

# Sociology Department Newsletter

Newsletter for the Alumni and Friends of the Department of Sociology, Grinnell College - Fall 2011

## Some Sociology Faculty Updates

by Chris Hunter

Welcome to our (somewhat delayed) 2011 Sociology Department Newsletter. We have lots to share with everyone! We'll begin with some quick updates about our current faculty.

"**Karla Erickson** enjoyed her first year as an Associate Professor and as Chair of the Department, in 2010-2011. She is happy that, after a year of many searches, next year the department can look forward to the arrival of the Department's newest tenure track member, Michael Thompson. We'll also benefit from courses taught by CFD fellow Maxwell Leung, a gifted scholar and teacher who taught memorable courses at Grinnell in 2008-2009, and Mellon fellow Kaelyn Wiles, who, among other contributions, will teach a course on the Sociology of Religion.

Karla continues to conduct research and MAPs connected to her primary research project entitled *How We Die Now*, which examines the social interactions at the end of life in institutionalized care settings. The project is under contract with Temple University Press and will be published in 2013. This year, seniors Ragnar Thorisson and Liting Cong conducted comparative aging research during the spring semester that has already informed the project. Erickson presented at the Future Directions in the Humanities Conference in Granada, Spain in June. In the coming months she will present her research at the American Sociological Association and the Society for the Study of Social Problems in August, the American Studies Association in October, and the National Women's Studies Association in November.

Karla will be on sabbatical and research leaves during the 2011-2012 academic year to complete this project.

Karla's other research project is a collaboration with Professor of Law, Angela Onwuachi-Willig, from the University of Iowa. This research collects narratives from minority law faculty about how they survive the legal academy. The project is entitled *Professional Forbearance*, and uses Kesho Scott's notion of the "habits of surviving" to analyze patterns of discrimination and resilience among minority faculty who stay in one position for seven years or more. Taken together, these two projects allow Karla to pursue her interests in feminist ethnography, and inequality, justice, and power in the workplace."

**Kesho Scott** is chairing the department this year and has this to share:

"Over the last year, I continued to work on my book on the Black Male gender experience at Grinnell College, 1950-2005. I was a guest lecturer at East China Normal University (ECNU), Shanghai Summer Institutes in 2010 and 2011, where I taught three sociology courses: Introduction to Sociology, Social Movements, and Study of American Society and Culture. I was able to expand my "Female Harrassment" research by completing a survey at ECNU that measures perceptions of harassment in Chinese universities and society. This way, I will be able to continue my cross-cultural analysis of the effectiveness of anti-harassment policies in Ethiopia, China and the US. I have finished three more stories in my serial autobiography, *Lemongrass Stories*, addressing the intersections of aging, heterosexism, gender race, and class. I was busy on and off campus giving talks in my role as a public intellectual: "Chronicles of Connection: Faculty at Work at the Intersection of Art and History," "China in the Media Forum," "25th Anniversary of Stonewall Resource Center Celebration," and "What's It Like To Be Me: Intentional Discussion on Diversity" (all at Grinnell College). I was a keynote speaker for three talks sponsored by the Maddox Foundation and University of the Southwest, in Hobbs, NM: "Unlearning Our Social Limitations," Black History Month Project, and "Post-Diversity Conversations."

**Peter Hart-Brinson** successfully completed the first of his two years as a visiting assistant professor and is convinced that he learned as much from Grinnell students as they did from him. During the past year, he published research on the free radio movement in the *American Journal of Sociology*, and he wrote a guest column for the *Des Moines Register* on the future of same-sex marriage in Iowa. He is continuing his research on two projects: on generational change in attitudes about same-sex marriage and on the increasing use of fitness fundraisers by nonprofit organizations in the US. He is looking forward to his second year with his colleagues and students in the sociology department.

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## Faculty Updates continued...

**Max Leung** is returning to Grinnell in a new role. He spent 2008-09 in a leave replacement position during Karla Erickson's Harris Leave. He's back for another year, this time as a Consortium for Faculty Diversity Fellow. Max earned his BA and MA in Political Science at San Francisco State University, and his PhD in Cultural Studies at Claremont Graduate University. His research interests are hate violence studies, critical race studies, law and society, post-structuralism, Asian American history, politics, and culture, and visual and popular culture. During his year at Grinnell, Max will be teaching a sociology course on contemporary Asian American issues and an introduction to American Studies, reprising very successful courses he taught in his first stay at Grinnell. And he'll resume taking wonderful photographs on campus (some of which grace our web site).

**Kaelyn Wiles** will be at Grinnell for two years, as a Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow, teaching one course per semester and working on her research. Kaelyn was a biology major at Oberlin College before attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison for her PhD in sociology. Her dissertation research focuses on the rise of mindfulness meditation as a new medical intervention. Her research addresses the question: How did a meditation practice with Buddhist origins become widely accepted within conventional medicine? Her answer focuses on the specific strategies that meditation practitioners and advocates used as they carefully crossed the boundaries between science, politics, and religion.

Kaelyn brings a strong global perspective to her work. As a biology major in college, she spent summers researching howler monkeys in Costa Rica, climate change in California, soil warming in Massachusetts, and observing the behavior of lemurs in Madagascar. She studied human and ecosystem interactions through a program called Global Ecology, spending two months in each of five countries: England, India, the Philippines, New Zealand, and Mexico. Kaelyn will bring her diverse interests in meditation and global issues to her course on the sociology of religion this year.

**Kent McClelland** is finding Senior Faculty Status rewarding:

"The school year 2010-11 marked an important transition for me. I began a five-year term of partial retirement, called Senior Faculty Status, in which I work half time at the College and teach only one course a year. This arrangement gives me lots more time to concentrate on research and writing, and I have continued energetically with my research on perceptual control theory, which has been my main focus of research for the past two decades.

Last spring I taught a seminar in sociology

called, "What is Social Structure?" I was happy to have an opportunity to share my interests in sociological theory, as well as my latest research, with students. Next spring, I will again teach "Freedom and Authority: Control of Reproduction," an interdisciplinary senior seminar that provides a capstone experience in the liberal arts. This is a course that I've enjoyed teaching in the past, and I'm looking forward this time to working with Elizabeth Queathem in Biology and Stephen Andrews in English, the other members of our interdisciplinary teaching team.

In November and December of 2011, I will be traveling to Manchester, England, to work as a Research Fellow with two professors in the Psychology Department at the University of Manchester, the largest university in the United Kingdom. I will be assisting them in the teaching of their undergraduate course on perceptual control theory.

It's been a pleasure to pull back some from the everyday work of the Sociology Department and to have more time for my family, including three grandchildren, two in Germany with my daughter Laura's family and one in Portland, Oregon, with my son David's family. My wife, Katherine, continues to work full time at the Math Lab, and she's also doing very well, although she's begun to think about retirement, too."

**Michael Thompson** has just begun at Grinnell, filling the tenure-track position opened up when Kent McClelland moved to Senior Faculty Status. Michael is broadly interested in political and economic sociology with a focus on stratification, socioeconomic mobility, workforce development, and social movements. His dissertation research focuses on how political institutions influence the enactment of state minimum wage legislation across the US and the impact of these laws on income inequality and employment. Michael is also trained in Latin American & Caribbean studies.

Before coming to Grinnell, Michael gained considerable experience as a research analyst for the Indiana Business Research Center, collaborating on grant-funded projects for the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the Economic Development Administration and the Lumina Foundation. He will bring that expertise to teaching research methods, among other courses.

Though born in New York, Michael grew up in the Caribbean nation of Trinidad & Tobago. He returned to the US for college at Yale and spent a few years doing social work in New York City and business research in Trinidad before joining the Sociology Department at Indiana University, Bloomington. In his spare time, Michael enjoys high school volunteering, Gumboot dancing, swimming, and listening to music from across the globe.

**Susan Ferguson:** "Greetings sociology alumni! I have had a great year focused more on my children and my book projects. Gillian turned



10 years old this summer and just started the 5th grade at the middle school here. Alana turned 8 years old and began 3rd grade. Both are voracious readers and love school. In the fall of last year, I taught my tutorial: "Frankenstein: Gender, Technology, and the Sociological Imagination," which I enjoyed immensely. This year, in addition to teaching the Sociology of Health and Illness, I am teaching a new seminar, Identities and Inequalities, which examines race, social class, gender, ability, and other categories of difference. I have been working on a book manuscript for two years on this topic, and my current seminar is reading the manuscript as part of the course content. I have been assisted on this challenging project by some great sociology major research assistants over the past couple of years, including Nichole Baker and Allison Brinkhorst. Allison and I did a Mentored Advanced Project together last spring that utilized the research and applied it to pedagogy.

In addition to the new manuscript I have been working on this past year, I had a major victory in moving the Family Series I had begun with Pearson Publishing to Sage Publications. It was a long process getting Pearson to release most of the book contracts in the series, but Sage is a better fit. The first two volumes in the series, "Contemporary Family Perspectives," with Sage are Shirley Hill's Families: A Social Class Perspective and Nancy Riley's and Krista Van Vleet's Making Families Through Adoption. Other books are soon to follow on Global Families, Work and Families, Families and Caregiving, Family Policy, and Families and Consumption. I am proud of this collection of books.

My other major activity of the past year has been doing teaching workshops at regional and national meetings. At the Midwest Sociological Meetings in St. Louis, I co-led a workshop on teaching the Sociology of the Body. In Las Vegas at the American Sociological Meetings, I co-led a teaching workshop on teaching family diversity and another one on teaching Introduction to Sociology. All produced exciting discussion about teaching practices, and I learned a good deal from the participants.

**David Cook-Martín:** "I thoroughly enjoyed a Harris Fellowship leave over the last year. Maybe it was the flip-flops-and-shorts informality that reminded me of graduate school or maybe the ability to disconnect from email and phones with few consequences. Mostly I enjoyed reconnecting with the kinds of questions that drew me to sociology in the first place, reflecting on the daily practice of scholarly discovery, and thinking about how each of these inform and are shaped by my teaching and mentoring. Since May 17, 2010 – the day I started writing - I have loved every minute of grappling with questions about the relationship between racial ideologies and the ways countries in the

Americas have organized their politics. I wrote three book chapters in response to these questions as well as a couple of articles on related themes. I revised two chapters by my co-author that along with mine form part of a book on race, immigration, and citizenship policies in the Americas. I also wrote a book proposal that summarized the overall argument of this book. I was fascinated by what I learned about Chinese exclusions and how they spread in the immigration and nationality laws of the Americas. I was surprised to learn how influential eugenics had been among the scientific, professional, and policy elites who advocated biologically selective immigration laws. In a side project, I completed a book manuscript that is currently under review. It is about the development of citizenship and immigration laws in Italy, Spain and Argentina since the mid-19th Century, and especially their long-term consequences.

The Harris leave also gave me an invaluable opportunity to reflect on the daily practice of my intellectual craft. I was struck more than ever by how thinking and writing – inseparable in my view – happen in discrete chunks on a daily basis rather than in long fits of uninterrupted inspiration. I also realized the importance of striving for balance between work, family, and play, and of recognizing that my mind inhabits a body that tires, needs rest, and wants exercise! My participation in writing and accountability groups led me to think in detail about my intellectual work-flows and processes. As I thought about teaching and mentoring, it struck me that nuts and bolts discussions of routine acts of thinking and writing are infrequent and undervalued. I hope to have more of those with students.

Finally, the Harris leave allowed me to take stock of the extent to which my teaching and scholarship have informed each other. My citizenship book is fundamentally different than it would have been without conversations with my students. I think my political sociology seminar this fall will draw on sharper insights and better case studies because of the work I have done in completing the book. My mentoring of students in MAPS, through the Mellon Mays program, or as research assistants has forced me to be more intentional and deliberate about routine practices of research. When I see the joy or shock of discovery on a student's face – as I did this summer when Kate Eno '11 helped me sift through the papers of a prominent eugenicist – my own sense of curiosity and amazement grows and I'm inspired to repeat the experience with someone else. On balance, my experiences and reflections this year have been extremely positive and I hope they infect the years ahead."

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## Recent Changes in Staffing in the Sociology Department

by Chris Hunter

As the Sociology Department SEPC members know all too well, our department has been engaged in a seemingly endless series of faculty searches. We are actually pleased to have the opportunity to do those searches, tiring though



Pictured above:  
bottom row: Craig  
Upright, Kesho Scott,  
Susan Ferguson, and  
Kent McClelland.  
Top row: Chris Hunter  
and Peter Hart-Brinson.

they can be, because student interest in sociology has been growing steadily for years now, which leads to vastly increased needs for course offerings, and because new faculty add to our diversity

of theoretical and methodological approaches and research/teaching topics.

The most significant faculty hires are obviously for tenure-track positions. We were able to add a new tenure-track position in 2007-08, which David Cook-Martin has been making his own very effectively. David, who brings expertise in the political sociology of migration and citizenship to us from his PhD program at UCLA, has been teaching research methods, in addition to courses on law, on migration, and on race, ethnicity, and nationalism. David has been enjoying (but has been working very hard during) a competitive Harris Research Leave during the 2010-2011 academic year. David is the third member of the department to have won a Harris leave; Susan Ferguson and Karla Erickson both enjoyed Harris leaves in their earlier years at Grinnell.

In 2010-11, Kent McClelland entered Senior Faculty Status; SFS is a kind of part-time status available for almost-ready-to-retire faculty. Kent has been happily engaged in research and doing some interdisciplinary teaching. Our efforts to replace Kent were surprisingly challenging, given the job market. Our initial search, in 2009-2010, failed, despite attracting wonderful candidates; we lost out in battles for candidates who were in very high demand. Undaunted, though tired, we tried again the next year and were delighted to be able to hire Michael Thompson, who is beginning his tenure-track position at Grinnell in 2011-2012. Michael, who is about to complete his PhD at Indiana University and has lots of applied research experience, will be bringing considerable methodological and statistical expertise to us. His

dissertation focuses on state-level conditions under which minimum wage legislation is enacted.

In addition to these tenure-track searches, we've filled many other hours with a number of special searches for short-term positions. For instance, we were able to hire Betsy Erbaugh as a two-year sabbatical replacement in 2007-2009. Betsy, who has a PhD from the University of Arizona, taught, among other things, a course related to her research on the LGBTQ community's organizing against intimate partner violence.

That same year, Max Leung came for one year to fill a combined Sociology-American-Studies leave position. Max, in fact, is returning to Sociology in 2011-2012 as a Consortium for Faculty Diversity Fellow. Max's PhD is in Cultural Studies from Claremont Graduate University; he specializes in critical race studies and the study of hate violence. He'll be able to teach two courses for us during the 2011-2012 academic year.

Twice recently, in recognition of the Sociology Department's need for additional faculty, we have been granted permission to fill the college's single Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow position, to which all departments can apply. In 2009, we hired Krista Bywater for two years; Krista, a UC-Santa Barbara PhD, taught a number of courses on global development, including a course on social movements opposed to the privatization of water in India, her research field. This year, we hired Kaelyn Wiles, for another Mellon Postdoc position. Kaelyn, with a newly earned PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, wrote her dissertation on mindfulness meditation.

In 2010 thru 2012, the department has been pleased to host other leave replacement hires. Craig Upright, who is finishing his PhD at Princeton, offered in 2009-2011 a number of courses on food and the food industry that students found tasty and filling. Craig brought an unusual background to Grinnell: he had worked in the retail food industry in Minnesota for about 10 years before he went to graduate school at Princeton. Among other things Craig offered a course on food during which he and students organized a Food Film Festival that was a big hit. Craig was replacing David Cook-Martin, while he was taking his Harris Research Leave in 2010-2011, and then was replacing Karla Erickson during her sabbatical in 2011-2012.

Peter Hart-Brinson, whose PhD is from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, first joined us in 2010-2011. We are pleased that he will remain with us for 2011-2012. Peter's main academic interests are in generational features of social change, and in cultural sociology.

In order to keep trim, we will be conducting another search, this time for a "new" two-year term position, during 2011-2012. After that, who knows?



# Variety and Creativity in Careers

by Chris Hunter

One of the wonderful realities about Grinnellians is that their careers are often unusual, and their career paths are often divergent. Here are brief descriptions of a few of the career paths taken by our sociology majors. I'd love to hear about other careers and career paths taken by other majors: just email (hunter@grinnell.edu)!

**Anthony Weeks '91**, after graduating from Grinnell, earned an MSW and began a career in clinical social work. After pursuing that career for a number of years, he shifted direction. In addition to working as an illustrator, Anthony participated in a 1997-98 Coro Fellow in Public Affairs, an intensive, experiential leadership training program, which helped prepare him for working in San Francisco as an "information designer." In that role, as reported in an agenda for a 2008 conference by IFTF (the Institute for the Future), Anthony worked with leadership teams and C-suite executives to illustrate their conversations around product, strategy, and organizational design. In real time, during group conversations, Anthony listens to the content and draws out, literally, the main themes, relationships between ideas, key questions, and storytelling metaphors that emerge.

Anthony took a sabbatical from this work in 2006-2007 to earn a graduate certificate in documentary media studies from the New School in NYC and then earned an MFA in documentary film and video from Stanford University. As part of his studies at Stanford, Anthony directed a documentary film, "Imaginary Circumstances," which he describes "Imaginary Circumstances" as "a short documentary video that explores the representation of disability in entertainment media, both past and present. Within the 'Imaginary Circumstances' of fictional Hollywood TV and film, the performance of disability on screen refers to social realities. Frequently, though, the lived experiences and unique perspectives of actors with disabilities are excluded in the representation of disability on screen. Through performance, interviews, observational footage, and commentary on archival clips, three actors with disabilities currently working in the Hollywood entertainment industry address the authentic representation of disability in the media as well as the ongoing struggle for access and inclusion."

"Imaginary Circumstances" has won numerous awards, including an Oscar Silver Medal in the 38th Student Academy Awards in the documentary film category! You can watch Anthony's short but intriguing documentary at: <http://www.bestfilmoncampus.com/filmmaker/default.aspx?filmmakerID=3764>.

Anthony notes these careers do share some common paths: "My careers as a social worker

and illustrator have been instrumental in shaping my ability to listen and look. Documentary filmmaking has been delightful because it compels me to do both in an intentional and meaningful way."

**Stephanie Jaros '99** left Grinnell planning to earn her PhD in Sociology followed by a career with the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit. Specifically, she was interested in the ways people concealed their crimes. Not three months after graduation, she left this goal behind after talking with a friend about AIDS, drug use, and unwanted pregnancies. In 2000, she earned an MA degree in the Social Sciences from the University of Chicago based on her research on men's experiences with abortion. Six years later, she followed that degree with an MA in Sociology, a Minor in Social Statistics and a Certificate in Women Studies from the University of Washington (UW). Along the way, she conducted research on behalf of several organizations, including a trial consulting firm in Chicago; the Battelle Center for Public Health, Research, and Evaluation; UW's Center for Workforce Development; and Stanford University's Bipolar Disorders Clinic. Also in 2006 she earned a policy fellowship with the National Academies and spent a summer working for the Committee on National Statistics.

This fellowship taught her about opportunities outside academia and her interest shifted to careers at research institutes, think tanks and government agencies. In 2009 she earned a Presidential Management Fellowship, and, although she was offered two positions in the health and human services field, she turned them down to work as a Behavioral Research Specialist, Office of Internal Affairs, US Customs & Border Protection. Here, she researches employee corruption, including the ways in which people conceal their crimes.

**Carly Parry '94** received a joint doctorate in Social Work and Sociology (Health, Illness and Aging) and an MSW from the University of Michigan. Carly began her career by moving from the Midwest to Denver to become an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Health Care Policy and Research at the University of Colorado in 2002. Her research focused on three areas in psycho-oncology: 1) quality of life outcomes in cancer survivors; 2) the role of lifespan development in psychosocial well-being after cancer; and 3) the design of multi-disciplinary interventions to support psychosocial adjustment after cancer. She also served as the Dissemination Lead for the Care Transitions Program, a nationally and internationally adopted intervention program to support quality transitional care in individuals with chronic and complex health conditions.

While in Colorado, Carly continued her interest in art and had a part-time private practice using

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## Variety and Creativity in Careers continued...

complementary and alternative medicine approaches. Her pre-doctoral work included intervention design/implementation and community organizing and fundraising in the nonprofit arena in domestic violence and women's health.

In February of 2011, Carly moved to Washington, DC to join the Office of Cancer Survivorship, in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, of the National Cancer Institute (try saying that fast five times!), as a Program Director. In this position, Carly has the opportunity to champion the science that she has helped to build during her career, promoting better quality health and psychosocial care for cancer survivors through the development and delivery of improved systems interventions and models.

**Emily Larson '01** was a Grinnell Corps Fellow in Namibia in her first post-Grinnell years. When she returned to the US, she took various jobs, including working as a "prospect researcher" for a telecommunications company. Motivated by those experiences, she enrolled in the Master of Public Policy program at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the U. of Minnesota. During her studies, she worked as a research assistant for Minnesota FoodShare, a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, and interned with the Office of Economic Opportunity within the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Shortly after earning her MPP degree in 2006, Emily took a position as an analyst with the Government Accountability Office, the GAO, in Washington DC. She is now a Senior Analyst on the Physical Infrastructure team where she leads a project on intelligent transportation systems. She has worked on reports and testimonies for Congress on a variety of issues, such as federal land stewardship, college student health insurance, the financial health of the US Postal Service, the use of Recovery Act funds in New York state, and excess federal buildings. The varied work of GAO has familiarized her with various parts of the government and led her all over the country, from visiting subway projects in New York City to land sales in Nevada and traffic management centers in Austin, Texas. Here's a link to one of the reports she has worked on, about college student health insurance: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08389.pdf>.

**Delphia Shanks '01:** "I stayed in Grinnell for a year to do GrinnellCorps, and then did TFA in Baton Rouge and was recruited out of the classroom in my 3rd year to help form a new division in a book distribution company that focused on Title 1 schools. I was there for almost a year when an amazing position opened up at a community action agency in NW Missouri.

The only reason (I might add) that I got an interview was because of the research I did with

Professors Hunter and McClelland on MICA, and although I was the youngest and least qualified applicant, the combination of that paper and my ability to talk about what I learned and the fact that I had worn a suit to the interview (apparently I was the only one? I thought everyone did!) landed me the job.

Over the next five years, we grew substantially from about \$700,000 to over \$2 million a year. At the same time, I was able to oversee the planning and implementation of the ARRA grant that our agency received through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). That was a difficult contract to administer because of the capacity required to plan, oversee, and implement the programs, but also because there was lots of turnover at the state level so our instructions changed a lot. The position was really stressful, and at some point a friend challenged me to list the things that "fed" me about my job and the things that "drained" me. I was shocked when I did the inventory; almost everything that "fed" me was outside my job description: all my state and national work, the public speaking and workshops, the strategic planning and fun stuff like creating new tech systems for handling increased client volume. It was all helping me stay in a job that I was actually pretty ill-fitted for (management and planning ahead to organize the task loads of multiple people in different locations are not my strong suit).

So began a nearly two year process of reflection and meditation, dreaming, prayer, reading books, and talking with Grinnell alumni about what they did and what the possibilities in the future would hold. I am still really proud of the fact that I actually followed through with going to grad school because it was a hard decision to apply, and much harder to see the application process through, and looking back on what I know after having been in grad school for a year, I am really lucky that I got in! My essays were clearly from a practitioner's point of view, and I lacked the complex sentence structure and word choice common to other essays and academic writing.

So here I am, at Cornell in the Policy Analysis PhD program, having finished a year (and it was a really hard year!) and getting ready to start another year. It's funny to be in grad school for me, because I feel like so many of my colleagues are here because it is a step on their professional path and I'm here because it is my path in a very profound and personal way (not that it is not for them also--but you rarely learn these things about other people in grad school unless you're very close). (Yes, I feel incredibly cheesy writing that statement, but I'm just going to write it and own it because it also feels very true!)

I am really hoping to go on to a position at a



foundation, think tank, or evaluation provider so that I can use my skills but also be involved in discussions about 'big ideas.' My primary research interest stems directly from all my professional experiences: organizational capacity affects policy outcomes and much of policy analysis focuses on individual outcomes of policies with little regard to how the policy was written to support (or not) the capacity of the implementing agency to achieve the desired impact/outcome. So I am very interested in how ideas about funding diffuse through and gain legitimacy in the funding world, and the impact that those ideas have on the structure and capacity of funded organizations."

**Alison Williams '03** graduated as a sociology major, but spent lots of time dancing at Grinnell. Right after graduating with her elementary certification, Alison moved to North Carolina to teach second grade at the Peeler Open School for the Performing Arts in Guilford County. She realized she had to follow her passion for dance after performing in three productions for The Community Theatre of Greensboro and so she went back to graduate school. Alison graduated in 2009 with her master's degree in dance choreography and performance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Alison still loves working with children, but now she does it in a different capacity. Alison currently choreographs and performs for eight theatre companies and schools in North Carolina. Alison

has studied trapeze and Skinner Releasing in Seattle, Washington and Istanbul, Turkey, aerial silks in Charlotte, North Carolina, and world dance (including Samba and Manipuri) in New York City. She is a 200-hour registered yoga teacher through the Yoga Alliance, has a group exercise certification from The American Council of Exercise, and has been a certified Zumba instructor and member of the Zumba Instructors' Network for five years. Alison has kept the liberal arts alive learning new things and pursuing her passion!

Currently Alison is an aerobics instructor with a YMCA, and is the office manager and a teacher at The Dance Center of Greensboro. Moreover, Alison recently accepted an adjunct faculty position teaching dance at Guilford College, a Quaker school in Greensboro, which, Alison says, "reminds me sooo much of Grinnell!"

**Natalie Lehman '02** translated her love of sports (especially baseball) into a job: she worked initially as a personal trainer at Bally Total Fitness, moving, after two and a half years, to become an operations manager at Sports Authority. More recently, she translated the managerial and administrative expertise she had developed in her first two jobs into a third, and has become a Senior Managed Care Administration Analyst at Target Corporation. Natalie, like many of our alumnae, has focused on personal service work, but unusually has done so in the for-profit sector.

## Faculty Updates continued...

**Chris Hunter:** "I am quite enjoying my sabbatical this fall, though the fact that it is my last sabbatical before I follow Kent's transition to Senior Faculty Status makes it bitter sweet. However, it's a nice change from the normal semester. During this 'free' 4 months, I hope to complete three projects.

Two of these projects focus on nonprofit organizations. First, I have long been mulling over an analysis of an organization in crisis, viewed from the perspective of a member of the board of directors, which should make an interesting case analysis for students of nonprofit organizations. Second, I have been studying for some time a community action agency that tried to create a for-profit subsidiary, ran into serious challenges along the way, and finally resolved them after considerable travail. That analysis suggests some important limitations to the common advice to nonprofit organizations, to 'become more business-like.' A third project involves reworking a handbook on internships that I wrote years ago for use on campus for sociology majors. I want to revise the handbook so that it will provide non-sociology

majors the background they need to engage more perceptively with their internship experiences. If anyone who has done an internship, or supervised one, has advice for interns, please email me! I'd like to include an appendix with sage advice from the 'old hands' among our alumnae.

The revised internship handbook will come in handy when I direct the Grinnell-in-Washington program in the Fall of 2012. I have directed both Grinnell-in-London and GIW twice, and I am looking forward to what will probably be my final chance to direct an off-campus program before I enter Senior Faculty Status in a few years. The time in DC will be all the more enjoyable because my daughter, who lives in DC, just gave birth to our first grandchild!

**I want to extend a special invitation to any sociology alumni/ae who live in or near Washington, DC:**

**If you are interested in meeting current Grinnell students in Washington, DC, during the fall of 2012 -- or in facilitating a student's internship then -- please let me know [Hunter@Grinnell.edu]!"**

Number of  
Current  
Sociology  
Majors

Seniors  
33

Juniors  
22

Sophomores  
5

## The Continuing Connection Between the Sociology Department and MICA

Our Department has a long-standing association with Mid-Iowa Community Action, the local anti-poverty agency. The connection began in the mid-1980s when Chris Hunter first joined the Board of Directors of MICA. Since 1985, Chris Hunter has served on the MICA Board as the college's representative, except for about 6 years when Kent McClelland had that role. Chris and Kent both acted as Chair of the MICA Board during those years. Chris has been Chair twice, for about 6 years total, out of his almost 20 years on the Board.

That connection has created lots of opportunities for faculty and students. For instance, Chris and Kent provided an extensive organizational assessment of MICA during a short period when neither served on the Board, offering advice that MICA actually enacted.

More significantly for our majors, from 1999 through 2002, Chris Hunter sponsored thirteen student summer MAPS with MICA as the focus (working jointly with Kent McClelland on some of them). Chris sponsored two more MAPs in the summer of 2009 that examined the effects of the ramp-up of ARRA funding (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) on MICA. Many of those majors have gone on to work for nonprofit organizations, including community action agencies, building on their familiarity with MICA and the varied work done by community action agencies.

In addition, occasionally over the years, Chris has sponsored internships at MICA. Recently Ragnar Thorisson '10 volunteered for a semester internship with MICA, becoming such a key source of research for grant-writing that MICA hired him the following semester as a part-time employee. Ragnar was recognized for such con-

tributions to MICA by being selected as the MICA Volunteer of the Year. Ragnar's service to MICA, Grinnell, and the community at large was also the basis for his selection as the 2011 President's Medalist! Annie Pigott '12 is our current MICA summer intern. Many sociology majors volunteer with MICA, doing things like supporting the annual effort to provide help with federal income tax forms, as a Earned Income Tax Credit Volunteer like Kate Eno '11 has done.

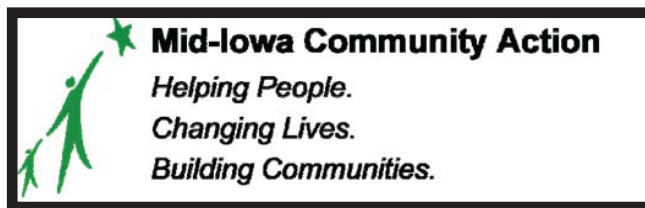
As the college has expanded its wonderful Grinnell Corps program, which provides funding for recent alumni/ae to do service work in various

locations around the world, MICA has become the sole local Grinnell Corps site. Two Sociology alumnae have served as Grinnell Corps volunteers

with MICA in recent years: Daisy Ventura (in 2009-2010) and Allison Brinkhorst (in 2011-2012).

Speaking of the Grinnell Corps, our majors have eagerly applied for, and often been selected as, Grinnell Corps volunteers. In addition to our local MICA Grinnell Corps members, recently we have seen Nichole Baker '10 go to China, and Latona Giwa '10 and Ellie Deal '11 go to New Orleans.

When you add all of our majors who volunteer for Alt Break trips, as participants and as leaders, and all of those who do other volunteer work in Grinnell with Community Meal and other programs like the downtown mural project, it is clear our majors take their social responsibilities very seriously and benefit from those efforts tremendously. We are grateful that the college has provided considerable funding for these efforts, even during the economic downturn!



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## Imagining Grinnell through "Apprentice" Eyes

by Kate Eno '11

In the spring of 2010, Monica Chavez of the Office of Community Enhancement and Engagement unveiled the new Student Apprenticeships in Nonprofit Management program. Each apprentice was chosen via an application and interview process to work under the executive director of one of six community organizations. The program seeks to offer students a professional experience in a nonprofit setting while simultaneously increasing collaboration between local groups and provid-

ing consistent and reliable labor for local do-good organizations. To accomplish these goals, the apprenticeships require ten hours of work per week from mid-August until the end of the following July and include some work during school vacations. The six apprentices also receive a weekly stipend to meet over lunch to discuss opportunities for collaboration between their respective organizations and between the town and Grinnell College.





My Apprenticeship is with Imagine Grinnell, a quality of life foundation that has been involved in dozens of projects in the town of Grinnell, including the farmer's market, Bike to Work Week, the new community garden, and expansion of the Grinnell Area Recreation Trail. My work has been diverse and evolving. I work directly with the Executive Director in planning and marketing for Imagine Grinnell's many events. I have coordinated volunteers and arranged catering, kept up the blog and website, designed flyers, writ-

ten press releases, and attended many meetings, among other tasks and projects. I have particularly enjoyed working off-campus and getting involved in various events in the town of Grinnell. Overall, my job has been rewarding – I've learned valuable workplace skills, worked closely with an active board of directors, executive director and many prominent community members, and, I hope, positively impacted my organization and the town that has so graciously hosted me these past four years.

## Using Sociology to Create Positive Change

by Chris Neubert '08

In 2008, just a few weeks shy of graduation, I concluded in my final paper for Professor Hunter's NGO seminar that "the success of civil society, social capital, and community relies not on great political figures, large national NGOs, or scholars, but on the power of individuals to communicate, work together, and organize for social change on a grassroots level." For me, that was a powerful summary of the knowledge I had accumulated over my four years as a sociology major at Grinnell, and an idea that had become a driving force in my post-Grinnell plans. Ultimately, it was this conclusion that led me to take a job as a community organizer at Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement (CCI), a grassroots activist organization based in Des Moines.

For 36 years, the 3,500 members of CCI have been confronting power in Iowa and changing policy to put people before profits, politics, and polluters. And confronting power means exactly that. When Mitt Romney came through the Iowa State Fair in August, it was a CCI member who forced his comment that "corporations are people, my friend." There were many people that portrayed the moment as a rude outburst from a bunch of rambunctious hecklers, but for the family farmers, immigrant workers, disenfranchised voters and struggling homeowners who make up the membership of Iowa CCI, it was an empowering moment. When powerful figures can no longer ignore the struggles of people who must endure the negative impacts of their policies, that's what we call success.

Iowa CCI was formed on the belief that the people who are directly affected by the problems of their community are in the best position to identify and carry out the solution. We believe in a hands-on approach to running our organization, where every member has a voice. Through a process of voting and democratic decision-making, our members choose what issues the organization works on and then take the leadership roles in addressing those issues. And although there are certainly a lot of people who think direct action and protesting will never realize effective change,

in the last few years alone we passed a predatory lending ordinance in three Iowa cities, preserved millions in housing stock by saving homes from foreclosure, have pushed banks to commit to increasing lending in the poorest neighborhoods of Des Moines, recovered over \$100,000 in stolen wages from immigrant workers, and stopped the construction of six dozen factory farms. It's certainly grueling work, and work many would call unconventional, but ultimately community organizing can be reduced to one simple idea: do whatever it takes to make the world a better place for everyone.

And ultimately, that's what I believe sociology is about. Our burden and our blessing as sociologists are to use our knowledge to find a way to make the world better for all people in the best way we can. Sometimes that means we are teachers, lawyers, activists, parents, doctors, farmers, priests, politicians, or even bankers. We have taken the time to defy years of predetermined knowledge to examine society, examine ourselves, and recognize that we could still do more to move the world to a place where more of us who live on it have a sense of dignity and autonomy. That's what Iowa CCI allows me to do, and that's what I hope all students of sociology get a chance to experience.



## Sociology Alumni Visiting Campus as Scholars and Practitioners

For a number of years, the Sociology Department has hosted numerous alumnae/i as Wilson Alumni/ae Practitioners and as Alumni/ae Scholars. These alums have helped current students hear first-hand about career choices and pathways they might not have envisioned clearly before.

The college's Alumni/ae Scholar Program is designed to bring alumni early in their academic careers back to campus, to enrich the college's cultural offerings and to show current students models of academic careers. In 1999, in our first two Alumni Scholar visits, we hosted Sandra Stein '88 and Kathryn Lunetta '89. Dr. Stein was at the time an Assistant Professor (later promoted to Associate Professor) at Baruch College, City University of New York; she is now the Chief Executive Officer at the NY Leadership Academy, an innovative program to develop principals and educational leaders who are prepared to function successfully in New York City schools. Dr. Lunetta was an Assistant Professor at Harvard's School of Public Health, in biostatistics; she is now a Professor of Biostatistics at Boston University.

More recently, we have hosted three Alumni Scholars: Katy Gold Hadley '92, Jennifer Ashby '95, and Sarah Staveteig '98.

Katy Hadley, an Independent Chinese Studies major and informal sociology major, had taught in Taiwan for a number of years, and had earned a PhD from Indiana University in sociology; she is now teaching sociology at California State University, Sacramento.

Jennifer Ashby had earned an MSW at Smith University and is working at Duke University Medical Center.

Sarah Staveteig, who had been working at the Urban Institute, was beginning her graduate studies at Berkeley in a joint program in demography and sociology; she is finishing that program now.

In order to supplement the academic focus of the Alumni Scholar program, Chris Hunter, a member of the Wilson Program committee, helped develop the Wilson Practitioners program, which invites recent alumni who have pursued non-academic careers back to campus. Chris has been

inviting Practitioners to visit his seminar on non-profit organizations on a regular basis, beginning in 1999 with Cristy Costello '85, a union organizer.

Our sociology major Practitioners have represented many forms of social activism. In order of their visits to campus:

Jill Paulsen '98 was then a grants officer at the Cleveland Foundation, and is now Director of Grant Programs at Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

Alice Gates '97 is a graduate student in sociology and social work at the University of Michigan and has been a community organizer.

Melissa Fry Konty '95 was then a PhD graduate student in sociology at the University of Arizona. For a number of years, Melissa applied her PhD expertise as a Research and Policy Associate at MACED, the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development. Very recently, she started a tenure-track position as Director of the Applied Research and Education Center at Indiana University Southeast.

Diedre Murch '03 was a labor organizer for ACORN with the Michigan Nurses Association and is now an organizer with SEIU.

Jessica Halverson '02 was then, and is now, Manager of Development at the nonprofit coalition, CERES.

Delphia Shanks '01 was then Director of Community Development, Community Action Partnership of Greater St. Joseph and now a graduate student in Policy Analysis and Management at Cornell University.

Chris Neubert '08 is a community organizer with Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, in Des Moines.

All of these sociology alumnae and alumni have enriched our classes and brought a touch of "real world" practicality to our current students. We will continue inviting alums to campus as long as funding is available!

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## Awards Received by Sociology Majors

Our sociology majors (mostly!) are hard-working, activist, high achieving students. Over the years, in this newsletter, we have highlighted students who have done particularly exemplary work.

This year, I thought I'd describe the wide range of awards our majors have earned, using this year's class as my exemplar.

Phi Beta Kappa, the national honor society, has awarded its prestigious memberships to a steady stream of sociology majors, including: Alyssa Penner '10, Virginia Anderson '10, Allison Brinkhorst '11, Hilary Clark '11, Liting Cong '11, and Susan Kikuchi '11.

At Commencement, various awards are announced. This year, the Jeanne Burkle Award in Women's Studies was given to Allison Brinkhorst '11, and the Barry M. Goldwater Award went to Stephanie Cheung '11. The Joe Wall Scholarship for 2011 went to Stephanie Cheung '11; Liting Cong '11 received it the previous year.

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowships, established "to address the shortage of minority scholars on college and university campuses," by the Mellon Foundation, were awarded in 2011 to Katie In '13, and in 2010 to Lizeth Gutierrez '12 and Melissa Vasquez '12.

The most prestigious award distributed at Commencement is the President's Medal, awarded "For academic achievement, effective leadership, personal commitment to public service, and substantive contributions to the college community." In 2011, Ragnar Thorisson '11 received this wonderful recognition, following President's Medal awards to other sociology majors in the past: Alice Gates '97, Brandi Christie '99, and Ilana Golin '00.

The Sociology Department recognizes two

majors each year with academic awards that are funded by donations to the department (note the subtle hint?). In 2011, the Senior Award (which involves loan forgiveness for graduating seniors) was split among Allison Brinkhorst, Liting Cong, and Ragnar Thorisson. The Junior Book Award (a credit in the book store) was awarded to Sophie Fajardo '12.

The Iowa Sociological Association recognizes undergraduate papers with a number of awards. While we don't always send our students to the ISA meetings, when we do they tend to win awards. The Weiting Paper Award from the ISA in 2010 went to Nichole Baker '10. The Manford Kuhn award for an outstanding paper by a junior-senior at the 2011 ISA meeting went to Miriam Barcus '12.

Sometimes we learn about awards that alumnae receive after graduating, so we know that Deisy Del Real '07 has been awarded a prestigious Soros Fellowship for New Americans and will use it to attend UCLA for a PhD in sociology. The goal of the Soros Fellowship for New Americans is "to provide opportunities for continuing generations of able and accomplished New Americans to achieve leadership in their chosen fields. The Program is established in recognition of the contributions New Americans have made to American life and in gratitude for the opportunities the United States has afforded the donors and their family."

We'd be delighted to publicize other awards and recognitions received by sociology alumni/ae. Please feel free to email Chris Hunter (hunter@grinnell.edu) with updates!



This past year, Susan Ferguson moved the Family Series she is editing from Pearson Publishing to Sage Publications. The new series, "Contemporary Family Perspectives," provides current research on family issues, such as poverty, families and health, family caregiving in later life, and family policy. The first two volumes in the series are: *Families: A Social Class Perspective* by Shirley A. Hill, and *Making Families Through Adoption* by Nancy E. Riley and Krista E. Van Vleet.

Forthcoming titles are: *Global Families* by Meg W. Karraker, *Family Policy and the American Safety Net* by Janet Z. Giele, *Families and Health* by Janet Grochowski, and *Gay and Lesbian Families* by Nancy Mezey.

## Faculty Spotlight...



**PETER HART-BRINSON** is a visiting assistant professor of sociology at Grinnell, 2010-2012. Peter wrote this editorial for the Des Moines Register, where it was published on Nov. 3, 2010. This editorial is a good example of

"public sociology," in which we bring sociological research and perspectives into current public debates and, by translating those findings for broader consumption, help better inform those debates.

"Iowans who voted to remove three state Supreme Court justices cast their votes because of their opposition to gay marriage. But the outcome is likely to have few effects on gay marriage and far greater effects on the checks and balances vital to our democracy. Many years from now, the majority of Iowans

who oppose gay marriage will be in the minority, and they may wish they were protected from 'the will of the people.'

Our Founding Fathers worried about the ability of the majority in a democracy to violate the rights of a small, unpopular minority. So they built a system of checks and balances into our government. The judicial branch, in particular, was established to defend against what James Madison called 'the tyranny of the majority.' Reasonable people disagree about whether marriage is a 'right,' but this vote will likely do more harm than good.

Unpopular court decisions have been pivotal moments in the advancement of democracy. *Brown v. Board of Education*, the 1954 US Supreme Court ruling that outlawed segregation in public schools, was against the 'will of the people'

in southern states. Imagine the consequences if justices had been intimidated by the majority into failing to protect African-Americans from discrimination.

Ironically, the majority may be harming itself with this vote in regard to other issues, and it will have little effect on gay marriage. Gay marriage is slowly, but inexorably gaining support. Opinion polls about gay marriage have long shown that young people are more likely to support gay marriage. And every year, the overall level of support for gay marriage increases. The rate of change is slow - perhaps 1 percent to 2 percent per year - but it shows no signs of stopping.

This is an example of what social scientists call cohort replacement: When older Americans die, they are replaced in the population by those who are born. If younger people have different attitudes than their older counterparts, change occurs. In this case, younger Americans are more likely to support gay marriage than older Americans, so the overall level of support increases.

My research on how Midwesterners talk about gay marriage shows why this change is happening and why it shows no signs of stopping. In essence, young people are more likely to think of homosexuality as an inherent part of a person's identity, like ethnicity, while older people are more likely to think of it as a deviant behavior, like gambling.

It is not just that young people think you are born gay and older people think you choose to be gay; it is that young Americans take homosexuality for granted. They have always grown up with gays and lesbians in the media, in their high schools, and in their culture. For them, homosexuality is normal. So young people have trouble understanding why gays and lesbians shouldn't be allowed to marry the person they love.

Moreover, there is no evidence that people's attitudes toward gays and lesbians get more conservative as they get older. So unless there is a major change in youth culture, cohort replacement will soon make opposition to gay marriage a relic of the past.

One day, our society may look back on this controversy like we look back at *Brown v. Board*. What were we thinking? And because the majority today will be the minority tomorrow, they may soon wish they had not been so quick to weaken their own rights."

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### Editor's Note:

**Congratulations to Peter and his wife Rachel on the birth of his new baby girl, Emma Ruth, who was born on Sunday, October 16 at 1:12 p.m., weighing 7 pounds, 14 oz.**



# Grinnell Corps: New Orleans, 2010-2011

Latona Giwa '10 has been working as the Grinnell Corps Fellow in New Orleans, one of our many sociology alumnae who have been selected as Grinnell Corps Fellows. Here is part of one of her reports on her experiences.

"Ten months of community organizing work in New Orleans has not elevated me from 'beginner' organizer status yet, but those months of experience have taught me some important lessons. I learn from my supervisors and coworkers, I learn from making a lot of mistakes, I learn from the occasional successes, and, most importantly, I learn from the residents with whom I strive to improve their community. Engaging residents for development in a marginalized community is the goal of my work. Yet ten months in, I am still stumbling on how exactly to do that. The number of involved residents in the Faubourg Lafayette neighborhood of Central City has sky-rocketed in the last year, so the community engagement process seems to be going well. But what exactly does 'community engagement' mean? Non-profits and organizers throw the term around a lot; but my experiences on the streets and front porches of this neighborhood tell me that the phrase is far from self-explanatory.

This Quarterly Report is a tale in stories. Since I admit that I still struggle to explain what positive and sustainable community engagement is or how to do it every time, I will let these three examples speak for themselves. As my supervisor often says, 'the proof is in the pudding'; let those actions that are successful and those actions that are not reveal themselves in their results.

The first community engagement story takes place around the planting of a neighborhood garden. Early this year, we received word that a well-known corporation decided to donate a community park to the neighborhood and a community meeting would be held in just a few days to introduce the idea to the neighbors. Excitedly, I called the residents who would soon be neighbors to the park to see what they thought of the good news. I assumed that since a 'community meeting' was to be held in just a few days, the folks who live next door to the park would already be informed about it. Not only was that not the case, but it became clear once residents did show up to the 'community meeting' that no one had ever expected them to come. I squirmed uncomfortably in my seat as I watched the suit-clad business folks unveil their plans and pat themselves on the back without inviting the large group of residents in the audience to voice their ideas of what sort of park they needed or what concerns they might have. Some dialogue finally did occur, but frustration filled the room as residents spoke from a place of anger out of not being included and the donors responded with confusion at what they perceived as ingratitude.

After realizing that most of the plans were already set in stone, many residents became disenchanted with the entirety of the process. One resident, Ms. Joanne showed me the list of vegetables that she had written on notebook paper at home in hopes that with this new garden, she would finally have a place to

grow; after realizing the park would not serve her purpose, she crumpled up the paper and threw it away on her way out. She has not been involved in the process since. Some other residents decided that, even though they were not invited, they would still work to make this park a true asset to the neighborhood. As one resident said, 'after all the planners go home, we're still gonna live right next door to the park.' They worked persistently to form an advisory council for the park and were instrumental in making key recommendations for its design and management. Their input brought much needed guidance to the plan, such as pointing out safety concerns of which the planners had not been aware. The garden was planted in March and this small group of neighbors continues to keep an eye on it and call it their own."

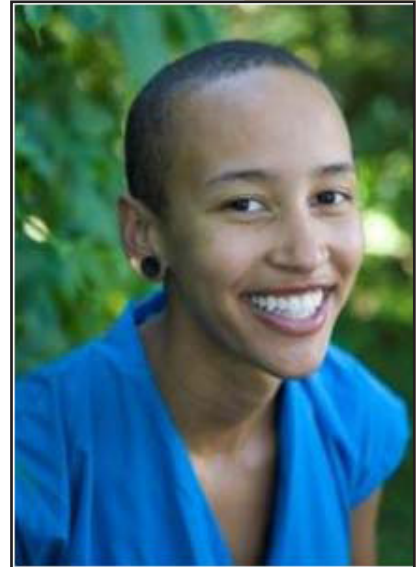
... [Latona offers a second example here.]

"To be clear, I am not saying positive community improvements can only come from within that community, as the juxtaposition of these two examples might seem to suggest. Systemic oppressions make it so that certain communities have more economic resources than others-- Fact. There are many community changes that simply cannot happen without outside assistance-- Fact. But positive and sustainable community change is infinitely more likely when the community is not only 'engaged,' but also a true collaborator in the process. So, I find myself asking, How can assistance from outside be a true collaboration and not an intervention? Or as the now cliché-ified Lila Watson quote begs, How can we replace the 'helping' of marginalized communities by privileged outsiders with the 'working together' of diverse communities for our mutual liberation?"

...[Latona offers a third, very interesting but long example here.]

"Community engagement is not as straightforward as it may sound. Hanging up a flyer to notify a community and 'inviting' them to voice their opinions is often not enough. Disenfranchisement and marginalization are deep-rooted realities. In those communities with the greatest need for positive development, residents are often used to and have come to expect disingenuous invitations for participation. I am learning to be highly critical and thoughtful in my work--- striving toward true collaboration. Though collaboration is always a more difficult route to an end, the benefit is often much greater than we ever imagined the 'goal' to be in the first place. People's hearts and minds change and are strengthened along the path to that goal, and that is exactly what this 'organizing' business is all about."

[If you are interested in reading more about Latona Giwa's Grinnell Corps experience in New Orleans, or any of the other reports from Grinnell Corps fellows, you might look at this site: <http://www.grinnell.edu/offices/socialcommitment/grinnellcorps> .]



# Alumni Updates

by Chris Hunter

**Abby Hagel '06** is a graduate student in sociology at the University of Minnesota.

**Alyssa Penner '10** has been serving with the Mennonite Voluntary Service working full time as the College and Career Planning Coordinator at Treehouse, a Seattle non-profit that aims to fill in the gaps in government services and programming offered to foster youth and their families and will begin graduate study for her MSW at the University of Washington in 2011.

**Alice Gates '97** "I accepted a position as Assistant Prof. of Social Work at University of Portland. I'm really excited -- it's a small, Catholic, private University -- undergrads. And the social work program is small (two full time faculty), but situated in the social and behavioral sciences, which includes sociology and psychology. They're very interested in community-engaged scholarship -- teaching and research -- so it's a great fit."

**Allie Kossoy '09** is starting a DO program at Rocky Vista University in Colorado, and is working hard.

**Allison Amphlett '08** has been serving as an AmeriCorps\*VISTA in Washington, DC with Playworks (a great organization working to incorporate play, recess, and healthy physical activity into elementary school education, which is great because it involves playing lots of four-square). She first joined Playworks as a Lutheran Volunteer Corps member. She is moving to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to attend Marquette University to receive a Master's in Public Service with the Trinity Fellows Program.

**Allison Brinkhorst '11** is working during 2011-2012 as the Grinnell Corps Fellow in Grinnell at MICA, Mid-Iowa Community Action, the local community action agency.

**Ami Freeberg '10** "I am currently working full-time as the Program Assistant at the Kansas City Center for Urban Agriculture (KCCUA), where I completed a summer internship in 2008. KCCUA is a non-profit organization focused on growing food, growing farmers, and growing community. We have our own two-acre organic vegetable farm that serves as a demonstration on how to run a farm business in the city. We also run the Juniper Gardens Farm Business Development and Training Farm in partnership with Catholic Charities, which is a training farm for refugee women and residents of the neighborhood."

**Amy Rothbaum, '08** "I recently started an AmeriCorps\*VISTA position with Oklahoma Campus Compact. Based at the University of Central Oklahoma, I am developing a financial literacy program for both college students and a low-income housing community. After three years away from the Plains states, it has been necessary to reacclimatize myself to country music and tornado warnings!"

**Andrew Greenlee '04** is finishing up a PhD in urban planning and policy, got married, and just accepted a tenure track position at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

**Anne Tillema '99** [From Anne's bio at Mobilize.com]: Anne is the Director of Development at Mobilize.org, in Washington, DC. Prior to joining Mobilize.org, Anne spent six years as a direct marketing fundraiser for consulting firms that provided fundraising and communication services to leading political and non-profit organizations. She created and managed the direct marketing fundraising programs for more than 20 different organizations, including Amnesty International, the Democratic National Committee, Earthjustice, the League of Conservation Voters and NARAL Pro-Choice America.

Prior to working in direct marketing fundraising, Anne was the Executive Director of Democrats Abroad, the official Democratic State Party for more than six million Americans living outside the United States.

Anne's first job out of college, from 1999 to 2002, was the Executive Director of the International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) in Brussels, Belgium. IFLRY is a coalition of over 75 political youth organizations in 55 countries, encompassing 3 million individuals, established in 1979 to help promote freedom, democracy and human rights.

**Anthony Weeks '91** Since graduating from Grinnell, Anthony has earned an MSW, worked as a social worker, earned a MFA in documentary film from Stanford in 2010, and switched careers. Anthony was awarded a Silver Medal (a Student Oscar!) in the Documentary Film category for his documentary "Imaginary Circumstances" at the 38th Annual Student Academy Awards.

**Bridget Lavelle '04** "I'm in year two of my program [at the University of Michigan] in public policy and sociology, and still developing a focus a bit, but the central topic that ties various projects together is the economic insecurity of families. The project I proposed for NSF [which was funded] examines whether women face an increased likelihood of health insurance loss after divorce, and what factors may moderate this risk. This problem is clearly acknowledged on divorce-help websites, but is a black hole in the social science literature. Mostly all we know at this point is cross-sectional evidence that divorced and other unmarried women are less likely to hold health insurance relative to married women, but of course this doesn't take selection into account. So I am analyzing longitudinal data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation, using fixed-effects models, to look at this question. Another project I'm working on right now is a bit more theoretical. I am working with a professor here to prepare for an ASA invited talk on the topic of 'credit rights,' examining on what bases that individuals engaged in the loan process (via credit cards, mortgages, payday lenders, micro credit, etc.) could be thought to have credit rights. It has been really interesting pulling up old congressional testimony on credit legislation, examining in what ways 'rights rhetoric' is utilized."



**Brock Webb '09** "I am at Bowling Green State University, pursuing a Masters degree in American Culture Studies. My primary focus is going to be within the realm of cultural sociology; specifically, my proposed thesis research investigates how the Internet, new Media, and new technologies (and the new cultural forms and evolutions of American cultural production) are changing the American social landscape. Additionally, I am a Teaching Assistant for the Ethnicity and Social Movements course in the Ethnic Studies department at BGSU and will be leading two sections of discussion groups every Friday."

**Caitlin Brauer '07** "In August 2008 I married Max Brauer '07 with numerous alumni in attendance spanning 1966-2010 Grinnell graduation years. In May 2009 I was named a Distinguished Teaching Assistant by the University of Maryland Center for Teaching Excellence and the Kinesiology Department's F. Daniel Wagner Memorial Outstanding Physical Activity Teaching Assistant for the best physical activity teaching assistant in the department. In December 2011 I finally graduated from the University of Maryland with my Master's of Arts degree in Kinesiology. My concentration was Physical Cultural Studies, which looks to apply cultural studies theories and methods to the study of embodied physicality. I have been coaching high school girls basketball for three years now at one of the Catholic high schools in Washington, DC. This past season we won our league, we won the DC City Title game, and we won the Catholic school post season invitational we were invited to."

**Carly Parry '94** has moved to Washington, DC to take the post of program director in the office of cancer survivorship, National Cancer Institute, NIH. Carla had been associated with the University of Colorado School of Medicine's Division of Health Care Policy and Research after being awarded a PhD in social work and medical sociology and an MSW from the University of Michigan.

**Carolyn A. Fraker '07** "For the past three years I've been working at MDRC (a social policy research non-profit) primarily conducting qualitative research on the Opportunity NYC: Family Rewards demonstration. I co-authored the MDRC family dynamics report that will be published (!) this spring. In the fall I'll be starting my graduate studies in sociology at the University of Minnesota. I'm looking forward to being a student again and returning to the Midwest!"

**Deisy Del Real '07** When Deisy arrived as a Posse scholar at Grinnell, she had been undocumented for 16 years. She learned that she would "age out" of the family's green card application when she turned 21, be deported, and banned from returning to the United States for 10 years. She appealed her case to the media, prompting a New Mexico priest to start a "Saving Miss Deisy" campaign and a lawyer to present her case – successfully – to immigration authorities. Finally able to travel abroad, she promoted educational opportunities for students in Cambodia. In the

US, she created two organizations to support both documented and undocumented immigrants. More recently, Deisy has been working at the Asian Pacific American legal center and writing a book about her experiences as an undocumented teen. In the fall of 2011, Deisy will start studying for a PhD in sociology at UCLA, supported by her Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans.

**Delphia Shanks '01** has returned to grad school after a very successful early career as a manager in community action agency in Missouri. She is pursuing a PhD program in Policy Analysis and Management at Cornell University.

**Doug Spitz '78** "I am an academician running a PhD program doing NIH supported research, teaching, and hopefully training the next generation of leaders in our field. I always feel very fortunate to have a degree in sociology to help me understand how to motivate people and institutions to serve the greater good." Doug is currently Professor and Director, Free Radical and Radiation Biology Graduate Program in the Department of Radiation Oncology at Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, the University of Iowa.

**Ellen Gallagher '03** "Professionally, the big good thing that's coming up is a documentary called 'Welcome to Shelbyville' that will be aired on PBS on May 24th at 10 p.m. This documentary features the work of the small (but mighty) national organization I work for called Welcoming America ([www.welcomingamerica.org](http://www.welcomingamerica.org)). We work in communities in 14 states to bring people together in thoughtful, structured conversations, helping US-born and immigrant community members meet and learn about each other's values and cultures. In my position as the Director of Programs, I feel really lucky to be helping to frame how the immigrant integration movement talks about receiving communities.

In my personal life, I got married almost three years ago to Allyson Goose ('00, Anthropology) and we bought a condo in Cambridge, Massachusetts in December. We love visitors and have a great guest room! The joy and busyness in my life has been tempered by the loss of my father to pancreatic cancer nearly a year ago. The support I received from the Grinnell community during his illness and since then has been incredibly helpful in the healing process."

**Emily Francis '11** "I will be attending the Higher Education and Student Affairs graduate program at the University of Iowa, where I will also be working as the Health Sciences Living-Learning Coordinator."

**Emily Larson '01** has a Masters in Public Policy from the U. of Minnesota and is a Senior Analyst with the General Accountability Office, in Washington, DC

**Emily Reiersgaard '08** "I am a Master's International student (Master's + Peace Corps service) at Michigan State University, currently serving as

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### Alumni Updates, continued...

a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali, West Africa. My degree focuses on Community, Food, and Agriculture, and my Peace Corps service will hopefully take a strong turn in my final year toward working with women's associations to create a successful cooperative of shea butter producers, as well as towards working with youth on nutrition and gardening. I will close my PC service next July, and graduate in May 2013, insh'Allah!"

**Hilary Clark '11** "I'll be joining the US Army as an Intelligence Analyst in the winter. What a sociological experience it will be! I'm sure there will be all sorts of things for me to think about and informally investigate. :)"

**Jamie Golden '06** "I am an English and Spanish teacher at a small public high school in East Oakland."

**Jamie Zwiebel '08** is earning an MSc. in Public Health at Harvard's School of Public Health, in the "Society, Human Development, and Health" program, studying the social determinants of health.

**Jancey Wickstrom '03** "I live in Chicago and life is pretty good! After graduating with my Master's in Social Work from the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration, and receiving my LCSW, I now work at Timberline Knolls, a residential facility for women with eating disorders, self harm, and addiction issues. In my job as Milieu Manager, I supervise all the direct care staff as well as make sure the units are running smoothly and therapeutically for our residents. I also supervise our dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) program- a type of therapy that uses mindfulness to help individuals more effectively use their emotions. I have a small private practice on the side. And, recently, I co-authored a chapter in a book about eating disorders."

**Jessica Halverson '02** completed an MBA at Boston University, with a dual concentration on Public & Nonprofit Management and Strategy & Business Analysis. She was a staff member with, "Our Bodies, Our Selves," also known as the Boston Women's Health Book Collective (BWHBC), a nonprofit, public interest women's health education, advocacy, and consulting organization. Jess now serves on the OBOS board of directors. She has worked since 2007 as the Manager of Development Programs at Ceres, a nonprofit coalition of investors and public interest groups that works with companies on sustainability issues, where she is responsible for the cultivation and stewardship of individual donors, and manages the design and roll-out of special development projects.

**Jill Peterson '03** "I'm currently finishing up my dissertation for my PhD in Psychology and Social Behavior at the University of California, Irvine. I've been conducting life history interviews with 150 offenders with serious mental illness in Minneapo-

lis, exploring the relationship between symptoms of mental illness and criminal behavior. I've also been teaching Psychology classes, at St. Catherine University, Normandale College, and Macalaster College." [Though Jill may be tired of people mentioning this, if you haven't see her wedding dance on YouTube—"JK wedding entrance dance"—you should. It features the dance moves of many Grinnellians and has been downloaded over 68 million times.]

**John Burrows '10** "After being unemployed for a few months following graduation, I got a job working for the Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington, DC. Somehow I landed in their economic policy group, where we examine a wide range of federal spending programs and budget, reform and economic mobility issues in order to advocate for better policies and practices. I think the work sounds more exciting than it actually is, but it's enjoyable and a great learning experience until I figure out what to do next with my life. Living in DC is nice because I'm surrounded by other Grinnellians; even a few Soc majors. My 'real-person' job has also allowed me to travel to see friends around the country, including a New Years trip to Chicago and spending Mardi Gras in New Orleans."

**Joanna Winter '05.5**, who earned a Masters of Regional Planning in 2009, is working as the Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator with the City of Napa Housing Authority.

**Kari Edwards '90** obtained an MSW, with a concentration in Children's and Family Services, in 1996. Kari, licensed by the State of Wisconsin as an Advanced Placement Social Worker, works at Pauquette Adoption Services in Portage, Wisconsin. Kari's hobbies include gardening, antiques, and playing with her three children.

**Kat Jones '03** "I spent last year in Berlin while my husband, Evan Torner ('04), was working on his dissertation research. I managed to get some writing done while I was there but also spent plenty of time exploring the city. This year I've been finishing research for my dissertation [in sociology from U Mass-Amherst], which examines three groups that promote premarital sexual abstinence among young people. I'm also completing my Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies (from the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department at UMass) this May. My final project for the certificate is entitled *Struggling with Abstinence: Negotiating Gender, Race and Sexuality in an Evangelical Youth Ministry*."

**Kate Morley '08**, who has been working in Panama for Amigos de las Americas, has been accepted to the London School of Economics' MSc program in Health, Community and Development.

**Katie Brindley Severn '00**, the Chief Academic Officer at DC Prep, works with the principals at all DC Prep campuses to ensure alignment between schools and the highest academic quality across the organiza-





tion. Ms. Severn served as Principal of DC Prep's award-winning Edgewood Middle Campus from 2008-2011. Previously, she worked at SEED Public Charter School, where she served as Principal, Assistant Principal, and Special Education Coordinator. She began her career as an English teacher in Namibia with the Center for Global Education. Upon her return to the states, Ms. Severn joined Teach for America in Houston where she was recognized as both the New Teacher of the Year and the Special Education Teacher of the Year. She is a graduate of New Leaders for New Schools and holds master's degrees in special education and education leadership.

**Keli Campbell '05** After serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Zambia working as a rural education development worker, Keli began an MAT Art Education program at the School of the Art Institute and Columbia College Chicago, which she will finish in 2012. Meanwhile she has been working at Northwestern University.

**Latrisha Chattin '03** "I am concurrently an elementary school teacher in a Philadelphia suburb and an adjunct Education professor at Arcadia University (Glenside, Pennsylvania). In addition, I am pursuing my principal certification while undertaking an ethnographic dissertation study of the implications social class status has on learning disabled African American students' lived experiences in a near-urban school district. The dual intent of this study is to use personal narrative explorations in order to discern whether social class status is a greater contributor to disproportional representation in special education than race alone as well as to observe if social class status influences how the students experience their education."

**Leslie Turner '07** "Fun Facts about me:

- 1) I'm currently in Chicago, Illinois, working as a Trainer at the Posse Foundation.
- 2) I'm also working to complete an MA in Organizational/ Multicultural Communication from DePaul University. Hopefully, I'm set to graduate in December.
- 3) I helped found the Graduate Communication Association at DePaul, a student-centered, student-led organization to build community amongst the five graduate programs in the College of Communication at DePaul."

**Lily Camp '10** "I am currently serving as a Lutheran Volunteer Corps member in Washington, DC. I am the legal assistant for Our Place DC, a non-profit organization that provides social and legal services to DC women who are presently or formerly incarcerated. I help women file for divorce, assist in child custody matters, apply for public benefits, etc. In addition to my work with Our Place DC, I also volunteer with HIPS (Helping Individual Prostitutes Survive), a non-profit that provides harm reduction strategies, safer sex supplies, and needle exchange for individuals in the DC area who are involved in sex work, injection drug use, or hormone injection. It's a

lot of fun!"

**Liting Cong '11** served as the SGA Vice-President for Academic Affairs her senior year, and plans to attend law school starting in 2011. Liting was chosen as a Wall Scholar in 2010 at Grinnell.

**Madeline (Mollie Ruth) Shirman '05** "I received my Masters of Social Work from Eastern Washington University in June 2010 and started working in July 2010 at Seattle Children's Hospital in the Spokane office of the Partnership Access Line program (a mental health consultation service for primary care providers). I got married in July of 2010 and live in Spokane, Washington with my husband, Hillel, and our three cats (Taco, Chalupa, and Buggy)."

**Madison Van Oort '08** Tongue-in-cheek, from Madison: "Abby Hagel and Madison Van Oort have spent the last few years watching cat videos on youtube. In their spare time, they think big things and run too many regressions for the University of Minnesota's PhD program in Sociology."

More seriously, after graduating, Madison worked for a year with Prof. Karla Erikson as a Post-Baccalaureate Research Assistant in a position funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. She has been a graduate student at the University of Minnesota ever since.

**Margie Scribner '10** "Since graduating in May 2010, I have taught Financial Literacy, a math enrichment course, to 400 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students at East Feliciana Middle School, a Title I school located approximately 40 miles north of Baton Rouge in Clinton, Louisiana, a town of just under 2,000 residents. As a Teach for America Corps Member in South Louisiana, I am committed to teaching at least one more year. You never get used to being asked if you're coming back, when you're leaving, or if you'll 'still be around next year' so it's definitely possible I will be persuaded to teach a third. In February and March, I enjoyed my first Mardi Gras season and I'm now in the process of navigating my first crawfish season. The high last week was 105 degrees. If I can survive my first year of teaching and my first summer in Louisiana, I'll feel very accomplished."

**Matt Johnson '08** is still enjoying living in the Twin Cities. He performs at local improv shows, and works as a political data analyst for the progressive movement.

**Medora Kealy '08** "I am earning my master's degree at the School of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Iowa. I am concentrating on environmental and land use planning as well as transportation planning. This summer I will be interning for a suburb of St. Louis where I will integrate sustainability concepts into their comprehensive plan.

The summer after graduation I taught pesticide safety to migrant farmworkers with Proteus, Inc. In the fall of 2008 I was hired by Proteus to be a case worker, helping migrant and seasonal farmworkers obtain permanent, year-round jobs through training and education. Most of my clients receive a stipend to attend com-

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### Alumni Updates, continued...

munity college. I've especially enjoyed working with individuals one on one and becoming a resource for them for their questions about education and employment. For the past year I have been volunteering once a week at a homeless shelter which has kindled my interest in affordable housing and urban planning. I have always been inclined to use analytical reasoning and I would love to work in a field where I can gather information from disparate sources and work to improve the community's living situation."

**Michelle Bruner '01** After Michelle received her Masters in social work with a concentration in child welfare from the University of Denver, she worked as a Family Advocate with the Arapahoe County Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program, providing home and community-based services to families with open child protection cases. More recently, she has served as the social worker for the Colorado Adolescent Maternity Program (CAMP) at the University of Colorado Hospital, providing mental health and social support services in a prenatal clinic for pregnant teens.

Michelle: "On a personal note, Taylor Wheeler '02 and I finally got married in May 2008. We welcomed our son, Jack, on October 15, 2009. We are loving our new roles as mom and dad and cherishing every moment, Jack is doing great and it is amazing how much he grows and changes with each day!"

**Melissa Fry Konty '95** After earning a PhD in Sociology from the University of Arizona, Melissa served as a Research and Policy Associate at MACED, the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development. Very recently, Melissa returned to academia, taking a tenure-track position in sociology and the title of Director of the Applied Research and Education Center at Indiana University Southeast.

**Molly Dingel '98** "After completing my PhD in 2005 from the University of Kansas, I got a postdoc at the Mayo Clinic Bioethics program. From there, I moved to an assistant professor position at North Dakota State University. In 2009, I moved back to Rochester, Minnesota to help start the newest coordinate campus of the University of Minnesota as an assistant professor of sociology. I'm continuing to collaborate with colleagues at the Mayo Clinic as we explore the social and ethical ramifications of genetic and high-tech medical research on addiction. In essence, our question is: what happens if we reduce addiction to a biological process, instead of one located within a complex web of the social, cultural, and biological? A tenure requirement here at the University of Minnesota Rochester is also doing research on teaching and learning, which I am very new to, but which is interesting and rewarding."

**Monique Stone Taylor '04** has been awarded a Masters in Public Administration with a concentration in Nonprofit Management from Roosevelt University, now works as a high school Mathematics teacher in

Metro-Atlanta, and has a four-month-old son.

**Murry Nelson '69** "I have retired as Professor Emeritus of Education and American Studies at Penn State, as of July 1, 2008, right after my return from my Fulbright year in Hungary. I still am writing, mostly books. This year (2009) I have published Encyclopedia of Sports in America, A History from Foot Races to Extreme Sports, a two volume work from Greenwood Press, which I edited and contributed to. I just turned in The Rolling Stones, A History of the Band for publication next year. I have a chapter in Tom Greenfield's ('70) Encyclopedia of Broadway which will come out next year."

**Rachel Allison '07** "I am starting my dissertation research in Atlanta, and will be adjuncting at Kennesaw State. I'm teaching an Intro course over the summer, and will be using the 6th edition of [Susan Ferguson's] reader! When I think about first learning sociology at Grinnell with an earlier edition, I realize that I've really come full circle. :) Also, my first published article will be coming out in the September 2011 edition of Sociological Forum."

[In addition, Rachel won second place in the Midwest Sociological Society Graduate Paper Competition for her co-authored article on "Sexual Double Standards in the 'Hooking Up' Era: Gender and Evaluations of Sexual Behavior."]

**Rachel Whitfield '10** "Since July of 2010, I've been teaching English in South Korea on a US Department of State Fulbright Fellowship. I teach weekly conversational English classes at an All Girls High School on Jeju Island. I also act as a cultural ambassador to my Korean host family and school community. When I'm not in the classroom, I have been participating in Korean language classes, training for an international marathon happening in Korea this summer, and most importantly, just enjoying my time in an entirely different part of the world. It's been quite the adventure! Living and teaching in Korea has made me become a more patient and flexible person—you've got to be on your toes and ready for anything, especially as a foreigner and as a teacher. While many days are challenging and filled with ups and downs, other days are extremely eye-opening and fascinating, to the point that I get a lump in my throat thinking about my grant year drawing to a close. When I accepted this position last spring, I never imagined my time here would be such a roller-coaster (in ways both good and bad). But everyday I remind myself that if I love my students, everything else will take care of itself."

**Ragnar Thorisson '11** was awarded the President's Medal at the 2011 Commencement. Among other things, Ragnar was a part-time Research Assistant at MICA (Mid-Iowa Community Action) during his senior year, received MICA's volunteer of the year award in 2010, and will join the Lutheran Volunteer Corps in Seattle after graduating.

**Rebecca Landor '07** "I just finished my Masters in Elementary Education and have been an assistant teacher at an independent school in Chicago for the



past two years. I will be getting married this summer (July 3) and going to Spain for a month for my honeymoon. I am looking for a teaching job right now for next year."

**Ruth Manski '09** has accepted a position as research assistant with Ibis Reproductive Health. She completed a Fulbright Research Fellowship in Sri Lanka, where she conducted in-depth interviews and surveys with women about female kitchen culture and cooking practices. Prior to joining Ibis, Ruth interned with Healthy Acadia where she researched pandemic flu preparedness and food insecurity among low-income women.

**Sarah ("Midge") Smith '08** Throughout her time at Grinnell, Sarah was active with an interfaith Palestinian solidarity group. In the summer of 2010, Sarah went on a delegation to Palestine and Israel with two Palestinian-American friends. As a Jewish woman and an avid traveler, Sarah was eager to see for herself the living conditions in Israel and the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Upon returning to Chicago, Sarah and her friends reported on their trip at Depaul University. In early December, the FBI subpoenaed Sarah and her friends to appear before a grand jury about their trip to Palestine and Israel. Sarah has been speaking about the threat implied in that subpoena since, including a visit to Grinnell in the Spring of 2011.

**Shelley Aggeler Harper '87** "I worked for 12 years at a clinical social worker and psychotherapist. I was approaching burnout when I fulfilled a promise I made to myself during my MSW studies: leave the profession before you become a cranky social worker." Since that moment, Shelley returned to graduate school in library science, became a Reference Librarian at Round Rock (Texas) Public Library and has now moved back to Colorado to accept a position as a Reference Librarian at Pikes Peak Community College.

**Sollie Flora '07** "I graduated cum laude from Michigan Law in May, 2010. In August, I moved to Lawrence, Kansas to begin a two-year clerkship with Justice Carol Beier of the Kansas Supreme Court in Topeka, Kansas. I was admitted to the Illinois bar in November and will be admitted to the Kansas bar at the end of April. I am also currently serving on the Program Committee for the Kansas Women Attorneys Association's annual conference in July."

**Stacie Kossoy '05** moved from being a 1st grade teacher for Teach for America in Camden, New Jersey, to joining KIPP DC's Leap Academy as a literacy teacher. After a year as a KIPP Fisher Fellow, she became the Founding Principal of KIPP DC: Grow Academy, which served pre-kindergarten students initially, and eventually pre-school through kindergarten.

**Stephanie Cheung '11** has received a Goldwater Scholarship for graduate study, and was chosen as a Wall Scholar in 2010 at Grinnell.

**Stephanie Jaros '99** is a Behavioral Research Specialist with the Office of Internal Affairs, US Customs & Border Protection. Prior to beginning her career with the federal government, she earned an MA in Sociology, a Minor in Social Statistics, and a Certificate in Women Studies from the University of Washington (UW).

**Susan Kikuchi '11** "As of right now, I'm not sure what I'm doing next year, but I am in the process of applying for various AmeriCorps jobs and some internships abroad. I'm interested in doing work in the immigrant and refugee services, either in advocacy or policy."

**Tai Duncan '04** graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law with Service Honors in 2008. At Iowa, Tai was a student writer and Associate Note and Comment Editor for the Journal of Gender, Race & Justice. During law school, Tai also served as Community Service Chair for the Black Law Student Association, and volunteered with the Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County. Tai is in her second year as an Assistant Corporation Counsel with the City of Chicago Department of Law, in the Labor Division. She is also in her first year as the Head Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach at the University of Chicago Laboratory High School.

**Tina Wildhagen '02** "I'm wrapping up my third year on the tenure track at Smith. The adjustment has been hectic. Considering that I didn't get a chance to teach much in grad school (one summer course), I really felt like I'd been dunked in a pool of ice water during my first year. But I've got the hang of things now. I teach quantitative research methods and courses in the sociology of education. I love being a faculty member at a liberal arts college like Smith, where I can concentrate on both my research and teaching. I've been able to publish five articles since I started here, so my research really hasn't suffered because I work at a liberal arts college, as many people warned me it would. It really is the best of both worlds for me. My colleagues are very supportive and fun to hang out with, which is more than I could've asked for. My partner and I love living in Northampton for the most part, though we wish it were a little closer to a big city. You can probably relate to that. :)"

**Tobi Klein Marcus '87** "I'm the Director of Resource Development at the Community Foundation for Monterey County. We are the largest grant-maker on the central coast of California (\$6M+ in 2010). Our grant-making resources come from over 300 charitable funds at the foundation. My role is literally to inspire and facilitate philanthropy. It's a real joy - working with charitable people to help them achieve their philanthropic goals. Very fun!"

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