Kerrville, Texas, Feb. 15, 2015.

Robert R. Preston Sr. '59, Des Moines, Iowa, Sept. 15, 2015.

1960s

Jocelyn Williams Anderson '61, St. Louis, March 24, 2015.

James K. Jenks II '64, Lyons, Ill., May 22, 2015.

William O. Staehlin '64, Sarasota, Fla., Sept. 2, 2015.

1970s

Anna Marie Durr '77, Montezuma, Iowa, July 18, 2015. Throughout her life, Marie was committed to her education. She earned various degrees, including an R.N. degree from Presbyterian St. Luke's, a B.S.N. from Grandview College, and a B.A. in anthropology from Grinnell College at the age of 37. Marie was considered to be a "professional student" by those around her and avidly pursued her love of learning until her death. She served as a nurse in the Army Nurse Corps, Aramco, Iowa Shares, and the Meskwaki Settlement, and through these positions worked in Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, and Saudi Arabia.

In Memoriam

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

Submitting a Death Notice

We hope to write a brief obituary for each person for whom we receive a death notice. We would like to include interesting details about each person's life. When notifying the College, if you happen to have additional information you can share, we'd be happy to consider including it. Notices may be submitted to classnotes@grinnell.edu.



Richard Fyffe, Samuel R. and Marie-Louise Rosenthal Librarian of the College and associate professor, died on Nov. 5 of complications from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). He was 59. He had been on medical leave from the College since Oct. 1.

Richard, who joined the College in 2006, spent three decades working to elevate the status of liberal arts college libraries. He will be remembered as a profound thinker, a respected teacher, and a gentle soul.

An award-winning librarian, Richard made vital contributions to many national partnerships and consortia and was an eloquent advocate for libraries' central roles in a college's educational mission.

Richard worked collaboratively with Grinnell faculty to develop intellectual property policies and pass an open-access resolution. His innovations helped reinvent the College's libraries by creating a peer-mentoring program for research literacy and by rethinking collections philosophy. Richard was also instrumental in the opening of Kistle Science Library and the renovation of Burling Library, including media collection improvements, installation of a computing commons, expansion of the Burling lounge, and upgrades that make the libraries more welcoming.

He ushered in sweeping improvements to library technology in service of teaching and learning and faculty research. He launched *Digital Grinnell* and opened the archives of *Scarlet & Black*. He served with distinction on numerous campus committees and groups supporting faculty, staff, and students.

Under his leadership, the College received an Excellence in Academic Libraries Award from the Association of College and Research Libraries and American Library Association in 2011.

Before coming to Grinnell, Richard was assistant dean for scholarly communication at University of Kansas Libraries, after a decade at University of Connecticut Libraries. He also served at the Essex Institute and American Antiquarian Society. He was born and raised in Asheville, N.C.

Richard is survived by his wife Ida, his father, sister, and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service attended by family, friends, faculty, staff, and students was held Nov. 15 at the College's Conard Environmental Research Area.

Back Talk

An Unconventional Life

Appreciating the Grinnell experience from a distance

My daughter, Elise, challenged me to write this essay. My beloved daughter, a third-generation Grinnellian currently working for Grinnell College's Office of Communications, hit me with, "It won't hurt you to reflect on your life, Mom." So, here I sit, an expat in Costa Rica, listening to children's gleeful shouts in Spanish, mountains all around me, considering my life and how Grinnell affected me.

I attended Grinnell in the '70s, in a period of unrest, and I was a born rebel. It was the first time in my life that I had been intellectually challenged, and I shall be forever grateful for that. At the time, we were all indoctrinated to the "Grinnell Experience," the idea that people in the world would value us for our amazing liberal arts education.

I left Grinnell after two years, for several reasons. I found the student body to be a bit too neurotically obsessive for me, and there was a paucity of class offerings. More immediately, I had fallen in love with a rather infamous Grinnellian, the late great **Chris Freeberg '73**. He had the best Bose 901 speakers on North Campus and the dubious distinction of getting kicked out for not attending classes for an entire semester while he blasted Grateful Dead tunes from the top of Gates Tower. It was an auspicious beginning that launched me on a life of adventure. I scoffed at the "Grinnell Experience" once I realized that almost no one had heard of Grinnell, and because it was the '70s and scoffing was an art we had mastered.

But Grinnell never left me.

Academically, it was never matched by my further university experiences, but there was something more. At Grinnell, through my own endeavors and the encouragement of professors, I learned that I could research anything, reason anything, attempt anything. It was subtle, but it was deeply ingrained in me.

I had business aptitude, honed in me by my father and his cronies, who taught me how to work a room — "Never sit down, Jane. You'll be stuck with the boring people." How to read a balance sheet, how to make business decisions, how to do public speaking, how to order a sophisticated drink. And business I did. But the rebel in me kept taking long absences to discover the world, to become a river guide, to wander cross-country. This side of me eventually won out.

I have been plagued at times with the thought that I never "lived up to my potential," careerwise. I do truly wish I had finished at Grinnell. But nights spent under the stars on the banks of a river, listening to a wound up executive from Los Angeles baring his soul, telling me there had to be something more; days spent tutoring Native American kids, attending truancy hearings, reading Huck Finn to tough teenage native boys as they lay on couches around me; homeschooling my own kids, standing in front of a white board, them in their pajamas, giving them spelling words like "plebian" and "proletariat" as we all giggled — these are the things that have mattered, the things that make up the kaleidoscope of my life.

And in a very real way, I have Grinnell to thank for this. My



Jane Howe '76, mother of **Elise Hadden '14** and daughter of **Doris Lothringer Howe '44**, made a political and cultural defection from the United States to Costa Rica, where she lives in the mountains with a view of the sea.

Grinnell experience opened my eyes to my abilities, and to the world. I sit here in Costa Rica, loving my life, struggling to become fluent in Spanish — why did I take French? — wondering what will come next. Thank you, Elise, for challenging me. And thank you, Grinnell, for all that you gave me.

P.S. I still wish I had become an archaeologist. And I had a huge crush on **Gerald Lalonde**, classics professor extraordinaire. 🌿

Have an idea for a "Back Talk" essay? Submit your idea or your 500- to 700-word essay to magazine@grinnell.edu. We're open to all sorts of topics from alumni, students, faculty, and staff.

That's So Grinnellian

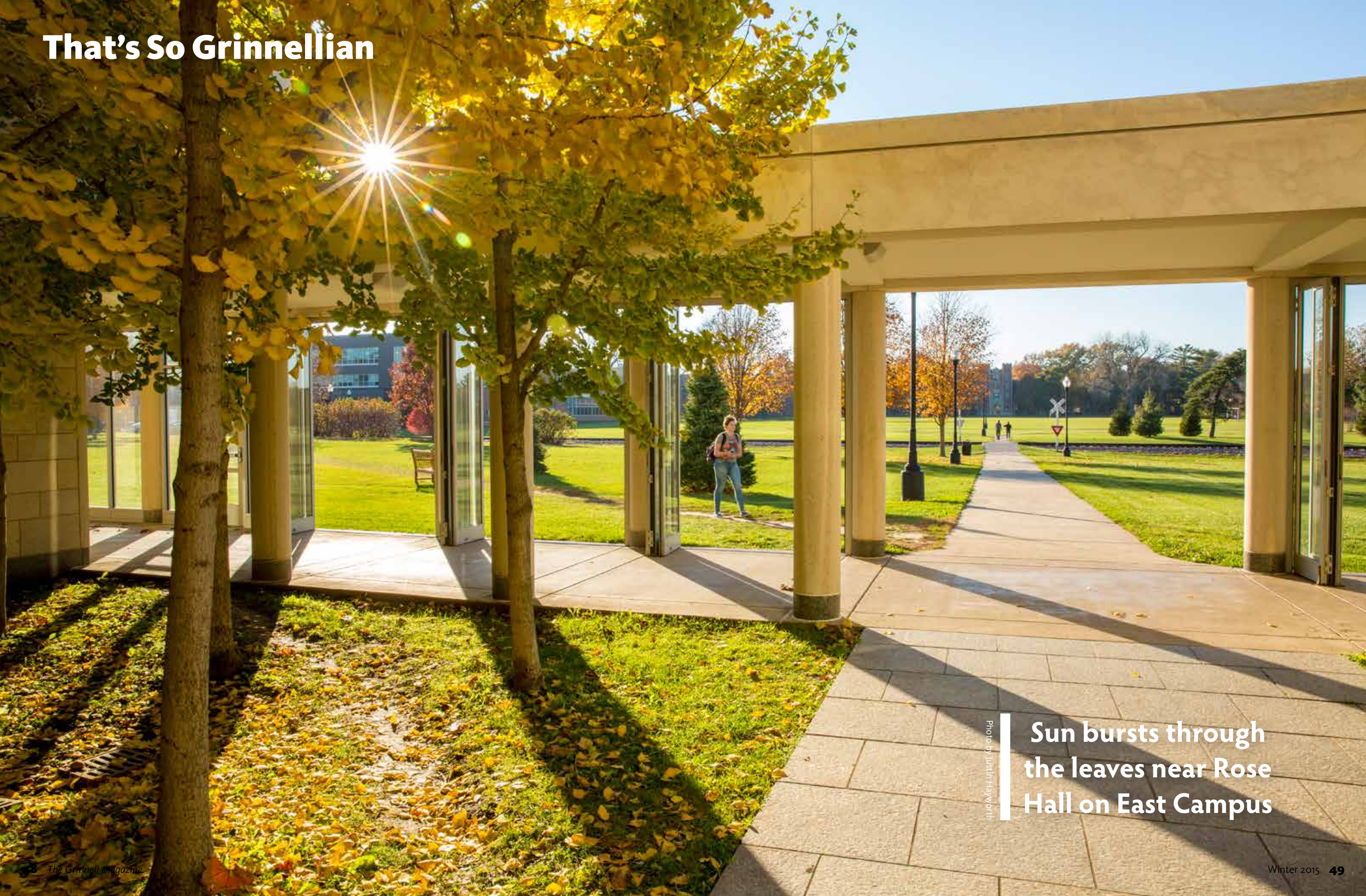


Photo by Justin Hayworth

Sun bursts through the leaves near Rose Hall on East Campus



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Iowa View

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**Goodnow
Hall tower**

